

U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 28 November 1863

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 29 November 1863
Arrive: New York, 21 December 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
10¢ postage due in coin in New York
15¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: In Fall 1863, Hamburg began to use a series of debit and credit markings on mails under the U.S.–Hamburg Treaty. In this example, 7¢ was debited to the U.S. of the 10¢ international rate due on this cover. New York used the dual rate circular datestamp to show the postage due could be paid in coin (10¢) or in depreciated greenback currency (15¢).

U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Envelope: Bremen to New York, 18 March 1864

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 20 March 1864

Arrive: New York, 4 April 1864

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
36¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
45¢ postage due in coin in New York
73¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: Triple rate letter sent unpaid. Hamburg debited U.S. 3x12¢=36¢. Blue "6" indicated 3x2=6 silbergroschen German transit due Bremen. New York marked postage due in pen "73/45."

U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 4 March 1865

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 5 March 1865
Arrive: New York, 21 March 1865

Rate: -- -- letter sent unpaid
 14¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
 20¢ postage due in coin in New York
 31¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: Despite endorsement for the letter to go by steamer from Queenstown, the Hamburg exchange office placed letter in Hamburg Treaty mails to go directly from Hamburg to New York. The Hamburg debit circular datestamp is for a double rate letter. New York's dual rating circular datestamp is a larger, 28 mm. size, which is quite uncommon.

U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 16 September 1865

Ship: *Allemanina*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 17 September 1865
Arrive: New York, 1 October 1865

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
10¢ postage due in coin in New York
14¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: Letter carried on maiden voyage of HAPAG steamer *Allemanina*. Depreciated currency premium was determined daily upon the arrival of incoming unpaid mails. The exact formula used is still unknown.

U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868
17 Oct 63-31 Dec 67



Envelope: Jena, Sachsen-WeimariEisenach to Keene, New Hampshire, 8 February 1866

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 17 February 1866
Arrive: New York, 8 March 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
12¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
15¢ postage due in coin in Keene
20¢ postage due in notes in Keene

Notes: Thurn & Taxis Post debited Hamburg 2 silbergroschen for internal transit fees. Blue "20" probably struck in Keene to restate the postage due in depreciated greenback currency. Scarce New York depreciated currency marking.

U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868
17 Oct 63-31 Dec 67



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 21 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: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
10¢ postage due in coin in New York
15¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: New York used dual rate circular datestamp to show postage due in coin or in depreciated greenback currency. This marking came into use in July 1863 and remained in use until January 1868.

U.S. – Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.–Hamburg Treaty
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857–1868
17 Oct 63–31 Dec 67



Folded Letter: Limbach, Saxony to New York, 7 August 1866

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 12 August 1866
Arrive: New York, 27 August 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
24¢ Hamburg debit to U.S.
30¢ postage due in coin in New York
44¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Notes: Letter weighed 1 5/20 loth requiring two rates. Prussian transit was marked as 2x2=4 silbergroschen (10¢). Hamburg marked debit to U.S. of 2x12¢=24¢.