

U.S. – Belgium Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
British Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 Jul 75–1 Apr 79



Envelope: Brussels to Derby, Connecticut, 3 April 1876

Ship: *Celtic*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 7 April 1876
Arrive: New York, 15 April 1876

Rate: 25 centimes prepaid for single convention rate

Notes: Belgium was one of the original 21 countries to sign the Berne Treaty of 1874. The General Postal Union, which resulted from this treaty, instituted uniform rates between member countries effective 1 July 1875. The 25 centimes uniform rate was prepaid with a 25 centimes 1875 adhesive, Scott No. 37.

U.S. – Belgium Postal Treaties

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

1870–1873
15 Mar 70–1 Jul 73



Folded Letter: Grez-Dolceau, Belgium to New York, 18 December 1871

Ship: *Weser II*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 21 December 1871
Arrive: New York, 4 January 1872

Rate: 50 centimes prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid 50 centimes with a 20 centimes and 30 centimes 1870 adhesive (Scott Nos. 33,34) for the closed mail rate via G.B., equivalent to 10¢ rate from the U.S. by the same route. Contrary to the endorsement for a direct route, no direct route steamship service existed at this time.

U.S. – Belgium Postal Treaties

U.S.–Belgium Treaty of 1870

Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870–1873

15 Mar 70–1 Jul 73



Folded Letter: Antwerp to Philadelphia, 14 December 1872

Ship: *Rhein*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 18 December 1872
Arrive: New York, 30 December 1872

Rate: 60 centimes prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid 60 centimes with two 30 centimes 1870 adhesives (Scott No. 34), a ten centime overpayment of the 50 centime closed mail rate via G.B. Because Philadelphia was not an exchange office under this convention, the letter was placed in a closed mail bag to New York, where it was marked PAID ALL.

U.S. - Belgium Postal Treaties

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

1870-1873
15 Mar 70-1 Jul 73

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Folded Letter: Antwerp to New York, 14 March 1873

Ship: *Abyssinia*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 16 March 1873
Arrive: New York, 26 March 1873

Rate: 70 centimes prepaid for single rate
40 centimes Belgium credit to France
2¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Letter prepaid with two 20 centimes and one 30 centimes 1870 adhesives, Scott Nos. 33, 34, for the open mail rate via Calais and G.B. Antwerp credited 40 centimes of the prepayment to France, marked in red crayon on the letter face. Since France had no convention at the time with the U.S. the letter was sent in the open mails to G.B. London credited U.S. with 2¢ under the U.S.-G.B. Treaty of 1869. Scarce routing since a less expensive route was available by U.S.-Belgium Treaty.

U.S. – Belgium Postal Treaties

U.S.–Belgium Treaty of 1873
Contract Steamship via G.B.

1873–1875
1 Jul 73–1 Jul 75



Folded Letter: Antwerp to New York, 5 June 1874

Ship:	<i>Abyssinia</i>	
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)	
Depart:	Queenstown, 7 June 1874	
Arrive:	New York, 17 June 1874	
Rate:	40 centimes	prepaid for single treaty rate
Notes:	Letter prepaid with a 40 centimes 1870 adhesive, Scott No. 35, for the closed mail rate via England.	