

1861

BREMEN TO NEW YORK BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL
S.S. City of Baltimore INMAN LINE

PCM rates per ½-oz. under the revived convention of 1853:

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

BREMEN
9 3 * 5-6

R



March 9, 1861. An unpaid letter posted at Bremen and endorsed: pr closed mail, via Aachen. It was accepted at Bremen as a single letter (not over ½-oz.) and the German-Austrian Union two silbergroschen fee paid to get the letter to Aachen, the PCM Exchange Office. The Aachen office also passed the letter on March 10 as a single, debiting the U.S. for 5¢ Prussian Inland.

March 13. S.S. City of Baltimore departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter with the Prussian Closed Mail bags at Queenstown on March 14.



March 28. City of Baltimore arrived at New York where the Exchange Office noted the 30¢ PCM rate was due, also letter incoming by an American Packet. This distinction was necessary as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis, whether by American or British Packet.

1862

Vienna, Austria to U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa

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 by the black "2" on the face. The 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
	<hr/> 30¢.

2



January 7, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Vienna, endorsed: Via Liverpool.

MAINZ
8 1 IV
COELN

Jan. 8.
Transit back-
stamp aboard
the Mainz to
Cologne
railway mail
sorting car.



January 9. Transit at Aachen where the Prussian Mail was closed to go through England. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland postage. This transit mark exhibits a constant rim break at 8 o'clock.

January 11. R.M.S. Europa departed from Liverpool for Boston via Queenstown the 12th. Prussian Closed Mail bags had been forwarded from London to Queenstown.



January 28. Europa arrived at Boston, letter processed on the 29th. Exchange Office mark shows 30¢ due. This mark (B.790) was used from Jan. 6, 1854 to Sept. 1861. Here to January 1862.

B.790

1862

ILLINOIS TO WIESENTHAL, BADEN VIA N.Y. & HAMBURG

HAPAG

S.S. Bavaria



Due 15



June 21, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at Warsaw, Illinois and endorsed: Via Hamburg. The Warsaw postal clerk noted "Due 15" in pen, the paid letter rate by Hamburg or Bremen Packet to Baden, effective July 1857 to January 1868.

June 28. Letter in transit at New York, where the Exchange Office debited Hamburg for 5¢ U.S. Inland, all other charges to be assessed by Hamburg. S.S. Bavaria of HAPAG departed this day for Hamburg, her dates were Southampton July 10 and Hamburg 13th.

14 JUL LX } 4½ Sgr 22
 6 Xr

Hamburg marked the blue 4½ Sgr./6 Xr. to show that 4½ silbergroschen (10¢) international rate was due as well as 6 kreuzer transit fee to Baden. Hamburg also marked

the black "22" to show the total debit to Baden, 22 kreuzer (4½ sgr. = 16 kr. + 6 kr.)



July 14. Baden transit backstamp.

July 15. Schopfheim transit backstamp. The post office at Schopfheim took care of getting letters to addressees in villages with no post offices. Weisenthal was such a village. The extra 2 kreuzer was for that service, making 24 kreuzer due, shown in manuscript.

24

1864

CHEMNITZ, SAXONY TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
INMAN LINE S.S. City of Manchester



July 15, 1864. Letter posted at Chemnitz, Saxony, within the German States, paid only at the 2 silber-groschen fee necessary to get it to the Exchange Office at Aachen, this charge applied for the German-Austrian Postal Union. Rate to the U.S. was 30¢, divided: 5¢ Prussian Inland, 2¢ Belgian transit, 18¢ Sea and British transit, 5¢ U.S. Inland.



July 16. Transit at Aachen shows debit to U.S. for 5¢ Prussian Inland postage. Mail was bulked at Aachen, closed through England.

July 20. Inman Line's City of Manchester departed from Liverpool. This letter went aboard July 21 at Queenstown.

August 5. City of Manchester arrived at New York, mail bulked to Boston. Backstamp at Boston shows mail by American Packet (Inman Line). 30¢ due in hard currency or 72¢ in depreciated paper currency (U.S. NOTES). This shows a depreciation ratio of 2.4, one of the highest ratios in the Civil War period.



1867

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

A Postal Convention concluded with Hamburg in June 1857 settled the postage rates uniformly with Bremen on letters to or from U.S. - Germany, as:

By Hamburg or Bremen - Prussian Closed Mail	30¢
- Direct	10¢
- via Bremen Mail	15¢



Jan. 12, 1867. Coeln R.R. station receipt mark.



Jan. 13, 1867. Aachen Transit Exchange Office mark.

ALLAN LIND (?)



Feb. 1, 1867 N.Y. Exchange Office showing transit via American Packet. 30¢ gold or 39¢ in depreciated U.S. currency due.

1867

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

VIENNA, AUSTRIA TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail

North German Lloyd Transatlantic

S.S. Hansa

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, shown in red on this cover, carried the letter to Aachen, and had to be prepaid. Transatlantic rate of 30¢ per 1/2-oz. was divided:



2

Prussian Inland	5¢
Belgian Transit	2
Sea and British Transit	18
U.S. Inland	5
Total	30¢.

June 23, 1867, letter posted at Mariahilf, Vienna (Wien), unpaid except for the GAU postage.



June 25. Transit at Aachen shows debit to U.S. for Prussian Inland postage (see above). Mail here bulked to be closed through England, bulk not to be broken until arrival in the U.S.



July 7. The Bremen packet Hansa (considered American Packet) Capt. Oterendorp, arrived this date at New York from Bremen via Southampton. 30¢

in hard currency (coin) or 41¢ in depreciated paper (U.S. Notes) due.



July 9. Letter delivered in error to Fall River, forwarded to Still River, Mass.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BREMEN PACKET - BREMERHAVEN TO NEW YORK

S.S. Bremen

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD

10¢ per ½ oz. rate, Bremen Packet, effective Aug. 1853 to Jan. 1, 1868



10

April 13, 1861. Unpaid letter posted at the Stadt Post Amt (State Post Office) at Bremen. It was marked with the 10 grote, equivalent to 10¢ U.S., charge mark at Bremen. This rate was only to mail from or addressed to Bremen. Mail beyond Bremen was subject to additional charges. Letter endorsed: Pr. Steamer "Bremen", H. Wessels, Cdr.

April 14. S.S. Bremen sailed from Bremerhaven for N.Y. via Southampton. She touched at the latter port April 17.

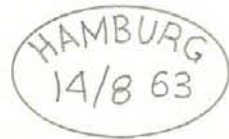
April 29. Bremen arrived at New York (docket notes received April 30 at 128 Water street.) The New York Exchange Office made no further notation, using the Bremen "10" as indicating 10¢ U.S. due.

1863

PACKET MAIL
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BREMEN PACKET - BREMERHAVEN TO N.Y.

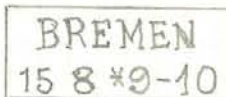


2



Aug. 13, 1863. Letter posted at Dresden and noted "via Hamburg". Sender prepaid 2 silbergroschen (5 Bremen Grote) for internal German-Austrian Union postage.

Aug. 14, 1863. Transit backstamps at Hamburg.



5
10



Aug. 15, 1863. Transit at Bremen, European terminus of the Bremen Pkt.

German-Austrian Union postage (see below).

Sept. (?). N.Y. Depreciated Currency mark.

Letter from Dresden, Germany to Haverhill, Mass. sent in Bremen mail under the revived convention of 1853. The rate beyond Bremen (City) was 15¢. The marking at U.L. shows the German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen, or 5 Bremen grote, or 5¢ over the 4 1/2 s.g., or 10 grote or 10¢ rate Bremen-N.Y.. In Sept. the price of gold in greenbacks was about 120. Thus, 120x15¢ is 18¢, the amount shown as due in depreciated U.S. notes.

1865

BREMEN PACKET - BREMERHAVEN TO NEW YORK

S.S. Bremen

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD

10¢ per ½-oz. rate, Bremen Packet, effective August 1853 to Jan. 1, 1868



BREMEN
36*6-7

10

June 3, 1865. Unpaid letter posted at Bremen and endorsed: Per Steamship Bremen. It was marked with the 10 grote, equivalent to 10¢ U.S., charge mark at Bremen. This rate was only for mail from or to Bremen. Mail beyond Bremen was subject to additional charges.

June 3. S.S. Bremen of the North German Lloyd Line sailed from Bremen this day for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on June 7.

June 18. Bremen arrived at New York, letter processed June 19. The 10¢ Bremen rate was due in hard currency. This was converted to U.S. NOTES (depreciated currency) at the day's ratio of 1.4 to total 14¢ due in greenbacks.

Hubbard & Winter list this mark, but with a "mustache", heresans mustache.



1865

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BREMEN PACKET - BREMERHAVEN TO NEW YORK

S. S. Hansa

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD

10¢ per ½-oz. rate, Bremen Packet, effective Aug. 1853-Jan. 1, 1868



BREMEN
7 10 6-7

10

October 7, 1865. Consignee's unpaid letter posted at Bremen, from which port the Hansa sailed. It was marked 10 grote due, equivalent to 10¢ U.S., the International rate to Bremen. Mail beyond Bremen was subject to additional charges.

October 8. S.S. Hansa of the North German Lloyd Line sailed from Bremerhaven for NY. via Southampton. She touched at the latter port October 11.

October 26. Hansa arrival date at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office as 10¢ in coin due per Bremen Packet, or postage could be paid by the equivalent in inflated greenbacks (U.S. NOTES) at 14¢, charge mark with "mustache".



1867

PACKET MAIL
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BREMEN PACKET - BREMERHAVEN TO N.Y.



5
10



Nov. 15, 1867.
Halle, Prussia
receipt mark.

Nov. 16, 1867
Bremerhaven
transit.

German-
Austrian
Union post-
age (see below).

Nov. 29. N.Y.
N.Y. Exchange Office
receipt mark.

Letter from Halle, Prussia to N.Y. State sent in Bremen mail under the revived convention of 1853. The rate beyond Bremen (City) was 15¢. The marking at upper left shows the German-Austrian Union postage of 2 silbergroschen, or 5 Bremen grothe, or 5¢ over the 4½ sg., or 10 Bremen grothe, or 10¢ basic international rate between New York and Bremen. U.S. collectors have generally considered this to be 5¢ over 10¢, but it is really 5 grothe over 10 grothe, 1 grothe being equal to 1¢. Bremen never showed debits or credits to the U.S., and Hamburg did so only after 1865.

On November 29, 1867 the price of gold in greenbacks was about 139. Thus, 139 x 15¢ is 20.85, or 21¢, the amount shown as due in depreciated U.S. Notes.

Nov. 29. 1867. The Bremen packet S.S. Weser, Capt. Warke, arrived at N.Y. from Bremen. Weser (II), North German Lloyd, 2850 tons, in service 1867-96.

1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

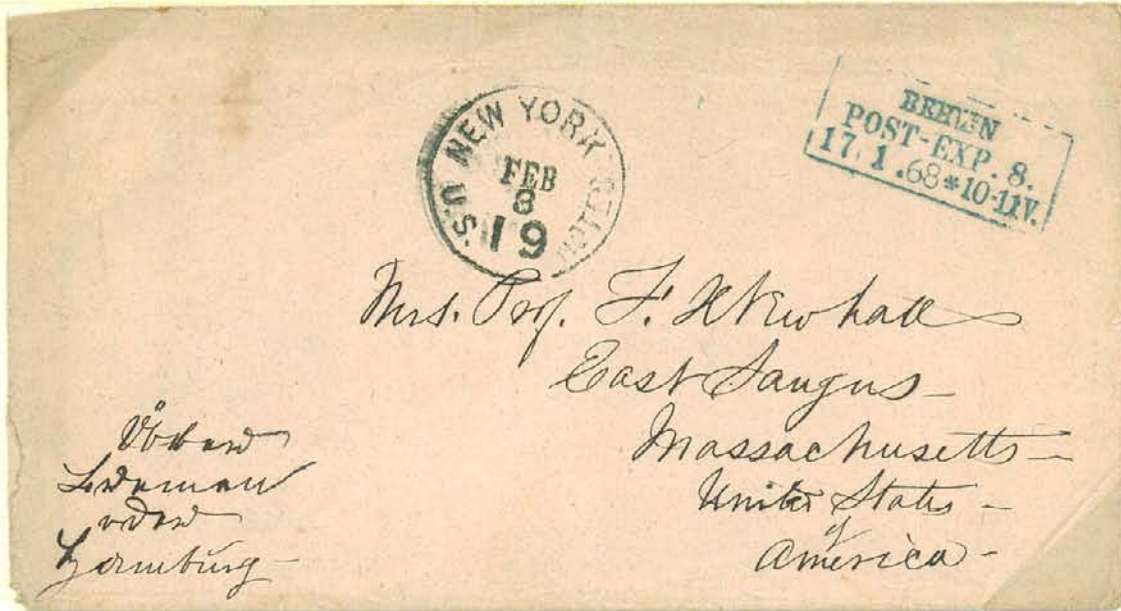
NORTH GERMAN UNION - Closed Mail via England

15¢ Rate, effective January 1868 to July 1870

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD

S.S. Union

2800 tons, 325' x 40', clipper bow, iron screw steamer.
Built by Caird & Co., Greenock, launched Oct. 27, 1866. Jan. 13, 1867, maiden voyage Bremen-Southampton-New York. Nov. 28, 1870, wrecked on Rattray Head, Aberdeenshire, no lives lost.



BERLIN
POST-EXP. 8.
17. 1. 68*10-11V.

BERMERHAVEN
18
1

January 17, 1868. Unpaid letter posted at Berlin, it was backstamped January 18 at Bremerhaven from which port the S.S. Union departed on January 19.

February 3. Arrived N.Y. Feb. 2 (SUNDAY), Steamship Union, Von Santen, Bremen Jan. 19 and Southampton 21st to Oelrichs & Co. The 15¢ closed mail rate (in gold) was converted to depreciated U.S. greenbacks (U.S. NOTES) to 19¢, as accounts were settled on a gold basis.

NEW YORK
FEB
3
19
NOTES

1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

MAIL TO GERMAN STATES - Mecklenburg Schwerin

Closed Mail via England

15¢ rate, effective January 1868 to July 1870



April 27, 1868. Letter posted pre-paid at the 15¢ Closed Mail rate via England. "Closed mail" meant mail in bulk went via England, through to a German distribution office (usually Aachen) where bulk was broken and letters dispersed to the various German States.

Unusual franking by 5 x 3¢ = 15¢, issue of 1867 with F grill.



May 18, 1868. Transit stamp at Hamburg. Mecklenburg-Schwerin was Rhine State near Hamburg. Fine strike on face of "Stadt Plau", the City-State of Plauen to which letter was addressed. 1218 is date of founding.

May 19, 1868. German delivery No. 1 backstamp. AUSG. = Ausgabe (Delivery of letters).

1870

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMAN STATES TO U.S. - North German Confederation

Closed Mail via England

10¢ per ½-oz. letter, effective July 1870 to October 1871

Mail from all German States was assembled at Aachen, there put into closed bags for the U.S. These bags then went in bulk through England to New York where bulk was broken and mail distributed as addressed to various parts of the U.S. or beyond.



FRANCO.



Sept. 22, 1870. Letter went into mail at Mainz and marked FRANCO = PAID at German transit office, paid 13 kreuzer, 10¢ equivalent. This letter reflects change in routing after August 1870 due to diversion of North German Lloyd lines to war-time use as a result of the Franco-Prussian War. The alternate, higher rated, "via England" route was then employed.

Oct. 4, 1870. New York transit mark.

1871

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
NORTH GERMAN POSTAL UNION - CLOSED MAIL VIA ENGLAND

Mar. 3, 1871. Letter posted at Budapest to New York via Hamburg. Letter from Finance Minister at Budapest.



March 3, 1871.
Budapest receipt.



Backstamp:
Hamburg transit.
Mail closed at H'bg
4-4-71.



Mar. 22, 1871.
N.Y. Exchange Office
mark.

CONVENTION EFFECTIVE July 1, 1870. The Basic International rate for unpaid letters was 20¢ to which was added the foreign postage of 3¢, or 1 silbergroschen. (The blue crayon marking is a "1" and the marking after it is an "sg" for silbergroschen.)

The price of gold in greenbacks on March 22, 1871, was about 111. Therefore, 23¢ x 111 is about 26¢, and this amount should have been marked for collection. The 20¢ rate was for unpaid letters and there was no added fine. The clerk evidently made an error and charged the unpaid fine of 5¢, making a collection of 31¢ in U.S. Notes.

Mar. 22, 1871. Steam-ship Thuringia (N.G.), Ehlers, from Hamburg arrived at an early hour this A.M. The T. had westerly winds up to the Banks, and from thence variable weather. (N.Y. Times)

c.1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U. S. TO NORTH GERMAN UNION, closed mail via England
Cologne to Verviers Exchange Office

On 1 Jan. 1868 a postal convention between the U.S. and the North German Union superseded the Prussian closed mail convention. The convention established Aachen, Bremen and Hamburg as German Exchange Offices. The Detailed Regulations, signed 22 July 1868, made the "Travelling Post Office No. 10, between Cologne and Verviers" a German Exchange Office and dropped Aachen.



VERVIERS. A.
28 6 III
COELN
FRANCO

June 16, 1868.
Letter posted at New Haven for Germany. 15¢ rate in U.S., or 6 silbergroschen in Germany, per 15 grams ($\frac{1}{2}$ ounce).

June 17 (May date slug in error). Transit stamp, New York foreign department.

June 28. Verviers to Cologne T.P.O. (see above). Scarce with "A" following, as here. Commoner with "B".

Addressee had moved, and note in German on upper part of letter explains this. Letter was then re-addressed and forwarded to Liverpool, England.

Note in French (lower left) states, "With the courtesey of the captain of the steamship: Scotia".

Ref: The Chronicle, Feb. '70, pg. 42.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

HAMBURG PACKET

"Hapag"

Hamburg - Southampton - New York

S.S. Bavaria

Rates by the United States-Hamburg Convention were 10¢ per ½-oz. to or from Hamburg, made up as follows:

Hamburg Inland Postage	1¢
Hamburg Packet	6¢
U.S. Domestic Postage	3¢
	<hr/> 10¢.



10

HAMBURG

14 AUG 1859

August 14, 1859. Unpaid letter posted at Hamburg and endorsed: pr Bavarie. This Hamburg Packet departed August 15 from Hamburg for New York via Southampton. Letter struck with a "10" (¢) charge mark per the U.S. - Hamburg Convention.



Arrived N.Y. Wednesday, August 31, 1859, steamship Bavaria (Ham., screw), Taube, Hamburg and Southampton Aug. 18 at P.M. with mdse and 324 passengers to Kunhardt & Co. Anchored off the Battery at 4:30 P.M.

10¢ rate due.

1860

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

S.S. Borussia

Hamburg to N.Y. via Southampton

N.G.L. Bremen out of service with a broken shaft



5/10

Jan. 11, 1860. A letter posted at Markneukirchen, a town of Saxony, 28 mi. SSW of Zwickau. It is endorsed: Bremen per steamer "Bremen". The sender paid 2 silbergroschen (5 Bremen grote) for internal German-Austrian Union postage as noted in blue crayon. The letter

went on to Bremen, backstamp of Jan. 16, to meet the North German Lloyd sailing of the Bremen as advertised in the newspapers. Bremen marked the letter 5/10 showing the 5 Bremen grote (2 s.g.) over the 4½ s.g. or 10 grote, Bremen to U.S. 1gr. = 1¢ U.S.

Unbeknownst to the sender, the S.S. Bremen was laid up for the month of January 1860 with a broken shaft, so was unable to take out any mails. The only other North German Lloyd steamer, the New York was out on a round voyage, so the Bremen's mails were sent on to Hamburg to meet the sailing of the Hamburg-American Line's S.S. Borussia, which departed from Hamburg Feb. 1 for N.Y. via Southampton Feb. 5. Thus, no NGL Bremen packets sailed transatlantic during Jan. 1860. Bremen was laid up until July 1860.



February 15. Borussia arrived at New York. Incoming rate of 15¢ due, Hamburg Packet rate for a letter beyond Hamburg. N.Y. Exchange Office handstamp correctly identifies this as a Hamburg Pkt. letter.

1860'S

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
HAMBURG PACKET - HAMBURG TO NEW YORK

A Postal Convention concluded with Hamburg in June 1857 settled the postage rates uniformly with Bremen on letters to or from the U.S. Direct mail via the Hamburg Packet was rated at 10¢.

With the steamer Teutonia.
John Akhurst Esq.
9 1/2 Prospect Street
Brooklyn
near New York L.I.
Paid
10

HAMBURG
PAID
OCT 31
1860

Oct. 31, 1860.
Hamburg "Paid".

PAID
NOV
17
N.Y. HAMB. P.K.T.

Nov. 17, 1860.
New York receipt
mark. (17 days)

Teutonia, 2500 ton Hamburg-American line, service 1859 - 1877. Records show Teutonia, Capt. Taube, left Hamburg Oct. 31, arr. N.Y. Nov. 16.

By the steamer Hammonia
Mr. John Akhurst
9 1/2 Prospect Street
Brooklyn
near New York L.I.
paid
10

HAMBURG
PAID
SEPT 14

Sept. 14 -
Hamburg.

PAID
OCT
5
N.Y. HAMB. P.K.T.

Oct. 5 - New
York. (21 days)

10 Prepaid Convention Hammonia,
Rate, N.Y. Mark. 2,026 ton,
service 1856-64.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

HAMBURG PACKET, Hamburg to New York

Unpaid Letter



April 27, 1861. Letter posted at Marbach in Baden, noted "per Hamburger Dampfschiff" or "by Hamburg Steamer". Unpaid, except sender paid 2 silber-groschen (5 Bremen grote) for internal German-Austrian Union postage.

April 27. Traveling Post Office transit backstamp.

MANZ
274
CÖLN

April 27. Railroad backstamp aboard train Manz to Coln (Cologne).

5/10

German-Austrian Union postage of 5 Bremen grote (2 s.g.) over the 4½ s.g. or 10 grote rate Bremen-N.Y. 1gr.=1¢ U.S.

May 16. Incoming at New York Exchange Office. 15¢ rate, Hamburg Packet, for letter beyond Hamburg. Sender had paid the internal German postage (see above).



April 28. Hamburg transit backstamp.

April 30. Hamburg Packet Office transit stamp.

May 15, 1861. Hamburg steamer Saxonia, Ehlers, arr. N.Y. from H'bg. & S'hampton.



1863

U.S. TO BREMEN VIA HAMBURG PACKET

HAPAG

S.S. Saxonia

July 30, 1863. A cover posted at "Clifton" to Bremen, Germany. The location of Clifton is not discernible by this manuscript postmark as there are 32 Cliftons listed in Lippencott's Gazetteer. It must have been some distance from New York as the letter didn't transit New York until August 22. The letter was paid 30¢ by ten Issue of 1861 stamps. This overpaid by 2¢ the 28¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate of September 1861.



August 22. Letter transit at New York. This letter arrived at New York between 19-22 August. On 19 August the Prussian mails would have been bagged for the Cunard sailing the next day from Boston. Had the letter arrived in time for that mail, it would have been sent in the Prussian Closed Mail and 7¢ would have been credited to Prussia. The next sailing for Germany was that of Hamburg Packet S.S. Saxonia, which departed N.Y. August 22. Under the Bremen rates of 1857, mail by the Hamburg Packets from the U.S. directed beyond Hamburg was 15¢ per ½-oz. In order to expedite the mail this letter was sent out on the Hamburg Packet even though grossly overpaid. The N.Y. Exchange Office credited Hamburg with 10¢ Sea and Hamburg transit. The U.S. retained the overage.

This routing is most unusual. The letter could have been placed in the PCM bags of the Saxonia and dropped off at Southampton, but instead was placed in the Hamburg mail to remain on board the Saxonia until Hamburg.



September 9. Hamburg arrival backstamp agrees with the recorded arrival date of Saxonia at that port.

1863

HAMBURG PACKET, Hamburg to N.Y. via Southampton
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

S.S. Germania - Maiden Voyage

2,123 tons, 298'-7" x 39'-5", iron screw steamer, built by Caird & Co., Greenock. Launched April 6, 1863, Maiden Voyage Aug. 22, 1863, Hamburg-Southampton-New York. Last voyage July 14, 1869, wrecked near Cape Race Aug. 7, 1869.



August 19, 1863. Letter posted at Lindau, a fortified town of Bavaria 25 miles E.S.E. of Constance, on an island in the Lake of Constance, united to the mainland by a bridge 300 feet in length. Sender paid 2 silbergroschen (5 Bremen grote) for internal German-Austrian Union postage.



5
10

Aug. 22. Transit backstamps at Hamburg. The S.S. Germania sailed from Hamburg August 23 on her maiden voyage.

The Exchange Office at Hamburg marked 5/10 showing the German-Austrian Union

postage of 5 Bremen grote (2 s.g.) over the 4½ s.g. or 10 grote rate, Hamburg - New York. 1gr. = 1¢ U.S.



Sept. 6. Germania arrived at N.Y. via Southampton Aug. 26. Incoming rate of 15¢, Hamburg Packet for a letter beyond Hamburg. 15¢ due in hard currency or 19¢ in depreciated currency (U.S. NOTES.)

1864

HAMBURG TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail

North German Lloyd: S.S. America, Southampton to N.Y.

HAMBURG
4/7.64

AACHEN
5
7
5 Cts

2

July 4, 1864. An unpaid letter posted at Hamburg and endorsed: p Steamer via Queenstown. This was the routing for Prussian Closed Mail (closed through England) and required the payment of 2 silber-groschen to get the letter to the Exchange Office at Aachen. The sender opted for the more expensive route (to be paid by the recipient) by PCM as the next Hamburg-American Line steamer, the S.S. Bo-russia, was not due to sail from Hamburg until July 10. He wouldn't gain any time by routing via Bremen as S.S. America had already sailed on July 3.

July 5. Transit at Aachen where the U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland.



July 3. The NGL S.S. America departed from Bremen, touched at Southampton July 6 where this letter caught up with it in the Prussian Closed Mail. Even though endorsed "Via Queenstown", the PCM would be forwarded by the most expeditious westbound steamer, in this case a Bremen steamer via Southampton.

July 17. America arrived at New York. The 30¢ PCM rate was due in gold, so the equivalent in depreciated paper currency was shown at the day's gold/paper ratio of 2.5 x 30¢ = 75¢ due in U.S. NOTES. This is the highest inflation ratio to be found in the Civil War period and only lasted for a few days.

N.Y. 30 AM PKT. S. G. L. NOTES 75
JUL 17

1864. HAMBURG TO N.Y. by Prussian Closed Mail.

This seems a strange routing for a PCM cover. It is clearly marked at NY incoming by "AM. PKT.", also endorsed: p Steamer via Queenstown.

The only possible steamer that I can find to fit the dates on this cover is:

NGL, <u>S.S. America</u> ,	Bremen	July 3
	So'ton	6
	NY	17.

The Inman Line <u>Edinburgh</u> left	L/P	July 6
	QT	7
	NY	19.

Thus, the Edinburgh arrived at NY too late to fit the NY cds arrival date of July 17.

Have you ever seen a PCM cover to the U.S. through England sent on a German steamer out of Southampton? It would seem that there was plenty of time to have sent the letter "Via Queenstown" to meet the Edinburgh when she touched at that port on July 7.

Incidentally, the Lanman & Kemp docket notes: Recd. July 18, which corroborates the NY July 17 arrival mark date.

- e. **4 July 1864 - Hamburg to New York** - The North German Lloyd America carried the letter to New York. Hamburg seldom sent mail via Bremen if it could be avoided. There was great competition between the two cities and their steamship lines. In this case, there was no Hamburg steamer so the letter was sent in the Prussian closed mail. As such, it could go by either British or American contract from the U.K. In this case, it went by American contract steamship, which turned out to be a Bremen steamer. The 250 percent ratio on this letter and a few others I have seen is the highest ratio I believe that was ever used and it was used for several days time at the height of the inflation.



1864

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

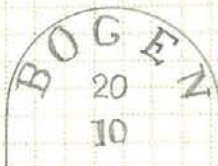
HAMBURG PACKET, Hamburg to New York

Unpaid Letter

Until 1864, letters from the Hamburg-American line did not show any debits or credits when dispatched to the United States. Sometime during 1864 the Hamburg office introduced packet marks showing these debits or credits. The 15¢ rate, which included 5¢ transit postage, was equated with 6½ silbergroschen or 22 kreuzer.



Oct. 20, 1864.
Letter unpaid at Bogen, Bavaria. The blue "2" shows that the equivalent of 2 silbergroschen was paid, Bavaria to Hamburg, the internal German-Austrian Union postage.



Oct. 21. Transit backstamp at Straubing. Bogen is a small town near Straubing.

Oct. 23. Transit backstamp at Hamburg. Markings show that 22 kreuzer was due (equivalent to 15¢ U.S.),



marked on reverse to show that a "2" credit to Prussia for transit was allowed (blue 2). Net to Hamburg Free City was shown as 20 kr. on face.



Oct. 29. Hamburg Packet Office cds, 12¢ debit to U.S., who was to keep only 3¢



Nov. 23. Incoming at N.Y., 15¢ in hard money due or 33¢ in

Nov. 25. Detroit, insufficient address, advertised.



Domestic out of total 15¢.

depreciated U.S. paper currency. Mark shows HAMB.PKT.

ADVERTISED

1866

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

"Hapag"

Hamburg - Southampton - New York

S.S. Allemania

Rates by the United States - Hamburg Convention were 10¢ per ½-oz. to or from Hamburg, made up as follows:

Hamburg Inland Postage	1¢
Hamburg Packet	6¢
U.S. Domestic Postage	3¢
	<u>10¢</u>

During 1864, Hamburg introduced packet marks that showed debits or credits to the U.S. Exchange Office.



February 3, 1866. A strike in black of the Hamburg Packet office. As the letter was unpaid, the U.S. was debited for 1¢ Hamburg Inland + 6¢ Hamburg Packet = 7¢ shown at the base of the stamp.

February 3. S.S. Allemania of the Hamburg-American Line departed from Hamburg, touched at Southampton on February 7.

February 20. Allemania arrived at New York, mail processed February 21. The 10¢ rate in hard currency was converted to the depreciated currency due in greenbacks (U.S. NOTES) of 14¢, a 40% increase, the latter shown at the base of the N.Y. stamp.

1866

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

HAMBURG PACKET

"Hapag"

Hamburg - Southampton - New York

S. S. Allemania

Depreciated Currency

Rates by the United States - Hamburg Convention were 10¢ per ½-oz. to or from Hamburg, made up, as follows:

Hamburg Inland Postage	1¢
Hamburg Packet	6¢
U.S. Domestic Postage	3¢
	<u>10¢.</u>

During 1864 Hamburg introduced packet marks that showed debits or credits to the U.S. Exchange Office.



August 18, 1866. A textbook strike of the blue Hamburg Packet Office receiving mark. As the letter was unpaid, the U.S. was debited for 1¢ Hamburg Inland + 6¢ Hamburg Packet = 7¢ shown at the base of the stamp.

August 19. Steamship Allemania, Capt. Troutman, departed from Hamburg this date and touched at Southampton the 22nd.

September 3. Allemania arrived at New York to Kunhardt & Co. She had experienced strong westerly winds the entire passage. Aug. 29 at lat 47 14 lon 46 50 she saw a large iceberg. The 10¢ rate due in hard currency was converted to the depreciated currency due in greenbacks (U.S. NOTES) of 15¢, a 50% increase.



1866

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

HAMBURG PACKET

"Hapag"

Hamburg - Southampton - New York

S.S. Allemania

Rates by the United States - Hamburg Convention were 10¢ per ½-oz. to or from Hamburg, made up as follows:

Hamburg Inland Postage	1¢
Hamburg Packet	6¢
U.S. Domestic Postage	<u>3¢</u>
	10¢.

During 1864 Hamburg introduced packet marks that showed debits or credits to the U.S. Exchange Office.



paid 6



Dec. 8, 1866. Blue receiving backstamp (ST. P. = Stadt Postamt or State Post Office) at the free city of Hamburg where the letter was paid 6 schillinge Hamburg currency as shown by the manuscript notations on the face of the letter. One schillinge was equal to about 1.7¢ U.S., thus 6 sch. x 1.7¢/sch. = 10¢ approx. The Hamburg Packet Office struck the letter with the red cds "PAID" mark, the "3" at the base crediting U.S. for 3¢ U.S. Domestic Postage.

S.S. Allemania, Capt. Trautman, left Hamburg Dec. 8 via Southampton the 12th.



Dec. 26. Allemania arrived at N.Y. at 4 PM this date with 306 passengers to Kunhardt & Co. N.Y. Times, Thursday Dec. 27: Has had a succession of heavy westerly gales during the voyage. Took a pilot off Fire Island.

1867

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S.S. Hermann

Double rated letter
Depreciated Currency



6 CENTS

October 21, 1867. An unpaid letter posted at London and endorsed: p "Hermann viâ Southampton. This letter from David Taylor and Sons advises that they are shipping to Lanman & Kemp a quantity of oxalic and citric acids by the Hermann.

Letter rated under the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate at 24¢ per ½-oz. This was a double letter due to enclosures. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland x 2 = 6¢. U.S. would retain 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ x 2 = 42¢ out of the 48¢ total rate.

October 19. S.S. Hermann of NGL departed from Bremen, touched at Southampton the 22nd where this letter went aboard together with the acids.



November 2. Hermann arrived at New York. The 48¢ rate was due in gold, so the N.Y. Exchange Office showed the optional payment in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.35 x 48¢ = 65¢ due in U.S. NOTES. This is a good example of how the U.S. made out to its advantage as only 6¢ in gold was exchanged (worth 8¢ in depreciated currency) with Britain. U.S. retained the overage which was collected in U.S. NOTES.

1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The United States-North German Union Postal Convention
Direct Mail rate - Bremen or Hamburg and the U.S.

On July 1, 1867 the Thurn and Taxis administration was amalgamated with the ordinary Prussian posts. The postal administrations of Prussia and the other States of the North German Union were organized into the North German Postal District. As of January 1868 until January 1870 the rates per 15 grams were:

Direct between Bremen or Hamburg and the United States:	
On letters from the U.S.	10¢
On letters from Germany	4 silbergroschen
Closed mail, via England:	
On letters from the U.S.	15¢
On letters from Germany	6 silbergroschen

Double rated letter



LEIPZIG
11 2 68
10-11
V

Feb. 11, 1868. Letter posted at the double direct rate of 4 silbergroschen per 15 grams rate (red mms. "2" at left) x 2= 8 groschen. Sender noted "via Bremen oder Hamburg", rate the same by either route.

NEW YORK
MAR 5
PAID ALL

March 5.
New York
receipt
PAID ALL
mark.

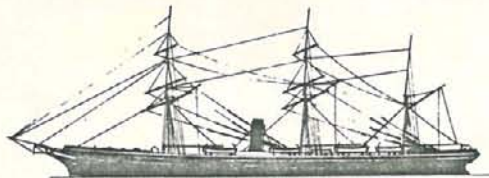
N.Y. FROM BREMEN

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

The United States - North German Union Postal Convention.

Direct Mail Rate - Bremen or Hamburg and the U.S.

N.Y. Times. Arrived March 4, Steamship Bremen (Bremen), Capt. Neynaber, at N.Y., left Bremen Feb. 15 via Southampton Feb. 18. Merchandise and 298 passengers to Oelrichs & Co. wharf. Has had southwesterly and westerly gales the entire passage.



1858 BREMEN 2,674 tons
NDL's pioneer North Atlantic unit.
Sister ship: NEW YORK.

1 1858 BREMEN 2,674 TONS
NDL'S PIONEER NORTH ATLANTIC UNIT
SISTER SHIP: NEW YORK

1858 BREMEN

1868

U. S. - North German Union Postal Convention of 1867
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD: S.S. Deutschland, New York to Bremen

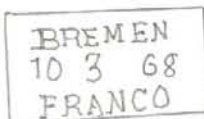
On July 1, 1867, the Thurn & Taxis administration was amalgamated with the ordinary Prussian posts. The postal administrations of Prussia and the other states of the North German Union were organized into the North German Postal District. As of January 1868 until January 1870, the rates per 15 grams (½-oz.) were:

Direct between Bremen or Hamburg and the United States:

On letters from the U.S. 10¢
On letters from Germany 4 silbergroschen

Closed mail via England:

On letters from the U.S. 15¢
On letters from Germany 6 silbergroschen.



Feb. 26, 1868. Letter paid at Nashua, N.H. at the 10¢ direct rate by the 10¢ yellow green, Issue of 1861 (Sc.68), "via Bremen."

Feb. 27. Transit at N.Y. The S.S. Deutschland was advertised to sail on this date, but was delayed one day by a snowstorm. (N.B.: Winter notes the N.Y. mark used Sept. 10, 1868 to June 12, 1873. Here date expanded back to Feb. 27, 1868.)

March 10. Deutschland arrived at Bremen via Southampton Mar. 8. Transit mark at Bremen.

Mar. 12. Arrival backstamp at Heidelberg, Baden, one of the North German Union states.

1868

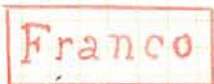
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

DIRECT MAIL RATES- Bremen or Hamburg packets to the U.S.

By the United States - North German Union Postal Convention, rates per 15 grams were set, effective January 1868 to January 1870, as follows:

On letters from the U.S.	10¢
On letters from Germany	4 silbergroschen

Triple rated letter



Sept. 19, 1868. Bremen postal cancellation on triple rated letter. Direct mail rate of 4 silbergroschen per 15 grams x 3 = 12 groschen paid by 6 - 2 groschen stamps. Sender noted direct route "pr. Bremen".

October 4. New York "Paid All" receiving mark.

North German Lloyd:
S, S, Bremen. Bremen, Sept. 18
 Southampton, Sept. 22
 New York Oct. 3

1868

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKETS - BREMEN TO U.S. UNPAID
VIA SOUTHAMPTON



Letter originated Sept. 9, 1868 at Bremen for New York via Southampton (mms. U.L.).



Sept. 5, 1868. Bremen time and date receipt stamp.



Sept. 19, 1868. New York Exchange Office mark, 26¢ due from recipient in depreciated U.S. Notes, equivalent in Sept. '68 to 15¢ Gold.

A Postal Convention with the North German Union, 21 October 1867 fixed the standard weight for a single letter at 15 grammes or $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Basic postage rate on letters via England was 15¢, subject to the rule of progression.

1868

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

"Hapag"

S.S. Allemania

North German Union, direct mail rate effective Jan. 1, '68-Jul. 1, '70



October 6, 1868. An unpaid letter posted at Hamburg at 8-9 P.M. (N = Nachmittag = afternoon.) Letter is endorsed: P Allemania.

October 6. S.S. Allemania of HAPAG departed from Hamburg for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on October 9.



October 21. Allemania arrived at New York. The NGU direct rate was 10¢ per ½-oz. This was due in gold as that was the basis on which exchange was made with Germany. Hard coin was not available at this time due to Civil War constraints, so the 10¢ rate, due in gold, was converted to its equivalent in depreciated paper currency at the day's ratio of $1.40 \times 10¢ = 14¢$ plus a 5¢ unpaid letter fine = 19¢ due in U.S. NOTES. The 5¢ fine was not subject to the depreciated factor, being an internal U.S. matter.

1869

HAMBURG - AMERICAN LINE

"Hapag"

S. S. Westphalia

North German Union, direct mail rate effective Jan 1, '68-July 1, '70



April 27, 1869. A letter posted unpaid at Hamburg, Germany and endorsed: p Westphalia. Posted 9-10 P.M. (N = Nachmittag = afternoon.)

April 28. S.S. Westphalia of the Hamburg-American Line (HAPAG) sailed from Hamburg for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on May 1.



May 10. Westphalia arrived at New York, letter processed May 11. The NGU direct rate was 10¢ per ½-oz., which was due in gold as that was the basis on which the postal exchanges were made with Germany. Due to the unavailability of hard coinage during the Civil War, payment in the U.S. was made in depreciated paper currency. The 10¢ in gold was converted to its equivalent in depreciated paper currency at the day's ratio of 1.40 x 10¢ = 14¢. To this was added a 5¢ unpaid letter fine to total 19¢ due in U.S. NOTES. As the letter fine was internal in the U.S. it was not subject to the depreciation factor.

1869

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BREMEN OR HAMBURG PACKET

This letter was posted at Heidelberg, Baden by a tourist who had just arrived from Northern Germany. He prepaid postage of 3 silbergroschen using 3-1 groschen stamps of the North German Union. However, as Baden was not a member of the N.G.U., the stamps were invalid, marked out in pencil, and the letter forwarded as unpaid.



Aug. 27, 186 . Baden receipt stamp.

Sept. 11, 186 . Letter received as unpaid and rate from Baden noted (light pencil mark at right) as 14¢. This was then converted into the depreciated currency equivalent of 19¢ in U.S. notes due from recipient.

Sept. 10, 1869. S.S. Donau (N.G.), Ernst. arrived N.Y. Departed Bremen Aug. 28 via Southampton 31st.

1864

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S. S. Bremen



5/10



BREMEN
22 1 * 11-12

January 19, 1864. A letter posted unpaid at Stuttgart, Würtemberg except for the German-Austrian Union internal postage of 2 silbergroschen necessary to get the letter to Bremen.

This is also stated in the equivalent at 7 kreuzer, both shown in blue pen ("2" deleted.) The GAPU transit postage went to the state where the letter entered the mail, in this case Würtemberg. The total postage was further accounted by the 5/10 fraction, being the GAPU postage of 5 Bremen grote (2 s.g.) over the 4½ s.g. or 10 grote rate Bremen to U.S. (1 gr. = 1¢ U.S.)

January 20. Transit backstamp at Frankfurt.

January 21. Transit backstamp of the Bremen Thurn & Taxis Post and arrival boxed backstamp at Bremen on the 22nd.

February 14. This letter was endorsed: Via Bremen, so it had to wait over three weeks for the next outgoing NGL steamer which was the S.S. Bremen, departing from Bremerhaven on February 14 for New York, touching at Southampton the 17th.



March 1. Bremen arrived at New York. Letter struck with the BREM.PKT. arrival mark. This letter was subject to the 15¢ rate for a Würtemberg letter beyond Bremen, rate effective ca. October 1859. The rate was adjusted to the optional payment in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.6 x 15¢ = 24¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1865

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

R.M.S. Africa



2

January 19, 1865. A letter posted at Heidelberg within the German States and paid only at the 2 silbergroschen postage necessary to get it to the Exchange Office at Aachen. This charge applied for the German-Austrian Postal Union. Rate to the U.S. of 30¢ per ½-oz. was divided: 5¢ Prussian Inland; 2¢ Belgian transit; 18¢ Sea and 5¢ U.S. Inland.



January 20. Transit handstamp at Aachen. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland. At the Aachen Exchange Office the mail to the U.S. was bulked in closed bags through England.

The break in the Aachen mark's ring at 7 o'clock is constant.

January 21. R.M.S. Africa, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 22nd. where the Prussian Closed Mails went aboard.



February 3. Africa arrived at Boston, letter processed on the 4th. The 30¢ rate, due in gold, was also shown at the optional payment in depreciated paper currency by conversion at the day's gold/paper ratio of 2.0 x 30¢ = 60¢ due in U.S. NOTES. The rate included delivery to Cincinnati, Ohio.

1865

WIESBADEN TO NEW YORK by Prussian Closed Mail
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Australasian



December 14, 1865. An unpaid letter posted at Wiesbaden, A.M. posting (V = Vormittag). The sender paid the German-Austrian Union 2 silbergroschen fee to get the letter to Aachen. Although marked: Via Bremen, this was ignored and the letter made up in Aachen in the Prussian Closed Mail bag through England.

December 14. Transit backstamp at Frankfurt am Main, P.M. (N = Nachmittag).

December 15. Transit at the exchange office at Aachen. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland out of the 30¢ per 1/2-oz. for PCM under the revived convention of 1853.

December 16. R.M.S. Australasian, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 17th where this letter went aboard.

December 29. Australasian arrived at New York. The 30¢ PCM rate was due in gold, so the New York Exchange Office showed the optional payment in depreciated paper currency by applying the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.4 x 30¢ = 42¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

The N.Y. arrival mark also noted incoming by British Packet. This distinction was necessary as the U.S. settled up with Britain on a bulk basis whether by British or American Packet.



1866

MÜNSTER, WESTPHALIA TO U.S. by Prussian Closed Mail
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Cuba

MÜNSTER
IN WESTPHALEN
21 6 66 12-1N

June 21, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Munster, Westphalia and endorsed: Via England p Mail Steamer. The 2 silbergroschen for the German-Austrian Postal Union, necessary to get this letter to Aachen is not shown, possibly paid in bulk with a packet of letters.



June 22. Letter in transit at the Aachen Exchange Office. The Prussian Closed Mail rate to the U.S. was 30¢, divided: 5¢ Prussian Inland, 2¢ Belgian transit, 18¢ sea and British transit, 5¢ U.S. Inland. The Aachen transit mark shows a debit to the U.S. for the 5¢ Prussian Inland. Mails were closed here to go through England.

The Aachen mark shows a constant break in the outer rim from 7-8 o'clock.

June 23. R.M.S. Cuba, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter in closed bags at Queenstown on the 24th.

July 4. Cuba arrived at Boston, mails for New York was bulked there by rail, letter processed at N.Y. on July 5.

The Prussian Closed Mail rate of 30¢, due in gold, was also expressed in the optional payment with depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of $1.5 \times 30¢ = 45¢$ due in U.S. NOTES.

1867

HAMBURG TO NEW YORK by Prussian Closed Mail
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Asia



January 2, 1867. An unpaid letter posted at Hamburg and endorsed: p Steamer from Liverpool. The Hamburg-American Line (HAPAG) steamer S.S. Gerialia was caught in the ice in the Elbe River, so the sender opted to send his letter via England in the Prussian Closed Mail. Germany did not get free until January 8. This letter was charged at the German Austrian Postal Union 2 silbergroschen fee to get it to the Exchange Office at Aachen.

January 3. Transit at Aachen. U.S. was debited for 5¢ Prussian Inland out of the 30¢ per ½-oz. rate for PCM under the revived Convention of 1853.

January 5. The closed mail bags from Aachen were sent through England. R.M.S. Asia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 6th where this letter went aboard.

January 20. Asia arrived at Boston, bulked N.Y. mails went thence by rail for processing on the 21st. The Exchange Office showed the optional payment in depreciated paper currency by applying the day's gold/paper ratio of $1.3 \times 30¢ = 39¢$ due in U.S. NOTES.

1869

NORRDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S.S. Weser (II)

North German Union direct mail rate effective Jan. 1, 1868 to July 1, 1870



September 3, 1869. An unpaid letter dated and posted at Bremen, endorsed: p Weser.

September 4. S.S. Weser of Norddeutscher Lloyd departed from Bremen, touched at Southampton on September 7.



September 17. Weser arrived at New York, letter processed on the 18th. The January 1, 1868 rate to the U.S. by NGU, direct was 10¢ per ½-oz. This rate was adjusted to reflect its value in depreciated currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.40 x 10¢ = 14¢. To this was added a 5¢ unpaid letter fine, total due was 19¢ in U.S. NOTES. The fine was not subject to the depreciation factor as this was entirely a U.S. internal matter. The exchange with Germany on the Bremen Packet mail was made in gold.

1869

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S.S. Rhein

North German Union direct mail rate effective Jan. 1, '68 to Jul. 1, '70



October 8, 1869. An unpaid letter posted at Bremen and endorsed: p D Rhein (D = Dampfschiffe = steamship.) The Bremen time stamp on the face shows 7-8 N. (Nachmittag = P.M.) and on reverse 9-12 N.

October 9. S.S. Rhein of NGL departed from Bremen for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on October 12.



October 27. Rhein arrived at New York. The NGU direct mail rate via Bremen or Hamburg was 10¢ per ½-oz. due in gold. This rate was adjusted to its value in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.30 x 10¢ = 13¢. To this was added a 5¢ unpaid letter fine to total 18¢ due in U.S. NOTES. The 5¢ fine was not subject to the depreciation factor as it was not part of the exchange amount with Germany.

1869

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S.S. America

North German Union direct mail rate effective Jan. 1, '68 to Jul. 1, '70



December 10, 1869. An unpaid letter posted at Bremen and endorsed: p America. The Bremen time stamp (also struck on the reverse) shows 6-7 N (N = nachmittag or afternoon.)

December 11. S.S. America of NGL departed from Bremen for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on the 14th.



December 28. America arrived at New York, letter processed on the 29th. The NGU direct rate via Bremen or Hamburg was 10¢ per ½-oz., due in gold. This was expressed in its value in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.2 x 10¢ = 12¢ plus a 5¢ unpaid letter fine, total 17¢ due in U.S. NOTES. The 5¢ fine, not entering into the exchange with Germany was collected without applying the depreciation factor.

1870

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

DIRECT MAIL RATES - Bremen or Hamburg packets to the U.S.
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE (HAPAG) S.S. Silesia

By the United States-North German Union Postal Convention, rates per 15 grams were set, effective Jan. 1868 to Jan. 1870, as follows:

On letters from Germany 4 silbergroschen
On letters from the U.S. 10¢.



Mr. W. M. Weston

45 Kingston street

FRANCO

FRANCO

Paid

Boston. Mass.

May 16, 1870. Letter paid (FRANCO) at the city of Helmstedt in the duchy of Brunswick. After 1868 this mail took the 15 grams (1/2-oz.) rate as above. As one groschen was about 2.4¢ x 4 = 9.6¢, the strip of four stamp paid a rate about equivalent to 10¢ U.S.

May 18. The S.S. Silesia of HAPAG departed from Hamburg and cleared Havre May 21. She arrived at New York May 31.

June 1. The mails were bulked to Boston where bulk was broken and this letter received identity on June 1.



S.S. Silesia (I). 3142 tons, 340' x 40', straight stem, iron screw steamer, 12 knots. Caird & Co., Greenock, launched April 14, 1869, maiden voyage June 23, 1869, Hamburg-Havre- New York. Last voyage to N.Y. Feb. 24, 1875, laid up until 1877, Hamburg-West Indies. 1891 as Montevideo, Dec. 2, 1898 wrecked near Island of Lobos, River Plate.

1870

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD
(North German Lloyd)

S.S. Rhein

North German Union direct mail rate effective Jan.1,'68 to Jul.1,'70



June 2, 1870. An unpaid letter posted at Quellendorf, Germany to Austin, Texas, endorsed: Via Bremen.



June 3. Transit backstamp at Bremen. Time stamp 8-9 A.M. (V = vormittag or morning.)

June 4. S.S. Rhein of the NGL departed from Bremen for New York via Southampton. She touched at the latter port on the 7th.

This was one of the last voyages by NGL under the North German Union closed mail rate of 10¢. On July 1, 1870, this rate was reduced to 7¢. However, NGL steamers did not sail on mail passages after June 22, 1870, on account of the Franco-Prussian War (France declared war on Prussia on July 14.) For all practical purposes, NGL did not resume regular mail sailings until the Hansa departed from Bremen October 1, 1870.



June 17. Rhein arrived at New York, letter processed on the 18th. The NGU direct mail rate of 10¢ was adjusted to its equivalent in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.13 x 10¢ = 11¢ plus an unpaid letter fine of 5¢, total 16¢ due in U.S. NOTES. The 5¢ fine, being a U.S. internal matter, was not subject to the depreciation factor. The 5¢ fine was no longer imposed with the new 7¢ rate, effective July 1, 1870.

1871

NORTH GERMAN UNION DIRECT MAIL RATE TO U.S.
4 schillinge, effective July 1870 to October 1871.
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE S.S. Holsatia



Franco

4

January 7, 1871. A letter paid in cash (Franco = Paid) at Hamburg at 4 schillinge, equivalent to the 7¢ (U.S.) direct mail rate. It was held for the January 15 sailing of the Hamburg-American Line's S.S. Holsatia from Hamburg for New York.



January 28. Holsatia arrived at New York. Letter was there received as PAID ALL.

Direct rate mail covers are not common at this time when the Franco-Prussian War was curtailing German steamship operations.

1871

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

North German Union Closed Mail Rate via England
10¢ Rate, effective July 1870 to October 1871

R.M.S. Russia

CUNARD LINE



May 31, 1871. An unpaid letter to Lansing, Iowa posted at Kostenblut, a town of Prussia 19 miles west of Breslau, population 1173. This letter was forwarded by the NGU closed mail via England.

June 3. R.M.S. Russia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown June 4.

June 13. Russia landed at New York, letter processed June 14. The 10¢ NGU rate was due as a double letter at 20¢ in gold. This was adjusted to its value in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of $1.09 \times 20¢ = 22¢$ in U.S. NOTES.

The letter was forwarded on the Lansing, Iowa where the post office struck the corroborating handstamp: DUE/ 22.



1871

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

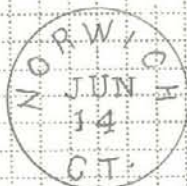
U.S. TO GERMAN STATES - Baden

North German Union Closed Mail Rate via England

10¢ Rate, effective July 1870 to October 1871.

S.S. City of Antwerp

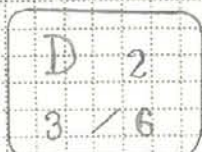
INMAN LINE



June 14, 1871. 10¢ brown, Issue of 1870 pays the half-ounce rate to the North German Union. This rate prevailed until October 1871, when the rate became 7¢.

June 15. Letter transit at New York. N.Y. Times: Cleared and sailed June 15, City of Antwerp, (Br.,) Eynon, to Liverpool, Jno. G. Dale.

June 26. BY CABLE: London, The Inman steamship City of Antwerp, Capt. Lockard (sic) from N.Y. June 15; touched at Queenstown today and proceeded to Liverpool.



June 29-30. German backstamps. Letter was forwarded from Heidelberg to Bad Schwalbach.

1871

NORTH GERMAN UNION. CLOSED MAIL RATE VIA ENGLAND
4 silbergroschen, effective July 1870 to October 1871
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Parthia



Franco.

July

August 28, 1871. A letter paid in cash at Thorn, a town of West Prussia. It was paid at 4 silbergroschen, equivalent to the 10¢ (U.S.) rate via England. Payment is shown as fr. 4 and Franco = Paid. Letter is endorsed: via England.



August 29. The Cunard Line's R.M.S. Parthia departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at Queenstown, which port she touched on August 30.



September 12. Parthia arrived at New York. Receipt shown there as Sept. 11 most likely an error in the date slug.

The British placed mails to the U.S. on only those lines with which they had contracts.
- Cunard, Inman and NGL. The Inman Line's City of Baltimore did not carry contract mail when she departed from Liverpool August 29, arrived New York Sept. 11.

1871

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U.S.- Prussian Closed Mail via England

7¢ rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875

The direct mail rate (via German packets from Hamburg or Bremen) was only 6¢ during this period, thus one seldom sees the higher closed mail rate that was prevalent during the Franco-Prussian War, 1870-71 (when the rate was 10¢) and the German service was suspended.



FRANCO.



December 12, 1871. Letter posted at Frankfurt-am-Main at the 7¢ Closed mail rate equivalent to 10 kreuzer, prepaid by "Prussian Closed Mail via Liverpool". FRANCO = PAID.

December 29, 1871. New York receipt stamp.

1872

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
MAIL TO GERMAN STATES - Saxony
Closed Mail via England
7c rate, effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875



January 6, 1872. Double rated letter at 7c per half-ounce x 2 = 14c, prepaid by horizontal pair of the 7c National Bank Note Co. issue of 1870-71 (Sc.149). Letter endorsed "per Steamer 'City of Washington' ", an Inman Liner of 2400 tons in service 1856-73. The "British Transit" of the New York Foreign Department stamp refers to handling by closed mail through England, noted on printed envelope as "Prussian Closed Mail".



January 19, 1872. German 11th "delevery" backstamp. AUSGABE = Delivery (of Letters).

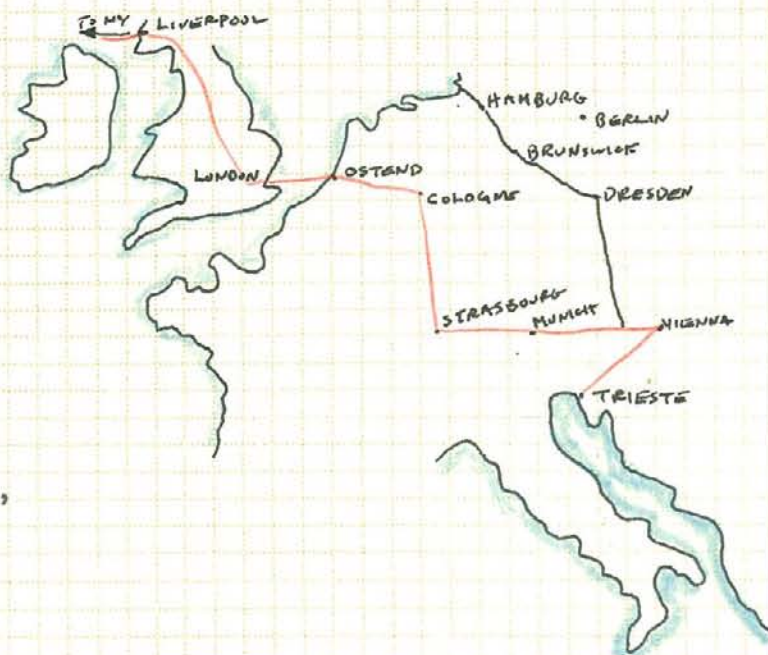
1872

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL TRIESTE TO U.S. - Overland to Belgium.

From October 1871 to July 1, 1875, the rate for "German States" was 7¢ per ½-oz., prepayment optional, by Closed Mail via England. Trieste in 1872 was part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and was subject to this rate.



Franco.



July 9, 1872. Letter prepaid (Franco) at Trieste. Sender directed it "via Belgium & England", which meant letter was to go to Vienna (Wien), thence across Germany to Ostende, Belgium (see map). Paid by two copies of the 10 krone, Issue of 1867-72.

via Belgium England



Messrs J. B. Merrick & Co

New York

July 23.
Arrival at
New York.
PAID ALL.



1872

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U.S. - Direct Mail, North German Lloyd
6¢ (2½ silbergroschen) rate, effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875



November 24, 1872. Letter put into mail at Melsungen with postage prepaid 2½ groschen and marked "via England". This would indicate that the sender wished the letter to go by closed mail through England, which bore a 3 groschen (7¢) rate at that time. The postal clerk crossed off "England" and inserted "Bremen", thus diverting the letter via the Bremen packet, where the rate was 2½ groschen as prepaid by the stamp. FRANCO = PAID.

New York "PAID ALL" receiving handstamp (red) on face.

1872 - 73

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U. S. - Closed Mail via England

7¢ (3 silbergroschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875

Mail from any part of the German Confederation could be sent at the 3 silbergroschen rate (7¢) closed mail via England, or at the 2½ s.g. rate (6¢) direct, i.e. German steamer from Hamburg or Bremen direct to New York.



Franco

July 9, 1872.
Receiving mark
at Berlin.
FRANCO= PAID



July 21. New
York transit.



Feb. 14, 1873.
Hannover receiving
mark.



1873

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U.S.

Closed Mail via England

7¢ (3 Silber Groschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875



FRANCO

January 3, 1873. Letter posted at the Braunschweig Bahnhof (railroad station) at the 3 silbergroschen per 1/2 oz. Closed Mail rate "via England".



January 21, 1873. New York marked mail "PAID ALL" under the closed mail agreement with England. The two countries settled accounts on a bulk basis.

1874

DRESDEN, Saxony to U.S. - Closed Mail Direct
6¢ (2½ silbergroschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875
THE HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE (Hapag)

S.S. Frisia

Mail from any part of the German Confederation could be sent at the 3 silbergroschen rate (7¢) closed mail via England, or at the 2½ s.g. (6¢) rate direct, i.e., German steamer from Hamburg or Bremen direct to New York.



October 6, 1874. Letter prepaid at Dresden with three one s.g. stamps, overpaying direct rate Hamburg to New York by ½ s.g. Steam-ship Frisia, 3200 ton steamer of the Hamburg American Line left Hamburg Oct. 7, Havre, France Oct. 10.

Oct. 22, 1874. New York arrival backstamp. N.Y. Times notes arrival this date of "Steam-ship Frisia (Ger.), Meier, with merchandise and 111 cabin and 466 steerage passengers to Kunhardt & Co."



1875

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO GERMANY - Direct Mail, Hamburg American Line

6¢ (2½ silbergroschen) rate, effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875

S.S. Westphalia

Double Letter

Last Voyage before Compounding

3158 tons, 340' x 40', screw iron steamer, 12 knots. Caird & Co., Greenock, launched June 24, 1868; Sept. 16, 1868, maiden voyage Hamburg-Southampton-N.Y. This letter was carried on her last return voyage before being laid up. In 1878 she was rebuilt and engines compounded, two funnels.

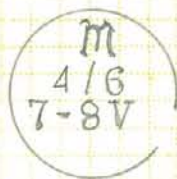


B. 1415



B. 943

May 17-19, 1875. 6¢ x 2, double rate paid by two 6¢ Banknote Issue stamps. Steamship Westphalia, Capt. Ludwig, sailed from New York May 20, 1875 for Hamburg from the N.Y. docks of Kunhardt & Co.



June 4. Arrival backstamp at Berlin, Prussia. Miss Payne's docket at upper left also notes "Rec. June 4th 1875". 26 days after this letter the General Postal Union rates went into effect.

1874

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
GERMANY TO U.S.-Closed Mail via England
7¢ (3 silbergroschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875



DRESDEN III.
4 11 . 5-6 N

November 4, 1874. Letter prepaid by stamps at Dresden at the 3 silbergroschen rate via England.



Nov. 16, 1874. New York "PAID ALL" transit backstamp. Docket (on face) notes Nov. 19 receipt at Bangor, Maine.

1874

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U.S. - Closed Mail via England

7¢ (3 Silber Groschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875

Double rated letter



July 14, 1874. Letter posted (by Theodore Steinway, famous piano maker) at the Braunschweig Bahnhof (railway station). Letter was endorsed "via Cöln per Prussian closed mail", indicating it was to go on the Cologne (Cöln or Köln) to Verviers railway, thence by closed bag through England to New York at the 3 groschen rate per 1/2 oz. x 2 = 6 silbergroschen, prepaid.



July 26, 1874. New York
"PAID ALL" transit backstamp.

1875

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GERMANY TO U.S.

Closed Mail via England

7¢ (3 silbergroschen) rate effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875

INMAN LINE

S.S. City of Montreal



Unfrankirt

January 18, 1875. An unpaid letter posted in Germany and marked "Unfrankirt" (unpaid). It was put in the North German Union closed mail bags for America via England.

January 21. S.S. City of Montreal of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 22nd where the mail bags for America went aboard.



February 6. City of Montreal arrived at New York. This letter was subject as a double letter at the 7¢ per ½-oz. rate for Closed Mail via England, hence, 7¢ x 2 = 14¢ x 1.12 (the depreciated currency factor for February 1895) = 15.68¢, rounded off to 16¢ due in depreciated paper currency.

February 8. Cincinnati, Ohio receiving backstamp.

1875

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
TRANSITIONARY RATED COVER - U.S. to Austria

Letter posted under 7¢ Closed Mail rate via England
Letter arrived under G.P.U. 5¢ rate, effective July 1, 1875



June 18, 1875. Letter posted at Boston under the 7¢ per ½-oz. rate to German States by closed mail via England, effective Oct. 1871 to July 1, 1875. Prepayment by 1¢ gray blue (Sc. 156) National Bank Note Co. issue plus 6¢ same to make 7¢ rate.

June 22, 1875. Transit stamp at New York. "British Transit" refers to the closed mail via England make-up of mail in bulk. Bags passed closed through England, and bulk was broken at Aachen, Germany where letters were sorted to various German destinations.



July 7, 1875. Vienna receipt backstamp. While this letter was en route the new G.P.U. rate of 5¢ per ½ oz. became effective July 1, 1875.