

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
British Contract Steamship

1852–1868
16 October 1852–31 December 1867

13-60 (Reverse)
2



Folded Letter: Stoughton, Wisconsin to Skien, Norway, 14 January 1853

Ship: *Arabia*

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

Depart: New York, 26 January 1853
Arrive: Liverpool, 6 February 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
60 skilling speciedaler postage due in Skien

Notes: Letter originated in Dane County near Stoughton and sent in Prussian Closed Mail to Aachen, then to Hamburg where it was turned over to the Swedish–Norwegian post office in Hamburg. 13 silbergroschen Prussian debit to Swedish–Norwegian post office (equivalent to 35 sk.sp.) Norwegians added 27 sk.sp for transit from Hamburg to Norway via Sweden. Total postage due marked on reverse. Letter on postal letter list No. 13½ and postage due was 60 sk.sp.

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Envelope: Buffalo, New York to Murrhardt, Württemberg, 24 March 1853

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 26 March 1853
Arrive: Southampton, 8 April 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
45 kreuzer postage due in Murrhardt

Notes: Buffalo used an oval handstamp numeral "30" to show the desired unpaid letter rate of 30¢, which indicated Prussian Closed Mail service desired for the letter. There was no requirement for this marking, but many post offices used the same practice. Aachen marked the postage due in bright blue ink.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Nagold, Württemberg, 25 April 1853

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 30 April 1853
Arrive: Liverpool, 11 May 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
47 kreuzer postage due in Nagold

Notes: Letter struck with domestic 5¢ postage due datestamp of New York and sent in error to Williamsburg, New York, where postmaster crossed through "5" in datestamp, wrote "Missent & forwarded" across top and returned letter to New York for transatlantic voyage. Aachen marked 45 kreuzer postage due. Nagold added 2 kr. local fee for a total postage due of 47 kreuzer. Uncommon use of domestic New York marking on overseas letter.

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13 3/4
1/4



Envelope: Baltimore to Hofgeismar, Kurhessen (Hesse-Kassel), 30 May 1853

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 1 June 1853
Arrive: Liverpool, 12 June 1853

Rate: 5¢ paid for British open mail rate by British packet
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
14 silbergroschen postage due in Hofgeismar

Notes: New York sent letter unpaid in the Prussian closed mail rather than in the open mail via the U.K. Aachen marked letter for 13 silbergroschen postage due. In Kurhessen, letter marked for 13 3/4 silbergroschen plus 1/4 silbergroschen local fee. Currency conversion in Kurhessen quite unusual.

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Folded Letter: Chicago, Illinois, to Rethem, Hannover, 12 September 1853

Ship: Asia
Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)
Depart: New York, 21 September 1853
Arrive: Liverpool, 2 October 1853
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
92¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
41½ ggr postage due at Rethem

Notes: Letter weighed between 1-2 ounces and required four rates in the Prussian closed mail. Unpaid letter rate of 4 x 30¢ = \$1.20 marked at Chicago in pen, upper right. New York debited 4 x 23¢ = 92¢ to Prussia. Aachen marked letter required four rates ("4f" in blue ink, upper left) and 4 x 13 = 52 sgr. postage due. Aachen clerk also wrote "Hannover" in blue ink to indicate the German state destination. On the Prussian railroad 4 x 11 sgr. = 44 sgr. marked on reverse for unpaid "foreign" rate. The currency in Hannover was gutegroschen, 41½ ggr being the equivalent to 52 sgr. At destination letter marked in red at bottom for 1 thaler 17 gutegroschen 8 gutepfennig, the equivalent to 41½ ggr.

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(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Creuznach, Prussia to Baltimore, 18 September 1853

Ship: *Humboldt*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 1 October 1853
Arrive: New York, 14 October 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Prussian debit to U.S. in manuscript (over Aachen marking) since rate handstamps not in use yet. Aachen indicated desired steamship service from G.B. to New York with red handstamp "Americ:/Packet" on reverse. Blue ink changes to address not believed to be postal markings.

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Envelope: Buffalo, New York to Murrhardt, Württemberg, 16 January 1854

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Boston, 18 January 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 30 January 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
46¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
1 gulden 30 kreuzer postage due in Murrhardt for double rate

Notes: Buffalo struck blue oval "60" to show unpaid letter rate of 2x30¢ for double rate, Prussian Closed Mail. Aachen marked "2f" in blue ink to show double rate (Zweifach) and "1-30" for 2x45=90 kreuzer postage due or 1 gulden 30 kreuzer. Württemberg restated postage due in red pen, "1 f 30."

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Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Drammen, Norway, 29 March 1854

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 5 April 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 18 April 1854

Rate: 48¢ paid for single rate
25¢ U.S. credit to Prussia

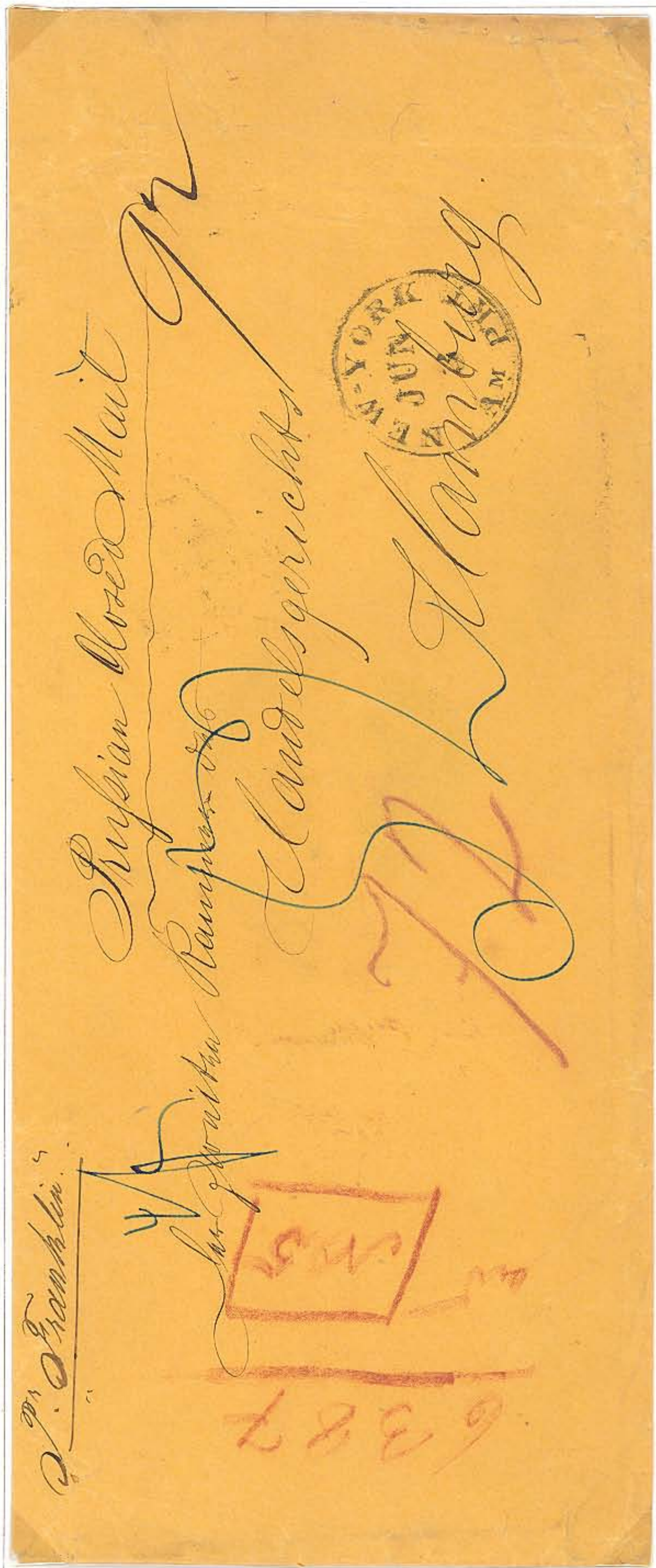
Notes: Letter carried privately from Havana to New York on U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Empire City*. Agent in New York posted letter paying 48¢ rate to Norway by Prussian closed mail. New York credit to Prussia included 7¢ for Prussia under convention plus 18¢ transit beyond Prussia. Aachen marked 6½ silbergroschen paid for postage beyond German-Austrian Postal Union. Scarce prepaid Prussian closed mail letter from U.S. to Norway.

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Envelope: New York to Hamburg, 3 June 1854

Ship: *Franklin*

Company: New York & Havre
Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 3 June 1854
Arrive: Southampton, 15 June 1854

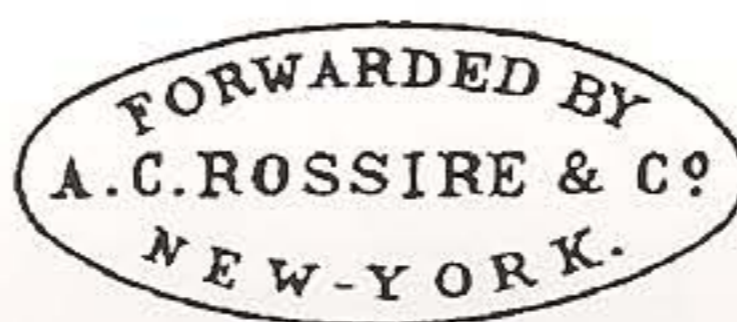
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
92¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
52 sgr. postage due in
Hamburg

Notes: Letter weighed between 1-2 oz. requiring four rates. New York debit was 4 x 23¢ = 92¢. Aachen marked in blue ink, upper left corner, that letter required 4 rates (4f) and that 4 x 13 sgr. = 52 sgr. postage was due. Hamburg converted this to 72 schillinge. Uncommon heavy letter in Prussian closed mail.

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(Red – reverse)



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Copenhagen, Denmark, 11 September 1854

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 20 September 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 1 October 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
65 rigsbank skilling postage due in Copenhagen (manuscript on reverse)

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where forwarding agent, A.C. Rossire & Co. entered letter in the Prussian Closed Mails unpaid. Aachen debited Hamburg 13 silbergroschen. Hamburg debited Royal Danish post office (in Hamburg) 17½ schillinge. Danish post office showed breakdown of total postage due on reverse, 56 rigsbank skilling to Hamburg and 9 rbs. transit to Denmark for a total postage due of 65 rbs.

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Envelope: Buffalo, New York to Murrhardt, Württemberg, 12 September 1854

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 16 September 1854

Arrive: Liverpool, 27 September 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
45 kreuzer postage due in Murrhardt

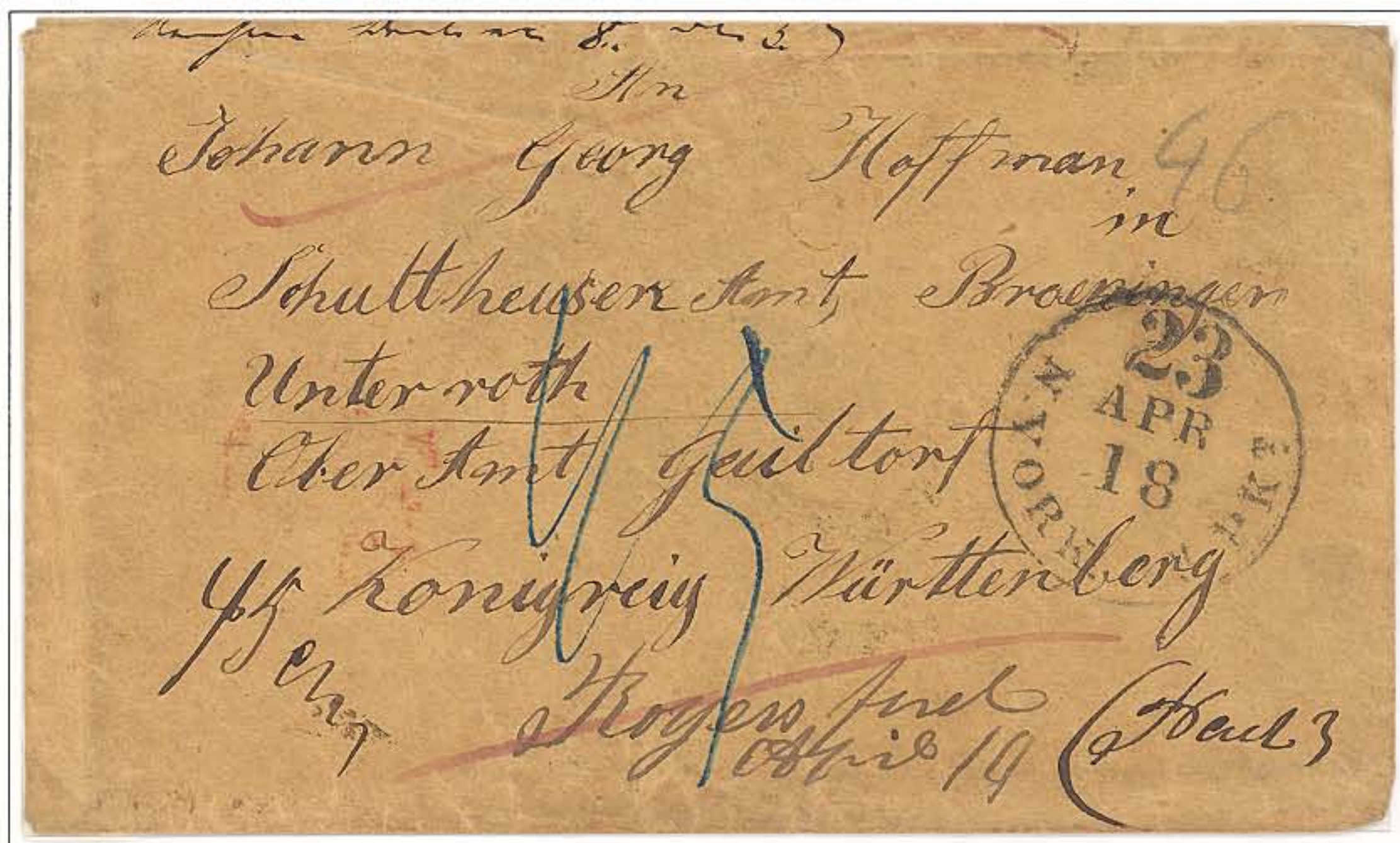
Notes: Buffalo postmaster intended letter to go by Bremen mail at 22¢ rate and struck oval "22" for the unpaid letter rate. Since letter was unpaid and lacked specific routing instructions, New York sent letter in Prussian Closed Mails on next steamer to G.B.

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Royer's Ford 14 (Haud 3)



Envelope: Royer's Ford, Pennsylvania to Schultheusen, Wuerttemberg, 14 April 1855

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 18 April 1855
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 April 1855

Rate: 3¢ prepaid for U.S. inland rate to New York
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
46 kreuzer postage due in Schultheusen

Notes: Royer's Ford was a post village of Montgomery County on the Schuylkill River and on the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad 15 miles W.N.W. of Norristown. The post office name and date were written in manuscript. The 3¢ prepayment was ignored at the New York exchange office since partial payment was not allowed and the letter sent unpaid. One kreuzer local fee was added at Gaildorf, Wuerttemberg for a total postage due of 46 kreuzer.

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Folded Letter: Peoria, Illinois to Schorndorf, Württemberg, 1 July 1855

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 11 July 1855

Arrive: Liverpool, 22 July 1855

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
45 kreuzer postage due in Schorndorf

Notes: New York exchange office ignored prepayment and sent letter unpaid in the Prussian Closed Mails. Aachen marked postage due of 45 kreuzer in the distinctive blue ink used there.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Ashworf, Württemberg, 28 July 1855

Ship: *Arago*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 28 July 1855
Arrive: Southampton, 10 August 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
92¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
3 Gulden postage due in Ashworf

Notes: Letter weighed between 1-2 oz. requiring four rates. Aachen marked in blue that letter required 4 rates and that 3 Gulden ("3 f") postage was due, restated in Württemberg in magenta ink. Uncommon heavy letter in Prussian closed mail.

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Folded Letter: Bremerhaven to Baltimore, 11 November 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 17 November 1855
Arrive: New York, 30 November 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Letter posted in Bremerhaven and sent to Bremen Stadtpost. Bremen marked 2 silbergroschen debit to Aachen for German transit fees. Aachen passed debit on to U.S. as 5¢. New York marked letter for 30¢ postage due.

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Envelope: Atens, Oldenburg to Washington, D.C., 24 February 1856

Ship: *Persia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 8 March 1856
Arrive: New York, 20 March 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Washington, D.C.

Notes: Atens post office marked 2 silbergroschen debit to Aachen for German transit fees. Office entering unpaid letter into German–Austrian Postal Union entitled to transit fees under Prussian convention. Aachen debit to U.S. was equivalent to that transit fee debit. Although year date note shown, 1856 determined to be best fit of sailing data and markings used.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to St. Petersburg, Russia, 1 March 1856

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 1 March 1856
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 March 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
46¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
112 kopecks postage due in St. Petersburg

Notes: Postage due of 112 kopecks marked in magenta pen on the reverse for this double rate letter. This consisted of 2 x 46 = 92 kopecks to cover Prussian debit and 2 x 10 = 20 kopecks Russian internal fees. Aachen marked "24/2" in bright blue ink to show breakdown of Prussian debit to Russia, 24 silbergroschen "foreign" transit and 4 silbergroschen Germany transit. Since 1 silbergroschen Prussian currency was equivalent to 3.25 kopecks Russian currency, the Prussian debit of 28 silbergroschen was equivalent to 92 kopecks.

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AUS RUSSLAND
FRANCO



Folded Letter: St. Petersburg, Russia to Naugatuck, Connecticut, 12 July 1856

Ship: *Arabia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 July 1856
Arrive: Boston, 30 July 1856

Rate: 56 kopeks prepaid for single rate (not shown)
25¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Letter originated on 30 June 1856 (Julian calendar in Russia, 12 days behind Gregorian calendar used in West). Prepayment based on postage due of unpaid letters to Russia by the same route. This also checks with known transit fees within Russia and Prussian accounting in manuscript on the reverse. Boxed AUS RUSSLAND/FRANCO struck on Bromberg-Berlin railroad. Prussia showed breakdown of prepayment on reverse, 11 silbergroschen "foreign" and 3 silbergroschen transit from Russia. Aachen credited 25¢ to U.S. Boston restated basic Prussian closed mail fee of 30¢ was paid.

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(Reverse)



Envelope: Boston to Dresden, Saxony, 22 October 1856

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 22 October 1856
Arrive: Liverpool, 2 November 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
13 silbergroschen postage due in Dresden

Notes: Boston exchange office used two separate handstamps to show debit (large black "23" in upper right) and packet service (BOSTON BR-PKT. circular datestamp on reverse), whereas New York combined these two into one handstamp.

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Folded Letter: New York to Copenhagen, Denmark, 18 November 1856

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Boston, 19 November 1856
Arrive: Liverpool, 1 December 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
65 rigsbank skilling postage due in Copenhagen (manuscript on reverse)

Notes: Prussian post office at Aachen marked 13 silbergroschen debit to Hamburg post office, which was restated by the Hamburg Statdpost as 17½ schillinge debit to the Royal Danish post office in Hamburg. Postage due on reverse showed breakdown of transit fees, 56 rigsbank skilling to Hamburg and 9 rigsbank skilling for transit fees from Hamburg to Copenhagen.

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Am Bestimmungsorte
nicht abgefordert

(Red – reverse)



Folded Letter: Plochingen, Württemberg to Cleveland, Ohio, 27 December 1856

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Southampton, 31 December 1856
Arrive: New York, 20 January 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Cleveland
45 kreuzer postage due when letter returned to Plochingen

Notes: Letter advertised in Cleveland on 31 May 1857 with no success. Cleveland modified circular datestamp, no longer in use, by removing postage due numeral along with bottom rim and used marking on reverse to show when letter returned to New York for trans-mission back to Germany. First reported use of this modified marking. Red boxed "Am Bestimmungsorte/nicht abgefordert" struck at Aachen to explain why letter returned, "not called for at destination."

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Envelope: St. Petersburg, Russia to Washington, D.C., 3 January 1857

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 24 January 1857
Arrive: New York, 6 February 1857

Rate: 112 kopeks prepaid for double rate (not shown)
50¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Prepayment estimated based on postage due on unpaid letters to Russia by the same route. This also checks with known transit fees within Russia and Prussian accounting in manuscript on the reverse. Prussia showed breakdown of Prussian fees of $2 \times 11 = 22$ silbergroschen "foreign" and $2 \times 3 = 6$ silbergroschen transit fees from Russia. Aachen credited $2 \times 25 = 50$ ¢ to U.S. New York restated the basic Prussian Closed Mail fee of $2 \times 30 = 60$ ¢ was paid.

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Envelope: Salder, Brunswick to Baltimore, 4 April 1857

Ship: *Fulton*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 8 April 1857
Arrive: New York, 21 April 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
60¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: New York exchange office correctly marked letter for 30¢ postage due, the single treaty rate. Postal clerk in Baltimore thought the large blue pencil "2" (marked by Brunswick as a debit to Prussia for internal German transit) meant that the letter was a double rate and overstruck the "3" in the New York marking with a blue handstamp numeral "6," changing the postage due to 60¢. Unusual and unauthorized re-rating.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Hamburg to New York, 18 April 1857

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 25 April 1857
Arrive: Boston, 7 May 1857

Rate: 36 schillings prepaid for double rate
50¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Prepayment in pencil lower left. Aachen showed 2x11 = 22 silbergroschen statement of "foreign" postages paid and marked 50¢ credit to U.S. Boston marked statement of postage paid as 45¢ in error and corrected with 60¢ circular datestamp. Letter contained a bill of lading for a shipment of merchandise. The handstamp of the Boston Customs House in red has been struck inside showing the date the goods were cleared through customs. Covers containing the Custom House markings are uncommon.

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Envelope: Cincinnati, Ohio, to Eberdingen, Württemberg, 1 May 1857

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Boston, 6 May 1857
Arrive: Liverpool, 17 May 1857

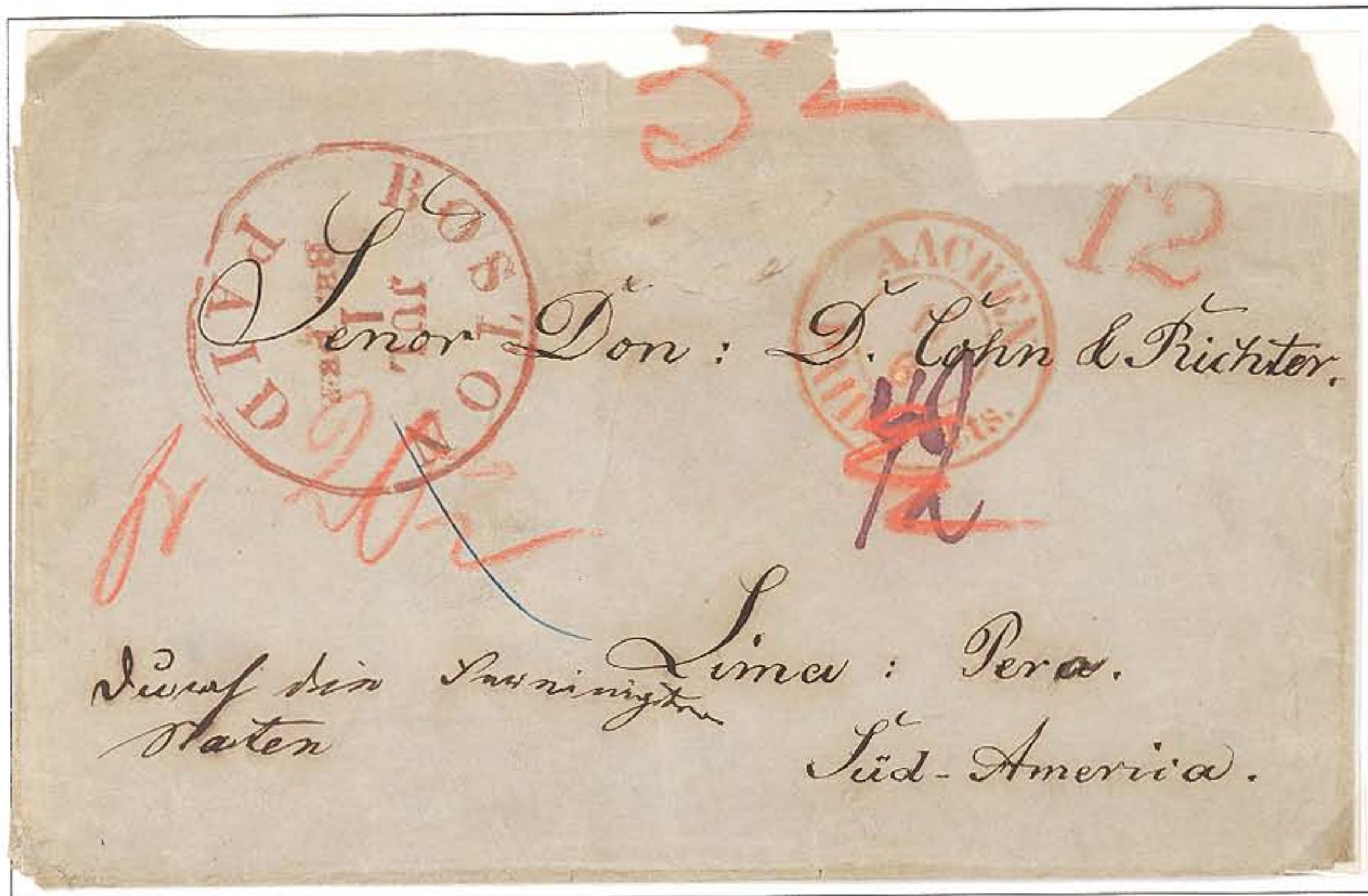
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
46¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
1 fl 30 kr postage due at Eberdingen

Notes: Letter sent in preprinted envelope from C.F. Adae, the Württemberg Consul in Cincinnati. Unpaid letter rate of 2 x 30¢ = 60¢ marked at Cincinnati in pen just under the envelope's printed routing instructions. New York debited 2 x 23¢ = 46¢ to Prussia. Aachen marked letter required two rates ("2f" in blue ink, upper left, means "zweifach") and 2 x 45 kreuzer = 90 kreuzer (1 florin 30 kreuzer) postage due.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Prussia to Lima, Peru, June 1857

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 June 1857
Arrive: Boston, 1 July 1857

Rate: 20½ silbergroschen paid for single rate via U.S.
42¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Damaged outer sheet of letter from unknown origin in Prussia to Peru by Prussian closed mail via the U.S., a 47¢ rate. Aachen marked 42¢ credit to U.S. in magenta ink at the bottom of the Aachen PAID datestamp with a blank to write in the credit. Boston crossed thru this credit marking and marked 52¢ credit at top. This was in error and did not reflect the reduction in the total rate from Prussia when the U.S. reduced its transit fee to Peru from 32¢ to 22¢ in December 1856. The Aachen credit was correct. New York marked a 12¢ credit to U.K. for the transit fee from Panama City to Peru by British contract steamer. Although this is a damaged piece, it is the only cover that I have recorded by Prussian closed mail to Peru via the U.S.

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Folded Letter: Creuznach, Prussia to Baltimore, 6 August 1857

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Southampton, 12 August 1857
Arrive: New York, 24 August 1857

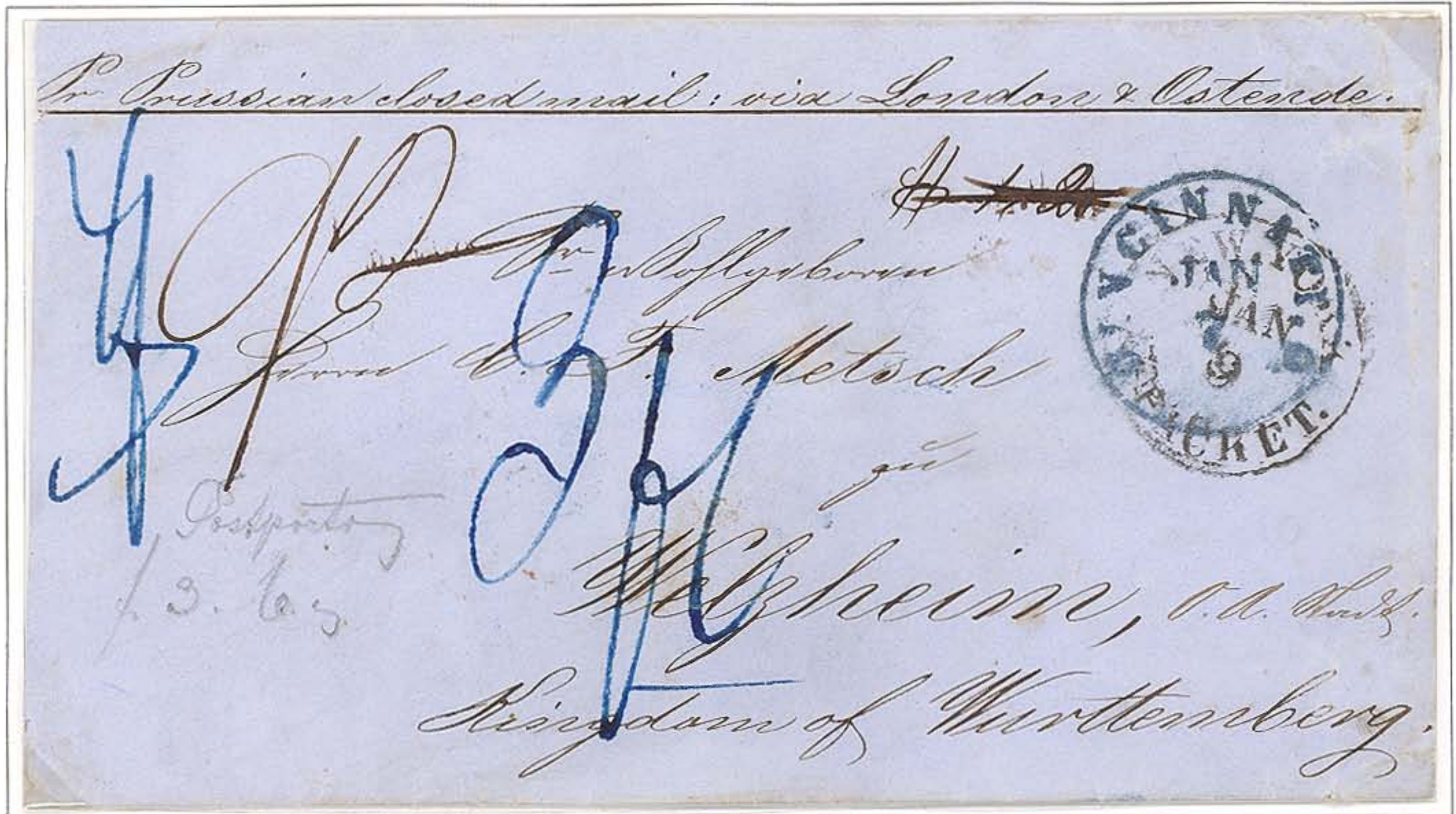
Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Because Prussian mails were sent in closed mail bags from Aachen to New York, there were no markings of either Belgium or G.B. through which the mails passed.

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Envelope: Cincinnati, Ohio, to Welzheim, Württemberg, 7 January 1858

Ship: Arago

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 9 January 1858
Arrive: Southampton, 21 January 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
92¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
3fl6pf postage due in Welzheim

Notes: Heavy letter weighing between 1-2 ounces and requiring four rates sent unpaid in Prussian closed mail. Unpaid letter rate of 4 x 30¢ = \$1.20 written upper right at Cincinnati. New York crossed this out and marked 4 x 23¢ = 92¢ debit against Prussia. Prussia marked letter required four rates (4f = vierfach) and 4 x 30 kreuzer = 120 kreuzer or 3 florin postage due. Württemberg marked 3 florin 6 pfennige due from addressee ("Postporto f3 6pf" in pencil, lower left), adding a local fee.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Stockholm, Sweden, 1 June 1858

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 2 June 1858
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 June 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
1r6sk postage due in Stockholm

Notes: New York made up mails on day before Boston sailing. Prussia debited Hamburg 13 silbergroschen (large blue "13") for transit fees that had to be collected from the Danish and Swedish post offices both of which put datestamps on the reverse. The small blue "13" (upper left) was a restatement of the debit by one of those offices. Sweden marked the letter for postage due of 1 rigsdaler 6 skilling banco. (13 sgr. = 39 sk.bco. owed to Prussians plus 15 sk.bco. transit to Sweden = 54 sk.bco. = 1R 6sk.bco.

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Envelope: Sande, Oldenburg to Marthasville, Missouri, 2 August 1858

Ship: *Arabia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 7 August 1858
Arrive: New York, 20 August 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Marthasville

Notes: Year determined by sailing tables and dates that Augustus F. Grabs was postmaster of Marthasville. Oldenburg marked 2 silbergroschen (black pencil) debit to Prussia for German transit since origin location entitled to German transit fees on unpaid letters.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: New Orleans to Vienna, Austria, 16 August 1858

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 25 August 1858
Arrive: Liverpool, 4 September 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
38 kreuzer (A) postage due in Vienna

Notes: Boston exchange office used two separate handstamps to show debit (large black "23" in upper right) and packet service (BOSTON B^R PK^T circular datestamp on reverse), whereas New York combined these two into one handstamp. New Orleans marked unpaid letter rate of 30¢ to show desired mail service. Aachen marked postage due in Austria of 38 Austrian kreuzer. Red crayon marking not postal.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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1852–1868
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Envelope: Sande, Oldenburg to Marthasville, Missouri, 10 September 1858

Ship: *Arabia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 18 September 1858
Arrive: New York, 29 September 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Marthasville

Notes: Year determined by sailing tables and dates that Augustus F. Grabs was postmaster of Marthasville. Oldenburg marked 2 silbergroschen (black pencil upper left) debit to Prussia for German transit since origin location entitled to German transit fees on unpaid letters. Transit fee restated by Prussians (blue ink on left side) when letter handled on Berlin–Minden railroad (date–stamp on reverse).

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Envelope: Evansville, Indiana, to Freiberg,
Saxony. 17 June 1859

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 22 June 1859
Arrive: Liverpool, 4 July 1859

Rate: \$1.50 paid for five rates
35¢ U.S. credit to Prussia
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
13 sgr. postage due in
Freiberg

Notes: Letter weighed between 2-2½
oz. By the Prussian convention, this meant six
rates, but only five rates were paid (5 x 30¢ =
\$1.50). Under the convention New York could
allow the partial payment and credited Prussia
5 x 7¢ = 35¢. For one unpaid rate, New York
debited Prussia 23¢. Aachen marked in blue
ink "6f" for six rates and 13 sgr. postage due,
the remaining one unpaid rate. Uncommon
heavy letter in Prussian closed mail and rare
partially paid letter under the convention.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

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Envelope: Philadelphia to Gaildorf, Würtemberg, 15 July 1859

Ship: *Vanderbilt*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: New York, 16 July 1859
Arrive: Southampton, 27 July 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
46 kreuzer postage due in Gaildorf

Notes: Philadelphia indicated unpaid letter rate of 30¢ with black circle "30." To prevent mistakes at the exchange offices, the public was encouraged to indicate the desired routing to overseas destinations on their letters. Transmission by Prussian Closed Mail via England was endorsed on this letter. One kreuzer local fee was added in Gaildorf for transit to the local village of the addressee which had no post office.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852

British Contract Steamship

1852–1868

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Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 28 December 1859

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 1 January 1860

Arrive: Boston, 16 January 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Hamburg two-lined datestamp used at the Hamburg State post office, one of several post offices (mostly foreign) maintained in that city-state. This attractive marking, sometimes called the "butterfly" or "fleuron" marking was introduced in 1824 and remained in use until 1860. It is a common marking. Hamburg marked 2 silber-groschen (blue crayon) debit to Prussia as the GAPU transit postage belonged to Hamburg.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852
British Contract Steamship

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Folded Letter: New York to Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 February 1860

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Boston, 8 February 1860
Arrive: Queenstown, 20 February 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
65 rigsbank skilling postage due in Copenhagen (manuscript on reverse)

Notes: Prussian exchange office at Aachen debited Hamburg 13 silbergroschen. Hamburg debited Royal Danish post office (in Hamburg) 17½ schillinge. Danish post office showed breakdown of total postage due on reverse, 56 rigsbank skilling to Hamburg and 9 rbs. transit fee to Denmark for a total postage due of 65 rbs.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
British Contract Steamship

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16 October 1852–31 December 1867



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Bretzfeld, Württemberg to Columbus, Ohio, 10 December 1860

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 16 December 1860
Arrive: Boston, 26 December 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in Columbus

Notes: Letter not called for in Columbus and later returned to Germany. Aachen marked boxed "Am Bestimmungsorte/nicht abgefordert" on reverse to explain why letter returned (it was not called for at destination). Letter opened to determine return address, marked in magenta ink on reverse. Return addressee charged 45 kreuzer postage due.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852
British Contract Steamship

1852-1868
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(Magenta - reverse)



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to St. Petersburg, Russia, 2 April 1861

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Boston, 3 April 1861
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 April 1861

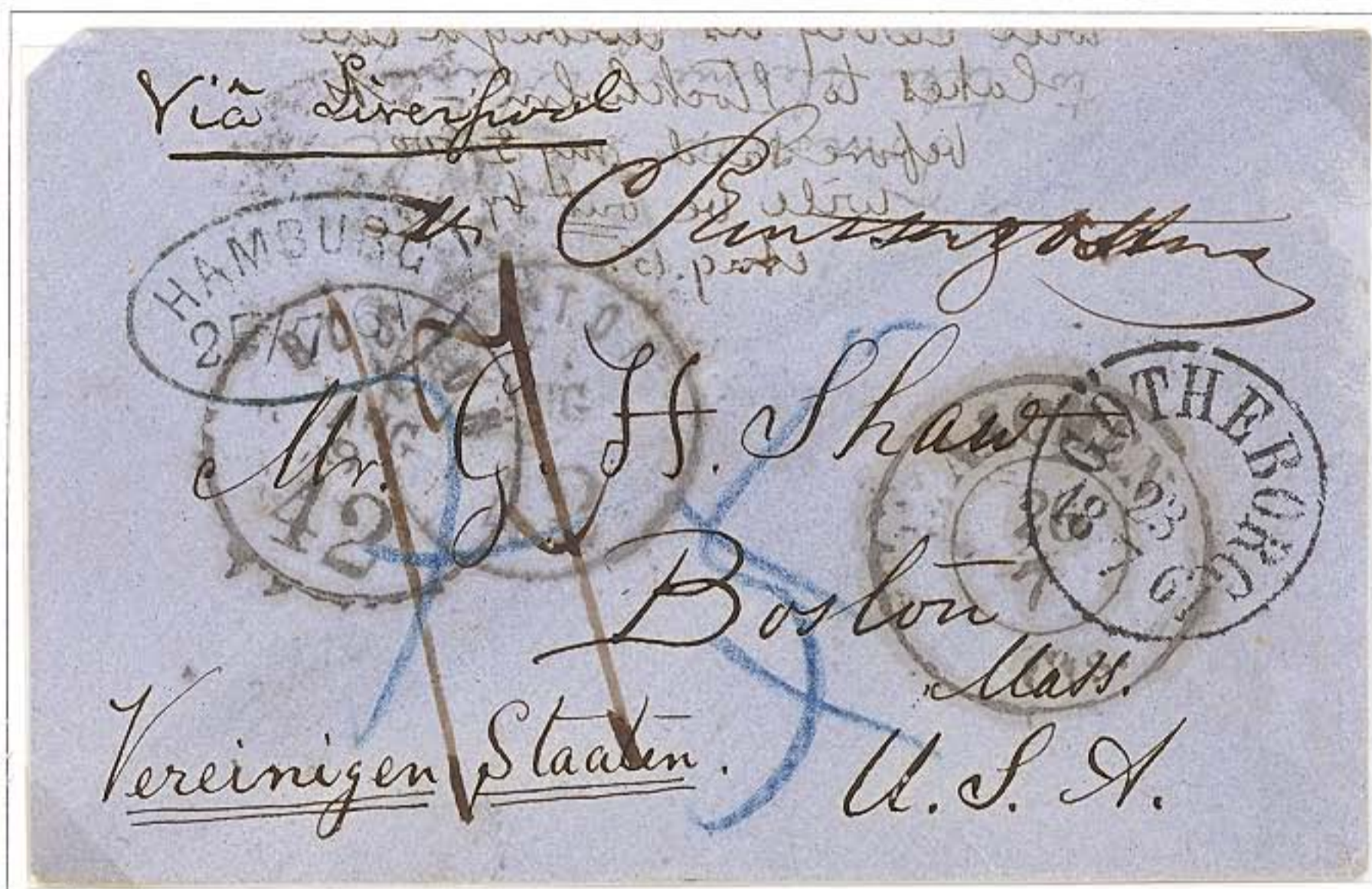
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
56 kopecks postage due in St. Petersburg (manuscript on reverse)

Notes: Postage due consisted of 46 kopecks to Prussia for transit fee and 10 kopecks Russian internal fee. Aachen marked "12/2" in bright blue ink to show breakdown of Prussian debit to Russia, 12 silbergroschen "foreign" transit and 2 silbergroschen German transit.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852
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1852-1868
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Envelope: Göteborg, Sweden, to Boston, 23 July 1861

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 28 July 1861
Arrive: Boston, 9 August 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
17¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
42¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: Letter sent unpaid via Denmark and Hamburg to Prussian exchange office of Aachen. Danish post office debited Hamburg 5 sgr. for transit from Sweden (2½ sgr. for Sweden and 2½ sgr. for Denmark). Hamburg debited Prussia 7 sgr., adding 2 sgr. German transit fee. This amount equated to 17¢ debit to the U.S. Boston marked 42¢ postage due, the unpaid rate from Sweden by Prussian closed mail.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Envelope: Christiansand, Norway to Roxbury, Connecticut, 6 September 1861

Ship: *City of New York*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 12 September 1861
Arrive: New York, 24 September 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
21¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
49¢ postage due in Roxbury

Notes: Royal Danish post office in Hamburg debited Hamburg 6 silbergroschen for transit fees from Norway (16 skilling specie). Hamburg post office restated this debit to Prussia as 8 schillinge and Prussia debited U.S. 21¢. Roxbury, a small post town in western Connecticut, added 3¢ U.S. internal postage to the 46¢ postage due marked at New York. The reason for the added 3¢ is not known, but may have been a mistake made at Roxbury.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
American Contract Steamship

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Folded Letter: Meerane, Saxony to New York, 12 September 1861

Ship: *Fulton*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 18 September 1861
Arrive: New York, 3 October 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in New York

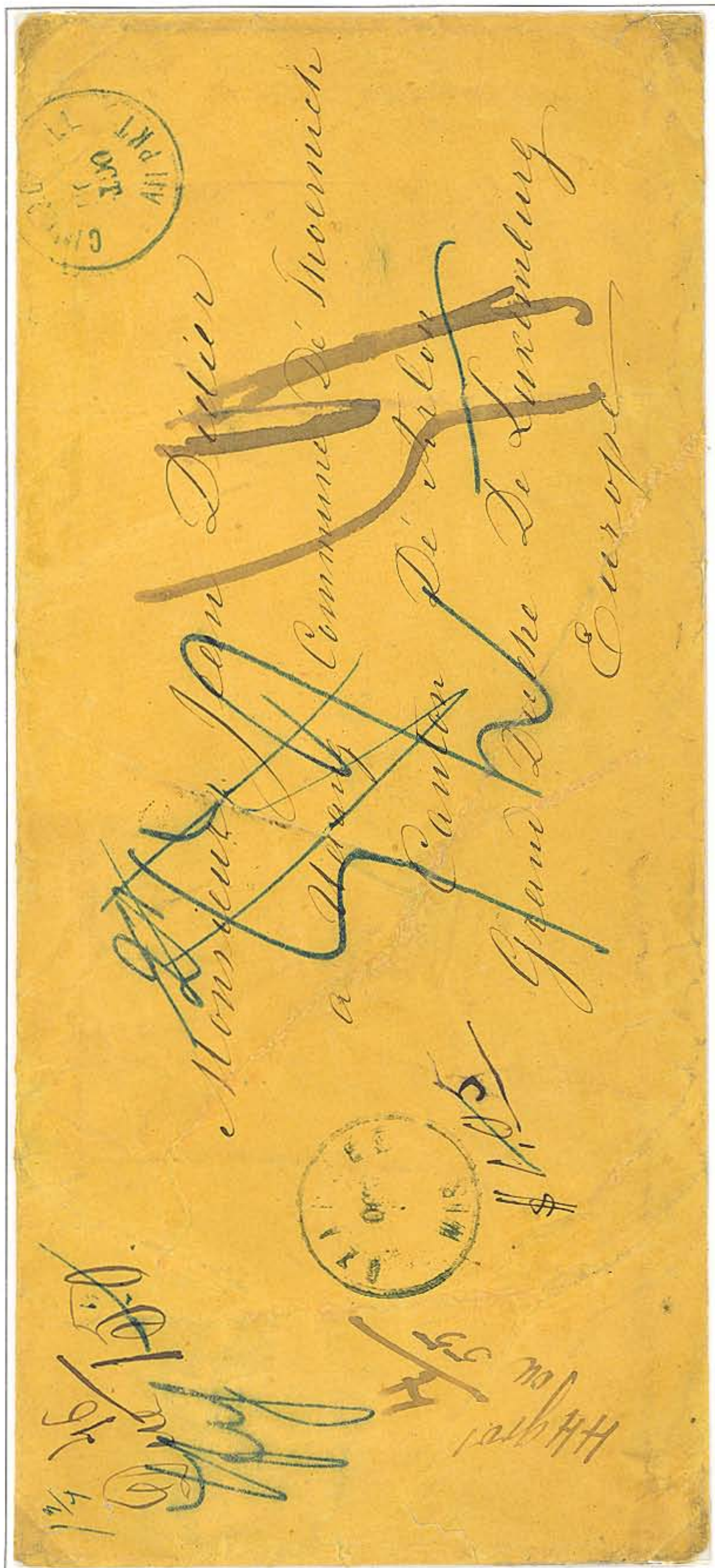
Notes: New York introduced the smaller, 26 mm. circular datestamps in late 1859 – early 1860. By the Spring of 1861, the "AACHEN 5Cts." circular datestamp developed a break in the outer rim at about the 8 o'clock position.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

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Envelope: Ozaukee, Wisconsin, to
Arlon, Belgium, 9 October 1861

Ship: *Bohemian*
Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship
Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Quebec, 12 October 1861
Arrive: Londonderry, 23 October 1861

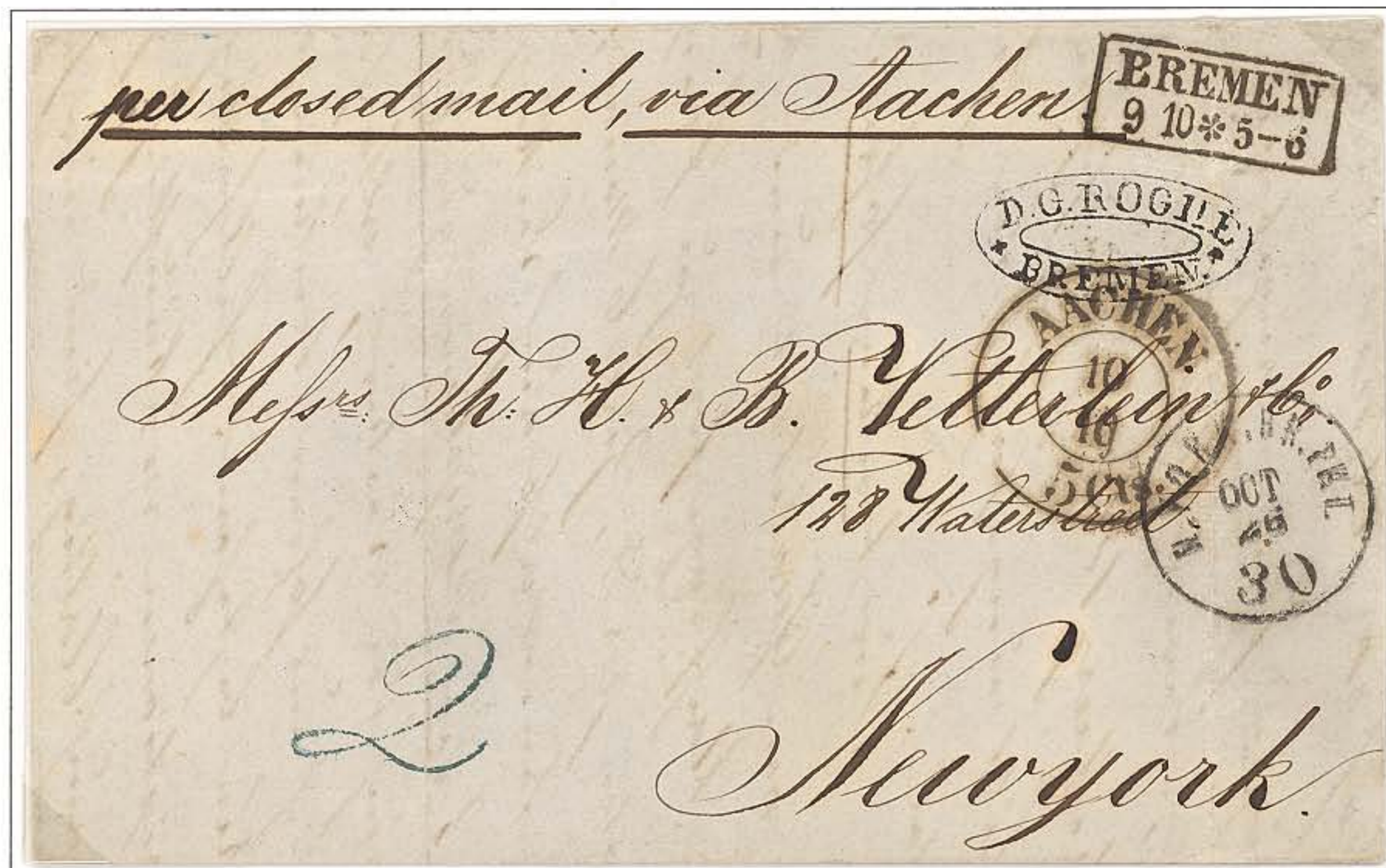
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
59 decimes due in Arlon

Notes: Sender thought Arlon (border office with Luxemburg) was in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, but it was in Luxembour province of Belgium since 1839. He indicated 5 rates by Prussian closed mail (PCM) as the unpaid letter rate, 5x30¢=\$1.50. There was a published PCM rate to Luxemburg but not to Belgium. The Chicago exchange office clerk planned to place letter in French mail bag to Germany at 5x21¢=\$1.05 unpaid rate. No U.S. debit to either France or Prussia was indicated on the cover. He put the letter PCM bag and not the French mail bag. The Aachen exchange office clerk understood the letter was going to Belgium, marked 1¾ loth weight and 4 rates due. On the reverse he wrote "44 ausl P." indicating 44 sgr., the unpaid international rate, was due to Prussia. This was equivalent to 55 decimes Belgium currency to which was added 4 decimes internal postage. The total postage due at Arlon was marked by the Belgians as 59 decimes. Only letter recorded to Belgium sent in the Prussian closed mail.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: Bremen to New York, 9 October 1861

Ship: Africa
Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)
Depart: Queenstown, 14 October 1861
Arrive: New York, 25 October 1861
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Bremen post office used blue handstamp "2" to show GAPU transit fee of 2 silbergroschen belonged to Bremen. This is an uncommon marking with few examples recorded. Note also the break in the rim of the Aachen cds.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: New York to Leipzig, Saxony, 11 February 1862

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 12 February 1862
Arrive: Queenstown, 23 February 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
13 silbergroschen postage due in Leipzig

Notes: U.S. debit included not only U.S. inland postage but also sea and British transit fees which the U.S. was required to pay to G.B. Transit through Belgium was paid for by the British.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Nürnberg, Bavaria to New York, 6 April 1863

Ship: *Jura*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 10 April 1863
Arrive: Portland, 21 April 1863

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
10¢ Prussian debit to U.S.
60¢ postage due in New York for double rate

Notes: Bavaria showed 2x2 =4 silbergroschen debit to Prussia for GAPU transit fees owed to Bavaria. Letter in closed mail bag to New York arriving just a few days before depreciated currency rates placed into effect on 1 May 1863 in New York. Uncommon Prussian Closed Mail by Allan Line steamer.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: Frankfurt am Main to Ebenezer, New York, 18 July 1863

Ship: *America*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 22 July 1863
Arrive: New York, 2 August 1863

Rate: 41 kreuzer prepaid for single treaty rate
23¢ Prussian credit to U.S.

Notes: In May 1862, prepaid letters to or from the German States served by the Thurn & Taxis Post were reduced from 30¢ to 28¢ (41 kreuzer). Breakdown of prepayment shown in magenta ink, lower left, 6 kreuzer internal and 35 kreuzer "foreign" fees. Aachen reduced the credit to the U.S. to 23¢ from 25¢. New York showed the letter prepaid 28¢.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: New York to Bremen, 3 November 1863

Ship: *Scotia*

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

Depart: New York, 4 November 1863
Arrive: Queenstown, 13 November 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
29 grote postage due in Bremen

Notes: Letter endorsed to be carried by the Cunard Line steamer *Persia*, but actually travelled on the *Scotia*. Prussian Closed Mail endorsement also ensured letter went at 30¢ rate.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

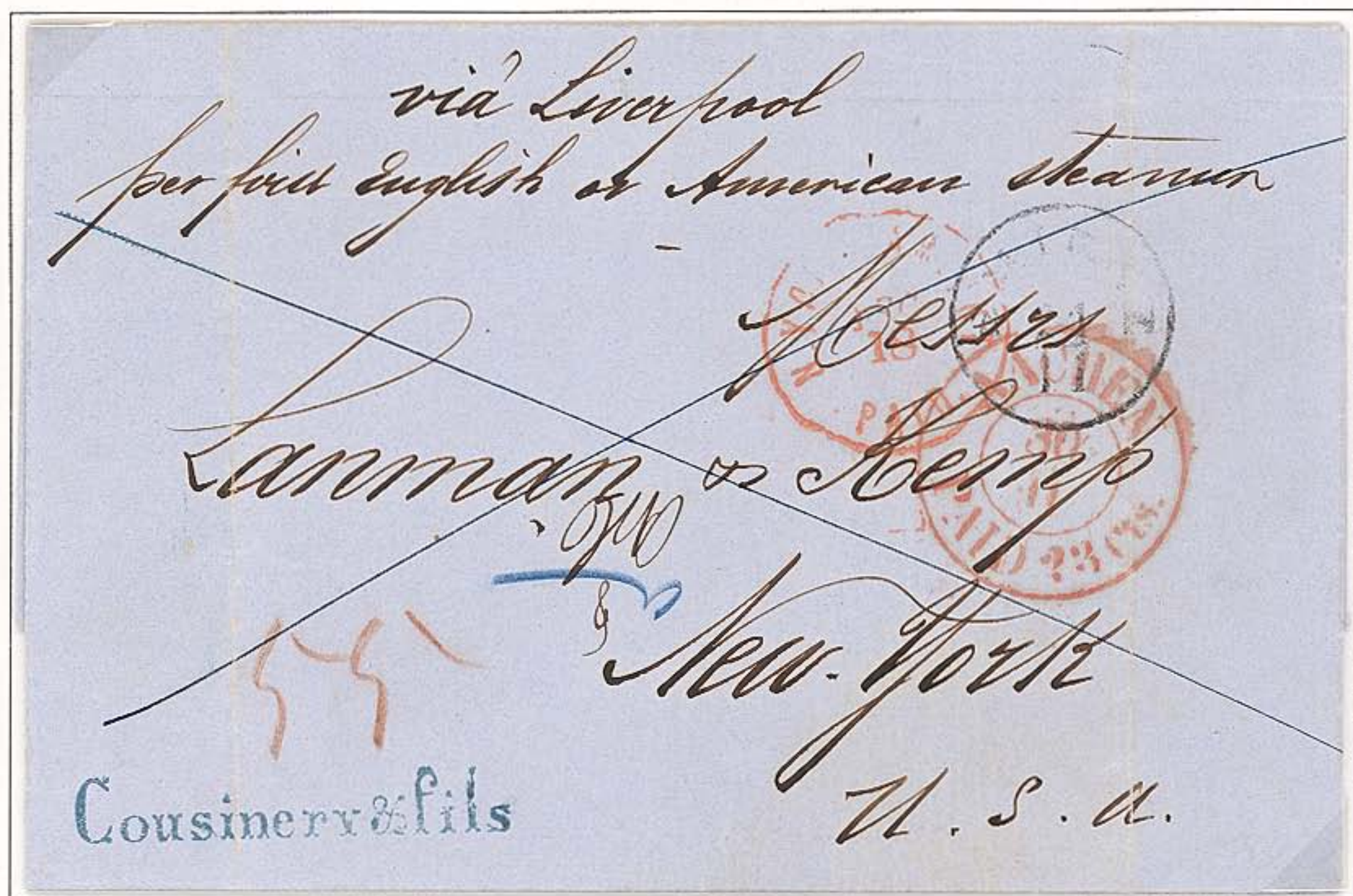
U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
American Contract Steamship

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16 October 1852–31 December 1867

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65

(Blue – reverse)



Folded Letter: Smyrna, Turkey to New York, 21 November 1863

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 3 December 1863
Arrive: New York, 18 December 1863

Rate: 85 neukreuzer prepaid for all transit fees (manuscript on reverse)
23¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Breakdown of prepayment written on reverse, 20 neukreuzer for transit to Austria and 65 neukreuzer for transit fees to destination in U.S. This was the old rate and doesn't reflect the reduction in May 1863 for prepaid letters to 80 neukreuzer. Austria credited 55 neukreuzer to Prussia for international transit fee. Criss-cross across letter face in blue ink indicated letter fully paid.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

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British Contract Steamship

1852–1868
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Folded Letter: Bremen to New York, 23 August 1865

Ship: *Scotia*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 27 August 1865

Arrive: New York, 5 September 1865

Rate: 28 grote prepaid for single treaty rate
23¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Prussia showed international rate of 10 silbergroschen was prepaid by blue crayon marking alongside the handstamp "FRANCO" marked by Bremen in lower left.

U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

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Envelope: Washington, D.C., to Ystad, Sweden, 17 March 1866

Ship: *Java*

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

Depart: New York, 21 March 1866
Arrive: Queenstown, 31 March 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
23¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
153 öre postage due at Ystad

Notes: Unpaid single letter rate of 38¢ marked in upper right corner at Washington, D.C. for letter sent to Sweden in Prussian closed mail. New York marked 23¢ debit to Prussia. Aachen marked 11 silbergroschen (sgr.) on reverse to show unpaid "foreign" transit fees and 14¼ sgr. debit to Sweden for all transit fees owed to Prussia. Prussia had added 3¼ sgr. for unpaid letter transit to Sweden. Sweden added 2¾ sgr. for Sweden's share of the transit fees to destination for a total of 17 sgr., which was equivalent to 153 öre Swedish currency. Uncommon cover to Sweden by Prussian closed mail.

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1852-1868

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Envelope: Boston, Massachusetts, to Ystad, Sweden, 1 May 1866

Ship: *Persia*

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

Depart: New York, 2 May 1866
Arrive: Queenstown, 11 May 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
46¢ U.S. debit to Prussia
306 öre postage due at Ystad

Notes: Double-rate letter sent unpaid in the Prussian closed mail to Germany. Boston marked 2 x 23¢ = 46¢ debit to Prussia. Aachen marked 2 x 11 silbergroschen (sgr.) = 22 sgr. on reverse to show unpaid "foreign" transit fees and 2 x 14¼ sgr. = 28½ sgr. debit to Sweden for all transit fees owed to Prussia. Prussia had added 2 x 2¾ sgr. = 6½ sgr. for unpaid letter transit to Sweden. Sweden added 2 x 2¾ sgr. = 5½ sgr. for Sweden's share of the transit fees to destination for a total of 34 sgr., which was equivalent to 306 öre Swedish currency. Uncommon cover to Sweden by Prussian closed mail.

U.S. – Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.–Prussia Treaty of 1852
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Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 11 September 1867

Ship: *Java*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 15 September 1867
Arrive: New York, 25 September 1867

Rate: 32 schillinge prepaid for double rate
46¢ Prussia credit to U.S.

Notes: Hamburg marked red P.D handstamp in an oval, upper right. Aachen showed the prepaid double international fee, 2x10 = 20 silbergroschen in the lower left after crossing out the Hamburg statement of the prepayment.