

February 19, 1923.
April 26, 1923.

Parcel post convention between the United States and the Polish Republic. Signed at Warsaw, February 19, 1923, and at Washington, April 26, 1923; approved by the President, May 7, 1923.

CONVENTION

CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF PARCEL POST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE POLISH REPUBLIC.

Parcel post convention with Poland.
Preamble.

The undersigned plenipotentiaries, John H. Bartlett, Acting Postmaster General of the United States of America, and JAN MOSCZYNSKI, Director of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of the Polish Republic, for the purpose of improving postal relations between the United States of America and the Polish Republic, have concluded the present agreement concerning the exchange of parcel post between the two countries.

ARTICLE I.

Scope of convention.

The provisions of the present convention apply exclusively to the exchange of parcel post between the United States of America and the Polish Republic. They do not, therefore, have any effect upon the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention at present in force.

ARTICLE II.

Articles admitted to mails.

1. In the United States of America, parcels may be mailed as ordinary articles (without declared value) and as registered articles. In Poland, only ordinary parcels may be mailed.

Receipt.

2. The sender may, at the time of mailing, obtain a receipt in conformity with the regulations of the country of origin.

Nonresponsibility for loss or damage.

3. Neither of the contracting Administrations is responsible for loss or damage of parcels.

Therefore neither the sender nor the addressee, in either country, has any right to claim indemnity.

ARTICLE III.

Dimensions.

Limit of weight.

1. No parcel may exceed 22 pounds (10 kilograms) in weight.

2. No parcel may exceed the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, 105 centimeters (3 feet 6 inches English measure); greatest length and girth combined, 180 centimeters (6 feet English measure).

Inadvertent receipt.

3. Parcels whose weight or dimensions exceed the limits indicated are not accepted for mailing. If, through inadvertence, a parcel not conforming to the rules laid down is accepted and despatched, the country of destination is obliged to accept such a parcel, only giving notice of the irregularity by Verification Certificate to the respective office of exchange.

ARTICLE IV.

Address and packing.

1. Each parcel shall bear the exact address of the addressee, and must be packed so as to withstand the length of the conveyance, and to preserve effectively the contents of the parcel. The packing

must be arranged in such a way as to permit customs or postal agents to verify the contents easily.

2. The sender is obliged to indicate on the back of the despatch note (this concerns only Poland) and on the parcel itself (this concerns both countries), how the parcel should be disposed of in case of non-delivery. Provision for non-delivery.

For that purpose he makes one of the following notations:

(a) "In case of non-delivery at the address indicated, abandon." or

(b) "In case of non-delivery at the address indicated, deliver to M. ---"

Parcels which are not so marked will be returned in accordance with the provisions of Article XII hereafter.

3. The sender must make up, for each parcel, a customs declaration in duplicate, on a special form furnished for that purpose. Customs declaration requirements.

The said declaration shall give a general description of the parcel, an exact statement of its contents, the value of the individual objects, the date of mailing, the signature and address of the sender and the name of the addressee, and the place of destination.

The Postal Administrations decline all responsibility as to the exactness of the customs declarations.

The sender shall paste the said declarations to the parcel itself, or affix them to it (United States) or else attach them to the despatch note (Poland).

4. Each parcel is subject in the country of destination to all customs charges and regulations in force in that country. The customs duties and the other charges regularly due are collected upon delivery, in accordance with the regulations of the country of destination. Collection of charges.

ARTICLE V.

1. It is permitted by the present convention to send in parcel post packages: merchandise and all articles which are accepted for conveyance by any means of transportation in the domestic service of the country of origin and of the country of destination. Articles specially prohibited by Section 2 of the present Article are excepted. Articles admitted to the mails.

The Postal Administrations of the United States and Poland notify each other of the domestic provisions prohibiting the sending of certain articles.

2. Parcels containing the following articles are excluded from transmission. Prohibited articles.

a) letters or communications having the character of personal correspondence. It is permitted, however, to inclose in a parcel an open invoice in its simplest form, as well as a single copy of the despatch note and the address of the sender;

b) publications which violate the copyright laws in force in the country of destination;

c) tickets, advertisements, or circulars relative to lotteries;

d) all articles obscene and contrary to good morals;

e) live animals, except bees in boxes suitably prepared;

f) dead animals, except insects and reptiles thoroughly dried;

g) fruits and vegetables which decompose easily and products which exhale a bad odor;

h) poisons, and explosive or inflammable materials;

i) articles which may in any way damage other articles, or which present danger to the persons of the postal agents.

3. All merchandise admitted to despatch by the present convention, mailed in one of the countries and addressed to the other, may not be held or examined, except as far as it may be necessary for the collection of the customs duties. It shall be forwarded by the most rapid means to its destination and shall be subject in its transmission Freedom from delay, etc.

to the respective laws and regulations of each of the two countries in question.

Erroneous transmissions.

4. In case the contents of a parcel delivered by one of the Administrations to the other is not in accordance with the provisions of the present article, the Administration of the country of destination of the parcel proceeds in the manner and forms prescribed by its domestic laws and regulations.

ARTICLE VI.

Letters not to accompany parcels.

Rejection, etc., if found.

1. It is forbidden to attach to the outside of parcels letters or communications having the character of personal correspondence. If such are detected at the time of mailing of the parcel by the sender, and if it is possible to detach it from the parcel, it is detached and sent forward as an article in the letter mails; otherwise the parcel should be refused. If, through inadvertence, a parcel with a letter attached to it should be admitted, the country of destination should collect from the addressee a double postage charge on the letter or letters, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention.

No inclosure for other address.

2. No parcel may contain packages intended to be delivered at an address other than that borne by the parcel itself.

If packages of that kind are discovered, they are sent forward singly, and a new and distinct postage rate is applied to them, in accordance with the parcel post tariff.

ARTICLE VII.

Charges to be prepaid.

In United States.

1. Prepayment of postage on parcel post is obligatory at the time of mailing, either by means of stamps or in cash.

The charges to be paid are as follows;

a) In the United States of America:

for a parcel whose weight does not exceed 1 pound (455 grams),
12 cents.

for each additional pound (455 grams) or fraction of a pound, 12 cents.

In Poland.

b) In Poland, payment is made in Polish marks, or, in the Polish part of Upper Silesia, in German marks, according to the equivalent in force;

for a parcel up to 1 kilogram in weight, 1.65 francs gold.

for a parcel from 1 to 5 kilograms, 2.25 " "

for a parcel from 5 to 10 kilograms, 3.95 " "

Prompt delivery.

2. In the country of destination the parcels are promptly delivered to the addressees in accordance with the domestic regulations of the country of destination, free of all charge for postage. Nevertheless the country of destination may, at its option, collect from the addressee a fee fixed in accordance with the regulations of that country for delivery and customs service.

Charges allowed.

That charge may not in any case exceed, for any parcel, 5 cents in the United States or the equivalent of 25 centimes gold in Poland.

ARTICLE VIII.

Mutual payments by postal administrations.

The Postal Administrations of the United States and Poland make payments to each other for each parcel sent from their post offices.

This payment amounts to 50 centimes gold for each parcel regardless of weight.

The accounts shall be made up each quarter, and, after having been verified and accepted on both sides, they shall be recapitulated in a general annual account by the service of the creditor Administration.

The balance resulting from the accounts shall be paid by the debtor Administration to the creditor Administration within one month following the receipt of the verified account.

ARTICLE IX.

1. The parcels shall form the subject of separate despatches to be exchanged directly between the United States and Poland. The country of origin must send its despatches to the country of destination at its cost and by the means at its disposal. The parcels may be transmitted, at the option of the despatching office, either in boxes or baskets specially constructed for the purpose, or in ordinary mail sacks. These receptacles must bear the note "Parcel Post" (Colis postaux) and be carefully closed with the aid of wax seals or otherwise, as may be mutually agreed upon by the contracting parties. Method of transportation.

2. Each country of destination shall return to the despatching office by the next mail all empty receptacles, barring other arrangements to be made on the subject. Return of empty sacks, etc.

3. Each despatch of parcel post must be accompanied by a parcel bill in duplicate. Thereon are mentioned individually all registered parcels. The ordinary parcels shall be indicated thereon in bulk, according to the aggregate sent in each despatch. Duplicate parcel bills.

The individual entries on the parcel bill must include the order number of each parcel, the office of origin, the name of the addressee, and the office of destination.

The parcel bill must be inserted in one of the receptacles composing the despatch; the label of the receptacle inclosing the parcel bill must be distinguished by the letters "F. F."

4. On the labels of the receptacles containing the registered parcels the order numbers under which the inclosed parcels are entered in the parcel bill must be indicated. Labels on receptacles.

ARTICLE X.

The reciprocal exchange of parcels between the offices of the two countries must be effected through the intermediary of exchange offices. For that purpose are designated: the post office of Danzig 1 on the part of Poland; and the office of New York on the part of the United States; other exchange offices may be designated later on by common consent. Exchange offices.

ARTICLE XI.

1. As soon as a mail reaches the exchange office of destination, it immediately verifies the contents. Receipt of mail.

2. In case of non-receipt of the parcel bill by the office of destination, a substitute bill is officially made up. Substitute parcel bill.

3. All errors detected in the entries of the parcel bill, after being verified by two agents, shall be corrected and noted, to be communicated to the despatching office by means of a "Bulletin of Verification". This is sent in a special envelope. Correction of errors.

4. If a parcel entered on the parcel bill is not received, after the loss is verified by two agents, the relative entry is cancelled, or else the number of ordinary parcels entered in bulk is corrected, and the fact reported immediately. Nonreceipt of parcels.

5. If a parcel arrives damaged or in imperfect condition, the damage or bad condition is reported in detail to the office of despatch. Damaged parcels.

6. If it is found that a parcel is insufficiently prepaid, the insufficient postage is not supplied, but the fact must be pointed out to the despatching exchange office by bulletin of verification. Insufficient payments.

Presumption of delivery.

7. If the despatching exchange office does not receive any bulletin of verification or advice of irregularity, it considers the despatch as regular in all respects and as duly received.

ARTICLE XII.

Missent parcels.

1. Any missent parcel received is immediately returned to the despatching exchange office. The sea transit charges in return are supported, as indicated in Section 3 of this article, by the Administration responsible for the missending of the parcel. The error is reported by means of a bulletin of verification.

Reforwarding charge.

2. Parcels reforwarded at the request of the sender or addressee, to the interior of the country of destination, or to other countries, are liable to an additional charge to the profit of the Administration which reforwards the parcel.

Inability to deliver, etc.

Ante, p. 1641.

3. Every parcel which cannot be delivered as addressed, or which is refused by the addressee, and which does not bear the notations provided for in Section 2 of Article IV, must be returned to the despatching exchange office after a period of 30 days from the date of its arrival at the office of destination.

Return charges.

The Postal Administration of the country of origin of the parcel is authorized to collect from the sender of a returned parcel a charge equal to the original postage. The said Administration shall pay to the reforwarding Administration the sea transit charges for returned parcels: 1 gold franc for each parcel up to the weight of 5 kilograms, and 2 gold francs for each parcel from 5 to 10 kilograms.

Prohibited articles.
Ante, p. 1641.

Parcels whose contents come within the prohibitions of Article V are not returned to the country of origin but are treated in the manner prescribed by the domestic laws and regulations of the country of destination.

Perishable articles.

5. When the contents of a parcel which could not be delivered are liable to deterioration or corruption the parcel may be sold immediately, or, if for any reason its sale is impossible, it may be destroyed without previous notice.

Report of disposition.

6. A report is made up of the sale or destruction of a parcel: one copy of such report is transmitted to the office despatching the parcel.

The sum realized by the sale of the parcel shall serve, in the first place, to pay the charges with which the parcel is marked, and the difference, if any, shall be returned to the office of origin to be paid to the sender.

Charges annulled on returned articles.

7. The customs charges and all other charges applied to parcels are annulled when the parcels are returned to origin.

ARTICLE XIII.

Further regulations, etc.

The Postmaster General of the United States and the Director of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of the Polish Republic shall have authority jointly to make such further regulations of order and detail and to provide for such changes and modifications as may be deemed necessary to carry out the convention from time to time.

ARTICLE XIV.

Effect and duration.

The present convention enters into force on April 1 1923; it shall remain in force until the contracting parties suspend it by common consent, or upon the desire of one of them and by means of previous notice given six months in advance.

Done in duplicate and signed at Warsaw 19 February 1923 and at Washington on April 26, 1923. Signatures.

Director of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of
Polish Republic.

[SEAL.]

MOSZCZYNSKI.

Acting Postmaster General of the United States of
America.

[SEAL.]

JOHN H. BARTLETT.

The foregoing Parcel Post Convention between the United States of America and the Polish Republic has been negotiated and concluded with my advice and consent, and is hereby approved and ratified. Approval by the
President.

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

[SEAL.]

WARREN G HARDING

By the President:

CHARLES E. HUGHES
Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, *May 7, 1923.*