

# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Sailing ship

Prior to 1 Jun 57



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 28 April 1843

Ship: *Marianna*

Company: Unknown

Depart: New York, ~3 May 1843

Arrive: Hamburg, 3 June 1843

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
4½ silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately on sailing ship *Marianna* (Captain Coffin) from New York to Hamburg, where it was posted at the Prussian post office in Hamburg on 6 June 1843. Prussians marked 4½ silbergroschen due at Berlin.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Envelope: New York to Bernhausen, Württemberg, 1 September 1857

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: New York, 1 September 1857  
Arrive: Hamburg, 16 September 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
5¢ U.S. debit to Hamburg  
33 kreuzer postage due in Bernhausen

Notes: The Hamburg Thurn & Taxis post office marked letter for  $6\frac{3}{4}$  silbergroschen (15¢ equivalent) international rate plus 9 kreuzer for transit fee to Württemberg. The international rate for those States who did not reduce their transit fee to Bremen or Hamburg to 5¢ was 15¢ vice 10¢. Since  $6\frac{3}{4}$  sgr. was equal to 24 kreuzer, the total postage due was 33 kreuzer. Covers showing this rate by Hamburg packet are uncommon as the rate was in effect for only 20 months after the Hamburg Treaty went into effect.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63



Envelope: New York to Thalheim, Württemberg, 1 March 1858

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: New York, 1 March 1858  
Arrive: Hamburg, 16 March 1858

Rate: 22¢ prepaid for single rate to Württemberg  
17¢ U.S. credit to Hamburg

Notes: Pencil marks across left center of envelope show prepayment of 22¢ at New York post office. Usually, no other more formal markings were shown. Despite routing instruction "Per Closed Prussian mail," letter was prepaid 22¢ vice 30¢ and sent in Hamburg mails. Covers showing the 22¢ rate under the U.S.-Hamburg Treaty are not common and prepaid ones scarce. Less than five examples of this New York credit marking have been recorded.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63



Envelope: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Schwaith, Württemberg, 14 April 1859

Ship: *Hammonia*

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

Depart: New York, 15 April 1859

Arrive: Hamburg, 1 May 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ U.S. debit to Hamburg  
1fl6 kr postage due in Schwaith

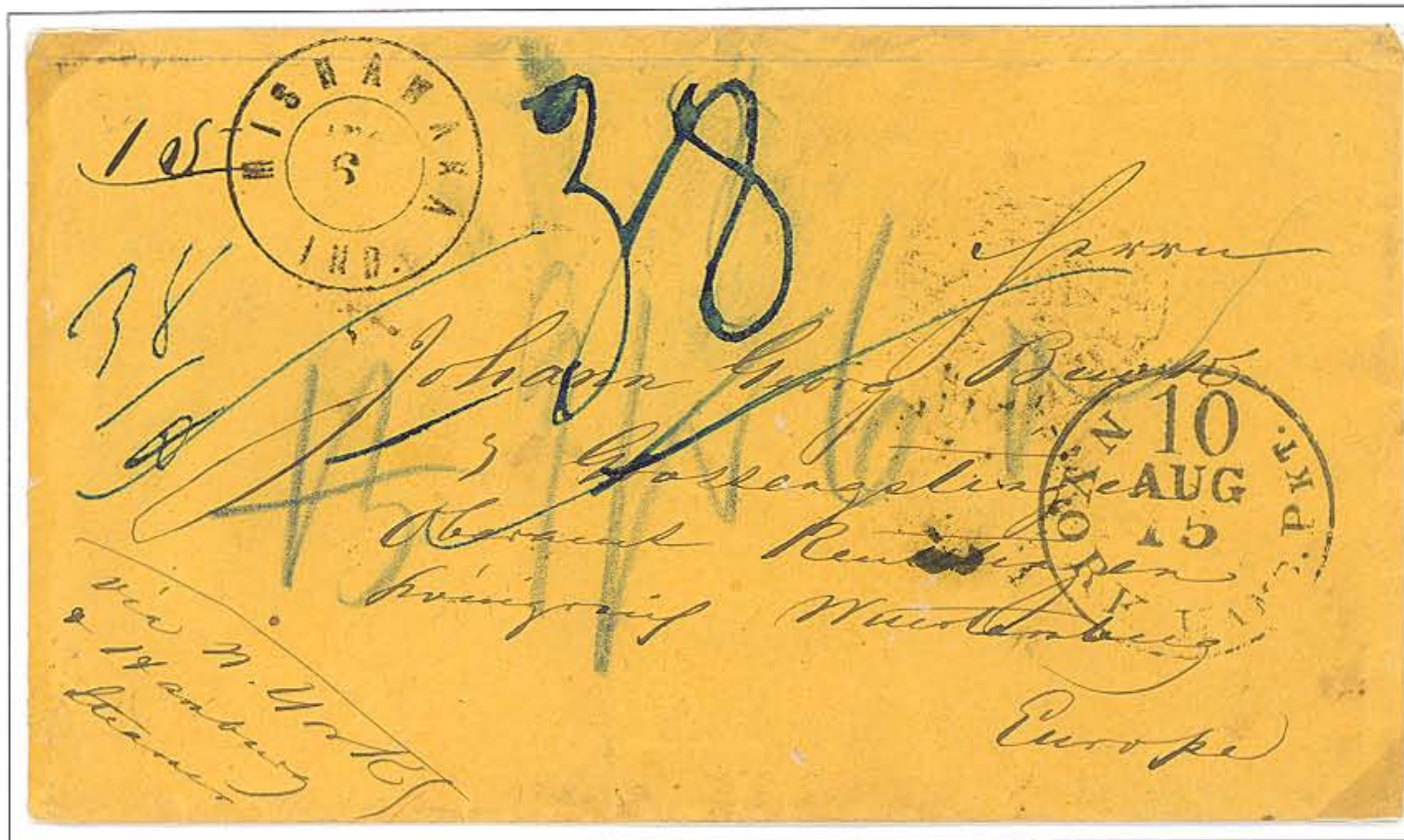
Notes: At Philadelphia the unpaid letter rate of 2 x 15¢ = 30¢ was marked for a letter weighing between ½ - 1 ounce. New York debited Hamburg 2 x 5¢ = 10¢ in the exchange office datestamp. The Hamburg Thurn & Taxis post office marked letter in blue crayon for double postage due, 2 x 4½ sgr. international fee plus 2 x 6 kr = 12 kr transit fee to Württemberg (equivalent to 44 kr). At Frankfurt letter considered to require three full rates, 3 x 22 kr = 66 kr and was marked for 1 fl 6 kr postage due. Scarce rate combination.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63



Envelope: Mishawaka, Indiana, to Gross Engstingen, Württemberg, 6 August 1859

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: New York, 15 August 1859  
Arrive: Hamburg, 1 September 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ U.S. debit to Hamburg  
38 kr postage due in Gross Engstingen

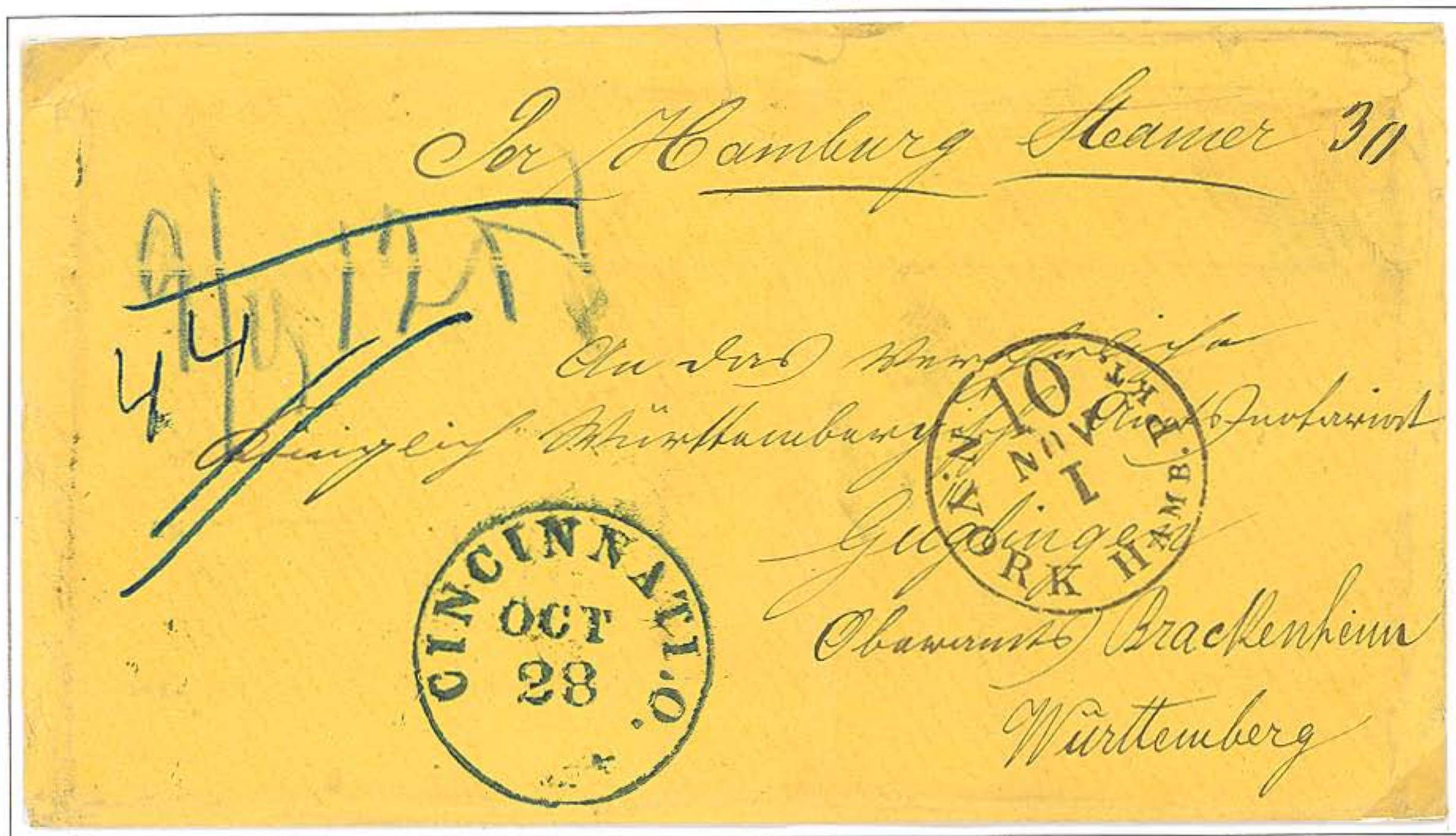
Notes: At Mishawaka the unpaid letter rate of 15¢ was marked for a single rate letter by Hamburg mail. New York considered letter required two rates, weighing just over ½ ounce (14.17 grams), and debited Hamburg 2 x 5¢ = 10¢ in the exchange office datestamp. The Hamburg Thurn & Taxis post office marked letter in blue crayon for double international fee, 2 x 4½ sgr. = 9 sgr. plus 6 kr transit fee to Württemberg, a single fee since letter weight was less than one loth (16.67 grams). This was equivalent to 32 kr plus 6 kr = 38 kr. At destination letter marked "38/0" to show only 38 kr postage due with no local fee. Scarce rate combination of two international rates and one internal rate.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63



Envelope: Cincinnati, Ohio, to Güglingen, Württemberg, 28 October 1859

Ship: *Hammonia*

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

Depart: New York, 1 November 1859  
Arrive: Hamburg, 17 November 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ U.S. debit to Hamburg  
44 kr postage due in Güglingen

Notes: At Cincinnati the unpaid letter rate of 2 x 15¢ = 30¢ was marked in upper right for a letter weighing between ½ - 1 ounce. New York debited Hamburg 2 x 5¢ = 10¢ in the exchange office datestamp. The Hamburg Thurn & Taxis post office marked letter in blue crayon for double postage due, 2 x 4½ sgr. international fee plus 2 x 6 kr = 12 kr transit fee to Württemberg. At Frankfurt letter marked for 44 kr. postage due, the equivalent amount in the currency of the southern German States. Scarce rate combination. Very early use of 15¢ rate to Württemberg, which became effective 1 November 1859.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Envelope: Patterson. New York to Berlin, Prussia, 26 March 1860

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: New York, 31 March 1860  
Arrive: Hamburg, 14 April 1860

Rate: 15¢ prepaid for single rate  
10¢ U.S. credit to Hamburg

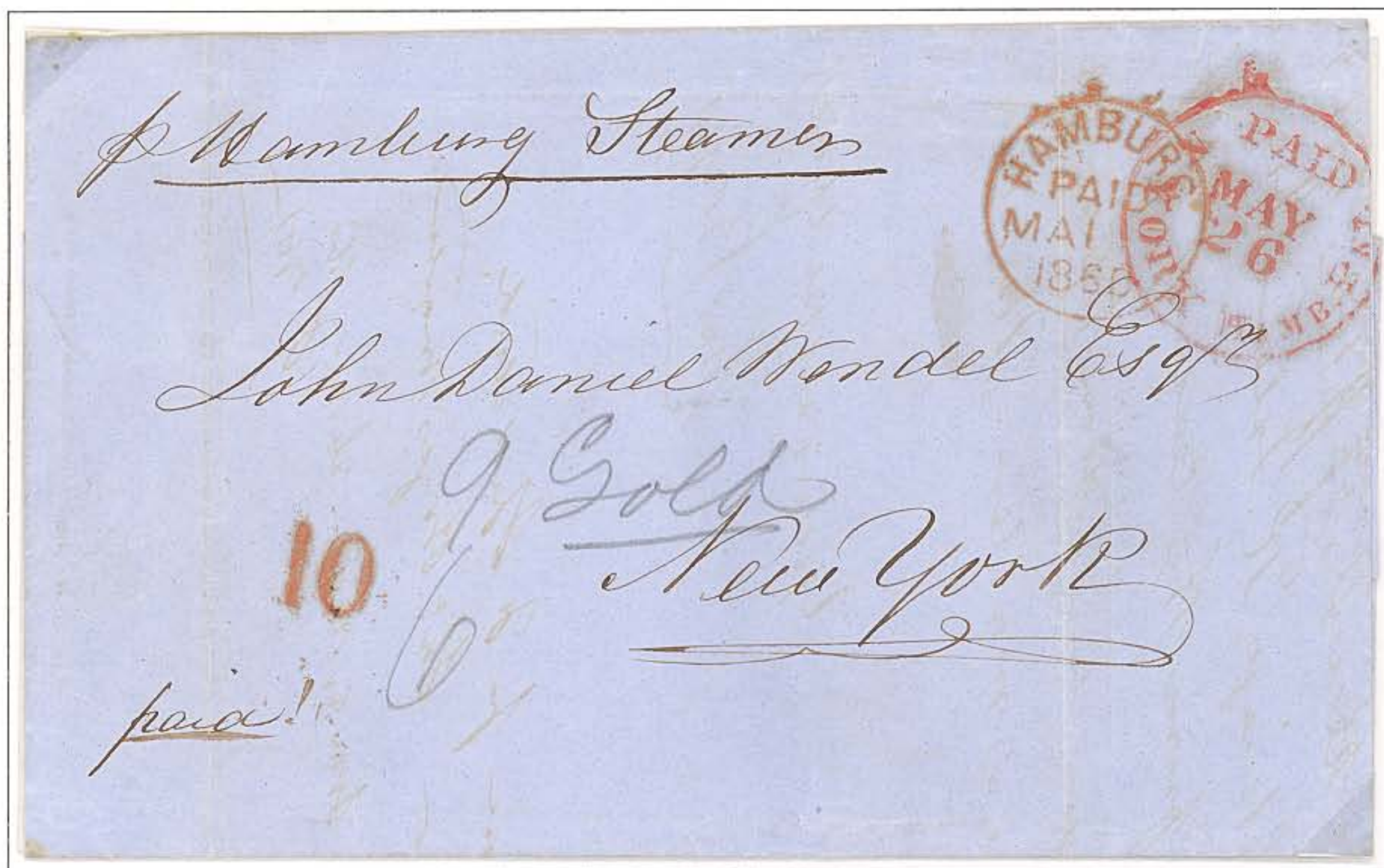
Notes: In 1860, HAPAG steamships departed New York on the 1st and 15th of each month. When the departure date fell on a Sunday, as in this case, the date was altered. *Teutonia* departed New York on Saturday, 31 March 1860. Note the reverse letter "N" of "N.Y." in the Patterson circular datestamp. This was the normal appearance of this marking.



U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



**Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 7 May 1860**

- Ship: *Bavaria*
- Company: Hamburg–Amerikanische Packetfahrt Aktien Gesellschaft (HAPAG)  
(Hamburg American Line)
- Depart: Hamburg, 8 May 1860  
Arrive: New York, 26 May 1860
- Rate: 6 schillinge      prepaid for single rate
- Notes: Red handstamp "10" was Hamburg indication that international rate of 10¢ was prepaid. Pencil "9 Gold" referred to street address in New York of addressee, John Daniel Wendel, a fur merchant, and was placed on the letter by a letter carrier.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 29 September 1860

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 1 October 1860  
Arrive: New York, 18 October 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Hamburg exchange office used black ink to show international fee of 10¢ not prepaid. Since this was also the postage due, New York used a circular datestamp with no postage due value allowing the Hamburg mark to serve as the postage due mark.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63

10  
—  
20



Folded Letter: Meerane, Saxony to New York, 27 December 1860

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 3 January 1861  
Arrive: New York, 20 January 1861

Rate: — — — letter sent unpaid  
30¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Prussia debited Hamburg the GAPU transit postage, 2x2=4 silbergroschen. Hamburg exchange office wrote in manuscript, upper left, 2x5=10¢ German internal and 2x10=20¢ international fees unpaid (black ink). New York marked letter for 30¢ postage due for a double rate letter.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 31 March 1861

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 1 April 1861  
Arrive: New York, 18 April 1861

Rate: – – – letter sent unpaid  
10¢ postage due in New York

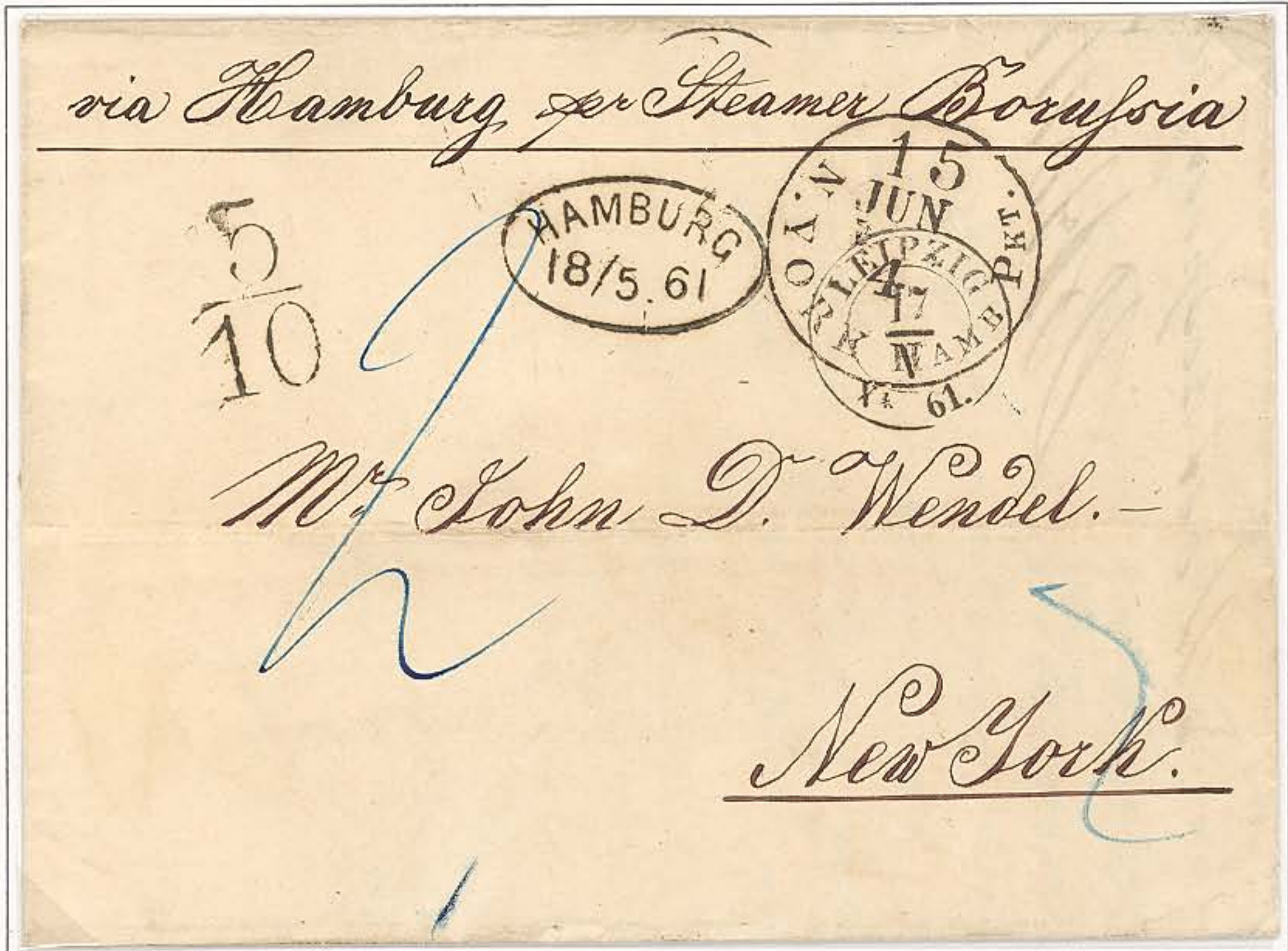
Notes: The Hamburg Statdpost replaced the two line datestamp (with fleuron) in January 1861 with the simple oval datestamp shown above. This marking always showed the year date, often omitted from other German postmarks. Since Hamburg used the blue–black handstamp "10" to indicate the international rate of 10¢ was unpaid, New York let this numeral also indicate the 10¢ postage due.



U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Leipzig, Saxony to New York, 16 May 1861

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 19 May 1861  
Arrive: New York, 4 June 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
15¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Hamburg exchange office used the 5/10 handstamp in black to show that neither the 5¢ German transit nor the 10¢ international rates had been paid. The large manuscript "2" in blue ink was a Prussian debit to Hamburg of 2 silbergroschen (5¢ equivalent), the internal German postage.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Envelope: Salzburg, Austria to Ithaca, New York, 17 September 1861

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 22 September 1861  
Arrive: New York, 10 October 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
15¢ postage due in New York

Notes: The Aachen exchange office received this letter and marked it for a 5¢ debit to the U.S., as it would for Prussian Closed Mails, then crossed through this debit in blue ink and sent letter to Hamburg in accordance with the endorsement, "per Hamburger Dampfschiff." Small 26 mm. circular datestamp of New York, shown above, was the only small type of either Hamburg or Bremen service marking introduced in New York in the early 1860s.



# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Beuthen, Prussia to Fernando de Taos, New Mexico Territory, 26 January 1862

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 9 February 1862  
Arrive: New York, 3 March 1862

Rate: 6½ silbergroschen      prepaid for single rate

Notes: Hamburg marked small FRANCO in black and red handstamp "10" to show the international fee of 10¢ was prepaid. Blue ink "f4½" was a restatement of the international fee in silbergroschen.

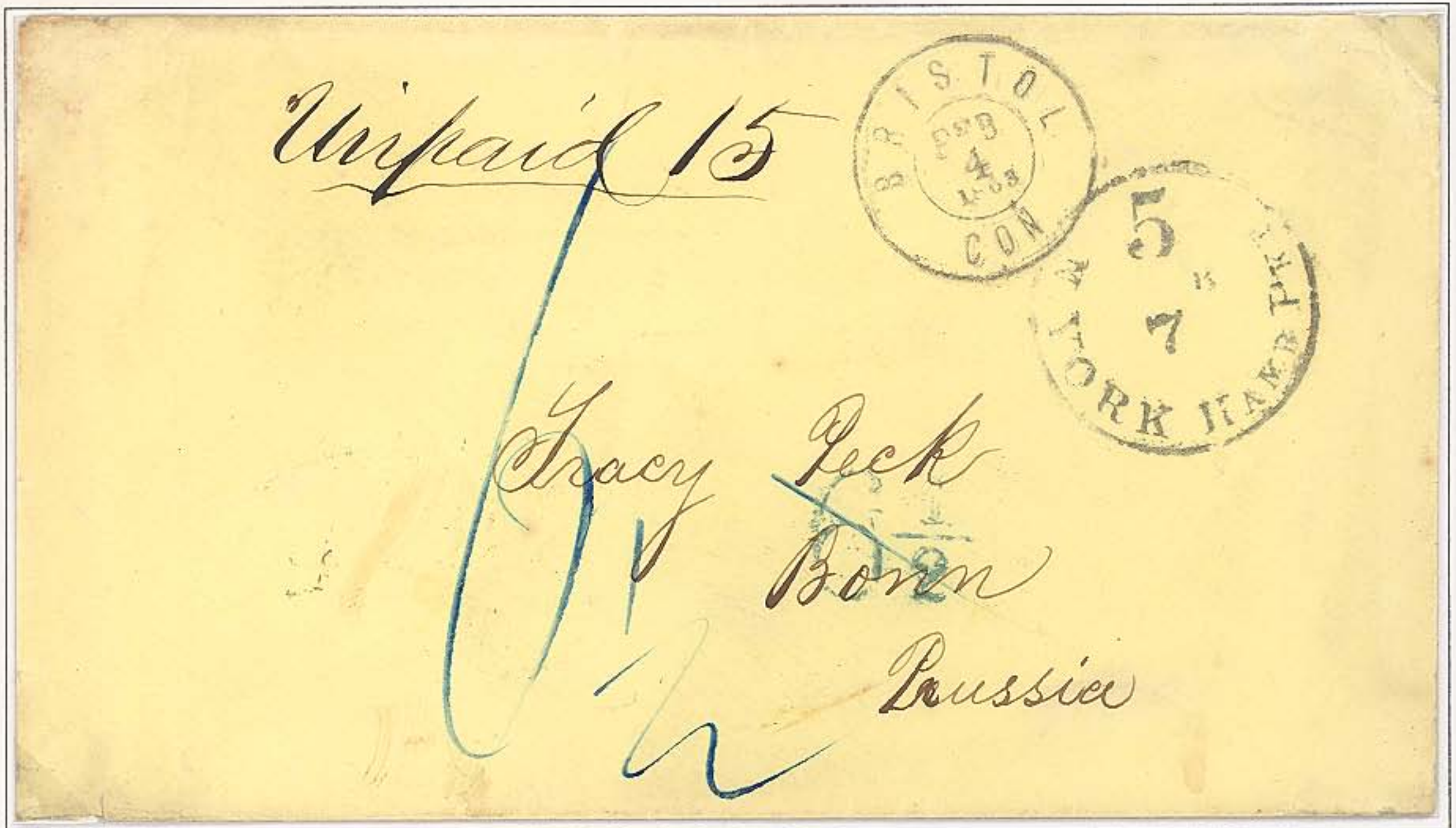


# U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
1 Jul 57–17 Oct 63

*Unpaid 15*



Envelope: Bristol, Connecticut to Bonn, Prussia, 4 February 1863

Ship: *Saxonia*

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

Depart: New York, 7 February 1863  
Arrive: Hamburg, 21 February 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
5¢ U.S. debit to Hamburg  
6½ silbergroschen postage due in Bonn

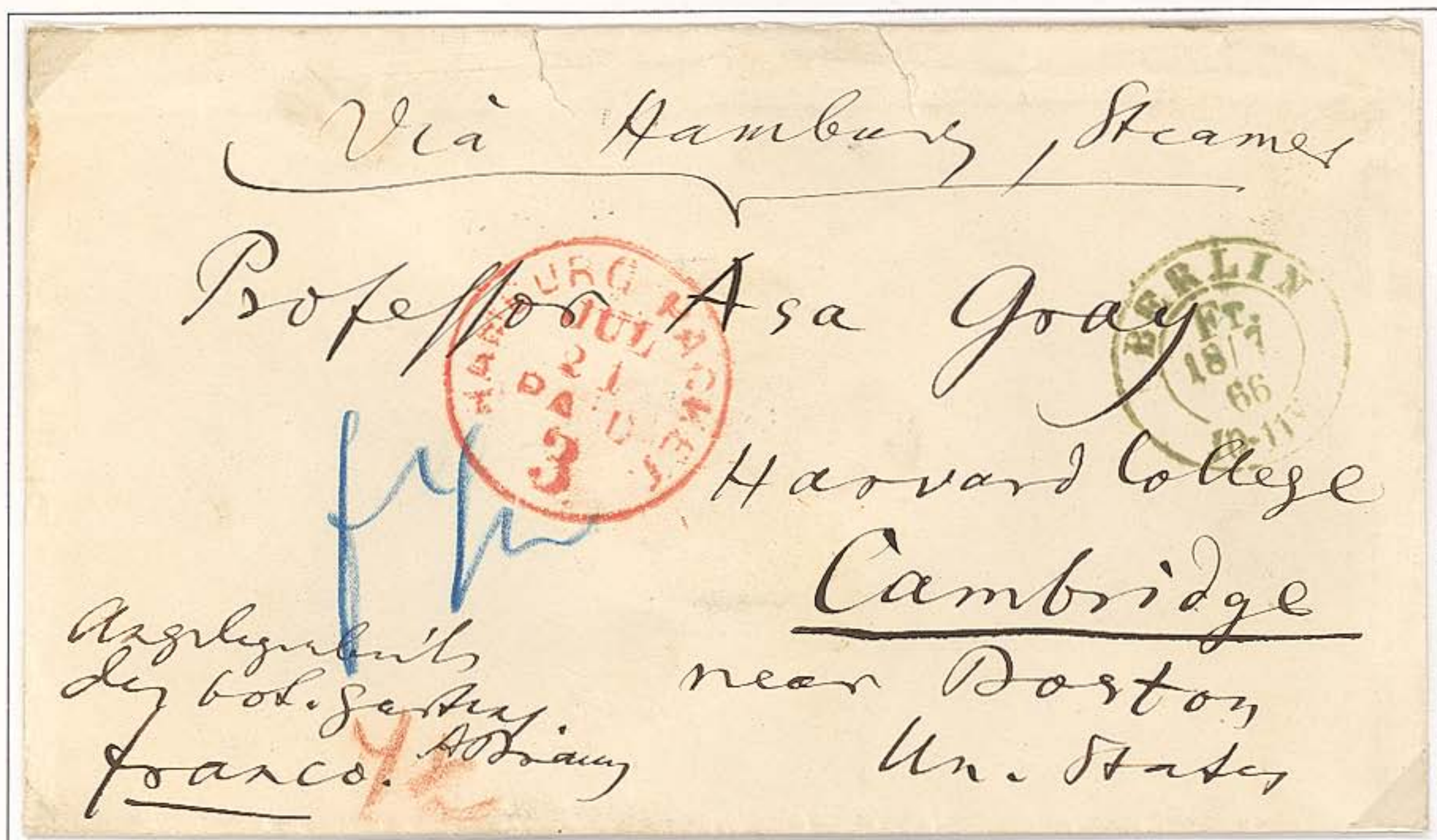
Notes: Letter sender endorsed letter as "Unpaid 15" indicating a desire to have the letter go by Bremen or Hamburg packet, a 15¢ rate. The Prussian post office in Hamburg marked the blue "6½" handstamp to show the total postage due in Prussian currency. Later, a blue manuscript marking of the same value was marked for the postage due, probably at Bonn.



U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868  
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Envelope: Berlin, Prussia to Cambridge, Massachusetts, 18 July 1866

Ship: *Germania*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 22 July 1866  
Arrive: New York, 6 August 1866

Rate: 4½ silbergroschen      prepaid for single international rate  
3¢      Hamburg credit to U.S.

Notes: Large wax seal on the reverse indicates letter originated in an official German institution, which apparently, paid no internal German postage. The only prepayment appears to have been the international fee. Hamburg credited the U.S. with 3¢.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63

4½ Sgr.  
6 Xr.



Envelope: New York to Zürich, Switzerland, 22 March 1862

Ship: *Hammonia*

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

Depart: New York, 22 March 1862

Arrive: Hamburg, 6 April 1862

Rate:	---	letter sent unpaid
	5¢	U.S. debit to Hamburg
	4½ sgr. + 6 kr.	Hamburg debit to Switzerland
	95 rappen	postage due in Zürich

Notes: Hamburg debit to Switzerland of 4½ silbergroschen plus 6 kreuzer was equivalent to 22 kreuzer. Zürich marked letter for 95 rappen postage due, the rate by either Bremen or Hamburg mail service. Letter re-directed to Hendschikon, Canton Aargau, but later sent back to Zürich as addressee could not be found. Letter by Hamburg mail to Switzerland are quite uncommon.