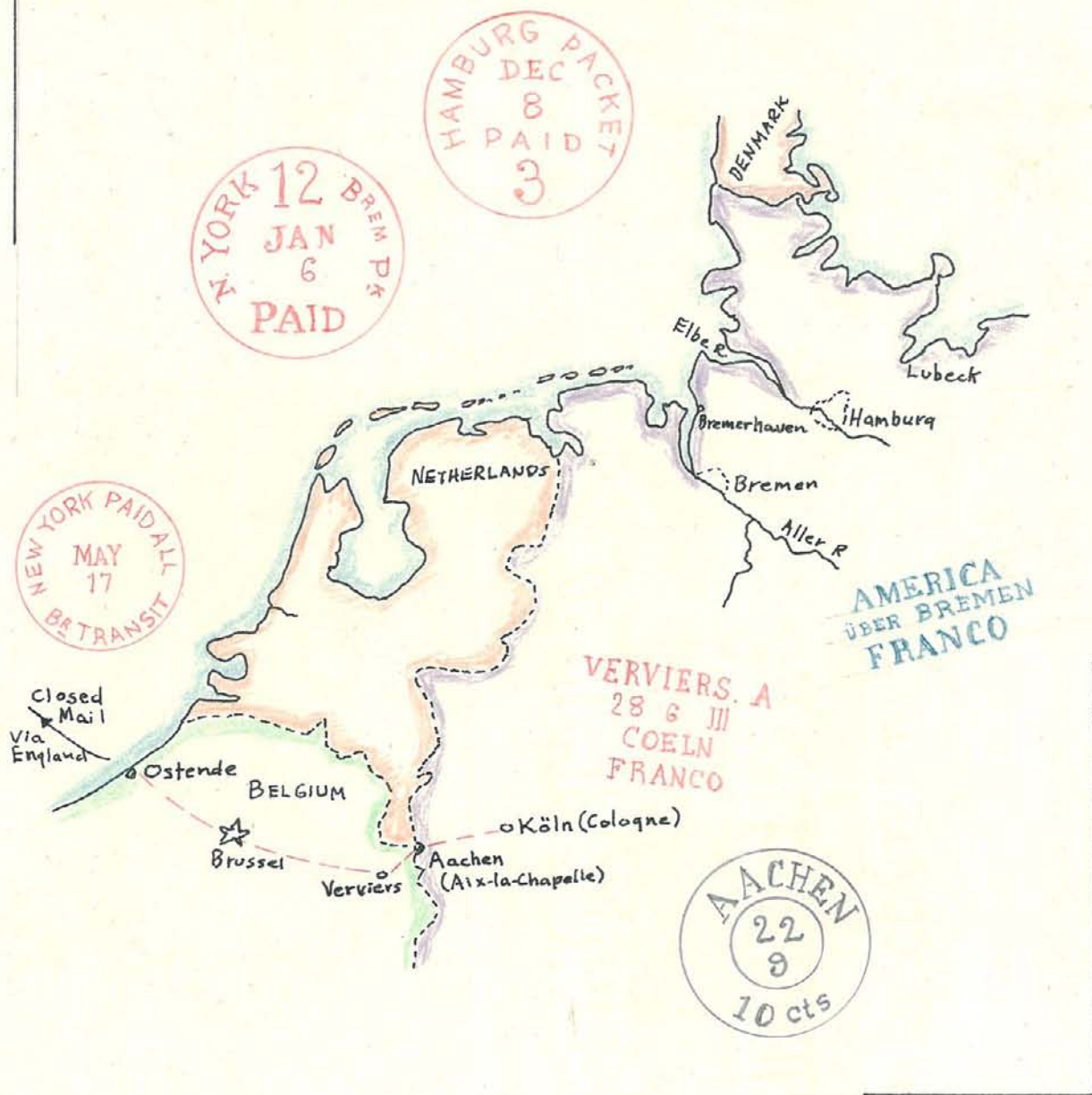


TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

UNITED STATES & GERMANY

Rates and Routes



1853

U.S. TO HAMBURG BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Collins Line Transatlantic, N.Y. to Liverpool. S.S. Atlantic



June 11, 1853. This is an unpaid letter, directionally endorsed: per Atlantic. This steamship of the Collins Line was cleared at New York June 10 and sailed June 11 for Liverpool. The New York Exchange Office marked it with a debit to Hamburg of 23¢ for U.S. Inland (5¢) + Sea Postage by American Packet (18¢), rates under the revived Convention of 1853 at 30¢ per ½-oz. Hamburg would retain 7¢ for her inland postage. This debit mark is a remarkably elusive date stamp.

June 22. Atlantic arrived at Liverpool. The Prussian Closed Mail was forwarded in sealed bags to Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), Prussia June 23 where bulk was broken, letters received identity and forwarded on to their destinations.

Backstamps record the routing of this letter. Railway Travelling Post Office marks Deutz to Minden to Berlin. Also shown are the State Post Office (Stadt Post Amt) transit mark and Hamburg arrival backstamps.

Postage due was shown in red manuscript as 18 schillinge x 1.7¢/sch. = 30¢ due. A credit to the United States per 1853 convention was shown in blue at 13 schillinge x 1.7¢/sch. = 23¢. The latter agrees with the N.YORK 23 mark shown above.



DEUTZ
23 6 III
MINDEN

MINDEN.
24 6 I
BERLIN.



1853

U. S. TO WURTTEMBERG - 2nd Bremen Convention of Aug '53
OCEAN STEAM NAVIGATION CO. S.S. Hermann

*Summer Hill Pa
Oct 24 1853*

Paid 27

October 24, 1853. Summer Hill, Penn. to
Horb, Wurttemberg. Manuscript postmaster's
mark at Summer Hill where 27¢ was paid.
This was a very small post office and didn't
realize the 27¢ rate of the 1st Convention
had been superceded August 15, 1853, by the
2nd Convention rate of 22¢. Letter 5¢ over-
paid and U.S. kept the overpayment. Summer
Hill manuscript is unlisted (USSCC).



AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN

Fr. 3.

November 5. Transit at New York where the Exchange
Office credited Bremen with 8¢. U.S. retained total of
14¢ (Sea and U.S. inland) out of the 22¢ prepaid rate.

Nov. 6. S.S. Hermann, Higgins, sailed from N.Y.
for Southampton and Bremen.

Nov. 23. Hermann arrived at Bremerhaven where letter
was noted as incoming from America via Bremen. The Fr.3
(Franco = Paid) is a credit of 3 silbergroschen for the
Thurn & Taxis Posts. This mark is scarce as few letters
to Wurttemberg at the time it was used were
prepaid, unusual in blue, usually red or black.

MINDEN.
25 11-1
DEUTZ.

Nov. 25. Railway marking Minden to Deutz.
Deutz is on the right bank of the Rhine
opposite Cologne.

E. B 27 NOV.
Cur 11

HORB
28 NOV 1853

Nov. 27. German railway (E.B. =
Eisenbahn = Railway), backstamp.

Nov. 28. Arrival backstamp at
Horb, Wurttemberg.

1854

BREMEN TO TEXAS VIA PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Havre Line : S.S. Franklin, Southampton to New York

U. S. Mail Steamship Co.: S.S. Crescent City, N.Y. to New Orleans



May 5, 1854. An unpaid letter posted at Bremen to Nacogdoches, Texas under the Prussian Closed Mail agreement. 2 silbergroschen had been prepaid for German internal postage to get the letter to Aachen.

May 7. Letter in transit at Aachen where mail was closed through Britain to the United States. The Aachen Exchange Office backstamped the letter, routing it per an American Packet.

May 10. The U.S.M.S. Franklin departed from Havre on her penultimate voyage. On her next return voyage, leaving Havre on July 5, she went aground on Long Island July 17 and was not able to be salvaged.

On this May 10 voyage, she touched at Southampton on the same day where the PCM mail bags went aboard.

May 22. Franklin arrived at New York. Letter rated at the PCM rate of 30¢ plus a 5¢ delivery charge to Texas.

N.Y. Times. Cleared Sat. May 27. Steamship Crescent City, Windle, for New-Orleans, M.O. Roberts.

June 5. Docket notes received at Nacodgoches, Texas.



1855

U.S. TO HANOVER, GERMANY BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Collins Line Transatlantic, N.Y. to Liverpool S.S. Baltic



PAID

30

July 10, 1855. Letter paid 30¢ per ½-oz. U.S. under the revived Convention of 1853 by Prussian Closed Mail through England. Boston "American Packet" backstamp. 30¢ paid in cash and shown by the light pencil notation at middle upper left.



July 11, 1855. Transit at New York. The Collins Line U.S. Mail Packet Baltic departed this date from N.Y. Because of the Crimean War most of the Cunard Line's ships were diverted for troop transport, consequently, Cunard did not run to N.Y. in 1855. All mail out of that port was by American Packet. Rate of 30¢ was divided:



Prussian Inland	5¢) = 7¢
Belgian Transit	2	
Sea and British	18	
U.S. Inland	5	
	<u>30¢.</u>	

Prussia was credited with 7¢ by the New York Exchange Office.

July 22. Baltic arrived at Liverpool. Closed mail bags went on to Hanover where bulk was broken. Mrs. William Pumpelly had relocated to Coln (Cologne) so her Hanoverian banker forwarded the letter to Coln Poste Restante(General Delivery).

July 24-25. Transit backstamps trace the letter to Berlin, then railway Berlin to Minden, finally arrival at Coln (Coeln in cds.)

Letter was assessed 3 silbergroschen for forwarding, paid by Capel Kirchberg & Co. at Coln.



BERLIN
25 7 1
MINDEN



FRANCO

1860

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
GERMANY TO UNITED STATES
CLOSED MAIL VIA ENGLAND

The Convention of 26 August 1852, effective 16 October 1852, set (Article II) an international postage of 30¢ for a single rate of ½ oz. (American) or one loth (German).

This was divided as follows on prepaid letters:

U.S. Inland	5¢
Sea and British transit	18
Belgian transit	2
Prussian Inland	5
	<hr/> 30¢

Thus, on prepaid letters from Prussia, Prussia had to show a credit to the U.S. of 25¢ on every letter ½ oz. or under, retaining 5¢ for her own Inland postage.



LANDIO - 6
FRANCA

June 10, 1860.
Letter prepaid in
Germany. FRANCA=
PAID.



COBLENZ.
12 6 11
COELN

June 12. Coblenz
to Coeln(Cologne)
RR transit back-
stamp.

July 3. New
York Exchange
Office restated
30¢ had been pre-
paid.



June 13. Transit stamp at the
Aachen transit (exchange) office.
25¢ credit to the U.S. which is
all of the 30¢ rate less the 5¢
Prussian inland. Pen notation
on back "f 2" gives Belgium
credit for her transit charge.

f 2

1856

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
GERMANY TO UNITED STATES

Unpaid Letter

The Convention of 26 August (eff. 16 October) 1852, set rate of 30¢ per ½-oz., divided as follows:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British Transit	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<hr/> 30¢

On unpaid letters the German Exchange Office at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) showed a 5¢ debit to U.S. to allow for Prussian Inland.



ERFURT
13 5 * 12-1

AACHEN
15
5
5 Cts.

30
MAY 29
N. Y. P. K.

May 13, 1856. Letter posted unpaid at Erfurt, a town in Thuringia.

May 15. Aachen Exchange Office marked letter in transit with a 5¢ debit to U.S. (see above). Mail was here bulked to be opened in New York, i.e., closed through England.

May 29, 1856. British Packet Africa (Cunard) docked at New York May 28, having sailed from Liverpool May 17.

1854

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RUSSIA TO U.S., Closed Mail via England

American Packet Transatlantic COLLINS LINE

U.S. Mail Steamer Atlantic

ST. PETERSBURG
DE 28 IAN. 1854

January 28, 1854 (Julian calendar, equivalent to Feb. 8 in the Gregorian or "new" calendar). Letter posted paid (franco) at St. Petersburg. While no rate shows, this was in kopecs equivalent to 30¢ U.S. and was evidently on a

special arrangement between Russia and Germany, through which country this letter passed. The letter went at the Convention of 26 August 1852 rate of 30¢ per ½-oz.

AACHEN

Paid
25cts.

Americ.
Packet.

Feb. 1854.

Transit marks at the Closed Mail Exchange Office at Aachen. Prepaid letter, so Prussia showed a credit to the U.S. of 25¢ per ½-oz, retaining 5¢ for Prussian internal postage. Scarce "Americ. Packet." mark of the Aachen office indicated routing.

NEW YORK 30 MAR 8 PAID

ST. PETERSBURG
DE 28 IAN. 1854

Paid
25cts.

Mr Thomas Winant
Baltimore
United States of America

NEW YORK 30 MAR 8 PAID

March 8. New York arrival mark showing 30¢ had been paid (see above) and agrees with the arrival date of the Collins Line's U.S.M. Steamer Atlantic, Capt. West, at New York.

1856

BANGOR, MAINE TO HAMBURG, GERMANY by Prussian Closed Mail
Cunard Line. R.M.S. Arabia, Boston to Liverpool



PAID

31

March 22, 1856. Letter paid in cash at Bangor to Germany at the revived convention of 1853 rate per ½-oz. Rate was divided:

U.S. Inland	5¢		
Sea and British Transit	18		
Belgian Transit	2)	= 7¢
Prussian Inland	5)	
	<u>30¢</u>		

7

AACHEN 8/4
FRANCO

March 26. The Boston Exchange Office marked a credit to Germany, Belgian transit and Prussian Inland, of 7¢. R.M.S. Arabia of the Cunard Line departed from Boston for Liverpool this date.

April 7. Arabia arrived at Liverpool.

April 8. Letter in transit at Aachen, the Prussian Exchange Office, where the closed bags from the U.S. were opened. Marked FRANCO = PAID. April 9. Hamburg backstamp.



1856

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RUSSIA TO U. S., Prussian Closed Mail via England
British Packet Transatlantic, CUNARD LINE, R. M. S. Africa

1856
ST PETERSBOURG
m
13

March 13, 1856 (Julian, equivalent to March 24 on the Gregorian or "new" calendar). Letter was marked in manuscript "2 franco" indicating a paid double letter. Paid in kopecs at 30¢ per ½-oz., here a double letter at 60¢. Letter endorsed: Per steamer/from Liverpool/Prussian Closed Mail.



ACHEN
1/4
PAID 50cts.

N. YORK 60
APR 19
PAID

April 1 (Gregorian). Transit mark at Aachen where the Prussian mails were closed, i.e., went in sealed bags, not to be opened until arrival at N.Y. or Boston. Prussia showed a credit to U.S. of 25¢ x 2 = 50¢ for a letter over ½-oz., but not over 1 oz. Prussia retained 10¢ for handling.

April 5. R.M.S. Africa departed L"pool.

April 19. Africa arrived N.Y., Exchange Office recognized letter as paid at 60¢. U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis.

1855

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SAXONY TO U.S. BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
NEWSPAPER RATE, 2½ NEUGROSCHEN (6¢)
CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Africa



2i

April 8, 1855. A newspaper wrapper paid at the newspaper rate of 2½ neugroschen at Halle in Prussian Saxony. 2½ n.g. x 2,4¢/n.g. = 6¢ U.S. newspaper rate via Prussian Closed Mail. Germans credited U.S. with 4¢ out of the total postage, no postage was due in the U.S. Wrapper is marked at lower left: Ztg/frco = Zeitung/franco = Newspaper/paid.



Paid all

April 10. Letter in transit at Aachen (Aiz-la-Chapelle) where it was made up with the Prussian Closed Mails through Britain. Also marked at Aachen with the seldom seen "Paid all".

April 14. R.M.S. Africa departed from Liverpool, arrived at Boston April 26.

N.B.: Private correspondence with R. Winter notes only one other newspaper wrapper via Prussian Closed Mail is known to him.

1835

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BADEN TO U.S. VIA FRANCE

FORWARDING AGENT

Welles & Co., Paris



Aug. 22, 1835.
Letter posted un-
paid at Baden.

BADER.1

**BADE PAR
STRASBOURG**

4

French entry
marks showing mail
from Baden by way
of Strasbourg (Noel
54). Welles & Co.,
Paris, paid the 17
decimes due. Credit
of 4 allowed to
German State.

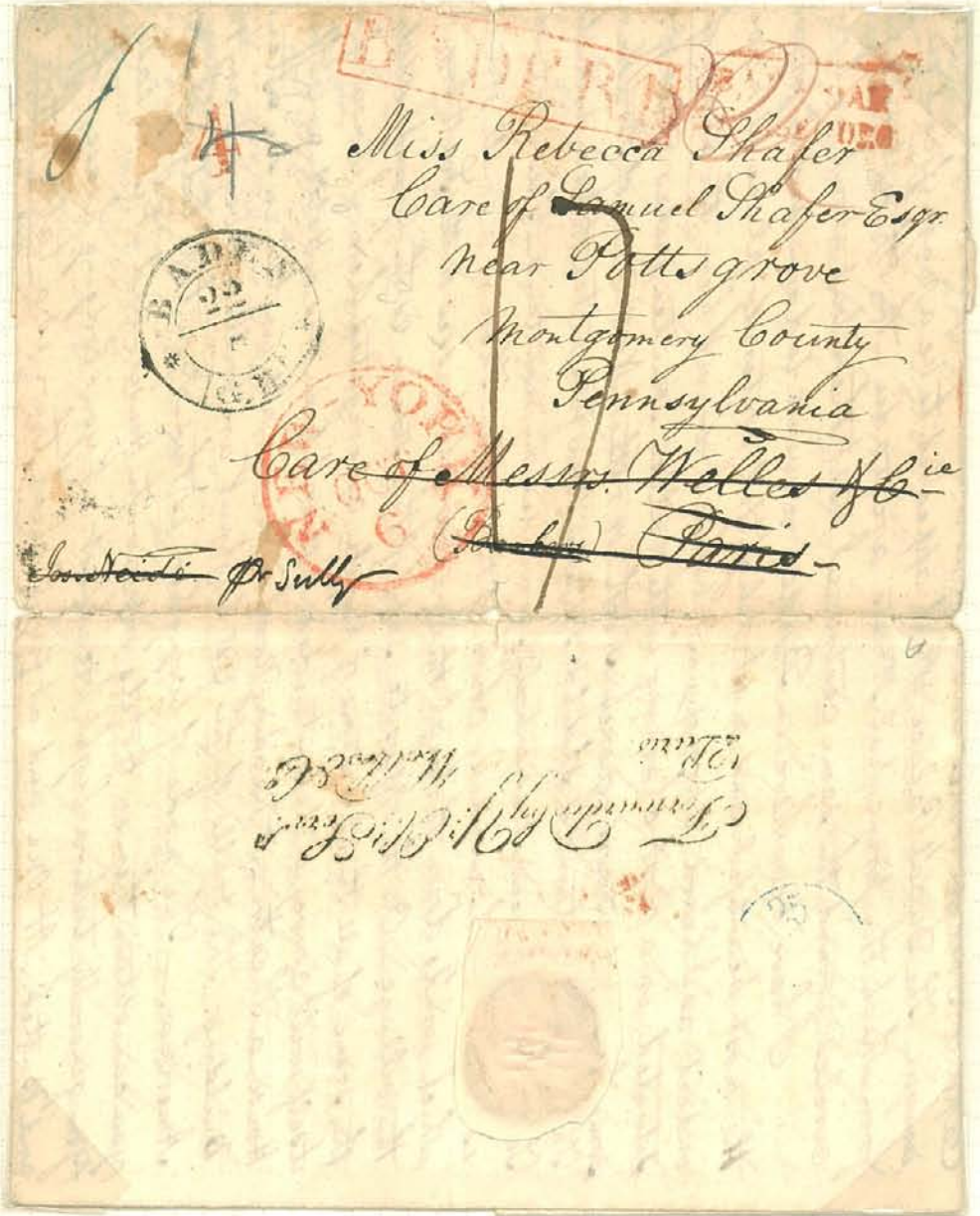
August 25, 1835.
Welles & Co. back-
stamped letter
with their "for-
warding agents"
cachet (below)
and forwarded the
letter unpaid to
Pennsylvania.

*Forwarded by Y. N^e Sew to
Paris Welles & Co.*



October 6, 1835. Letter
entered U.S. at New York
where it was rated as a
Ship Letter, i.e. 18-3/4¢
for a letter going inland
150-400 miles + 2¢ Ship Letter
charge = 20-3/4¢ due (red mms.
U.R.).

OLD LINE, New York to Havre
Packet Sully, Forbes, Sept. 1, 1835 from Havre
Oct. 6 arrived N.Y.



1854-55

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO UNITED STATES

CLOSED MAIL VIA ENGLAND

Paid Letter

The Convention of 26 August 1852 set international postage of 30¢ per rate of ½-oz. (American) or one loth (German).

29 Nov. 1854. Letter datelined London, however, postscript says, "P.S. 14 Decbr. After having written these lines there was no steamer leaving England before the 9th inst.; I therefore took this letter to the Continent, where I was prevented from mailing it in consequence of continual traveling and thus overlooking the time of regular steamer departures....."



BERLIN.
STADTPOST-EXP. VIII
17/12-6-7 Nm

AACHEN
19
12

Paid
25cts

Brit:
Packet.

Dec. 17, 1854.
Letter posted paid in cash at Berlin. Mss. note routes letter via Ostende, port in Belgium.

Dec. 19. Transit at Aachen Exchange Office. On prepaid letters Prussia had to show a credit to the U.S. of 25¢ per ½-oz, retaining 5¢ for Prussian Internal postage.

German Exchange Office backstamped letter with this scarce mark routing letter via British at L'pool. Cunarder Canada left L'pool 23 Dec. 1854.

Jan. 5, 1855. Boston Exchange Office marked letter incoming as PAID 30. Blake 786. Records show the Canada arrived Boston Jan. 4, 1855.

BOSTON 30 BR. PK. 5 PAID

Brit
Packet.

1855

U.S. TO BERLIN BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
COLLINS LINE, U.S.M.S. Baltic American Packet from New York



PAID

30



March 6, 1855. Letter paid at Plymouth, Mass. at the 30¢ revived Convention of 1853 rate per 1/2-oz., Prussian Closed Mail through Britain, as endorsed. Same Plymouth date stamp appears on the reverse.



March 6 (month error in handstamp). Transit backstamp at Boston.

March 7. The Exchange Office at New York processed the letter and credited Prussia with 2¢ Belgian transit plus 5¢ Prussian Inland = 7¢. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland + 18¢ Sea and British transit = 23¢. British transit was settled up on a bulk basis.



FRANCO

March 7. U.S. Mail Steamship Baltic of the Collins Line sailed for Liverpool, at which port she arrived on March 18. The Prussian Mail closed bags were forwarded to Aachen where bulk was broken and the letter received identity March 20, red backstamp. Marked on face FRANCO = PAID.



March 22. Berlin arrival backstamps. An earlier time was struck in error (7-9 Vormittag = Forenoon), deleted, and the correct time of 11-12 Vm was substituted.

1855

U.S. TO GERMANY BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
COLLINS LINE

U. S. M. S. Baltic



April 12, 1855. An unpaid letter posted at Philadelphia at the Prussian Closed Mail rate of 30¢ per ½-oz., i.e., mail was sent in closed bags through England. The 30¢ rate was noted by the handstamp at Philadelphia.



April 18. Letter was held at New York for the departure of the Collins Line U.S.M.S. Baltic, which departed from N.Y. this date. The New York Exchange Office debited Prussia for Sea and British transit of 18¢ + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 23¢. Prussia would retain 5¢ Prussian Inland + 2¢ Belgian transit = 7¢. This is the earliest recorded (W.12) mark. Winter lists it used 5 Dec. 55 to 1 Mar. 62.

April 29. Baltic arrived at Liverpool. The Prussian Closed Mails were sent in bulk to Aachen.



May 1. Bulk was broken at the Aachen Exchange Office, backstamp. Letter was subject to a collect amount of 45 kreuzer (manuscript in blue).

May 5. Alpirsbach, Wurtemberg arrival backstamp.

ALPIRSBACH
5 MAI 1855

1856

PRUSSIA TO U. S. by Prussian Closed Mail

Ocean Steam Navigation Co.

S. S. Washington

PECKELSHEIM



September 8 (c. s.), 1856. An unpaid letter posted at Peckelsheim, Prussia.

September 9. Transit at Aachen, the Exchange Office for the Prussian Closed Mail. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian inland postage out of the 30¢/½-oz. rate. The balance of 2¢ Belgian Transit, 18¢ British Transit and Sea and 5¢ U.S. Inland would be adjusted by the U.S. and British Exchange offices.

September 6. S.S. Washington of the Ocean Line departed from Bremen, called at Southampton the 10th where this letter went aboard in the closed bags.

September 24. Washington arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office marked 30¢ due, the Prussian Closed Mail rate.

This letter was marked 32 (¢) in crayon on the reverse. R.F. Winter believes that the Kensington, Penn. post office added a 2¢ carrier fee, making in all 32¢ due.

It is to be noted that this letter has a street address.

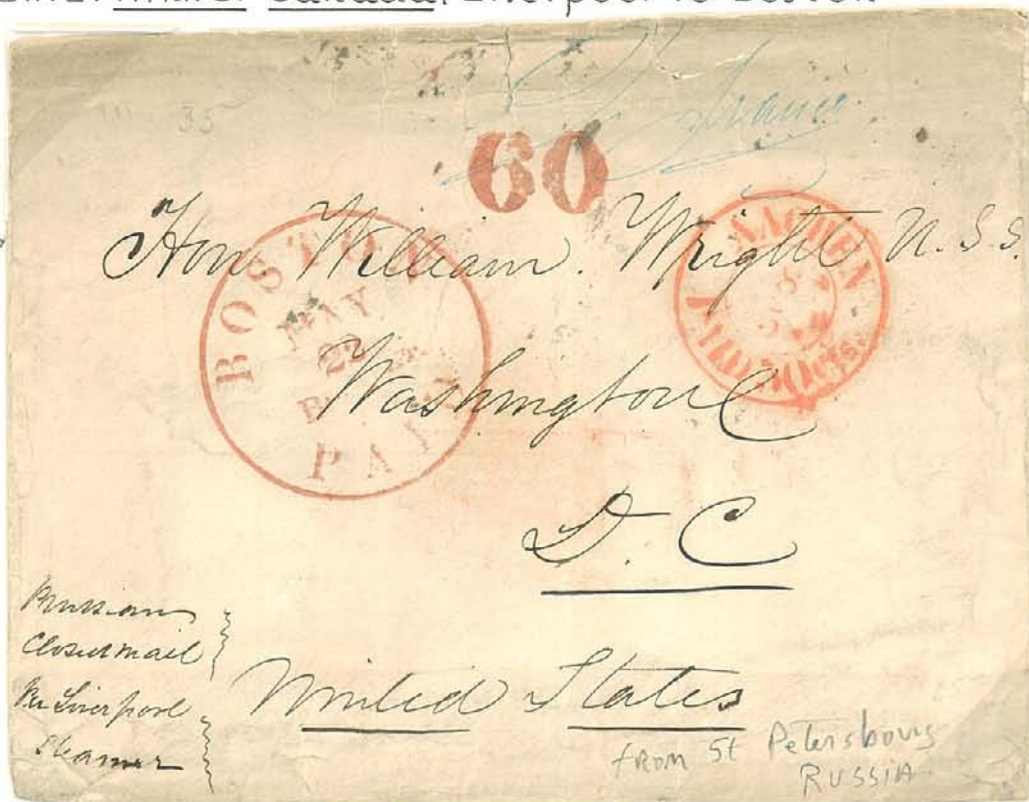


32

1856

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO U.S. VIA PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Canada, Liverpool to Boston

1856
ST PETERSBURG
III
19



22
6

France

April 19 (Julian), 1856. [Equivalent to May 1 in the Gregorian or "new" calendar.] Letter posted paid at St. Petersburg, backstamp, and endorsed: Prussian/Closed Mail/Per Liverpool/Steamer. It is also noted in manuscript "franco = paid". This letter was fully prepaid to the U.S. with the apportionment between Prussia/Russia shown on the reverse in silbergroschen 22/6, equivalent to 60/14¢, the total of 74¢ being double the 37¢ rate of October 1852, U.S. to Russia by Prussian Closed Mail.



May 8 (Gregorian). Transit at Aachen where the Prussian mails were closed through England. Prussia showed a credit to the U.S. of 25¢ x 2 = 50¢ for a letter over ½-oz., but not over 1 oz. Prussia retained 10¢ for Prussian handling.

60



May 10. R.M.S. Canada departed from Liverpool.

May 22. Canada arrived at Boston. Boston restated the PCM rate of 60¢ as paid. Charges beyond Aachen were not part of the U.S.-Prussia accounting. U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis.

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS TO WURTEMBURG BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
R. M. S. Africa CUNARD LINE

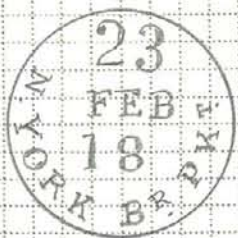


PAID

5



February 9, 1857. Letter paid at Ottawa, Illinois as an open letter by British Packet at 5¢ per the rates of July 1849.



February 18. The New York Exchange Office ignored the 5¢ prepayment as an open British Mail letter, instead forwarded it as unpaid in the Prussian Closed Mail, which was 30¢. The Exchange Office mark debited Prussia for Sea and British transit of 18¢ + U.S. Inland 5¢ = 23¢. Prussia would retain 5¢ Prussian Inland + 2¢ Belgian transit = 7¢.

R.M.S. Africa of the Cunard Line departed from New York Feb. 18.



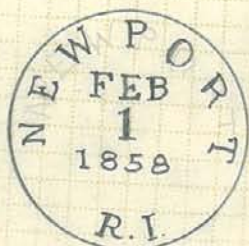
March 1. Africa arrived at Liverpool. Prussian Closed Mails were sent in bulk to Aachen where bulk was broken March 4. Letter transit at Aachen where it received identity, backstamp.

March 6. Arrival backstamp at Neuenburg.

Letter was subject to a collect amount of 45 kreuzer (in blue) to which was added 2 kreuzer inland postage to total 47 k. (in red).

1858

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
UNITED STATES TO GERMANY
Closed Mail via England-Unpaid Letter



30

Feb. 1, 1858.
Letter posted un-
paid at Newport
for Saxony "By
the Prussian clo-
sed mail". Scarce
Newport "30" mark
for unpaid rate.



Feb. 3, 1858

Feb. 3. New York marked letter with 23¢ credit to U.S., being U.S. Inland 5¢ + Sea and British transit 18¢ = 23¢. It was necessary to specify "Am." or "Br." packet, as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of 40¢ per ounce for Prussian Closed Mail letters conveyed by British Packet, and 17½¢ per oz. for transit through England on Prussian Closed Mail by American Packet. Germany retained the 7¢, being 2¢ Belgian transit + 5¢ Prussian Inland. Cf: Hargest, Pg. 87 and 89.

Records show that the Cunarder (British) SS "Europa" sailed New York Feb. 3, arrived Liverpool Feb. 15. (Chronicle No.95, Pg.203).



Feb. 17, 1858. Bulk broken at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) where mail was dispersed to various German States.



Feb. 18, 1858.
"Letter delivery",
German receipt back-
stamp.

1858

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO WÜRTEMBERG BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

R.M.S. Persia

British Packet from New York

Rates per 1/2-oz. under the revived Convention of 1853:

U.S. Inland	5¢) = 23¢
Sea and British Transit	18	
Belgian Transit	2	
Prussian Inland	5	
	<u>30¢.</u>	



30

Sept. 28, 1858. A nicely printed envelope indicating routing per Prussian Closed Mail, Via London and Ostende. Letter was unpaid, and the amount due was shown in manuscript "30", per the Convention of 1853 30¢ rates (see above.)



Sept. 29. Transit at New York, from which port the R.M.S. Persia departed on this date for L'pool via Queenstown. The "23" in the Exchange Office stamp debited Prussia for 5¢ U.S. Inland + 18¢ sea and British transit. The mark had to state British or American Packet because the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of 40¢ per oz. for Prussian Closed Mail by British Packet and 17 1/2¢ per oz. for American Packet, both closed through England.



Oct. 12. Persia arrived at Liverpool, having landed the European mails at Queenstown the 11th.

Oct. 13-16. German transit backstamps. Large manuscript "45" shows the collect amount in kreuzers as Wurttemberg (Wurttemberg) was in the kreuzer area. 1k. was equivalent to .0068 U\$S x 45 = .306, the closest equivalent to 30¢ U.S.

1858

U.S. TO WÜRTEMBERG BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
INMAN LINE S.S. City of Baltimore



60¢



April 8, 1858. An unpaid letter posted at Philadelphia, endorsed: Via Liverpool & Ostende/pr. Steamer. The Philadelphia office noted the amount due in U.S. funds for a double weight letter by Prussian Closed Mail at 30¢ x 2 = 60¢.

April 10. Letter transit at the New York Exchange Office. Prussia was debited for Sea and British transit of 18¢ + U.S. Inland 5¢ + 23¢ x 2 = 46¢ (double letter.) The S.S. City of Baltimore of the Inman Line departed from N.Y. on April 10 for Liverpool. The Exchange Office had to specify "Am." or BR." Packet as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of 17½¢ per ounce if by American Packet, 40¢ per ounce if by British Packet.



April 22. City of Baltimore landed at Liverpool and the Prussian Closed Mail was forwarded via Ostende, Belgium to Aachen, Prussia.

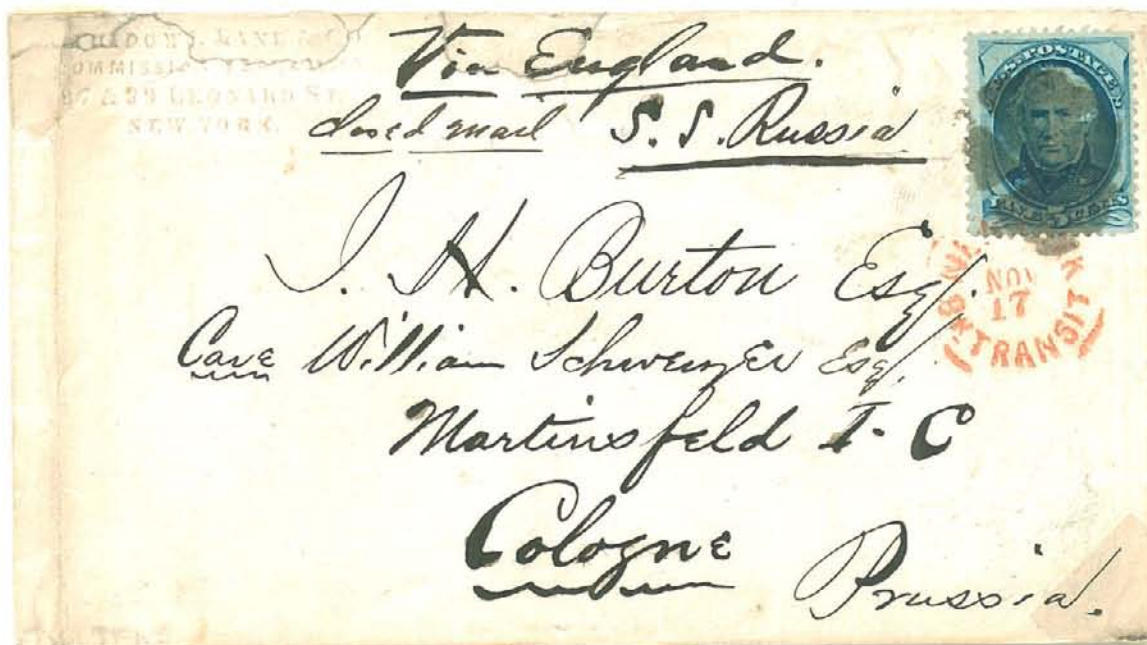
April 24. Bulk was broken at Aachen and the recipient assessed 90 kreuzer (at .0068¢/kr. = 60¢ U.S. equivalent) shown in manuscript. Prussia would retain 10¢ Prussian Inland + 4¢ Belgian transit = 14¢.

April 26. Prussian transit backstamps includes Wurtemberg (Wurtt-emburg) railway transit.

1875

CLOSED MAIL
PRUSSIA VIA ENGLAND

In 1852 a Postal Convention was signed with Prussia setting forth a scale of rates for mail handled by sealed bags. The U.S. mail ("Prussian Closed Mail") was forwarded from England in sealed bags via Ostend to the frontier at Aachen, where the bags were opened and letters forwarded on to their destinations in Prussia, to all the States of the German-Austrian Postal Union and to foreign countries beyond.



Closed Mail letter to Prussia via SS Russia, 2959 tons, Cunard Liner, in service 1867-78.

Letter is franked with U.S. 5¢, Scott #179, rate effective after General Postal Union at Berne, 1st July 1875.



New York office mark showing letter to travel via British Transit, closed.

1858

POLA, ILLYRIA TO U.S. BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
INMAN LINE

S.S. Vigo



38 2

October 5, 1858. An unpaid letter posted at Pola, Illyria, then a territory or kingdom forming the S.W. portion of the Austrian dominions (now Pula, Jugoslavia.) As such, it fell under the German-Austrian Postal Union rate to the U.S. of 30¢ per ½-oz. by Prussian Closed Mail through England.

The GAPU transit charge of 2 silbergroschen ("2" in blue manuscript) is shown as required to get the letter to the Exchange Office at Aachen. The amount due was shown as "38" for 38 Austrian kreuzer (equivalent to 30¢, the unpaid full postage.)



October 9. The letter was in transit at Aachen where the U.S. was debited for 5¢ to recover the GAPU transit fee which they had to give to Austria.

October 13. S.S. Vigo of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool and arrived at New York October 26.



October 27. The bulked mails went from New York to Boston by rail. At Boston bulk was broken and the letter received identity as an American Packet letter, backstamp. The 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate was due.

1858-59

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO U.S. VIA PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
INMAN LINE: S.S. Kangaroo, Liverpool to New York

1858
STPETERSBOURG
XII
29

11
3
franco



December 29 (Julian), 1858 [equivalent to Jan. 9, 1859 in the Gregorian or "New" calendar]. Letter posted paid at St. Petersburg, backstamp, and endorsed: Via Liverpool/pr. Prussian/Closed Mail. It is also noted in manuscript "franco" = paid. This letter was fully prepaid to the U.S. with the apportionment between Prussia/Russia shown in manuscript on the reverse in silbergroschen 11/3, equivalent to 30¢/7¢, the total of 37¢ being the rate of October 1852, U.S. to Russia via PCM.

Coeln.
15 1/2
Verviers.



January 15, 1859 (Gregorian). Coeln to Verviers railway transit backstamp.

January 16. Transit at Aachen. As far as the U.S. was concerned, this letter was treated as a Prussian Closed Mail letter at the 30¢ rate, effective October 1852. Any transactions between Prussia and Russia had no bearing on the U.S. rates. The Aachen Exchange Office mark credited U.S. with 25¢ U.S. Inland plus sea postage.



January 19. The Prussian Closed Mail bags were forwarded through England to meet the sailing of the Inman Line S.S. Kangaroo from Liverpool.

February 7. Kangaroo arrived at New York, mail processed February 8. Letter accepted as a PAID PCM single letter by the Exchange Office at New York.

1859

FRANKFURT TO U.S. via France and Britain
HAVRE LINE

S. S. Fulton

Rates of April 1, 1857, prepayment optional, for mail from Frankfurt through France was the 15¢ International rate plus an excess of 6¢ over the International rate to cover beyond France, per ¼-oz.

This was broken down:

	<u>¼-oz.</u>	<u>½-oz.</u>	
U.S. Inland	3¢	6¢)	= 18¢
Sea	6	12)	
Transit	2	4	
French Inland	4	8	
Excess over International	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	
	21¢	42¢	



July 20, 1859. An unpaid letter posted at Frankfurt-am-Main. It was handled by the Thurn & Taxis post (TOU.-T), entering France at Forbach, ambulant (railway TPO entry mark), July 21.

July 21. Railway transit backstamp, Strasbourg to Paris, day train (octagonal center), backstamp.

July 22. Letter in transit at Paris. It was at first erroneously marked with a 36¢ debit to the U.S. (all but 6¢ U.S. Inland.) This was changed to another error, i.e., 18¢ debit to U.S. as noted above. Correct debit should have been 24¢ for all but U.S. Inland + sea postage (42¢ - 18¢ = 24¢.)

July 26. S.S. Fulton of the Havre Line departed Havre, picked up U.S. mails at Southampton July 27.

Aug. 11. Fulton arrived at New York. Double 21¢ x 2 rate of 42¢ due. N.Y. Exchange Office also struck "Am. Service."



1859

HOMBURG, HESSE-HOMBURG TO U.S. BY BRITISH OPEN MAIL
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Africa



COBLENZ
188 * 1.
COELN

9
38

10 3/4



Aug. 17, 1859. Letter posted in Homburg, central Germany, capitol of Hesse-Homburg, served by the Thurn & Taxis Post, which used the southern German currency the kreuzer. Prepayment was 47 kreuzer, which paid all transit fees to the limits of the British mail system, in this case, the U.S. arrival port of the British steamer. 47 k. is broken down as 9/38, 9k. to be retained by Germany and 38k. credit to the British.

Aug. 17-18. Transit backstamps, through Frankfurt-am-Main and the railway Coblenz to Coeln. A restatement of the silbergroschen equivalent to 38 kreuzer is 10-3/4, made at the Prussian Exchange Office, a credit to Britain.

Aug. 19. Transit London, paid letter, British red 1/- (1 shilling), restatement of credit to G.B. by Prussia.

Aug. 20. R.M.S. Africa departed Liverpool for N.Y.

Sept. 1. Africa arrived N.Y., mail bulked to Boston, received there Sept. 2. As the letter had a confusing address "Near Boston - Nahant", it was delayed one day with the "Boston" deleted and the "Nahant" underlined, delay evidenced by the Sept. 3 Boston backstamp. 5¢ U.S. British Open Mail rate due.

For comparison purposes, 47 kreuzer was equivalent to about 32¢ U.S.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

SAXONY TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail

Cunard Line Transatlantic

R. M. S. Asia

Unpaid Letter

Mail from within the German States directed to the U.S. was rated under the revived convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Aachen and had to be prepaid. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British Transit	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<u>30¢.</u>



May 10, 1859.
Unpaid (as far as transatlantic rates) letter at Dresden. 2 silbergrosched (or 2 neugroschen in Saxony) paid the GAU postage (blue "2" on reverse).



May 11. Transit at Aachen shows debit to U.S. for Prussian Inland (see above). Mail here bulked to be closed through England, not to be broken until arrival in the U.S. R.M.S. Asia departed May 14, L'pool to New York.

May 27. Asia arrived at N.Y. May 26 and mail bulked to Boston where these two marks were applied, backstamp showing British Packet and face shows 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate due.



B.704

B.877

1859

MARIENBAD, Bohemia to U.S. by PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
Cunard Line Transatlantic to New York R.M.S. Africa
Unpaid Letter

Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Aachen and had to be pre-paid, here shown as the blue "2" on the face. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:

MARIENBAD
16
8

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<u>30¢.</u>

2

Aug. 16, 1859. Letter (date-lined Aug. 10 at Dresden) unpaid at Marienbad except for the 2 s.g. GAU inland postage. Letter bears another "2" in blue on the reverse, crediting Belgium for her transit.

LEIPZIG.
17 81
MAGDEB:

August 17.
Transit back-stamp aboard the Leipzig to Magdeburg railway mail sorting car.

By Prussian Closed Mail

AACHEN
18
8
5cts

M. William Hardwick
U.S. appraiser
Boston
United States of America

30 SEP 2 A.F.
BOSTON BR.

Aug. 18. Transit at Aachen where the Prussian mail was closed to go through England. U.S. was debited 5¢ for Prussian inland postage.

Aug. 20. R.M.S. Africa departed from Liverpool for Boston via Halifax. Prussian Closed Mail bags had been forwarded from London to L'pool.

30
SEP
2
A.F.
BOSTON BR.

Sept. 1. Africa arrived at New York and the closed bags sent on to Boston where bulk was broken and letter received identity at Boston Sept. 2. 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate due.

1859

DRESDEN, SAXONY TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail via England
Norddeutscher Lloyd Transatlantic to N.Y. S.S. Bremen

Unpaid Letter

Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Aachen and had to be pre-paid, here shown as the blue "2" on the face. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:



Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<u>30¢.</u>

2



Sept. 3, 1859. Letter unpaid except for the GAU 2 s.g. inland postage. Letter bears another "2" in blue on the reverse, crediting Belgium for her transit. Mail bags were closed at Aachen for the Prussian closed mail through England, previous to which the Aachen mark was struck debiting U.S. for the 5¢ Prussian inland.

Sept. 6. The S.S. Bremen, Capt. Von Santen, departed Bremen Sept. 3 and called at Southampton the 6th where the Prussian Closed Mail and the English Mails went aboard.



Sept. 22. Bremen arrived N.Y. Sept. 21 with 654 pass. to Gelpeck, Keutjen & Reichelt. She had experienced heavy westerly gales the entire passage. Bulked mail went by rail to Boston where it received identity Sept. 22. It was necessary to specify "Br." or "Am." packet, as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of 40¢ per oz. for Prussian Closed Mail conveyed by British packet and 17½¢ per oz. for transit through England for P.C.M. by American packet. Germany retained 7¢, being 2¢ Belgian transit + 5¢ Prussian Inland.

Packet mark not listed by Blake.

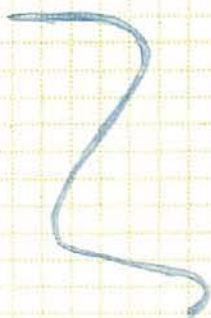
1859

KIRCHBERG, Wurttemberg to U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
Cunard Line Transatlantic to Boston R.M.S. America



1859

KIRCHBERG, Wurttemberg to U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
Cunard Line Transatlantic to Boston R.M.S. America



Nov. 27, 1859. Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Aachen and had to be prepaid, here shown as the blue "2" on the face. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<hr/> 30¢.



COBLENZ
3011 1
COELN

November 29-30. German transit backstamps showing handling by the Kingdom of Wurttemberg Travelling Post Office (Fahrend Postamt - struck twice); transit at Stuttgart and travel by the Coblenz to Coeln railway mail car.



Nov. 30. Letter unpaid except for the GAU 2 s.g. inland postage. Mail bags were closed at Aachen for the Prussian Closed Mail through England, previous to which the Aachen mark was struck debiting the United States for the 5¢ Prussian Inland.

Dec. 3. R.M.S. America departed Liverpool Dec. 3. Prussian Closed Mail bags were routed via London and sent on to Queens-town for pickup by the Cunard Line where regular scheduled stops had been initiated only in November 1859.



Dec. 18. Arrival date of America at Boston. Unusual double stamping here with BOSTON/Ms. backstamp. Prussian Closed Mail rate of 30¢ due as shown in the Exchange Office BOSTON Br. PKT. handstamp.

B. 790

1859 - 60

U.S. TO WURTEMBERG BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Persia



2



December 20, 1859. An unpaid letter posted at Philadelphia. It was there noted in manuscript as a double letter by Prussian Closed Mail at $30\phi \times 2 = 60\phi$.

December 21. The New York Exchange Office debited Prussia for Sea and British transit of $18\phi + \text{U.S. Inland } 5\phi = 23\phi \times 2 = 46\phi$ (double letter.) R.M.S. Persia of the Cunard Line departed for Liverpool this same date. The Exchange Office had to specify "Br." or "Am." Packet as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of $17\frac{1}{2}\phi$ per ounce if by American Packet, 40ϕ per ounce if by British.

December 31. Persia arrived at Liverpool. The PCM bags were sent closed to Aachen where bulk was broken on January 3, 1860, backstamp.



January 3. The Prussians noted the letter a double (blue "2") and charged 1 gulden (40ϕ) + 30 kreuzer (20ϕ) = 1f30, equivalent to 60ϕ U.S., shown in blue manuscript. N.B.: 60 kreuzer = 1 gulden. An elaborate explanation of the charge was made by the recipient on the back of this letter.

1850's

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

COUNTRIES BEYOND GERMANY via BREMEN PACKET

These covers, United States to Switzerland, illustrate the elaborate rating and accountancy markings necessary to get the proper credits, debits, or due charges to every country or postal system through which the mail passed, in this open mail via Bremen. These interesting and scarce AMERICA/UBER BREMEN marks showed how some of the charges should apply, others by manuscript or handstamps. These covers have not yet been researched enough to explain the complexity of markings shown.

12 3/4 AMERICA
UBER BREMEN

11 1/12



DL
SEPT 3,
1850
Recd
Oct 10

1850

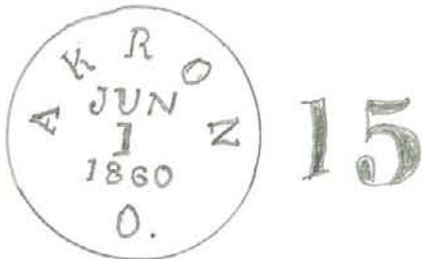
AMERICA 33
UBER BREMEN 9



TAG 015.0

1860

U.S. TO MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN VIA HAMBURG
HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE S.S. Saxonia



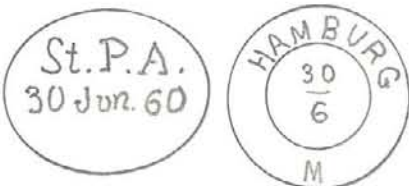
June 1, 1860. An unpaid letter posted at Akron, Ohio to Bruel, Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Akron post office marked the letter with the 15¢ rate to German States (rates as "by Bavaria") by Bremen or Hamburg Packet, rate effective July 1857. Letter is endorsed at upper left: Per Hamburg Steamer.



June 15. This letter was held at New York for the June 15 departure of the Hapag S.S. Saxonia. The N.Y. Exchange Office debited Hamburg for 5¢ U.S. inland postage.

June 30. Saxonia arrived at Hamburg, she had touched at Southampton on June 29.

Hamburg arrival backstamps. Mecklenburg-Schwerin was debited for 9 Hamburg schillinge, equivalent to the 15¢ U.S. rate.



The recipient was charged 13-3/4 schillinge (Meck.) which included Hamburg Packet postage plus internal charges, Hamburg to Mecklenburg.

N.B.: The Mecklenburg schillinge was somewhat different from that of Hamburg, viz., 1 sgr. = 1.6 schillinge (Meck.) and 1 sgr. = 1.3 schillinge (Hamb.)

1861

HAMBURG, GERMANY TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
Cunard Line Transatlantic to Boston R.M.S. America

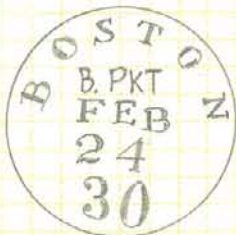


Feb. 6, 1861. Unpaid letter posted at Hamburg "via England", i.e., by Prussian Closed Mail through Aachen. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen had to be prepaid to Aachen, shown as the blue "2" on the cover face.



Feb. 7. Transit at Aachen where the Closed Mail bags were made up. Aachen credited U.S. with 5¢ out of the 30¢ rate, made up: Prussian Inland 5¢, Belgian transit 2¢, Sea and British transit 18¢, U.S. Inland 5¢.

Feb. 9. R.M.S. America departed from Liverpool to Boston on her 84th westbound trip. The Prussian Closed Mails went aboard her.



Feb. 24. Arrival date of the America at Boston. Exchange Office there marked 30¢ due for the Prussian rate and noted per British Packet.

This mark not listed in Blake.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BERLIN TO BOSTON BY BREMEN PACKET
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD S.S. Bremen

Mail from within the German States directed to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The rate beyond Bremen (City) was 15¢. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Bremen and had to be prepaid.



BERLIN.
STADTPOST-EXP. VII
5.6 * 6-7 Nm

2

BREMEN
6.6 * 7-8 M

5/10

June 5, 1861. Unpaid letter posted in Berlin and endorsed: via Bremen. It arrived at that port city on June 6, backstamp. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen was prepaid, shown by the blue "2" to get the letter from Berlin to Bremen. The fraction 5/10 shows the German-Austrian Union rate of 5 Bremen grote over 10 Bremen grote, the international rate between Bremen and New York. As 1 grote = 1¢, the total was the 15¢ Bremen Packet rate.

June 9. S.S. Bremen of the North German Lloyd line departed from Bremen, she touched at Southampton on the 12th.



June 23. Bremen arrived at New York, letter processed the next day as a Bremen Packet Letter, 15¢ due.

1861

Salzburg, Austria to U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
INMAN LINE S.S. City of Washington

Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried a letter to Aachen and had to be prepaid, here shown by the black "2" on the face. The transatlantic Prussian Closed Mail rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<u>30¢.</u>

2



July 14, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Salzburg, Austria. An erroneous "3" was deleted in favor of the correct 2 silbergroschen mark.



MAINZ
16 7 11
COELN

July 16. Transit backstamp aboard the Mainz to Coeln (Cologne) railway mail sorting car.



July 16. Transit at Aachen where the Prussian mail was closed to go through Belgium and England. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland. The constant rim break at 8 o'clock is shown on the Aachen transit stamp.

July 18. Inman Line S.S. City of Washington departed from Liverpool for New York via Queenstown

July 19. Prussian Closed Mail bags had been forwarded from London to Queenstown.



July 31. City of Washington arrived at N.Y., mail bulked to Boston. AM. PKT. backstamp was used Apr. 11, 1860 to May 18, 1864.

Aug. 1. Boston charge mark (B.877) shows 30¢ Prussian rate. Used 1/18/59 - 11/28/62.

B.835

B.877

1861

Frankfurt am Main to U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Africa

Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried the letter to Aachen and had to be prepaid, here shown as the blue "2" on the face. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<hr/> 30¢.



July 16, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Frankfurt am Main, endorsed: Via La Belgique et L'Angleterre.

Coeln
17 7 2
Verviers.

July 17.
Transit
backstamp
aboard the
Coeln to
Verviers
railway mail
sorting car.



July 18. Transit at Aachen where the Prussian Mail was closed to go through England. U.S. was debited 5¢ for Prussian Inland.

July 20. R.M.S. Africa departed from Liverpool for New York via Queenstown, July 21. Prussian Closed Mail bags had been forwarded from London to Queenstown.



August 1. Africa arrived at New York and the closed bags sent on to Boston where bulk was broken and letter received identity at Boston Aug. 2. 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate due.

1863

AUSTRIA TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail via England
 Cunard Line Transatlantic to Boston R.M.S. Asia
Paid Letter

Mail from within the German-Austrian Union was subject to a prepaid charge of 2 silbergroschen or equivalent, which took it to Aachen. From there letters were rated under the revived Convention of 1853.

	<u>1/2-oz.</u>	<u>1-oz.</u>	
Prussian Inland	5 ¢	10 ¢	
Belgian Transit	2	4	
Sea and British Transit	18	36)	= 46¢
U.S. Inland	5	10)	
	<u>30 ¢</u>	<u>60 ¢.</u>	

FRANCO



K.K. BRIEF-FILIALAMT
 IN WIEN

9
 12
 1863



Dec. 9, 1863. Vienna backstamps (K.K. = Kaiserlich Konigliches or Imperial and Royal) branch office. Letter paid all the way in Vienna at 14 neukreutzer:

12 n.k. x .05 U.S./n.k. = 60¢ double rate
 2 n.k. x .05 U.S./n.k. = 10¢ equivalent to 4 s.g. at .025 US/s.g.
 14 - (shown in red).

The 2 neukreutzer, equivalent to 4 silbergroschen, was retained for the GAU postage, Vienna to Aachen. FRANCO = PAID. Prussia also retained 14¢ out of the transatlantic rate.

PAID



Dec. 11. Transit at Aachen. Mail stamped with the dumb "AACHEN PAID Cts." mark. Credit to U.S. of double rate sea + U.S. Inland of 46¢ (see above) shown in ink. U.S. settled up with British Packet. R.M.S. Asia, Cunard, departed Liverpool Dec. 12, touched at Queenstown Dec. 13, and arrived at Boston Dec. 24.

1863-64

AUSTRIA TO U.S. VIA PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE

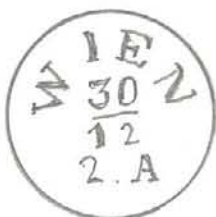
R.M.S. Scotia

Depreciated Currency

Mail from within the German States to the U.S. was rated under the revived Convention of 1853. The German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen carried a letter to Aachen and had to be prepaid, here shown as the blue "2" in pen on the face. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	<u>5</u>
	30¢.

2



December 30, 1863. An unpaid letter posted at Vienna, Austria. The 2 silbergroschen German-Austrian Union transit postage was prepaid.



January 1, 1864. Letter in transit at the Aachen Exchange Office, where the transit stamp debited the U.S. for 5¢ Prussian Inland postage. Closed mail bags went from Aachen to Britain. This Aachen transit stamp exhibits a constant rim break at 8 o'clock.

January 2. R.M.S. Scotia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, picked up the Prussian Closed Mail at Queenstown January 3.



January 14. Scotia landed at New York. The Boston mails went by closed bag to Boston where bulk was broken January 15. Prussian rate of 30¢ was due in gold or, as converted by the day's ratio of 1.50, at 45¢ in U.S. NOTES (depreciated paper currency. This particular conversion (30/45) is not listed by Blake, but is similar to other ratios (see B. 927.)

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO DENMARK

Closed Mail via England

There is much evidence that mail to countries "beyond Germany" at this period were handled free of charges beyond the German States borders when these countries were contiguous. This cover rated at the Closed Mail rate of 30¢ bears no evidence of any other charges, either due from Denmark or to be collected from the recipient.



June 5, 1857. Cover posted at San Francisco and prepaid 30¢, the closed mail rate to Denmark.

June 30. Transit at New York "PAID". 7¢ credit to Britain and Germany with the U.S. retaining 23¢.



July 14. Bulk mail broken at Aachen and letter date stamped, FRANCO = PAID.

July 15. St.P.A. = Stadt Post Amt or State Post Office. Backstamp.

July 15. Hamburg transit backstamp.

Franco Preuss:
Vesp. Vereinst. Nupp: Gr:
Cf: Van der Linden, pg 38.

1864

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKETS-PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

The 1852 U.S. - Prussian Postal Convention agreed on a total rate of 30¢ per ½ oz., 60¢ per 1 oz., etc. This cover rated as a double letter (1 oz.) at 60¢ coin or \$1.11 in depreciated currency.



BREMEN
219*6-7

Sept. 21, 1864.
Bremen receipt
stamp.

AACHEN
22
9
10 cts

Sept. 22.
Aachen transit.
10¢ is Prussian
share.

NEW YORK BR. PKT.
OCT 5
60

Oct. 5. N.Y. Exchange Off.
60¢ due in coin.

U.S. NOTES
111

Depreciated
currency rating in
U.S. Notes.

DEPRECIATED CURRENCY: RATING PROCEEDURE

Letters were rated on the basis of the day's prices of gold in greenbacks times the Gold Value of a Dollar's worth of Silver Subsidiary Coins. Thus the example above:

$$60¢ \text{ due in coin} \times 191\frac{1}{2} \text{ (price of Gold in Greenbacks)} \\ \times .967 \text{ (Gold Value of Silver)} = \$1.11 \text{ due from recipient.}$$

R.M.S. China. Dep. L'pool. 24 Sept. 1864
Arr. N.York 5 Oct.

1864

PACKET LETTERS
 TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKETS - PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

On 17th July 1852 a Postal Convention was signed with Prussia and went into effect 10th Oct. 1852. By this, postage rates were settled as:

U.S. postage not over 1/2 oz.	5 cents
Closed mail expenses, sea postage, British & Belgian transit charges	20 cents
Prussian postage	5 cents
Total	30 cents
Over 1/2 oz. but not more than 1 oz.	60 "
Over 1 oz.	120 "



BREMEN
28 12 * 6-7

Dec. 28, 1863.
Posted at Bremen.

AACHEN
29
12
10 cts.

N. Y. BR. PKT.
JAN.
13
60

U.S. NOTES
128

Dec. 29, 1863. Jan. 13, 1864. Depreciated
 The Aachen Exchange N.Y. Exchange currency rate
 Office handled the closed mail Office. Stamped of \$1.28
 by Am. and Brit. Packets via England. double letter. in U.S. notes.
 10 ¢ refers to Prussian share of rate. 60 ¢ gold.

RMS Scotia Veb. L pool 2 JAN 1864
 Arr. N.Y. 14 JAN 1864

TAG 0350

1850

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BREMEN CLOSED MAIL, HANNOVER TO U.S. VIA ENGLAND
R.M.S. Canada CUNARD LINE

Bremen Closed Mail rate covers tend to be elusive and rather difficult to identify as such. Most of the Bremen Closed Mail went by American Packet, few by British Packet, as did this letter.

From March 1848 to July 1851, the rate to Hannover via Bremen was the Bremen International rate of 24¢ plus 6¢ Bremen to Hannover. To this was added the U.S. Inland rate of 5¢ up to 300 miles (Act of 1845 rates) to total 35¢.

USLAR



$\frac{4}{2}$



January 20, 1850. Letter datelined at Uslar, a town in Hannover 16 miles N.W. of Göttingen on the River Aarle. Letter was unpaid so a debit charge of 6 grote was noted in large "6" manuscript. At this time the grote was equal approximately to 1¢ U.S. This 6 grote was divided as shown, 4 grote to Hannover (equivalent to 1-1/3 Hannoverian gutegroschen), and 2 grote to Bremen.

February 11. The letter was backstamped transit at the Stadt Post Amt (State Post Office) at Bremen where the closed mails were sent to Britain for transmittal to the United States.

February 23. R.M.S. Canada of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for New York.

March 12. Canada arrived at New York. Letter was subject to 5¢ U.S. rate, N.Y. to New Kirk Mills, a suburb of Gloversville, N.Y. about 200 miles distant. Letter was marked for a collect of 35¢ (see above.) This is a previously unrecorded N.Y. mark. (Cf: Winter correspondence.)



1864

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

STUTTGART TO NEW HAVEN BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

R.M.S. Sidon

Depreciated Currency

Rates per 1/2-oz. under the revived Convention of 1853:

U.S. Inland	5¢
Sea and British transit	18
Belgian transit	2
Prussian Inland	5
	<hr/>
	30¢.



2



Sept. 3, 1864. Letter posted with transatlantic postage unpaid at Stuttgart, Wurtemberg (capitol city). The German-Austrian Union postage of two silber-groschen had to be pre-paid to get letter to Aachen, the Exchange Office for the Prussian Closed mail (letter endorsed "Via Aachen"), shown as a blue manuscript "2". At base of the cds is a time code 8-11 Nachmittag (afternoon = P.M.).



MAINZ
4 9 3
COELN



Sept. 3. Kingdom of Wurtemberg railroad post office transit backstamp.

Sept. 4. Letter then travelled on the rail sorting car Mainz to Coeln (Cologne) back-

Sept. 5. Prussian Closed Mails through England were made up at Aachen. This mark debits U.S. for Prussian Inland.

Sept. 6. R.M.S. Sidon departed from L'pool for N.Y. via Q'town.



Sept. 23. Sidon, Capt. Martyn, arrived this date at N.Y. This was an unusually long trip as she put into Halifax with cargo Sept. 19, making a total passage of 17 days. Rated 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate in hard money or 66¢ in depreciated paper U.S. notes. (See TAG 040.0 for double rated letter also on the Sept. 23 arrival of Sidon.)

1864

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKETS-PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL



BREMEN
4 9 *11-12

Sept. 4, 1864.
Bremen receipt mark.

AACHEN
5
9
10 CAS

Sept. 5, 1864.
Aachen Transit
Exchange Office

N. YORK BR. PKY
SEP
23
60

Sept. 23, 1864
New York Exchange
Office stamped as
double letter.

U.S. NOTES
132

Rated as double letter,
60¢ gold or \$1.32 due in
U.S. paper currency.

RMS Sidon, Martyn, departed
Liverpool Sept. 6, 1864.

Put into Halifax with
cargo Sept. 19.

Arrived N.Y. Sept. 23.

1865

BALTIMORE TO BREMEN BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

R.M.S. Java

British Packet from N.York.

Rates per 1/2-oz. under the revived Convention of 1853:

U.S. Inland	5¢) = 23¢
Sea and British transit	18	
Belgian transit	2	
Prussian Inland	5	
	<u>30¢.</u>	



24 + 30

Nov. 14, 1865. Unpaid letter at Baltimore. Originally struck with the "24" (rate to England), this was corrected by overstriking with "30" for the rate to Germany by Prussian Closed Mail as noted in manuscript.



29

Nov. 15. Transit at New York, from which port the R.M.S. Java departed on Nov. 15 for Liverpool via Queenstown. The "23" in the Exchange Office date stamp debited Prussia for the 5¢ U.S. Inland + 18¢ Sea and British transit. The mark had to state British or American Packet because the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis of 40¢ per oz. for Prussian Closed Mail by British Pkt. and 17 1/2¢ per oz. for American Pkt. Prussian Closed mail transit through England. Prussia retained the 2¢ Belgian transit + 5¢ Prussian Inland.

Nov. 28. Java arrived at Liverpool.

Nov. 30. Bulk was broken at Aachen, Germany and the Prussian Closed Mail dispersed from this Exchange Office to destinations in the German-Austrian Union or points beyond if so addressed.

Rate was collected at Bremen, shown in Bremen grothe, 1 grothe equivalent to .0104 \$ U.S., hence 29 grothe x .0104 \$/grothe = 0.3016, the closest equivalent to 30¢ U.S.

1859

BREMEN PACKET - BREMEN TO NEW YORK

OLDENBURG, 13¢ Rate of August 1853

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD

S. S. Bremen

DAMME
7/6

via Bremen par. Steamer Bremen

DAMME
7/6

Paid

Paid

Dr. James W. Starr

New York

PAID
JUN 27
1859
BREMEN

Free 4 1/2 Sg.

*Texas. U. S. of
America*

5 1/2 Sg.

PAID 10

June 7, 1859. Letter paid at Damme in the southernmost part of the Dutchy of Oldenburg about 40 miles south of the city of Oldenburg. It was paid at the Bremen Treaty rate for Oldenburg of 5½ silbergroschen which at 2.4¢/s.g. = 13¢ U.S. equivalent, and so marked in red. Paid letters from Oldenburg at the 13¢ rate are rare.

ST. PA.
8/6
BREMEN.

4 1/2 Sg.

PAID 10

June 8. Letter in transit at the Bremen City Post Office where the clerk wrote "4" over the 5½ to show "4½", the international portion of 4½ s.g. (10¢). This amount was

restated in Bremen grote at 1.04¢/grote, equivalent to about 10¢ U.S., first as the red manuscript "10" which resembles a W, then as the red handstamp PAID 10.

June 11. Approximate sailing date of the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer Bremen from Bremerhaven.

June 27. Transit PAID BREM PKT. at New York. This is a very scarce handstamp, this being the only recorded example.

N.Y. Times: Arrival N.Y. June 26, steamer Bremen (Brem.), Wessels, Bremen via Southampton 14th inst. to Gelpcke, Keutgen & Reichelt.

Prepaid covers from Oldenburg during the Bremen Treaty era are rare.

PAID
JUN
1859
27
YORK BREM. PKT.

1866

U. S. TO HANNOVER BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Australasia



March 31, 1866. An unpaid double rate letter to Hannover (Hanover), Germany at the Prussian Closed Mail rate. The Cincinnati post office did not mark any postage due amount.



April 4. Transit at New York, where the Exchange Office debited Prussia as if this was a paid letter at 28¢ per ½-oz. x 2 = 56¢ less 5¢ x 2 = 10¢ the Prussian retained amount, net 46¢, shown in the N.Y. handstamp. Actual unpaid rate was 30¢/½-oz.



HANNOVER
16 4
EMDEN



April 15. Bulk was broken at Aachen, with transit onward on the Hannover - Emden T.P.O., backstamps. The arrival backstamp at Osnabrueck is misdated.

Prussia correctly charged this letter as a double one at 13 silbergroschen x 2 = 26 sgr., the unpaid rate. The paid rate was 12 sgr.

Handwritten signature in blue ink.

1867

U. S. TO OLDENBURG BY BREMEN PACKET

13¢ Rate, effective August 1853 to January 1868

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD

S.S. Union



August 31, 1867. A letter directed "Per Bremen Steamer" paid at Dubuque, Iowa at the 13¢ rate to Oldenburg, rate effective from August 1853 to January 1868. Payment is by the 10¢ Issue of 1861 on the 3¢ envelope Issue of 1864.

September 3. Transit PAID ALL/DIRECT mark at New York.

September 5. S.S. Union of the North German Lloyd Line, the "Bremen Packet" departed from New York.



September 17. Union arrived at Bremen. FRANCO (PAID) handstamp arrival mark at Bremen and Ausgabe or delivery backstamp.



No further accountancies between the U.S. and Oldenburg or Prussia appear.

1850

THE OCEAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. Washington

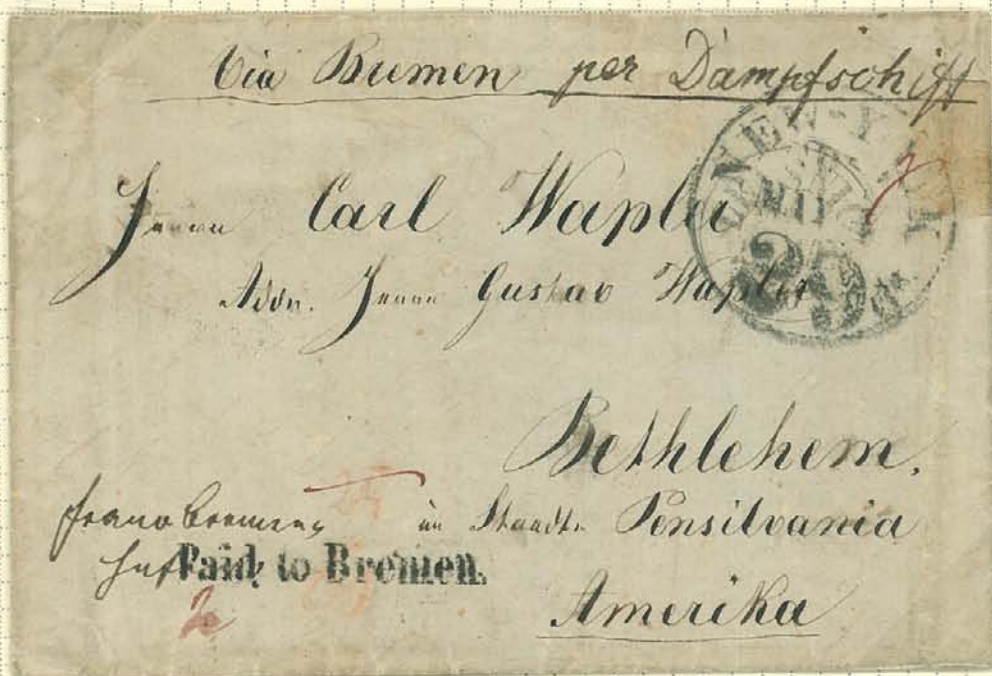
Bremen to N.Y. via Southampton

Saxony to U.S. via American Packet

Bremen Treaty Mails to N.Y.



25
60
2



Paid to Bremen

Ca. April 8, 1850. Letter posted at Leisnig in Saxony, 25 miles S.E. of Leipzig. Saxony is the only one of the German States to rate its letters in pfenniges. This is a double letter as shown by the "2" at 30 pfennige x 2 = 60 pf. equal to 6 neugroschen. The "25" represents a portion of the prepayment belonging to Prussia. This payment is shown by the "Paid to Bremen" handstamp. The sender endorsed it "Via Bremen per Dampfschiff." (steamship) and at lower left "franco Germany."

April 10. Transit backstamp at Bremen. The Ocean Line steamer Washington departed from Bremen April 15 for New York via Southampton.



May 4. Washington arrived at New York. Letter was subject to the U.S.-Bremen Treaty rate of March 1848 of 24c U.S. Packet + 5c U.S. Inland = 29c.

1851

BREMEN TO U.S., Closed Mail to London via Ostende
COLLINS LINE U.S. Mail Steamship Pacific



By U.S. Mail

May 25, 1851. Letter paid 40 grote in cash at Bremen, equivalent to about 42¢ U.S. As all accounting was done by Britain, no Bremen payment was shown. It was directionally endorsed in manuscript, "p. U.S. Mail Packet Pacific from L'pool" and, "Via Ostend," the closed mail route to Britain (Anglo-Prussian Treaty of 1846.) Letter was postmarked at the Stadt Post Amt (State Post Office) at Bremen and also marked with the handstamp "By U.St. Mail." The latter is a scarce mark.

Britain marked the letter with a debit of 10d. (20¢) to Bremen, made up 6d. for British transit (per ½-oz.) and 2d. x 2 for Belgian transit, the latter determined on ½-oz. basis. Britain also credited U.S. with 16¢ for transatlantic as sender had specified by U.S. Mail. This is a very early usage of this credit.

May 27. Transit at London. U.S.M.S. Pacific of the Collins Line departed from Liverpool May 28.

June 7, 1851. New York receipt handstamp agrees with the recorded arrival date of Pacific, Capt. Nye, at New York.

5¢ U.S. postage due from recipient at New Orleans on British mails paid to the U.S. border only.



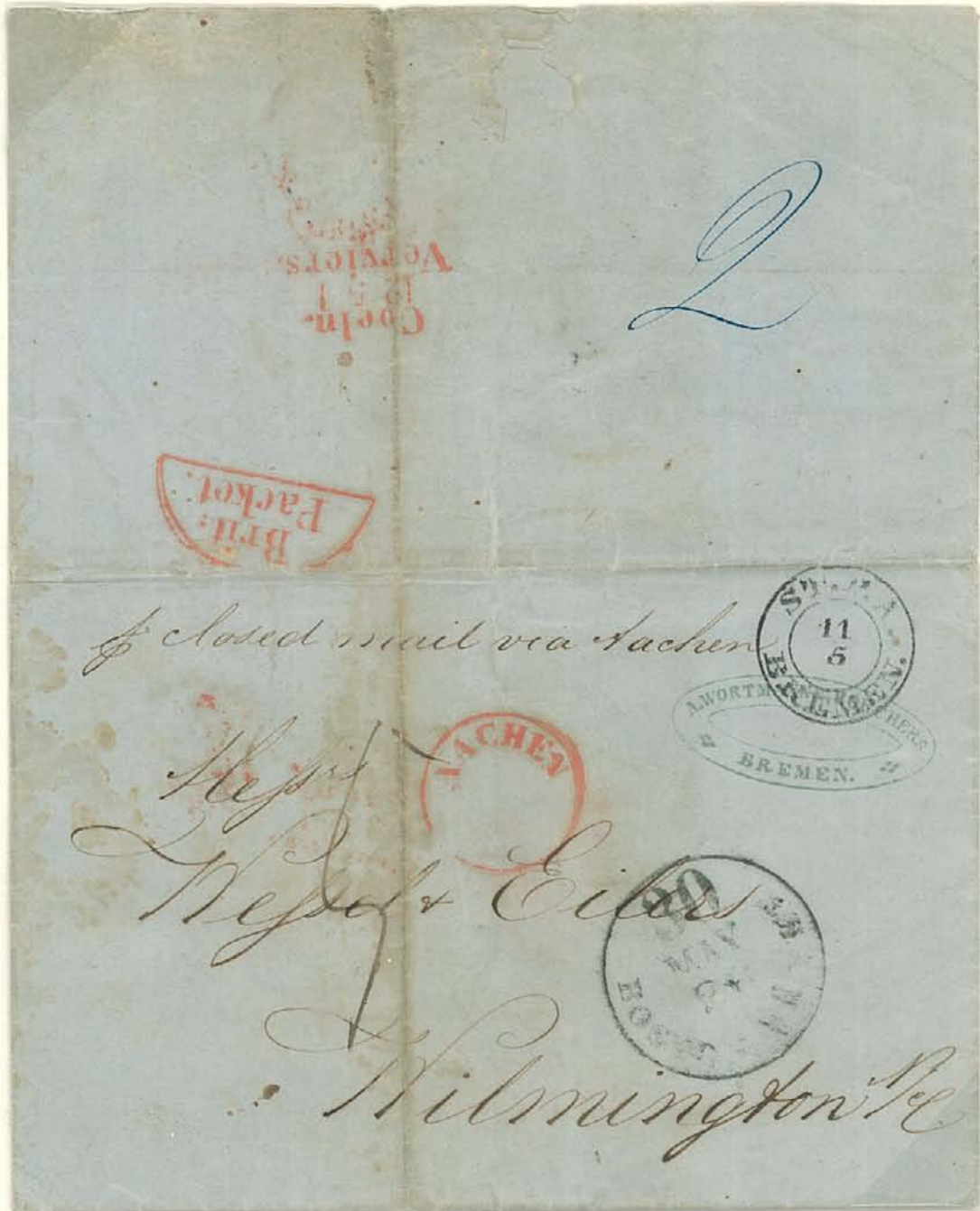
1853

BREMEN TO U.S. BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Via Aachen, Steamer to Ostende and Liverpool

R.M.S. Europa

36th Outbound Voyage



1853

BREMEN TO U.S. BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Via Aachen, Steamer via Ostend and Liverpool

R.M.S. Europa

36th Outbound Passage

May 10, 1853. Letter is datelined at Bremen and headed inside: pr Steamer via Ostende and Liverpool. It was prepaid 2 silbergroschen, the German-Austrian Union postage necessary to get the letter to Aachen, shown by the blue "2" on the reverse.



This letter was to go under the revived Convention of 1853. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per 1/2-oz. was divided:

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British	18
U.S. Inland	5
	<u>30¢.</u>

May 11. Letter entered post at Bremen (ST. P.A. = Stadt Post Amt or State Post Office.)

Coeln.
12 5 I
Verviers.



Brit.
Packet.

May 12. Letter went overland on the Coeln (Cologne) to Verviers, Belgium T.P.O. It received a routing backstamp and the AACHEN transit. Closed bags were made up at Aachen. Mail went by rail to Ostende, Belgium and across the English Channel to Britain by local steamer. It was designated British Packet, so a 5¢ debit to the U.S. was noted for Prussian Inland.

May 14. The closed mail bags were shipped to Liverpool where the R.M.S. Europa departed on the 36th outbound passage on May 14.

May 26. Europa arrived at Boston where bulk was broken and the letter received identity. The Exchange Office mark shows the 30¢ rate was due.



The United States settled up with Britain at the bulk rate of 57 1/2¢ per ounce when conveyed by British Packet (as here) and 17 1/2¢ per ounce when by American Packet.

6.790