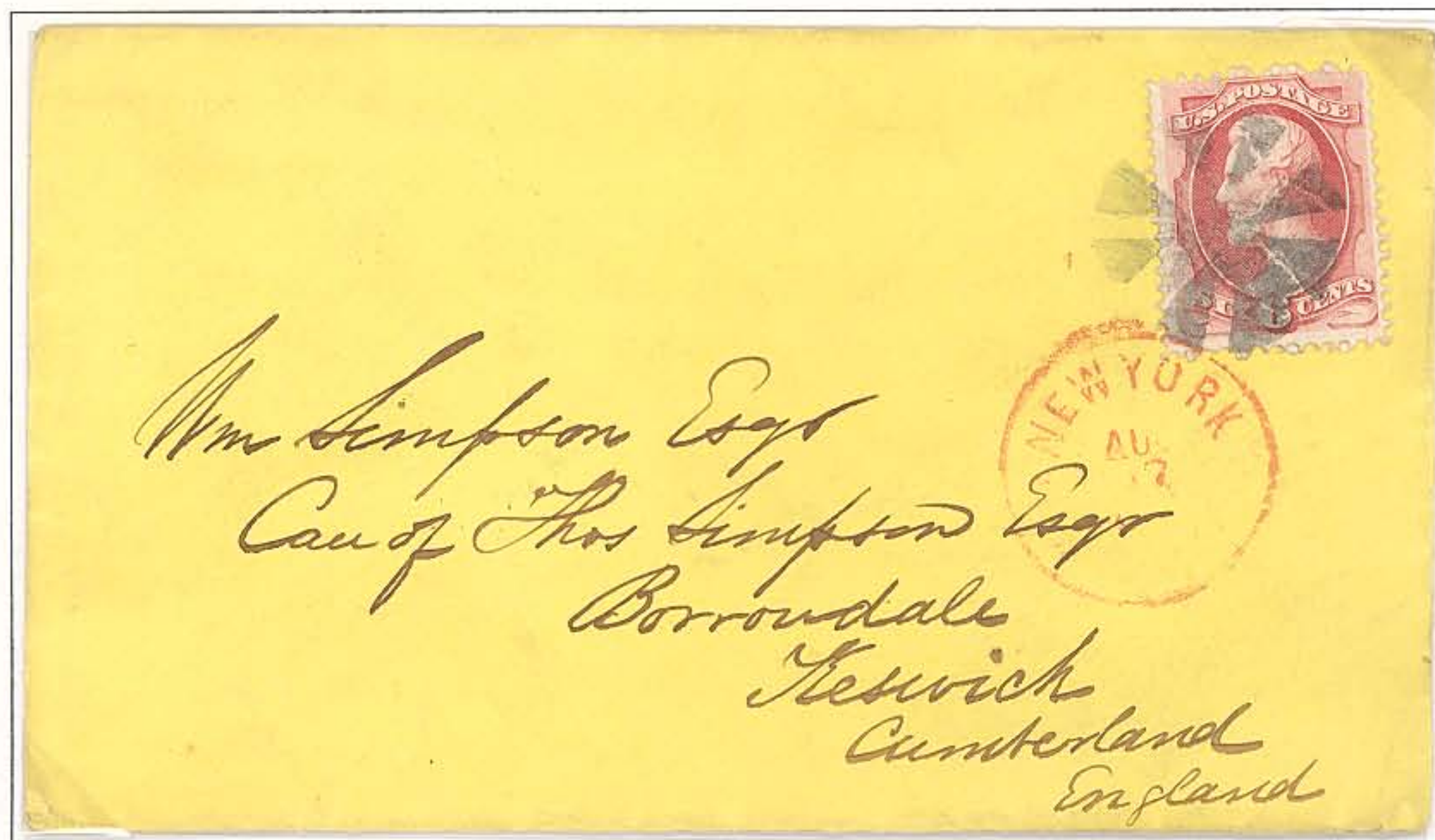


U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Envelope: New York to Keswick, England, 17 August 1870

Ship: *Idaho*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: New York, 17 August 1870
Arrive: Queenstown, 28 August 1870

Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: The Guion Line was contracted by the U.S. to carry mails in January 1870 when the regular steamship lines under contract with the U.S. refused to carry mails at the very low sea compensation which resulted from the new postal convention with G.B. (effective 1 January 1870). Letter paid with 6¢ National Banknote adhesive (Scott No. 148).

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Envelope: Boston to London, 17 January 1872

Ship: *Samaria*

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

Depart: Boston, 17 January 1872
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 January 1872

Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: For unknown reasons, Boston did not place letter in the regular closed treaty mail bag to be put off at Queenstown, but placed letter in the loose letter bag, which stayed on the steamer until arrival at Liverpool. Letter may have arrived at Boston post office after the mails were closed for G.B. Liverpool struck the ship letter tombstone marking and indicated letter was fully paid. London also struck a ship letter circular datestamp. Most unusual treaty letter treated as a ship letter.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875

INSUFFICIENTLY
PAID



Envelope: Paterson, New Jersey to Guernsey, Channel Islands, 16 February 1872

Ship: *City of Washington*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: New York, 17 February 1872
Arrive: Liverpool, 10 March 1872

Rate: 3¢ prepaid for single rate
4½ pence postage due in Guernsey

Notes: Letter underpaid 3¢ for the 6¢ international rate to G.B. with a 3¢ National ungrilled adhesive, Scott No. 147. New York marked letter INSUFFICIENTLY/PAID and sent letter to London since partially paid letters could be sent under the 1869 Convention. London marked postage due of 4½ pence which included the unpaid portion, 1½ pence, and a 3 pence insufficiently paid letter fine.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Envelope: Mount Savage, Maryland to Liverpool, 15 April 1872

Ship: *Wisconsin*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: New York, 17 April 1872
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 April 1872

Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Letter placed in a closed mail bag for Liverpool and remained on the steamship when it called at Queenstown the day before arrival at Liverpool. Liverpool circular datestamp indicated letter arrived by a U.S. PACKET.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1870-1875
1 January 1870-30 June 1875



Envelope: South Hadley, Massachusetts to London, 1 June 1872

Ship: *Siberia*

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

Depart: Boston, 4 June 1872
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 June 1872

Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Apparently, Bowles Brothers & Co. was large enough to have a "Postal Department" (see corner card) for sending mail to their office in London for clients traveling abroad. Letter paid only to London where London agents of Bowles Brothers & Co. sent letter under cover to Geneva, where it was handled by forwarding agent, the American Joint National Agency. Letter paid with horizontal pair of 3¢ National Bank Note adhesives (Scott No. 147).

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
British Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879



Envelope: San Francisco to Gateshead, England, 2 December 1875

Ship: *Klopstock*

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

Depart: New York, 9 December 1875
Arrive: Plymouth, 21 December 1875

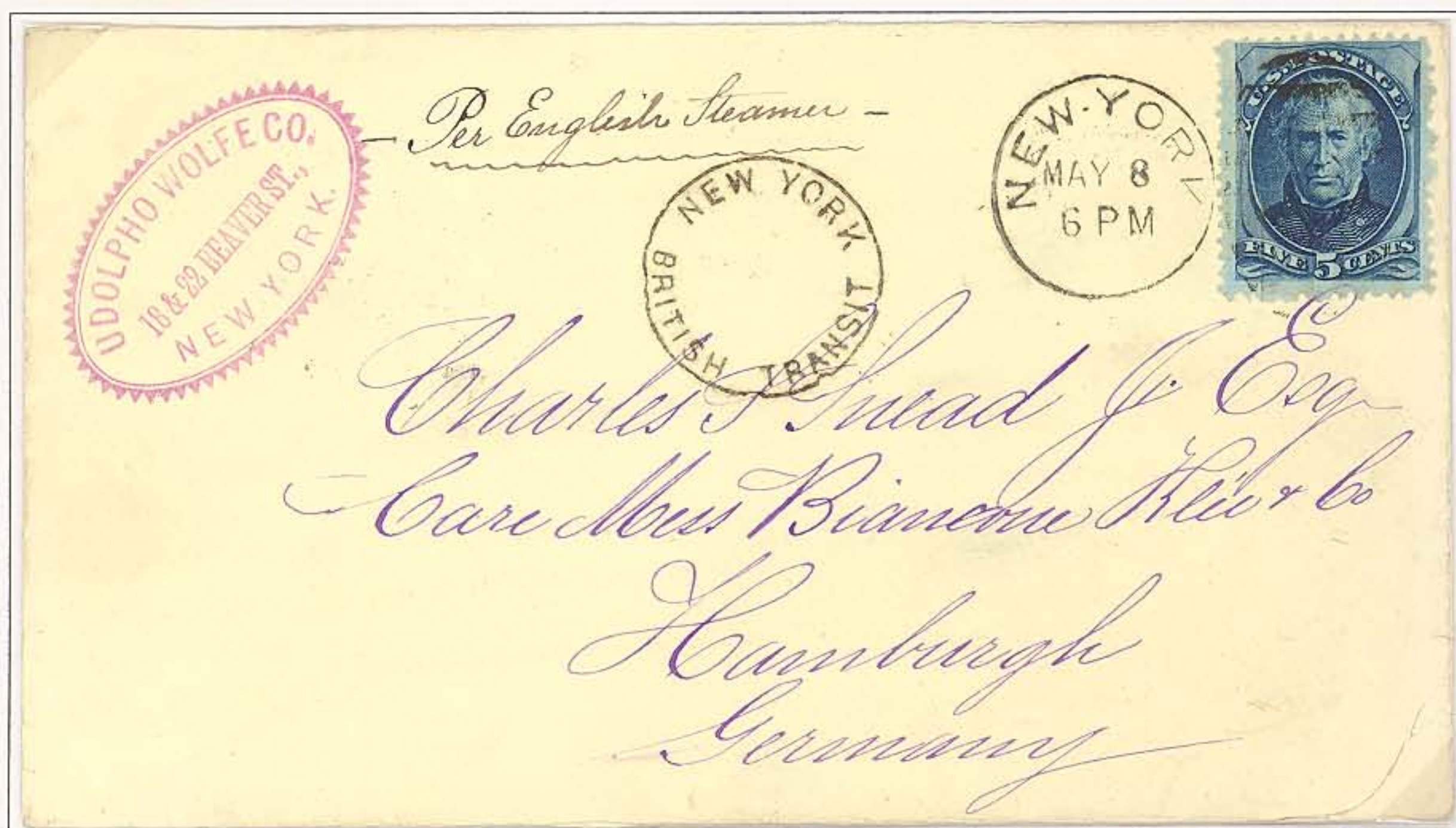
Rate: 3¢ prepaid for 5¢ Union rate
3½ pence postage due in Gateshead

Notes: Letter addressed to Newcastle–on–Tyne and forwarded by the post to Gateshead. Single Union rate underpaid by 2¢ with 3¢ 1873 Continental adhesive (Scott No. 158). Postage due, marked at Plymouth, was the unpaid letter rate, 2x5¢, minus the prepayment of 3¢, or 7¢ (3½ pence). The New York exchange office struck the circle "T" to indicate that additional postage was due and the handstamp "15" alongside the adhesive to indicate the value of the adhesive in centimes as required by the GPU Treaty.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
American Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879



Envelope: New York to Hamburg, Germany, 8 May 1877

Ship: *Holland*

Company: National Steamship Company Limited
(National Line)

Depart: New York, 8 May 1877
Arrive: London, 21 May 1877

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for single Union rate

Notes: New York used a circular BRITISH TRANSIT marking without date as an auxiliary marking to show letter went in closed mail bags through England to Germany instead of directly to Germany by steamship. This marking has been recorded in use only during the short period February–May 1877.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
American Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879



Envelope: New York to Berlin, Germany, 5 April 1878

Ship: *Germanic*

Company: Oceanic Steam Navigation Company Limited
(White Star Line)

Depart: New York, 6 April 1878
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 April 1878

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for single Union rate

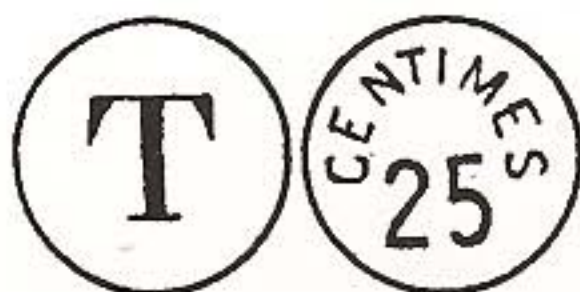
Notes: New York also used a circular *BRITISH TRANSIT* marking with the letter "N" in the center as an auxiliary marking to show letter went in closed mail bags through England to Germany instead of directly to Germany by steamship. The meaning of the letter in the center is not known. This marking has been recorded in use during the period March–December 1878 and only on letters through England to Germany.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
American Contract Steamship

1875-1879

1 July 1875-1 April 1879



Envelope: New York to Bremen, 2 December 1878

Ship: *Abyssinia*

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

Depart: New York, 4 December 1878
Arrive: Queenstown, 13 December 1878

Rate:	5¢	prepaid for single Union rate
	60 pfennige	postage due in Bremen

Notes: Letter required two rates, but only one rate prepaid. New York marked 25 centimes (5¢) paid and the letter "T" for a tax due. Bremen calculated the postage due as the rate of an unpaid letter (twice paid rate or 2x10¢) less amount paid (5¢) or 15¢ which was 60 pfennige. New York used a circular *BRITISH TRANSIT* marking on the reverse with the date in the center instead of the letter "N" or "D."

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Universal Postal Union
American Contract Steamship

1879–
1 April 1879–



Folded Letter: New York to Palma, Majorca, Spain, 29 March 1881

Ship: *Wyoming*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: New York, 29 March 1881
Arrive: Queenstown, 8 April 1881

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for single Union rate

Notes: New York duplex numeral ellipse cancellation used on foreign mail from 1877–1882.
Year digits were added to the markings in 1878.



Envelope: Erlangen, Bavaria to Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, missent to New York, 22 November 1882

Ship: Germanic

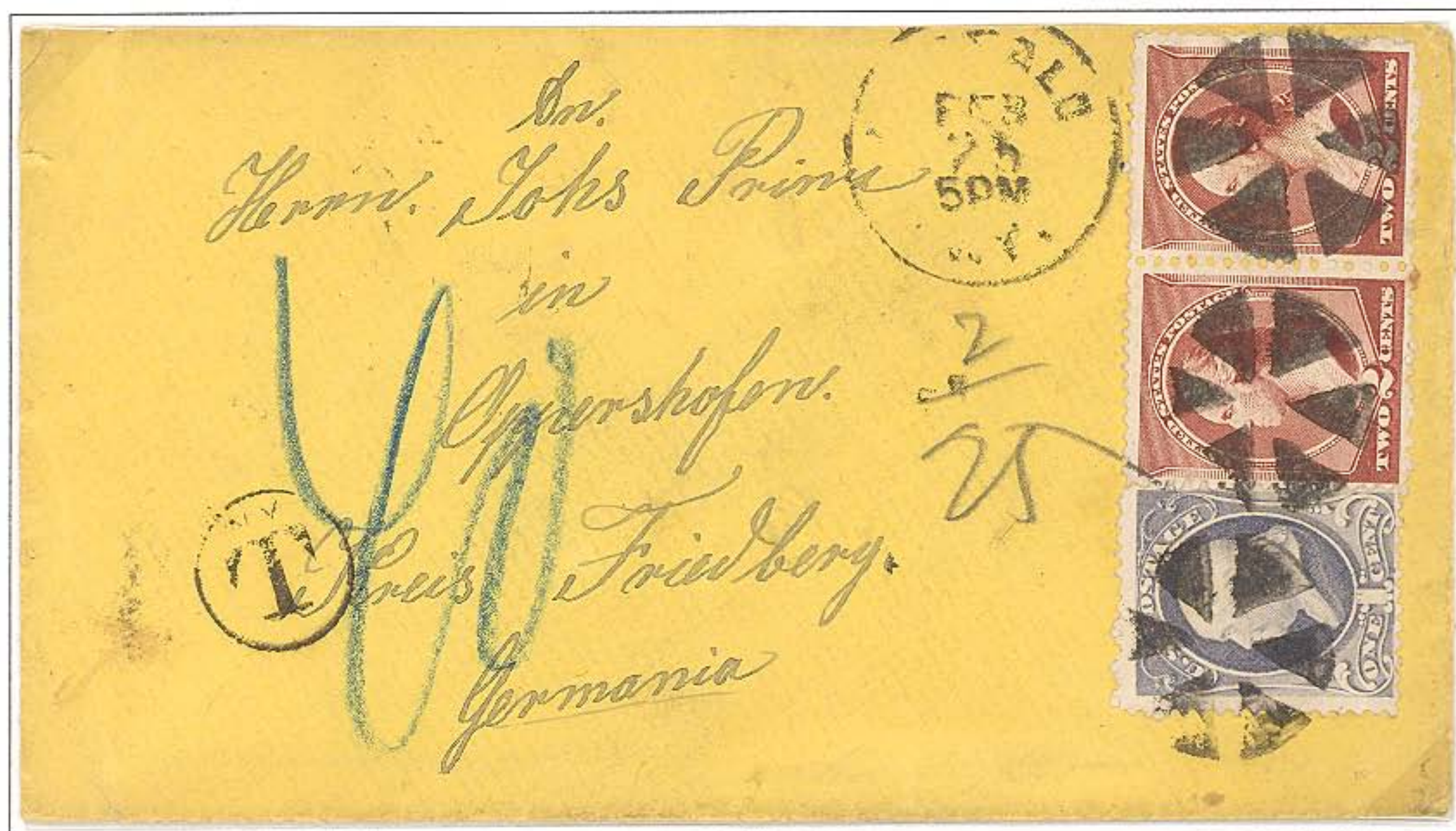
Company: White Star Line

Depart: Queenstown, 1 December 1882

Arrive: New York, 11 December 1882

Rate: 20 pfennige prepaid for single UPU rate

Notes: Letter paid with 20 pfennige 1881 ultramarine adhesive (Scott No. 51) for single UPU rate to France, but sent to the United States in error. New York had a special datestamp for missent letters, which was applied when the letter was returned to France on 13 December 1882 on the Cunard steamship *Abyssinia*. Letter arrived at Paris on 24 December 1882 and was sent to its original destination, from where it was re-directed back to Paris. "Au dos" in manuscript at the top indicated that the re-directed address was written on the reverse.



Envelope: Buffalo, New York to Oppershafen, Germany, 25 February 1884

Ship: *Wsiconsin*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: New York, 26 February 1884
Arrive: Queenstown, 6 March 1884

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for single Union rate

Notes: Letter paid 5¢ with 1¢ 1881 gray blue adhesive (Scott No. 206) and pair or 2¢ 1883 red brown adhesives (Scott No. 210); however, it was underpaid by one rate and sent as insufficiently paid letter. New York marked circle "T" and, in pencil, that letter required two rates with one rate of 25 centimes having been paid. Germans marked 40 pfennige postage due. From April 1879 the postage due was calculated as twice the unpaid amount, which was 50 centimes or 40 pfennige.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870-1871
1 July 1870-1 October 1871



Envelope: London, Ohio to Bremen, 17 January 1871

Ship: *City of Paris*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: New York, 21 January 1871
Arrive: Queenstown, 30 January 1871

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid 10¢ with ungrilled National Bank Note Company adhesive, Scott No. 150, for NGU closed mail rate via England.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870–1871
1 July 1870–1 October 1871



Envelope: New York to Minden, Prussia, 12 August 1871

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 12 August 1871
Arrive: Bremerhaven, about 25 August 1871

Rate: 7¢ prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid for direct packet rate to Bremen with 1868 1¢ blue, F grill and 1870 6¢ carmine adhesives, Scott Nos. 92, 148.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875



Envelope: New York to Göppingen, Württemberg, 25 December 1873

Ship:	<i>Pommerania</i>
Company:	Hamburg–Amerikanische Packetfahrt Aktien Gesellschaft (HAPAG) (Hamburg American Line)
Depart:	New York, 25 December 1873
Arrive:	Hamburg, about 7 January 1874
Rate:	6¢ prepaid for single rate
Notes:	Letter prepaid the 6¢ direct mail rate by two 1873 3¢ green Continental Bank Note adhesives (Scott No. 158). The New York foreign mail cancellation is Weiss No. ST-MP3.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1873 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1873-1875
1 December 1873-1 July 1875



Postal Card: San Francisco to Herford, Prussia, 1 August 1874

Ship: *Lessing*

Company: Deutsche Transatlantische Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft
(Eagle Line)

Depart: New York, 11 August 1874
Arrive: Hanburg, 24 August 1874

Rate: 2¢ prepaid for postal card rate

Notes: Commencing 1 December 1873, postal cards could be exchanged with Germany at the rate of 2¢ in the U.S. and 1 silbergroschen in Germany. Prepayment was compulsory and consisted of adding a 1¢ adhesive to a 1¢ postal card in the U.S. Postal cards were forwarded only on direct steamers. Prepayment made with 1873 1¢ brown postal card (Scott No. UX-1) and 1870 1¢ ultramarine ungrilled National Bank Note adhesive (Scott No. 145). Very little mail has been seen carried by Eagle Line steamers.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Cape May, New Jersey to Orebich, Dalmatia, 15 May 1875

Ship: *Suevia*

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

Depart: New York, 24 June 1875
Arrive: Hamburg, about 7 July 1875

Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid the 6¢ direct mail rate by a pair of 1873 3¢ green Continental Bank Note adhesives (Scott No. 158). General Postal Union rates went into effect while this letter was *en route* to Germany. Prepayment, however, was sufficient for old and new rates. Dalmatia, a province of the Austrian Empire, was located along the Northeast coast of the Adriatic Sea.

U.S. – Netherlands Postal Treaties

U.S.–Netherlands Treaty of 1870
Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870 to 1875
1 Feb 70–1 Jul 75



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Baltimore to Amsterdam, 23 May 1871

Ship: New York

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 25 May 1871
Arrive: Southampton, 6 June 1871

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid with an 1870, 10¢ brown ungrilled National Bank Note adhesive, Scott No. 150. Target cancellation on the adhesive in brown is a known duplex killer of the Foreign Mail section of the Baltimore post office. Letter in closed mail bag through England to The Netherlands.

U.S. – Netherlands Postal Treaties

U.S.–Netherlands Treaty of 1870
Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870 to 1875
1 Feb 70–1 Jul 75



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Baltimore to Amsterdam, 6 May 1873

Ship:	<i>Wisconsin</i>	
Company:	Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited (Guion Line)	
Depart:	New York, 7 May 1873	
Arrive:	Queenstown, 18 May 1873	
Rate:	10¢	prepaid for single rate
Notes:	Letter prepaid with an 1870, 10¢ brown ungrilled National Bank Note adhesive, Scott No. 150. Segmented cork cancellation on the adhesive in brown may be another duplex killer of the Foreign Mail section of the Baltimore post office. Letter in closed mail bag through England to The Netherlands.	

U.S. - Switzerland Postal Treaties

U.S.-Switzerland Treaty of 1870
Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870-1875
1 May 70-1 Jul 75



Envelope: Nashville, Tennessee to Herisau, Switzerland, 31 March 1874

Ship: *City of Brussels*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steamship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: New York, 4 April 1874
Arrive: Queenstown, 14 April 1874

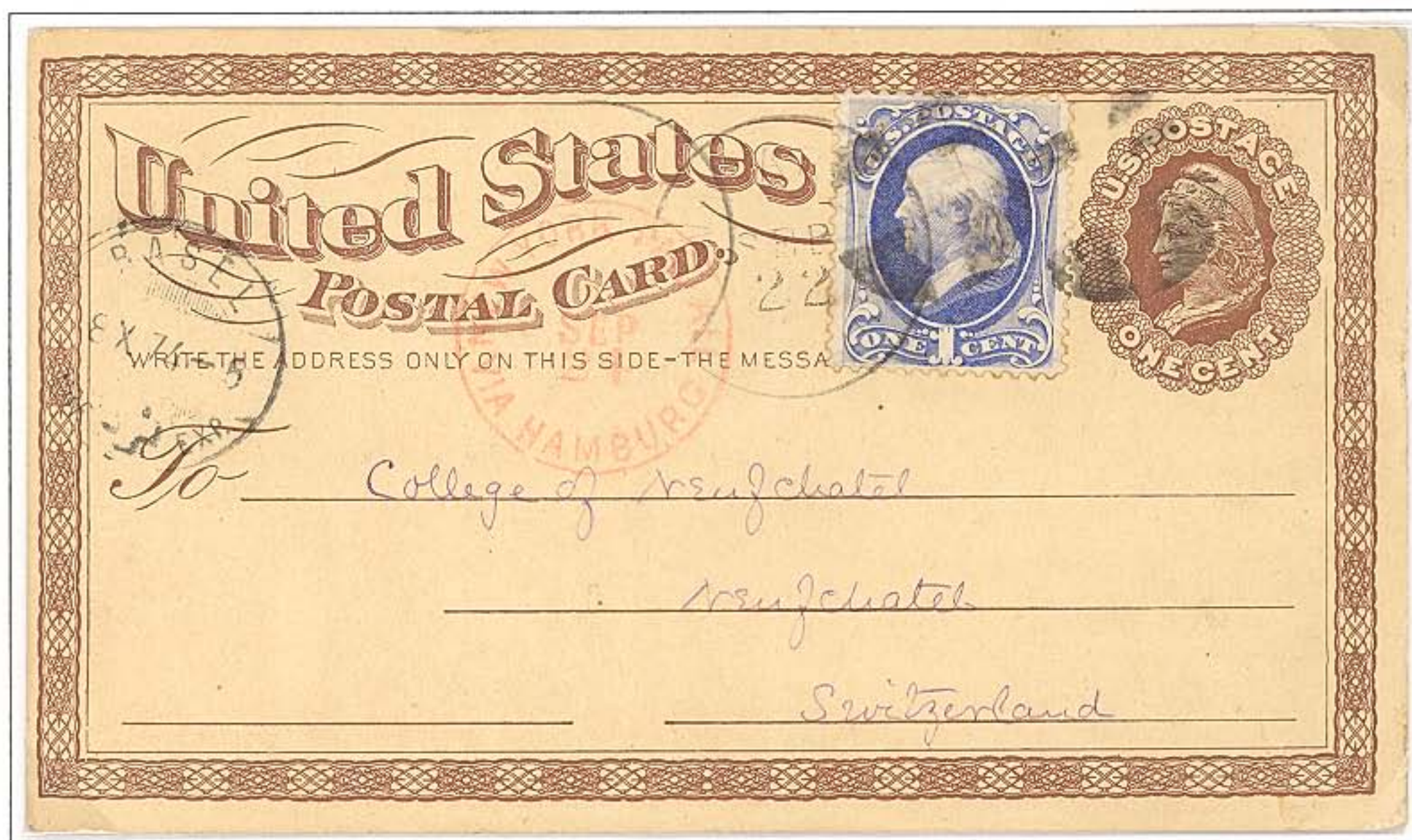
Rate: 6¢ prepaid for single rate
40 centimes postage due in Herisau

Notes: Letter underpaid 10¢ rate with two 3¢ Continental Bank Note Company adhesives without grill, Scott No. 158. Second type of New York circular datestamp showing routing by closed mail via England and Belgium, this time "ENGLAND & OSTEND" spelled in full and "PAID ALL" omitted. Letter insufficiently paid 4¢ so New York marked 20 centimes short paid in blue crayon (1¢ = 5 centimes). Basel marked the VIA OSTENDE route and postage due was 40 centimes, which included a 20 centimes insufficiently paid letter fine.

U.S. – Switzerland Postal Treaties

U.S.–Switzerland Treaty of 1874
Contract Steamship via Germany

1874–1875
1 May 74–1 Jul 75



Postal Card: Ann Arbor, Michigan to Neuchatel, Switzerland, 21 September 1874

Ship: *Thuringia*

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

Depart: New York, 24 September 1874
Arrive: Hamburg, ~6 October 1874

Rate: 2¢ prepaid for postal card

Notes: The July 1872 postal convention with Switzerland provided for closed mails via Bremen or Hamburg. To differentiate between this and the 1870 convention which was for closed mails via England, New York created a series of new circular datestamps. The datestamp on this postal card showed desired routing through Hamburg. The 1874 Treaty permitted postal cards to be exchanged between the two countries if fully paid 2¢ or 10 centimes. U.S. Postal Guides permitted addition of a 1¢ adhesive to a U.S. postal card. Here a 1¢ 1873 Continental Bank Note Company adhesive (Scott No. 156) has been added to an 1873 postal card, Scott No. UX3.