

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867

3
CENTS



Envelope: Alton, Illinois to Lewes, England, 16 June 1862

Ship: *North American*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Quebec, 21 June 1862
Arrive: Londonderry, 1 July 1862

Rate: 24¢ prepaid for single treaty rate
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Notes: Letter carried by rail on the St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad to Chicago, where the unusual red 3/CENTS credit marking was applied. The letter was placed in a closed mail bag for England. From Chicago it was carried on the Michigan Central Railroad to Detroit and Canadian Grand Trunk Railroad to Quebec, where it went on board the Allan Line steamer.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Envelope: New York to Paris, 23 April 1862

Ship: Asia

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)

Depart: New York, 23 April 1862
Arrive: Queenstown, 4 May 1862

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
6¢ U.S. debit to France
16 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter prepaid 1¢ for carrier fee "to the mails," otherwise, it was completely unpaid. Since letter was double rate, New York debited $2 \times 3 = 6$ ¢ to France. Paris marked "2" rates in upper left alongside adhesive and $2 \times 8 = 16$ decimes postage due. Less than a half dozen examples have been recorded showing the 1¢ prepayment only to France.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1868–1870
1 January 1868–30 June 1870



Envelope: Indianapolis, Indiana to Minden, Prussia, 7 May 1870

Ship: *Saxonia*

Company: Hamburg–Amerikanische Packetfahrt Aktien Gesellschaft (HAPAG)
(Hamburg American Line)

Depart: New York, 10 May 1870
Arrive: Hamburg, about 24 May 1870

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single rate
6 silbergroschen postage due in Minden

Notes: Letter apparently weighed over 15 grams, requiring two rates. New York struck handstamp "2" in upper left to show two rates were required and applied circular INSUFFICIENT 4 SGR. marking to show deficient postage. Hamburg marked boxed "Unzureichend/frankiert" to show letter insufficiently paid and 6 silbergroschen postage due, the deficient postage plus 2 silbergroschen insufficiently paid letter fine. Although a dogged appearing cover, it is an uncommon insufficiently prepaid letter under the U.S.–NGU Convention.