

*Parcel Post Convention between the United States of America and the Straits Settlements. Signed at Washington, February 24, 1922, at Singapore, April 12, 1922; approved by the President, May 24, 1922.*

February 24, 1922.  
April 12, 1922.

PARCEL POST CONVENTION

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

For the purpose of concluding arrangements for the direct exchange of parcel post packages between the United States of America and the Straits Settlements, the undersigned, Will H. Hays, Postmaster General of the United States of America, and Herbert C. Sells, Acting Postmaster General of the Straits Settlements, by virtue of authority vested in them, have agreed upon the following articles:

Parcel post convention with Straits Settlements.  
Preamble.

Article I.

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 Convention of the Universal Postal Union, which will continue as heretofore; and all the agreements hereinafter contained apply exclusively to mails exchanged under these articles.

Scope of convention.

Article II.

1. 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 may exceed eleven pounds (five kilograms) in weight, nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction three feet six inches; greatest combined length and girth, six feet; and must be so wrapped and inclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by postmasters and customs officials; and except that the following articles are specially prohibited admission to the mails exchanged under this Convention:

Articles admitted to mails.

Requirements.

Prohibited articles.

Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; poisons and explosive or inflammable substances; 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.

2. All admissible articles of merchandise mailed in one country for the other, or received in one country from the other, shall be free from any detention or inspection whatsoever, except such as is required for the collection of customs duties; and shall be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

Freedom from inspection, etc.

## Article III.

Letters must not accompany parcels.

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

Rejection if found, etc.

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

No inclosure for other address.

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

## Article IV.

Rates of postage.

1. The following rates of postage shall in all cases be required to be **FULLY PREPAID** with postage stamps of the country of origin, viz:

In United States.

2. In the United States, for a parcel not exceeding one pound in weight, twelve cents, and for each additional pound or fraction of a pound, twelve cents.

In Straits Settlements.

3. In the Straits Settlements, one dollar for each parcel up to three pounds in weight, one dollar and forty cents for each parcel exceeding three pounds up to seven pounds in weight, and one dollar and eighty cents for each parcel exceeding seven pounds up to eleven pounds in weight.

## Article V.

Customs declaration.

Post, p. 2187.

1. The sender of each parcel shall prepare a customs declaration, to be securely attached to the parcel, upon a special form provided for the purpose (see Form 1 annexed hereto), giving a general description of the parcel, an accurate statement of its contents and value, date of mailing, the sender's signature and address, as well as the name and address of the addressee.

Receipt of posting.

Post, p. 2188.

2. The sender will, on request at the time of mailing the parcel, receive a certificate of mailing from the post office where the parcel is mailed, on a form like Form 2 annexed hereto.

Delivery.

3. The parcels shall be promptly delivered to addressees at the post offices of address in the country of destination, free of charge for postage. They shall be subject to all customs duties and all customs regulations in force in the country of destination for the protection of its customs revenues, and the customs duties properly chargeable thereon shall be collected on delivery in accordance with the customs regulations of the country of destination; but neither sender nor addressee shall be subject to the payment of any charge for fines or penalties on account of failure to comply with any customs regulation.

Customs dues, etc.

Exemption from fines, etc.

regulations of the country of destination; but neither sender nor addressee shall be subject to the payment of any charge for fines or penalties on account of failure to comply with any customs regulation.

## Article VI.

Payment by each country.

The Post Office Department of the United States shall pay to the Post Office Department of the Straits Settlements 1 franc (20 cents) for each parcel forwarded from its offices to the Straits Settlements, and the Post Office Department of the Straits Settlements shall pay a similar amount to the Post Office Department of the United States for each parcel forwarded from its offices to the United States. The accounts shall be balanced every quarter and a general balance of

such quarterly settlements struck yearly, which amount shall be paid by the Post Office Department of the debtor country.

Article VII.

1. The parcels shall be considered as a component part of the mails exchanged DIRECT between the United States and the Straits Settlements, to be despatched to destination by the country of origin at its cost and by such means as it provides; but must be forwarded, at the option of the despatching office, either in receptacles prepared expressly for the purpose or in ordinary mail sacks, marked "Parcel Post", and securely sealed with a lead seal or otherwise, as may be mutually provided by regulations hereunder.

Method of transportation.

2. Each country shall promptly return EMPTY to the despatching office, by next mail, all such bags and boxes.

Return of empty bags, etc.

3. 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.

Packing.

4. Each despatch of a parcel post mail must be accompanied by a descriptive list in duplicate, of all the parcels 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 sacks of such despatch. (See Form 3 annexed hereto).

Descriptive list.

Post, p. 2188.

Article VIII.

Exchange of mails under this Convention from any place in either country to any place in the other, shall be effected through the post offices of both countries already designated as exchange post offices, or through such others as may be hereafter agreed upon, under such regulations relative to the details of the exchange as may be mutually determined to be essential to the security and expedition of the mails and the protection of the customs revenues.

Exchange offices.

Article IX.

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

Receipt of mail.

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

Substitute parcel bill.

3. 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 despatching office on a form "Bulletin of Verification" which should be sent in a special envelope.

Correction of errors.

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

Nonreceipt of parcels.

5. If a parcel be observed to be insufficiently prepaid, it must not be taxed with deficient postage, but the circumstance must be reported on the bulletin of verification form.

Deficient postage.

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

Damaged parcels.

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

Presumption of delivery.

## Article X.

Inability to deliver.

1. If a parcel can not be delivered as addressed, or is refused, it must be returned without charge directly to the despatching office of exchange at the expiration of thirty days from its 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.

Perishable articles.

2. When the contents of a parcel which can not 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 communicated by one postal administration to the other.

Cancellation of customs dues.

3. The customs duties on parcels which are returned to the country of origin shall be canceled both in the United States of America and the Straits Settlements.

## Article XI.

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 parcel, and no indemnity can consequently be claimed by the sender or addressee in either country.

## Article XII.

Further regulations, etc.

The Postmaster General of the United States of America, and the Postmaster General of the Straits Settlements, shall have authority jointly to 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 to the mails of any of the articles prohibited by Article II of this Convention.

Ante, p. 2183.

## Article XIII.

Effect and duration.

This Convention shall take effect and operations thereunder shall begin on the first day of July, 1921, 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.

Signatures.

Done in duplicate, and signed at Singapore the 12th day of April, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, and at Washington the 24th day of February, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

[SEAL]

WILL. H. HAYS  
*Postmaster General of the United States of America.*  
HERBERT C. SELLS  
*Postmaster General of the Straits Settlements.*

Approval.

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

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Seal of the United States to be hereto affixed this 24th day of May, 1922.

[SEAL.]

WARREN G HARDING

By the President:

CHARLES E. HUGHES,  
*Secretary of State.*

WASHINGTON, May 24, 1922.

FORM 1.

Form 1.

A

Date stamp.	Parcel post between the United States and the Straits Settlements.  <b>FORM OF CUSTOMS DECLARATION.</b>	Place to which the parcel is addressed.		
Description of parcel. (State whether box, basket, bag, etc.)	Contents.	Value.	Per cent.	Total customs charges.
	Total	\$	\$	\$

Date of posting ....., 192 .      Signature and address of sender.....  
.....  
.....

For use of the post office only, and to be filled up at the office of exchange:  
Parcel Bill No. . .; No. of rates prepaid .....; Entry No. ....

B

Parcel Post from .....

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.

..... <i>Customs officer.</i>	Date stamp.
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C

Parcel Post from .....

This parcel has been passed by an officer of customs and must be delivered free of charge for customs duty.

..... <i>Postmaster General.</i>	Date stamp.
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