

May 10, 1907.  
March 19, 1908.

*Parcels-Post Convention between the United States of America and Netherlands.*

Preamble.

Parcels-post convention with Netherlands.

For the purpose of making better postal arrangements between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Postal Administrations of the United States of America and of the Netherlands, represented by the Postmaster-General of the United States of America and the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands, have agreed as follows, as regards the establishment of a parcels-post system of exchanges between the two countries.

ARTICLE I.

Scope of convention.

The provisions of this Convention relate only to parcels of mail matter to be exchanged by the system herein provided for, and do not affect the arrangements now existing under the Universal Postal Convention, which will continue as heretofore; and all the agreements hereinafter contained apply exclusively to mails exchanged under these articles, directly between the office of New York, and such other offices within the United States as may be hereafter designated by the Postmaster-General of the United States; and the office of Rotterdam, and such other offices within the Netherlands as may be hereafter designated by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands.

ARTICLE II.

Articles admitted to the mails.

There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this Convention, articles of merchandise and mail matter—except letters, post cards and written matter of all kinds—that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no packet must exceed fifty dollars (\$50) or its equivalent in value, 4 pounds 6 ounces (or 2 kilograms) in weight, nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, three feet six inches (105 centimeters); greatest length and girth combined, six feet (180 centimeters); and must be so wrapped or inclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by customs officers and by postmasters duly authorized to do so; and except that the following articles are prohibited:

Articles prohibited.

Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; poisons, and explosive or inflammable substances; fatty substances; liquids, and those which easily liquefy; confections and pastes; live or dead animals, except dead insects and reptiles when thoroughly dried; fruits and vegetables which easily decompose, and substances which exhale a bad odor; lottery tickets, lottery advertisements, or lottery circulars; all obscene or immoral articles; articles which may in any way damage or destroy the mails, or injure the persons handling them.

ARTICLE III.

Letters not to accompany parcels.

A letter or communication of the nature of personal correspondence must not accompany, be written on, or inclosed with any parcel.

If such be found, the letter will be placed in the mails, if separable, and if the communication be inseparably attached, the whole package will be rejected. If, however, any such should inadvertently be forwarded, the country of destination may collect on the letter or letters, double rates of postage according to the Universal Postal Convention.

Rejection.

No parcel may contain parcels intended for delivery at an address other than that borne by the parcel itself. If such inclosed parcels be detected, they must be sent forward singly, charged with new and distinct parcels-post rates.

Address.

ARTICLE IV.

The packages in question shall be subject in the country of destination to all customs duties and all customs regulations in force in that country for the protection of its customs revenues, and to the following rates of postage, which shall in all cases be required to be FULLY PREPAID, viz:

Collection of duties.

In the United States: for a parcel not exceeding one pound (455 grams) in weight, 12 cents; and for each additional pound (455 grams) or fraction of a pound, 12 cents;

Rates of postage.

In the Netherlands: for a parcel not exceeding 1 kilogram in weight, 80 cents, and for other parcels, 1 guilder 10 cents.

ARTICLE V.

The sender of each package must make a Customs Declaration in duplicate, upon a special form provided for the purpose (see Form 1, A, annexed hereto), giving the address, a general description of the parcel, an accurate statement of the contents and value, date of mailing, and the sender's signature and place of residence, which declaration must accompany the parcel to destination.

Customs declaration.  
Post, p. 1932.

Either country may authorize the post-office where the package is mailed to deliver to the sender of the package at the time of mailing, a certificate of mailing on a form like Form 2 annexed hereto.

Certificate of mailing.  
Post, p. 1932.

ARTICLE VI.

The packages shall be delivered to addressees at the post-offices of address in the country of destination free of charge for postage; but the customs duties properly chargeable thereon shall be collected on delivery in accordance with the customs regulations of the country of destination; and the country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressee for interior service and delivery a charge not exceeding 5 cents in the United States and 12½ cents in the Netherlands, on each single parcel of whatever weight.

Delivery.

ARTICLE VII.

The packages shall be considered as a component part of the mails exchanged *direct* between the United States and the Netherlands to be dispatched by the country of origin to the other at its cost and by such means as it provides, but must be forwarded, at the option of the dispatching office, either in boxes or hampers prepared especially for the purpose or in ordinary mail sacks, to be marked "Parcels-post," and not to contain any other articles of mail matter, and to be securely sealed with wax or otherwise, as may be mutually provided by regulations hereunder.

Transportation.

Each country shall promptly return empty to the dispatching office all bags or sacks; but the boxes or hampers used occasionally by

Return of bags, etc.

either administration may be used by the other administration for return Parcels-Post dispatches.

**Packing.**

Although articles admitted under this Convention will be transmitted as aforesaid between the exchange offices, they should be so carefully packed as to be safely transmitted in the open mails of either country, both in going to the exchange office in the country of origin and to the office of address in the country of destination.

**Descriptive list.**

Each dispatch of a parcels-post mail must be accompanied by a descriptive list, in duplicate, of all the packages sent, showing distinctly the list number of each parcel, the name of the sender, the name of the addressee with address of destination, and the declared contents and value; and must be inclosed in one of the boxes or sacks of such dispatch. (See Form 3 annexed hereto.)

**Post, p. 1933.****ARTICLE VIII.****Receipt of mail.**

As soon as the mail shall have reached the office of destination, that office shall check the contents of the mail.

**Parcel bill.**

In the event of the parcel bill not having been received, a substitute should be at once prepared.

**Errors.**

Any errors in the entries on the parcel bill which may be discovered, should, after verification by a second officer, be corrected and noted for report to the dispatching office on a form "Verification certificate," which should be sent in a special envelope.

**Nonreceipt of parcels.**

If a parcel advised on the bill be not received, after the nonreceipt has been verified by a second officer, the entry on the bill should be canceled and the fact reported at once.

**Damaged parcels.**

Should a parcel be received in a damaged or imperfect condition, full particulars should be reported on the same form.

**Correct mails.**

If no verification certificate or note of error be received, a parcels-mail shall be considered as duly delivered, having been found on examination correct in all respects.

**ARTICLE IX.****Failure to deliver.**

If the packages cannot be delivered as addressed, or if they are refused, they should be reciprocally returned without charge, directly to the dispatching office of exchange, at the expiration of thirty days from their receipt at the office of destination, and the country of origin may collect from the sender, for the return of the parcel, a sum equal to the postage when first mailed;

**Disposal of prohibited articles.**  
*Ante, p. 294.*

Provided, however, That parcels prohibited by Article II and those which do not conform to the conditions as to size, weight and value, prescribed by said Article, shall not necessarily be returned to the country of origin, but may be disposed of, without recourse, in accordance with the customs laws and regulations of the country of destination.

**Perishable articles.**

When the contents of a parcel which cannot be delivered are liable to deterioration or corruption, they may be destroyed at once, if necessary, or if expedient, sold, without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right person, the particulars of each sale being noticed by one post-office to the other.

**ARTICLE X.****Nonresponsibility for loss, etc.**

The Post-Office Department of either of the contracting countries will not be responsible for the loss or damage of any package; but either country is at liberty to indemnify the sender of any package which may be lost or destroyed on its territory.

ARTICLE XI.

Each country shall retain to its own use the whole of the postages, registration and delivery fees, it collects on said packages; consequently, this Convention will give rise to no separate accounts between the two countries. Fees to be retained.

ARTICLE XII.

The Postmaster-General of the United States of America, and the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands, shall have authority to jointly make such further regulations of order and detail as may be found necessary to carry out the present Convention from time to time; and may, by agreement, prescribe conditions for the admission in packages exchanged under this Convention of any of the articles prohibited by Article II. Further regulations.  
Ante, p. 1928.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Convention shall take effect and operations thereunder shall begin on the first day of July 1908, and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement, but may be annulled at the desire of either Department, upon six months' previous notice given to the other. Duration of convention.

Done in duplicate, and signed at Washington, the 10th day of May, 1907, and at The Hague the 19th day of March 1908.

[SEAL.]

G V L MEYER,  
*Postmaster General of the United States of America.*

Signatures.

G J C A POP,  
*Director General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Netherlands.*

The foregoing Parcels-Post Convention between the United States of America and The Netherlands has been negotiated and concluded with my advice and consent, and is hereby approved and ratified.

Approval.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

[SEAL.]

By the President:  
ROBERT BACON,  
*Acting Secretary of State.*  
WASHINGTON, May 10, 1907.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

[Translation.]

Approved:  
THE HAGUE, March 24, 1908,  
*The Minister of Public Works.*  
Waterstadt.

Form No. 1.

FORM No. 1.

A.

*Parcels-Post between the United States and The Netherlands.*

Date Stamp.	<b>FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION.</b>	Place to which the parcel is addressed.
----------------	-------------------------------------	---

Description of parcel: [State whether box, bag, basket, etc.]	Contents.	Value.	Per cent.	Total customs charges.
Total.				

Date of posting: ..... 19..; signature and address of sender { .....  
~~For use of Post-Office only, and to be filled up at the office of exchange:~~  
Parcel Bill No. ....; No. of rates prepaid .....; Entry No. ....

B.

Parcels-Post from [country of origin.] .....  
The import duty assessed by an officer of customs on contents of this parcel amounts to ....., which must be paid before the parcel is delivered.

Date  
Stamp.

.....  
*Customs Officer.*

C.

Parcels-Post from [country of origin.] .....  
This parcel has been passed by an officer of customs and must be delivered  
**FREE OF CHARGE.**

Date  
Stamp.

Form No. 2.

FORM No. 2.

*Parcels-Post.*

A parcel addressed as under has been posted here this day:	
Office stamp	..... ..... .....
This certificate is given to inform the sender of the posting of a parcel, and does not indicate that any liability in respect of such parcel attaches to the Postal Administration.	

FORM No. 3.

Form No. 3.

Date stamp of dispatching exchange Post Office.  <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	[country of origin.] [country of destination.] Parcels from ..... for .....  Parcel Bill No. ...., dated..... 19..; per S. S. "....."  * Sheet No. ....	Date stamp of receiving exchange Post Office.  <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 50px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>					
Entry No.	Origin of parcel.	Name of sender.	Address of parcel.	Declared contents.	Declared value.	Number of rates prepaid.	Observations.
				Totals..			
* When more than one sheet is required for the entry of the parcels sent by the mail, it will be sufficient if the undermentioned particulars are entered on the last sheet of the Parcel Bill,							
Total number of parcels sent by the mail to..... [country of destination.]				Total weight of mail.....			
Number of boxes or other receptacles forming the mail.....				Deduct weight of receptacles .....			
Signature of postal official at the dispatching exchange post-office. .....				Net weight of parcels.....			
Signature of postal official at the receiving exchange post-office. .....							