

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879



Folded Letter: New York to Mulhouse, Alsace, 14 August 1875

Ship: *Oder*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 14 August 1875
Arrive: Bremerhaven, about 26 August 1875

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
40 pfennige postage due in Mulhouse

Notes: Unpaid letter rate under the General Postal Union Treaty was double the normal rate of 20 pfennige. New York applied the circle "T" handstamp to show that postage was due as required by the GPU regulations. The postage due was marked in Bremen.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1868-1870
1 January 1868-30 June 1870

8



Envelope: San Francisco, California, to Gschwend, Württemberg, 14 July 1868

Ship: *City of London*

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

Depart: New York, 8 August 1868
Arrive: Queenstown, 18 August 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
8 silbergroschen postage due marked by Aachen
28 kreuzer postage due in Gschwend

Notes: Postage due included 6 sgr NGU closed mail via England rate plus 2 sgr unpaid letter fine. The postage due was marked in the currency of the Southern German states, 28 kreuzer (equivalent to 8 sgr.) by placing a blue crayon "2" to the left of handstamp "8."

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1868–1870
1 January 1868–30 June 1870

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Envelope: St. Louis, Missouri to Dettingen, Württemberg, 16 October 1868

Ship: *Germania*

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

Depart: New York, 20 October 1868
Arrive: Hamburg, 2 November 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6 silbergroschen Hamburg debit to Württemberg
21 kreuzer postage due in Dettingen

Notes: Postage due included 4 sgr NGU direct mail rate plus 2 sgr unpaid letter fine. The postage due was marked in the currency of the Southern German states, 21 kreuzer being equivalent to 6 sgr.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1868–1870
1 January 1868–30 June 1870



Folded Letter: Bremen to New York, 25 December 1869

Ship: *Union*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 25 December 1869
Arrive: New York, 10 January 1870

Rate: 4 silbergroschen prepaid for single rate

Notes: Prepayment of 4 silbergroschen in cash (10¢ equivalent) was the correct amount for direct steamship service. Bremen stadtpost used circular datestamp which showed a large "F." for "franco" or prepaid. Bremen exchange marked large black FRANCO.

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1867 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1868–1870
1 January 1868–30 June 1870



Envelope: Hamburg to Philadelphia, 1 February 1870

Ship: *Hammonia II*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 2 February 1870
Arrive: New York, 16 February 1870

Rate: 4 silbergroschen prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Letter correctly prepaid 4 silbergroschen (10¢ equivalent) in cash for the single NGU convention rate directly from Hamburg to New York. Red Hamburg F(ranco) circular datestamp showed letter prepaid. Purple PHILADA RECEIVED datestamp on reverse.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870–1871
1 July 1870–1 October 1871



Folded Letter: New York to Mittenwald, Bavaria, 9 July 1870

Ship: *Main*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 9 July 1870
Arrive: Southampton, 19 July 1870

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6 silbergroschen postage due in Northern German currency
21 kreuzer postage due in Mittenwald

Notes: Letter sent at direct packet rate in closed mail bag to Bremen. Since the Franco-Prussian War had just started, *Main* put off mails at Southampton and did not continue transit to Bremerhaven for another three months. Closed mail bags sent through Belgium to Bremen, but treated as if steamer had gone directly to Bremerhaven. Bremen marked postage due of 3 sgr. (rate effective 1 July 1870) plus 3 sgr. unpaid letter fine for a total of 6 sgr. or 21 kreuzer.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870–1871
1 July 1870–1 October 1871



Folded Letter: New York to Mittenwald, Bavaria, 8 September 1870

Ship: *City of London*

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

Depart: New York, 10 September 1870
Arrive: Queenstown, 20 September 1870

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
8 silbergroschen postage due in Northern German currency
28 kreuzer postage due in Mittenwald

Notes: Letter sent in closed mails via England as there was no direct service to Germany because of the Franco-Prussian War. Mail bags, closed at New York, were opened at the travelling post office on the Verviers/Coeln railroad and then sorted for distribution within Germany.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870-1871
1 July 1870-1 October 1871



Envelope: New York to Porsgrund, Norway, 1 October 1870

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: New York, 1 October 1870
Arrive: Queenstown, 12 October 1870

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7 silbergroschen Prussia debit to Norway
28 skilling specie postage due at Porsgrund

Notes: Envelope has printed corner card of L.A. Brönlund of the barque *Meteor*. Prussian debit of 7 sgr. consisted of 5 sgr. transit fee to North German Union via closed mail through England on an unpaid letter (NGU Amtsblatt No. 41) plus 2 sgr. NGU portion of transit fee to Norway. This was equivalent to 19 sk.sp. to which 9 sk.sp. was added for Norwegian internal postage. Orange circular datestamp on reverse shows letter processed on board the steamer to Sandøsund, Norway.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1870 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1870–1871
1 July 1870–1 October 1871



Folded Letter: Frankfurt to New York, 2 February 1871

Ship: *City of Brooklyn*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 10 February 1871
Arrive: New York, 21 February 1871

Rate: 28 kreuzer prepaid for double rate

Notes: Letter sent in closed mails via England. Travelling post office No. 10 on the Cologne-Verviers railroad was the North German Union exchange office for mails sent via Belgium and England. The boxed red FRANCO was struck at this office.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871-1875
1 October 1871-1 July 1875

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Envelope: Hamburg to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 3 October 1871

Ship: *Westphalia*

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

Depart: Hamburg, 4 October 1871
Arrive: New York, 16 October 1871

Rate: 4½ sgr. Paid for all fees to destination

Notes: Prepayment included 2½ sgr. fee for direct rate from Hamburg by North German Union convention plus 2 sgr. registration fee. Hamburg registration no. was "52" and New York registration no. was "2883." Envelope slightly reduced at left.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
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1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875



Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 11 October 1872

Ship: *Deutschland*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 12 October 1872
Arrive: New York, 26 October 1872

Rate: 2½ silbergroschen prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter prepaid for direct packet rate from Bremen to New York. Hamburg "F" circular datestamp was used on letters paid in cash. Hamburg also marked the black handstamp FRANCO to indicate letter fully paid.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871-1875
1 October 1871-1 July 1875



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Christiansund, Norway, 8 January 1873

Ship: *Idaho*

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

Depart: New York, 22 January 1873
Arrive: Queenstown, 3 February 1873

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ U.S. debit to North German Union
32 skilling specie postage due in Christiansund

Notes: Letter carried to New York by Atlantic Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Havana*. New York debited NGU 7¢ for transit fees from Cuba to New York. Letter sent in closed mail bag through England and Belgium to Aachen. NGU marked 9½ silbergroschen debit to Norway for transit fees owed Prussia. Norwegian Postal Circular No. 26 of 1871 showed the rate for an unpaid letter from the Caribbean sent via the United States, England and Belgium was 2½ sgr. Norwegian and 9½ sgr. German postage, which was equivalent to 32 sk.sp.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875



Folded Letter: Bremen to Charleston, South Carolina, 15 March 1873

Ship: *Weser II*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 18 March 1873
Arrive: New York, 29 March 1873

Rate: 3 silbergroschen prepaid for single rate

Notes: Letter endorsed for and prepaid for the closed mail route via England. It must have just missed *Weser II*'s departure from Bremerhaven. By paying ½ silbergroschen more, the sender knew the letter would reach the steamer when it called at Southampton. The red boxed "Franco." was used by the Aachen office on the Coeln-Verviers railway, confirming routing via Belgium to England.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871-1875
1 October 1871-1 July 1875



Envelope: Darien, Georgia to Arendal, Norway, 18 June 1873

Ship: *Nevada*

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

Depart: New York, 25 June 1873
Arrive: Queenstown, 6 July 1873

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6½ silbergroschen Prussian debit to Norway
24 skilling specie postage due at Arendal

Notes: Letter sent in closed mail bag through England and Belgium to Aachen. NGU marked 6½ silbergroschen debit to Norway for transit fees owed Prussia. Norwegian Postal Circular No. 26 of 1871 showed the rate for an unpaid letter sent via England and Belgium was 2½ sgr. Norwegian and 6½ sgr. German postage, which was equivalent to 24 sk.sp.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875

UNPAID



Folded Letter: New York to Mulhouse, Alsace, 11 May 1874

Ship: *Wyoming*

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

Depart: New York, 12 May 1874
Arrive: Queenstown, 23 May 1874

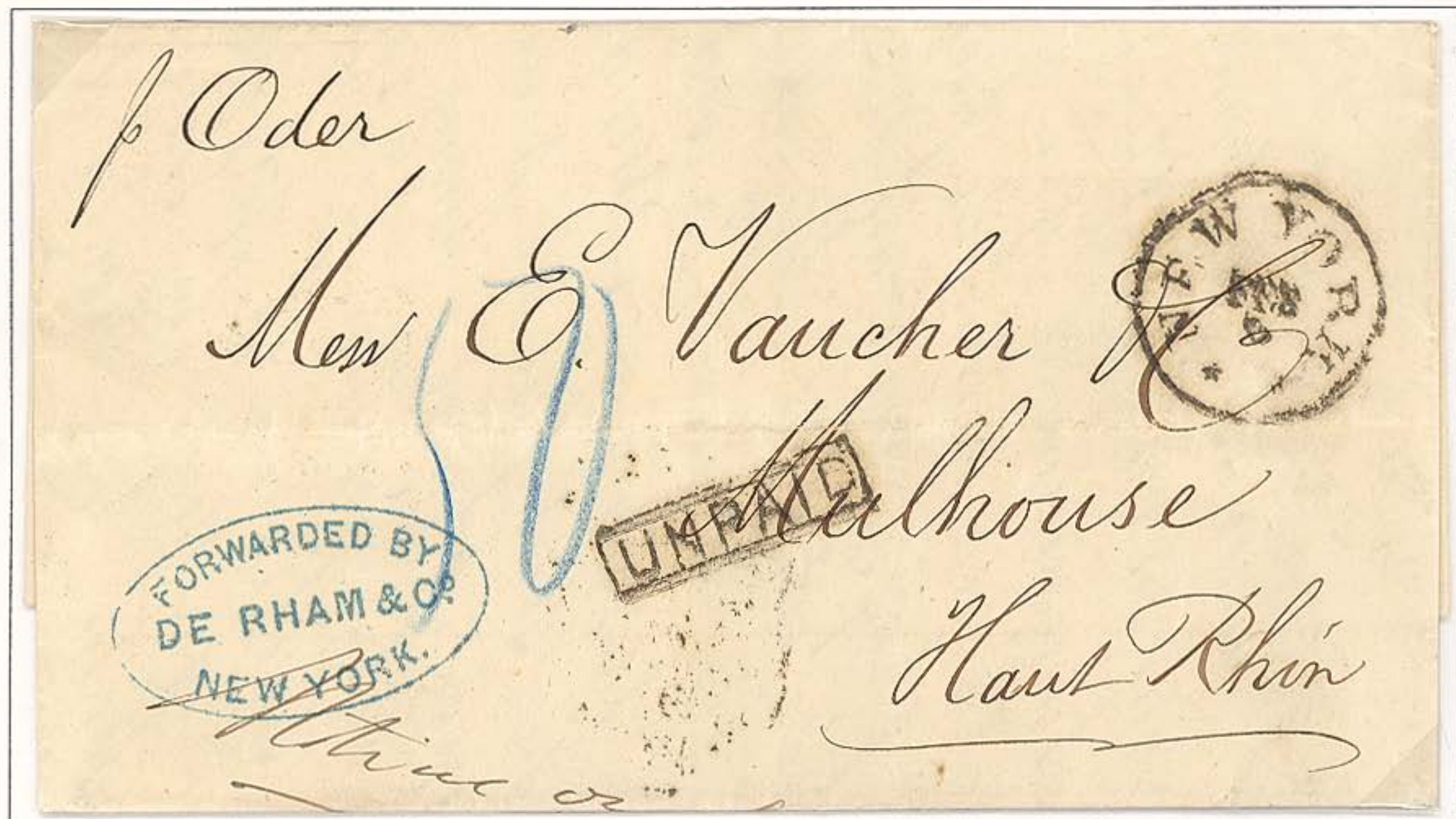
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6 groschen postage due in Mulhouse

Notes: Mulhouse was in the Haut-Rhin region of France that was taken over by Germany in the Franco-Prussian War. Postage due included 3 groschen for closed mail rate via England plus 3 groschen unpaid letter fine. New York struck the boxed UNPAID marking, which was used from January 1874 on unpaid letters.

U.S. – North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871–1875
1 October 1871–1 July 1875



Folded Letter: New York to Mulhouse, Alsace, 5 February 1875

Ship: *Oder*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 6 February 1875
Arrive: Bremerhaven, about 19 February 1875

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
50 pfennige postage due in Mulhouse

Notes: Unpaid letter rate under the 1871 Treaty was double the normal rate of $2 \times 2\frac{1}{2} = 5$ groschen, or 50 pfennige. De Rham & Co. of New York originated this letter and used their forwarding agent marking as a corner card marking.