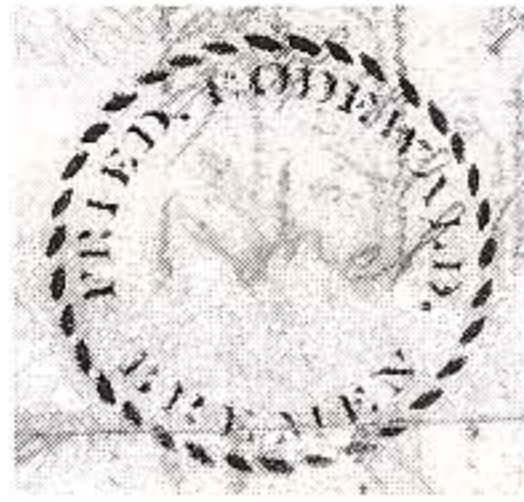


Pre - U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

Private Ship

Prior to 1847



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Baltimore to Schorndorf, Württemberg, 4 May 1829

Ship: unknown sailing ship

Company: unknown company

Depart: Baltimore, May 1829

Arrive: Bremerhaven, about 4 July 1829

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
30 kreuzer postage due in Schorndorf

Notes: Letter carried privately (probably enclosed in another letter) to England by ship, then to Bremen by British packet from London to Cuxhaven. Bremen forwarding agent, Fried. Rodewald, struck a stencil forwarder's marking on the reverse and posted letter in Bremen Thurn & Taxis post office. Letter marked for 26 kreuzer due to the Thurn & Taxis Post and 4 kreuzer for internal Württemberg fees. Total postage due of 30 kreuzer marked in upper right corner.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1853
1 June 1847-1 July 1851



Folded Letter: Bremen to Petersburg, Virginia 16 May 1848

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 28 May 1848
Arrive: New York, 18 June 1848

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
34¢ postage due in Petersburg

Notes: Letter made up in mail bag for U.S. on 16 May 1848, but the steamship sailing was delayed for 12 days. New York marked 34¢ postage due in blue ink, upper right. This amount consisted of 24¢ American packet rate plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee from New York to Petersburg.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1853
1 June 1847-1 July 1851



Folded Letter: Hamburg to Webster, Massachusetts, 10 June 1849

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 12 June 1849
Arrive: New York, 4 July 1849

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
29¢ postage due in Webster

Notes: Letter posted in Hamburg city post office (partial strike of datestamp underneath New York cds) and not carried privately to Bremen. Although there is no indication of a prepaid transit fee to Bremen, it was not debited to the U.S. indicating that it was prepaid or not required. New York used the SHIP letter circular datestamp with 29¢ inserted for the postage due (24¢ American packet and 5¢ U.S. inland fees). Very little mail is recorded from the early U.S.-Bremen arrangement. *Washington* carried only 3863 pieces of mail on this voyage according to a report in the Bremen State Archives.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 June 1847–1 July 1851

10 ¹¹/₁₂ AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN



Folded Letter: Syracuse, New York to Rottenburg, Württemberg, 15 July 1849

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 20 August 1849
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 5 September 1849

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
29¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
1f5 kr postage due in Rottenburg

Notes: Bremen debited Hannover 10 11/12 gutegroschen in red crayon (Bremen never created a handstamp for this rate). Hannover debited Thurn & Taxis Post 12¼ ggr. which was equivalent to 53 kreuzer. Thurn & Taxis Post added 8 kr. transit fee to Württemberg for a debit of 61 kr or 1 florin 1 kr. Württemberg added 4 kr. internal fee for a total postage due of 1f5 kr.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 June 1847–1 July 1851



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 10 August 1849

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 15 August 1849
Arrive: New York, 3 September 1849

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
29¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Since letter originated in Bremen and was carried by an American steamship, there were no German charges. New York used the SHIP letter circular datestamp with 29¢ inserted for the postage due (24¢ American packet and 5¢ U.S. inland fees).

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
28 November 1849–1 July 1851

PAID ALL



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Philadelphia to Breslau, Prussia, 19 November 1849

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: New York, 28 November 1849
Arrive: Liverpool, 12 December 1849

Rate: 41¢ prepaid for all transit fees to destination
12¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: *Washington* did not make the scheduled 20 November 1849 sailing as the Ocean Line cancelled services for the winter to make repairs to their vessels. Letter placed in first Bremen Closed Mail to be sent via G.B. and Belgium on Cunard steamer *America*. New York marked letter PAID ALL. Bremen showed no credit to Hannover. Hannover showed 4 gutegroschen paid for transit fees to Prussia and credited 28 gutepfennige to Prussia for transit via Berlin. Bremen Closed Mail covers have no special markings because the bags were not opened until arrival at Bremen where the regular accounting markings were applied. The covers can be identified only by the sailing dates.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1853
1 June 1847-1 July 1851

46



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Eschwege, Hesse to Wheeling, Virginia, 26 March 1850

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 15 April 1850
Arrive: New York, 4 May 1850

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
12¢ Bremen debit to U.S.
46¢ postage due in Wheeling

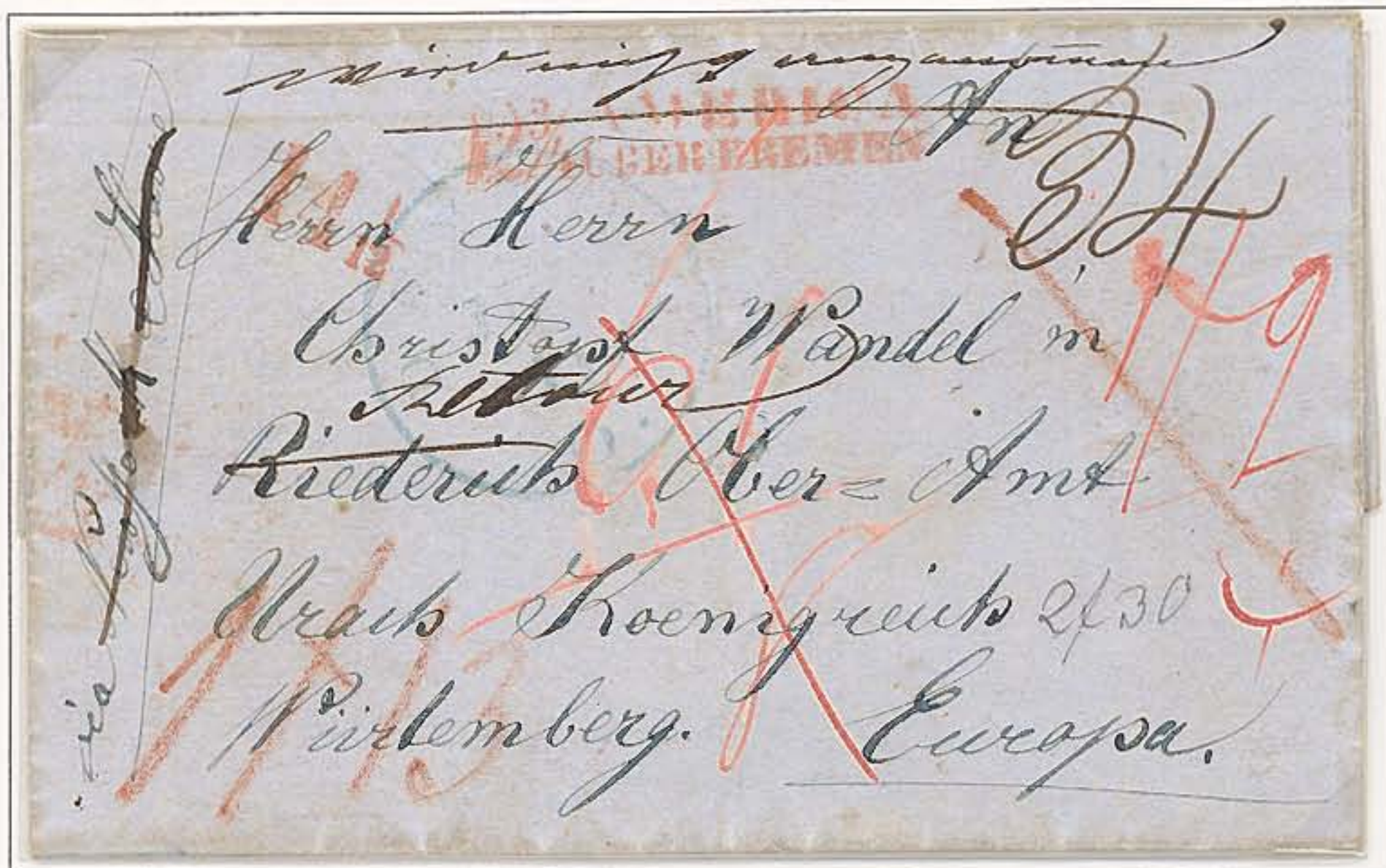
Notes: Hesse debited Bremen 11 grote in red crayon for transit fees to Bremen, who in turn debited the U.S. 12¢. New York marked 46¢ postage due in Wheeling for the 24¢ American packet postage plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee from New York plus 12¢ debit of Bremen. Manuscript "32" in upper left does not appear to be a postal marking but may be a letter number in a series of letters.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 June 1847–1 July 1851

12³/₄ AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN



Folded Letter: Dayton, Ohio to Riederick, Württemberg, 11 June 1850

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 21 June 1850
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 7 July 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
34¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
1f13 kr postage due in Riederick

Notes: Bremen debited Hannover 12³/₄ gutegroschen, a restatement of the 34¢ U.S. debit. Hannover added 1 1/3 ggr. transit fee and debited Thurn & Taxis Post 14 1/12 ggr. which was equivalent to 61 kreuzer. Thurn & Taxis Post added 8 kr. transit fee to Württemberg for a debit of 69 kr. or 1 florin 9 kr. Württemberg added 4 kr. internal fee for a total postage due of 1f13 kr. Apparently, letter was undeliverable and was returned to the U.S. (manuscript "Retour" in black ink in center of the cover.)

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 June 1847–1 July 1851

PAID PART.



Folded Letter: Berlin to Philadelphia, 13 July 1850

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 15 July 1850
Arrive: New York, 6 August 1850

Rate: 16¾ silbergroschen prepaid for all transit fees to destination
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Prepayment of 16¾ silbergroschen in Berlin was correct amount to destination in Philadelphia. For unknown reason, Bremen credited U.S. with 24 grote instead of 29 grote (equivalent to 29¢) and struck PAID PART marking in magenta. New York had no choice but to marked letter for 5¢ postage due. Slash mark in pencil in upper center thought to have been associated with carrier service in Philadelphia.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 June 1847–1 July 1851

PAID ALL



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Hermann, Missouri to Durlach, Baden, 31 August 1850

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 20 September 1850
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 6 October 1850

Rate: 52¢ prepaid for all transit fees to destination
18¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: New York struck the red PAID ALL handstamp and credited Bremen with 18¢, the German transit fee to Baden by the Thurn & Taxis Post. Bremen showed no credit to Hannover, but Hannover marked 4 gutegroschen credit to Thurn & Taxis Post and showed it was retaining 28 gutepfennige. Baden showed breakdown of transit fees, 6 kreuzer transit to Baden and 6 kr. Baden internal fee. Since U.S. post office asked senders to pay only the U.S. portion on these letters, examples showing full prepaid rates to destination are uncommon.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1853
1 June 1847-1 July 1851



Folded Letter: New York to Diefenbach, Württemberg, 18 February 1851

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 29 March 1851
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 16 April 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
24¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
58 kreuzer postage due at Diefenbach

Notes: Letter endorsed for steamer *Pacific*, but sent on an Ocean Line steamer directly to Bremerhaven. Reason for letter not going out on the 22 February 1851 sailing of *Washington* not known. Bremen debited Hannover 9 gutegroschen. Hannover debited Thurn & Taxis Post 10 1/3 ggr. which equaled 45 kreuzer. Transit fee to Württemberg of 8 kr. and 4 kr. internal fee at Württemberg were added. One additional kr. local fee brought the total postage due to 58 kr.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 July 1851–15 August 1853

Paid to Bremen



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Corbach, Prussia to Erie, Pennsylvania, 29 August 1851

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 5 September 1851
Arrive: New York, 23 September 1851

Rate: 3 silbergroschen prepaid for transit fee to Bremen
20¢ postage due in Erie

Notes: Boxed "Paid to Bremen." handstamp struck at Bremen to show transit fees from Prussia to Bremen only were prepaid. Letter unpaid from Bremen to destination. About a dozen examples of this marking have been recorded, used from August 1849 to September 1865. Most mails were sent either fully paid or unpaid, but not paid just to Bremen. New York circular datestamp showing 20¢ postage due is also an uncommon marking.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1853
1 July 1851-28 March 1853



Folded Letter: Datterode, Hesse-Cassel to Grand View, Ohio, 17 September 1851

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: Southampton, 24 September 1851
Arrive: New York, 8 October 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
12¢ Bremen debit to U.S.
32¢ postage due in Grand View

Notes: Letter posted at Netra, Hesse-Cassel. Hesse debited Bremen 11 grote in red pen for transit fees to Bremen. U.S. debited 12¢ by Bremen and letter placed in closed mail bag for transit via England. New York marked 32¢ postage due in Grand View for the 20¢ American packet postage plus the 12¢ debit of Bremen. Uncommon postage due marking of New York.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
1 July 1851–28 March 1853

PAID ALL



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Geltingen, Schleswig, 12 December 1851

Ship: *Pacific*

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

Depart: New York, 21 February 1852
Arrive: Liverpool, 3 March 1852

Rate: 26¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
4 skilling postage due in Geltingen

Notes: Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steam Navigation Company steamer *Oregon* to Panama and United States Mail Steamship Company steamer *Ohio* from Chagres to New York. Prepayment interpreted at New York to be the fully paid rate to Hamburg by Bremen mail, 20¢ Treaty rate to Bremen and 5¢ transit to Hamburg; therefore letter marked PAID ALL and sent in Bremen Closed Mails to England. Bremerhaven marked 7 grote credit to Hamburg, where letter marked FRANCO and turned over to Royal Danish Post Office in Hamburg. Scarce early California cover to Schleswig.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1853
1 July 1851-28 March 1853



Folded Letter: Heimsen, Prussia, to St. Charles, Missouri, 31 December 1851

Ship: *Pacific*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 28 January 1852
Arrive: New York, 12 February 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Bremen debit to U.S.
25¢ postage due in St. Charles

Notes: Letter originated in Prussian Westphalia close to the Hannover border and was posted at the Schlüsselburg border office. Notation "Per Leese 1/2" in upper left corner indicates routing via Lesse, Hannover, and 1/2 sgr. debit for exchange of border office mail. Hannover marked 1 2/3 ggr. debit to Bremen, equivalent to 5¢. Blue ink "1/3" not understood. Letter carried in Bremen Closed Mails through England. Although U.S. rate tables showed transit postage from Bremen to Prussia was 7¢, Bremen marked this letter for a 5¢ debit for this transit postage. New York simply added the 20¢ American steamship rate to come up with the postage due of 25¢, a very scarce transatlantic rate under the Bremen convention. Only two other examples of the NEW-YORK/SHIP/25 cts. marking have been recorded in Bremen mail covers.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1853
1 July 1851-28 March 1853



Folded Letter: Grossender, Prussia to Kensington, Pennsylvania 9 March 1852

Ship: *Baltic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 24 March 1852
Arrive: New York, 5 April 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ Bremen debit to U.S.
27¢ postage due in Kensington

Notes: Letter entered mail system at Peckelsheim, Prussia (Westphalia) and was carried on Prussian railroad to Bremen, where it was made up in the Bremen closed mail sent through England. It was directed to a street address in Kensington (now a part of Philadelphia), but there is no marking of a carrier fee for delivery although carrier service was operating in Kensington.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1853
1 July 1851-28 March 1853



Folded Letter: West Bend, Wisconsin to Bremen, 3 April 1852

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: New York, 17 April 1852
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 April 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
20¢ U.S. debit to Bremen

Notes: Letter traveled in Bremen Closed Mail to England. Unpaid letter rate from anywhere in U.S. to Bremen was 20¢. Postage due in Bremen was 20 grote or about 20¢. On letters to Bremen, the AMERTICA/ÜBER BREMEN handstamps were not used.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
1 July 1851–28 March 1853



Folded Letter: Munster, Prussia to Philadelphia, 6 May 1852

Ship: *Arctic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 May 1852
Arrive: New York, 30 May 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ Bremen debit to U.S.
25¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter carried in Bremen Closed Mails through England. Although U.S. rate tables showed transit postage from Bremen to Prussia was 7¢, Bremen marked this letter for a 5¢ debit for this transit postage. New York simply added the 20¢ American steamship rate to come up with the postage due of 25¢, a very scarce transatlantic rate under this Bremen convention. Only one other example of the NEW-YORK/SHIP/25 cts. marking has been recorded. Note also that the Philadelphia letter carrier marked the street address in magenta ink.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
1 July 1851–28 March 1853

AMERICA 33
UBER
BREMEN 9



Folded Letter: Durhamville, New York to Rottenburg, Württemberg, 3 June 1852

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: New York, 5 June 1852
Arrive: Southampton, 16 June 1852

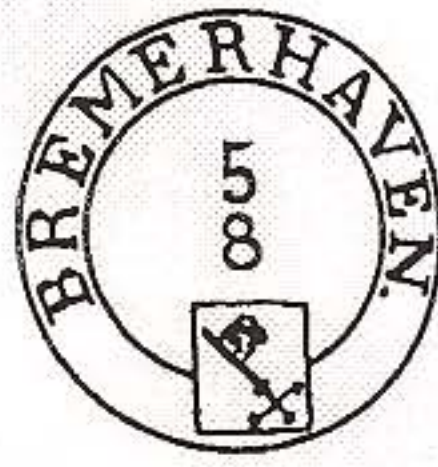
Rate: 3¢ (?) prepaid for single rate to New York
20¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
43 kreuzer postage due in Rottenburg

Notes: Absence of an indication of amount prepaid caused New York to treat letter as completely unpaid. It was placed in a Bremen Closed Mail via England. New York debited Bremen the American packet rate to Bremen, 20¢. Bremen marked letter for 33 kreuzer foreign and 9 kr. internal postage due, or 42 kr. One kreuzer local fee added in Rottenburg for a total postage due of 43 kr. Havre Line steamers carried only one third of the Bremen Closed Mails on American steamers to England.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1853
1 July 1851-15 August 1853



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Bremerhaven to Philadelphia, 5 August 1852

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 13 August 1852
Arrive: New York, 1 September 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
20¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Bremerhaven was the port city for Bremen and the German terminus for the Ocean Steam Navigation Company. It had a Bremen and Hannover post office. This letter was posted at the port city and included in the regular mails from Bremen. It was registered within the German mail system only, an early example of a registered letter going to the U.S. New York marked 20¢ postage due, the American packet rate from Bremen. A Philadelphia letter carrier clarified the street address in magenta ink as 118 Race Street. The pencil stroke is thought to be associated with the Philadelphia carrier service also.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 July 1851–15 August 1853



Folded Letter: Brooklyn, New York to Bremen, 30 November 1852

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 4 December 1852

Arrive: Bremerhaven, 22 December 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
20¢ U.S. debit to Bremen

Notes: Unpaid letter rate from anywhere in U.S. to Bremen was 20¢. Postage due in Bremen was 20 grote or about 20¢. Bremen did not show the postage due which equalled the U.S. debit to Bremen.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
1 July 1851–28 March 1853

PAID. 20



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 17 December 1852

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: Southampton, 25 December 1852
Arrive: New York, 10 January 1853

Rate: 20 grote prepaid for all transit fees to destination

Notes: Under the 1st Bremen Treaty, the international rate between the U.S. and Bremen was the U.S. ocean mail rate, originally 24¢ plus 5¢ or 10¢ depending on distance to New York. In July 1851, the ocean mail rate was reduced to 20¢ from anywhere in the U.S. This was the only transit fee required on this letter even though it was sent in the Bremen Closed Mails through Belgium and England.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1853
1 July 1851–28 March 1853

FRANCO
bis
BREMEN.



Folded Letter: Worms, Hesse to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, 10 February 1853

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 9 March 1853
Arrive: New York, 22 March 1853

Rate: 9 kreuzer prepaid German transit fee to Bremen
20¢ postage due in Pottsville

Notes: Letter prepaid 9 kreuzer for Thurn & Taxis Post transit fee to Bremen. Thurn & Taxis Post marked letter FRANCO/bis/BREMEN, an uncommon marking of which less than ten examples are recorded. Since international rate was unpaid, New York marked letter for 20¢ postage due. Letter sent in the Bremen Closed Mails through Belgium to catch steamer at Liverpool.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 July 1851–15 August 1853



Folded Letter: Brverstedt, Hannover to New York, 15 April 1853

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 22 April 1853
Arrive: New York, 11 May 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
10 grote Bremen debit to U.S.
50¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Double rate example of the same scarce 25¢ rate from Hannover shown in the 2 January 1853 example from Otterndorf. Like the NEW 25 YORK circular datestamp, the NEW 50 YORK circular datestamp is also seldom seen.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1847
American Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1853
1 July 1851–15 August 1853



Folded Letter: New York to Bremen, 18 June 1853

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 18 June 1853
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 3 July 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
20¢ U.S. debit to Bremen

Notes: Unpaid letter rate from anywhere in U.S. to Bremen was 20¢. Postage due in Bremen was 20 grote or about 20¢. Bremen did not show the postage due which equalled the U.S. debit to Bremen. At least three different versions of the NEW 20 YORK circular datestamp were used. This was the largest one, 33 mm. in diameter.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

$\frac{7}{15}$



Envelope: Offenbach, Hesse to Philadelphia, 16 September 1853

Ship: *Hermann*
Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)
Depart: Bremerhaven, 7 October 1853
Arrive: New York, 29 October 1853

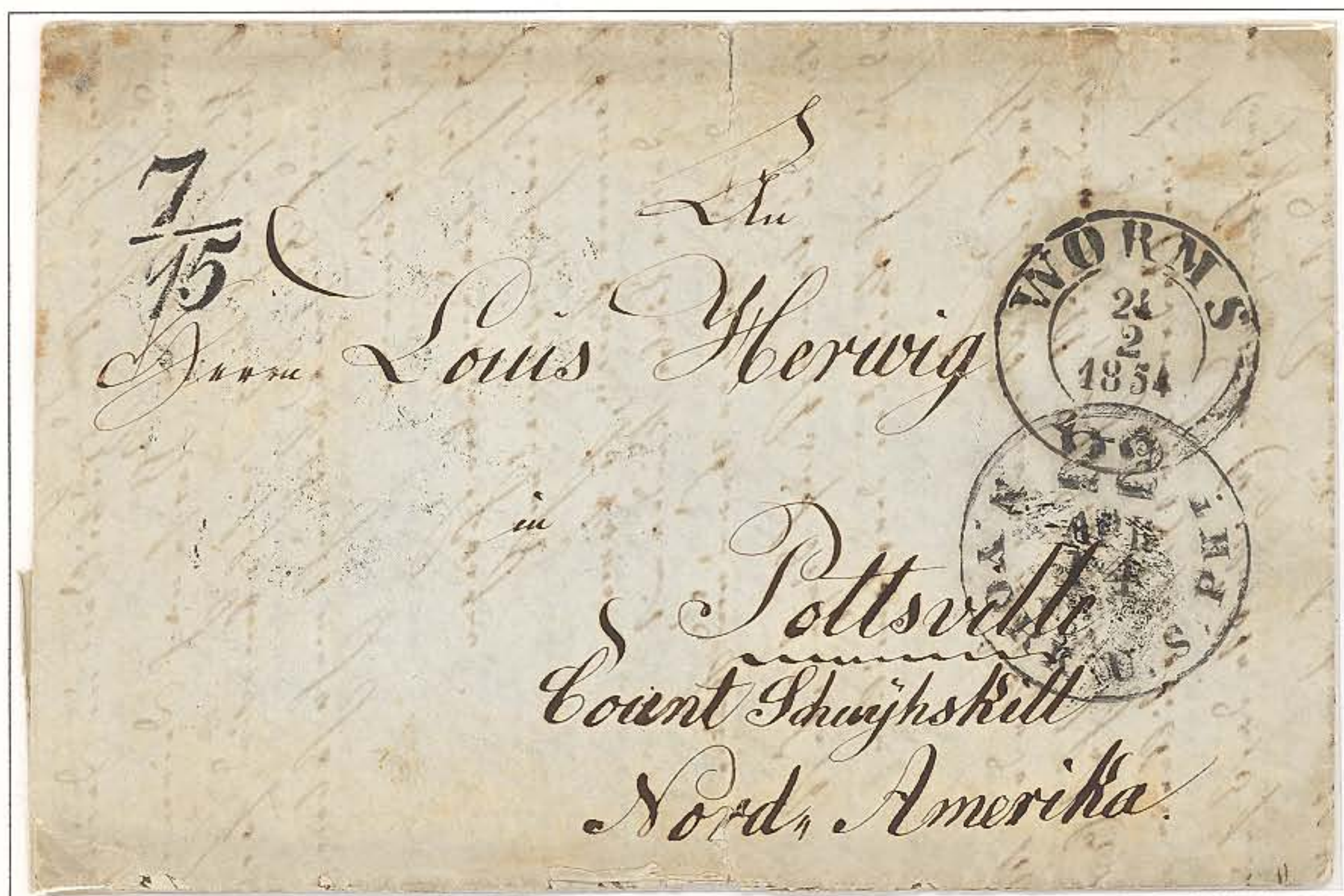
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
22¢ postage due at Philadelphia

Notes: Letter, which originated in the Thurn & Taxis Postal system, required a 7¢ transit fee to Bremen and 15¢ international postage to the U.S. Bremen indicated both parts of this total rate in their currency, grote (approximately equal to cents). Letters showing the 22¢ rate are uncommon as the higher rate applied to only Württemberg, Bavaria, and places served by the Thurn & Taxis Post. Reason for the absence of the New York exchange office marking is unknown.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter: Worms, Hesse to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, 23 February 1854

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 26 March 1854
Arrive: New York, 14 April 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
22¢ postage due at Pottsville

Notes: The Thurn & Taxis Post, which carried letter from Hesse to Bremen, was entitled to transit fees to Bremen of 3 silbergroschen or 7 grote (Bremen currency). Bremen showed breakdown of total postage as 7 grote internal transit and 15 grote international fee. Since letter was going beyond New York, the exchange office there used a circular datestamp which showed the total postage due.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

$\frac{24}{9}$ Kr.R. AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN



Folded Letter: New York to Sulz am Neckar, Württemberg, 9 March 1854

Ship: *Washington*
Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 25 March 1854
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 10 April 1854

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
14¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
33 kreuzer postage due in Sulz

Notes: Letter written in the hospital on Ward's Island, New York and sent unpaid to Württemberg by the Bremen mails. Bremen handstamp in red indicated letter was from America via Bremen and that 33 kreuzer (Rhennish) postage was due, 24 kr. for foreign transit and 9 kr. internal German transit fees.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
2 August 1853–24 May 1857



Folded Letter: Philadelphia to Kaiserslautern, Bavarian Pfalz, 23 August 1854

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: W.A. Fritze and Company

Depart: New York, 25 August 1854
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 10 September 1854

Rate: --- Letter sent unpaid
5¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
22 kreuzer postage due in Kaiserslautern

Notes: *Hansa* made five of the nine round voyages between Bremerhaven and New York carrying mails for this very short-lived Bremen steamship company attempting to compete with the American Ocean Line. This Bremen handstamp showed that 16 Rhennish kreuzer was the unpaid international transit postage and 6 kr. the German internal transit to Bavaria, for a total postage due of 22 kr. Very few examples of this marking have been recorded.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

10.



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Bremen to New York, 16 May 1855

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 18 May 1855
Arrive: New York, 6 June 1855

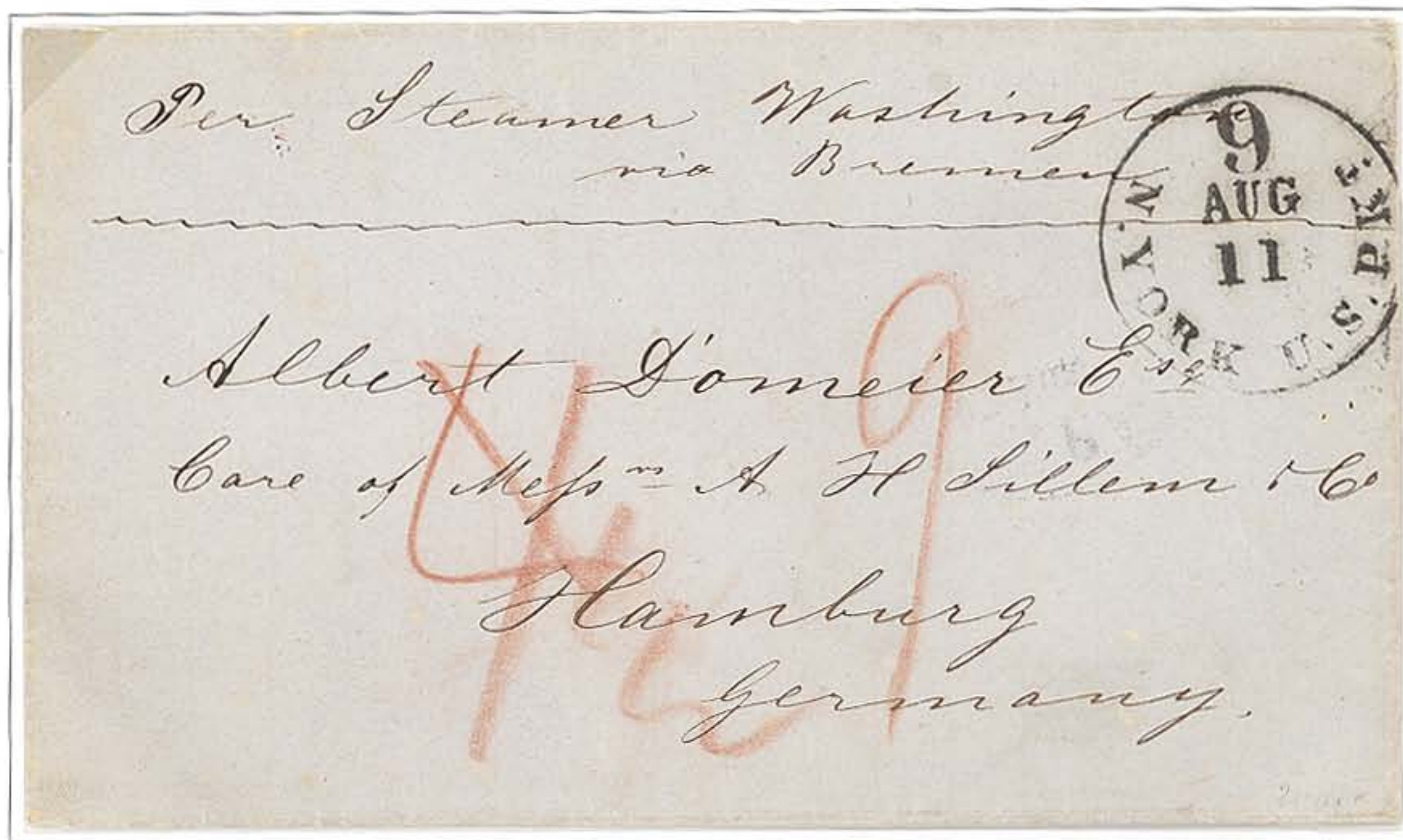
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
10¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Bremen showed the international rate of 10 grote was unpaid with the black handstamp "10" in the upper left. Since this also was the postage due, New York marked only the circular datestamp showing arrival by U.S. packet and let the black handstamp "10" serve as the postage due marking.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853-1868
15 August 1853-15 November 1858



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Hamburg, 11 August 1855

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 11 August 1855
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 26 August 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
9¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
9 schillinge postage due at Hamburg

Notes: New York debited Bremen 9¢ of the total 15¢ postage since an American packet carried letter across the Atlantic. Since mail to Hamburg was sent directly from the Bremen city post office, there was no AMERICA/ÜBER/BREMEN handstamp, which was used at the Hannover office in Bremen. Bremen debited Hamburg 4½ silbergroschen in red crayon (10¢ international rate) and Hamburg marked 9 schillinge in red crayon for the postage due (15¢ equivalent). Very few covers to Hamburg in the Bremen mail have been seen.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

$\frac{7}{15}$



Envelope: Alzei, Hesse to Tiffin, Ohio, 21 October 1855

Ship: *Washington*
Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 2 November 1855
Arrive: New York, 27 November 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
22¢ postage due at Tiffin

Notes: Letter, which originated in the Thurn & Taxis Postal system, required a 7¢ transit fee to Bremen and 15¢ international postage to the U.S. Bremen indicated both parts of this total rate in their currency, grote (approximately equal to cents). Letters showing the 22¢ rate are uncommon as the higher rate applied to only Württemberg, Bavaria, and places served by the Thurn & Taxis Post.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

$\frac{24}{9}$ KrR AMERICA
ÜBER
BREMEN



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Winnenden, Württemberg, 15 January 1856

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 26 January 1856
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 13 February 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
14¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
33 kreuzer postage due in Winnenden

Notes: New Orleans marked "30," the unpaid rate by Prussian Closed Mail, but New York sent letter in the Bremen mails (a 22¢ rate). Bremen handstamp in red shows break down of full rate in Rhennish kreuzer, 24 kr. international transit and 9 kr. German internal transit fees. This was the second type of this marking, introduced in May 1854, which had AMERICA ÜBER BREMEN in three vice two lines.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter: Atens, Oldenburg to Washington, D.C., 19 March 1856

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 22 March 1856
Arrive: New York, 13 April 1856

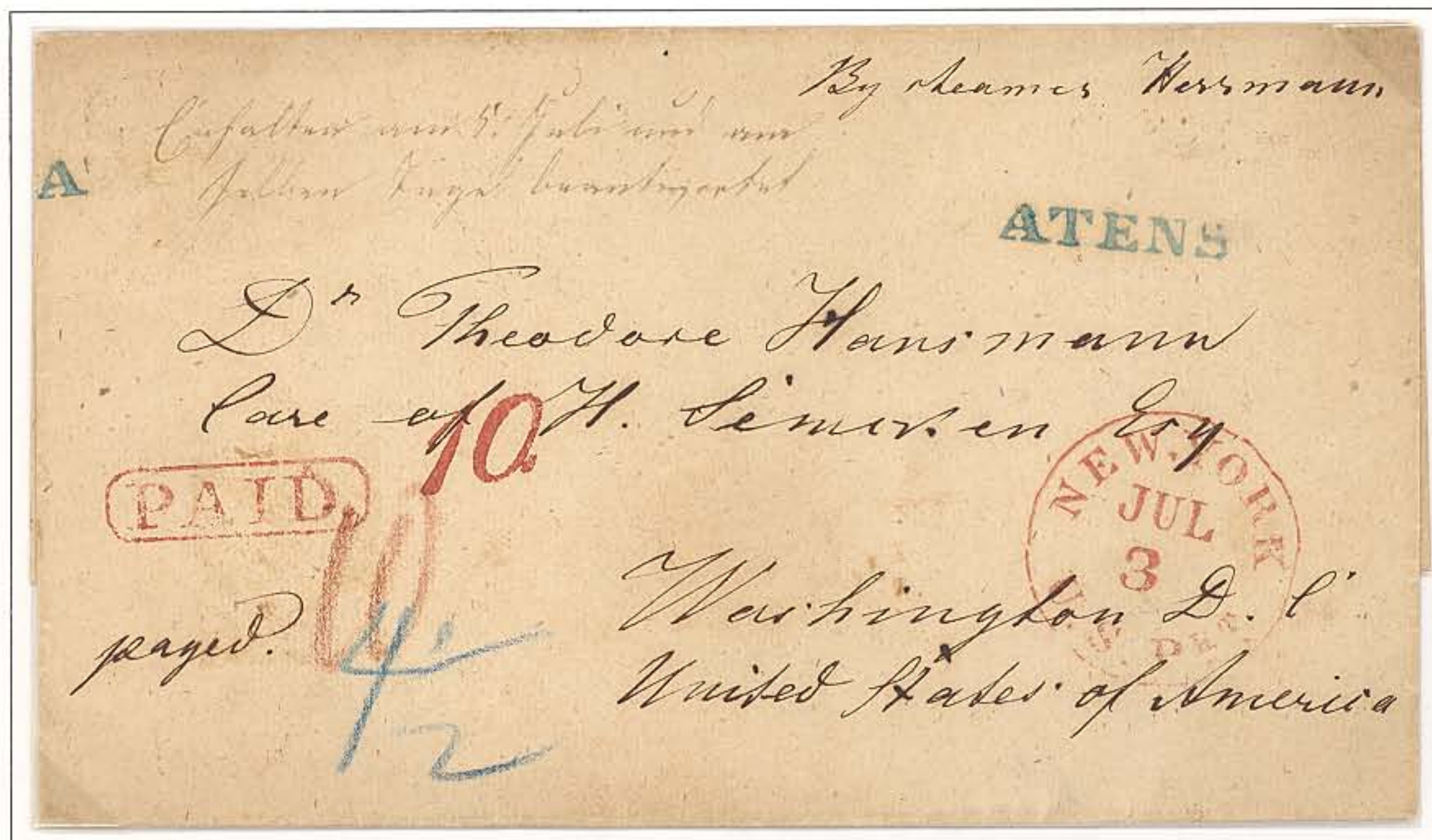
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
10¢ postage due at Washington, D.C.

Notes: Although letter written in Atens, Oldenburg, it was taken to Bremerhaven, across the Weser River, to be posted thereby saving the transit fee from Oldenburg to Bremen. Bremerhaven made up mails to be included with the other Bremen mails and did not use the black "10" handstamp to show the unpaid international fee. New York struck the arrival marking which showed 10¢ postage due.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Atens, Oldenburg to Washington, D.C., 8 June 1856

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 14 June 1856
Arrive: New York, 3 July 1856

Rate: 5½ silbergroschen prepaid for single rate from Oldenburg (not shown)

Notes: Although prepayment not shown, it was equivalent to 13 grote or 5½ silbergroschen. The international fee was 4½ sgr. in Prussian currency or 10 grote in Bremen currency, the later showed by a red handstamp in Bremen along with the boxed PAID. marking. Covers from Oldenburg are uncommon.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

10.



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Bremen to New York, 28 November 1856

Ship: *Hermann*
Fulton

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

Depart: Bremerhaven, 29 November 1856
Southampton, 18 December 1856

Arrive: New York, 31 December 1856

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

Notes: *Hermann* returned to Southampton on 14 December 1856 with a broken shaft and transferred her mails to *Fulton*. Bremen showed the international rate of 10 grote was unpaid with the black handstamp "10" in the upper left. Since this also was the postage due, New York marked only the circular datestamp showing arrival by U.S. packet and let the black handstamp "10" serve as the postage due marking.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858

22



Envelope: Chicago to Archshofen, Württemberg, 2 September 1857

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line

Depart: New York, 5 September 1857
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 19 September 1857

Rate: 22¢ prepaid for single treaty rate
8¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: Chicago struck the red circle "22" to show that 22¢ had been prepaid, the Bremen treaty rate to Württemberg. At Bremen, the three-line AMERICA/ÜBER BREMEN/FRANCO was struck in blue to show letter was prepaid and came from the United States via Bremen. The red crayon marking in the lower left may indicate that a 2 kreuzer local payment was made to get the letter to the small village of destination, which had no post office. Bremen mails from Chicago are quite uncommon.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Hamburg to New York, 24 November 1857

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line

Depart: Bremerhaven, 28 November 1857
Arrive: New York, 19 December 1857

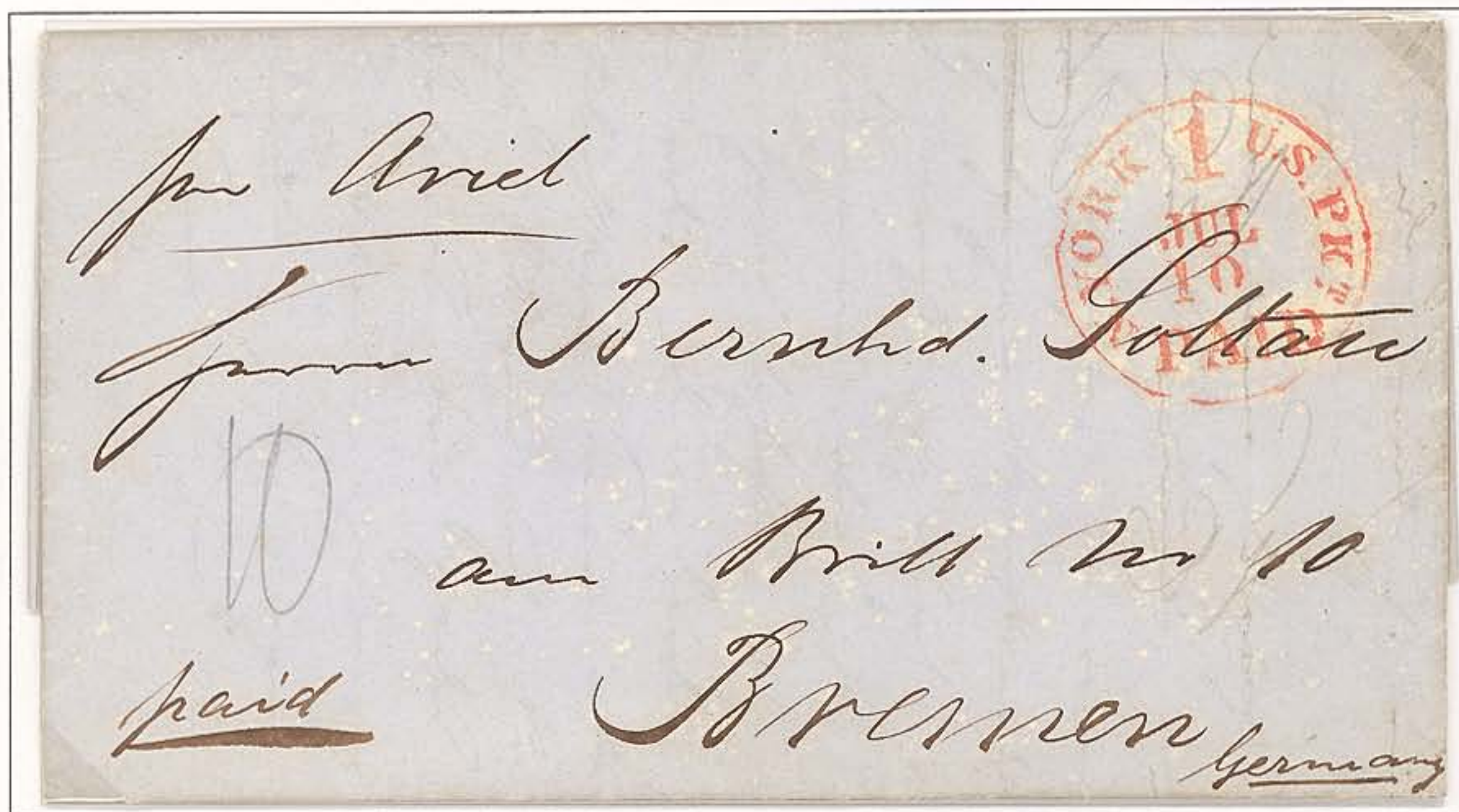
Rate: 6½ silbergroschen prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: *North Star* made only seven round voyages to Bremerhaven and carried contract mails on five of those trips. Bremen showed 10 grote international rate was prepaid or 4½ silbergroschen in Prussian currency.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter: New York to Bremen, 10 July 1858

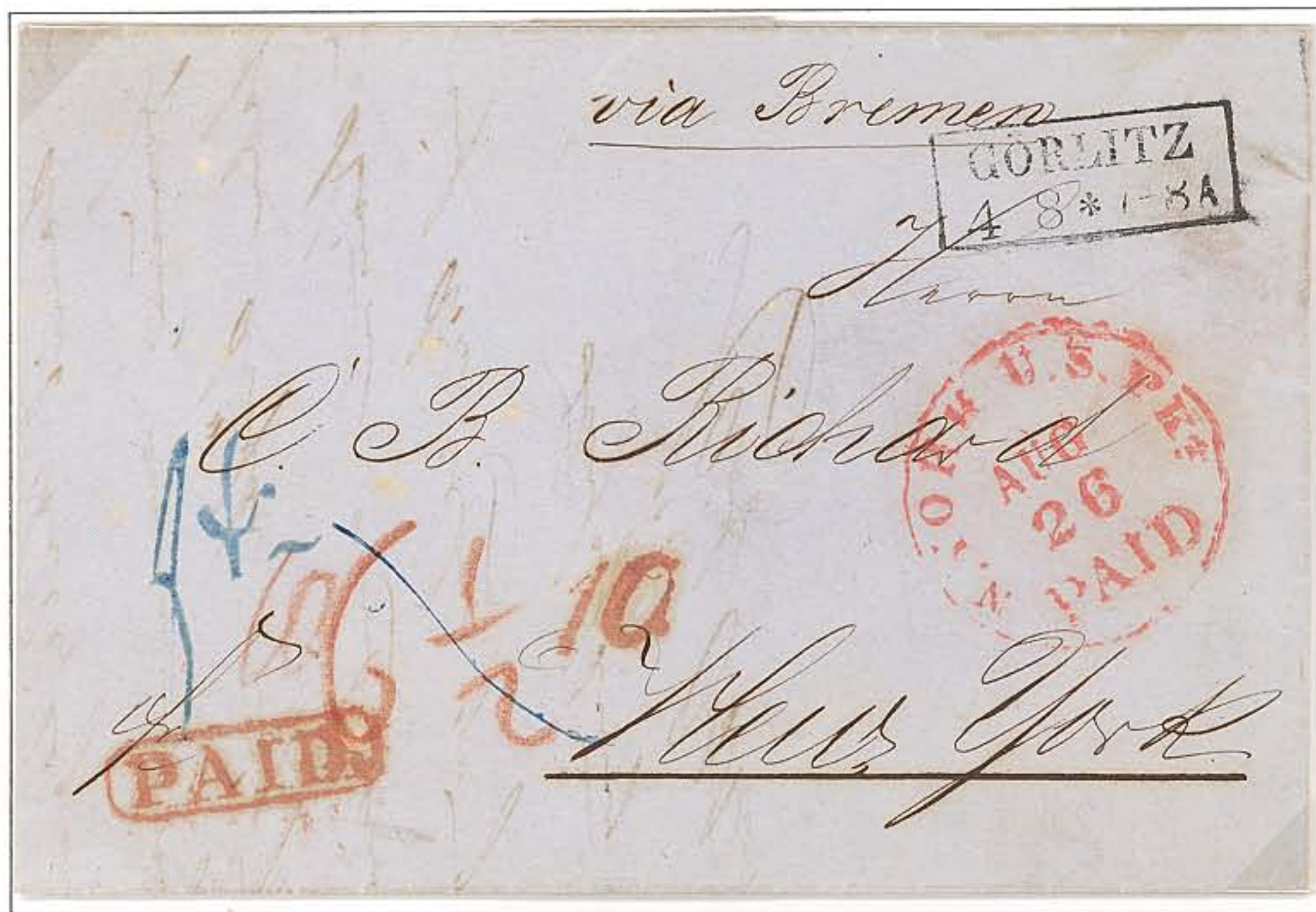
Ship: *Ariel*
Company: Vanderbilt European Line
Depart: New York, 10 July 1858
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 25 July 1858
Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single treaty rate
1¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: Vanderbilt European Line steamers carried U.S. mails to Bremerhaven and to Havre during the years 1857–1860. Service to Germany was stopped after two years in favor of the more profitable and less hazardous route to Havre. *Ariel* made only seven mail voyages to Bremerhaven, this being the sixth one. The New York exchange office marking showing a 1¢ credit is not often seen.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
American Contract Steamship Direct

1853–1868
15 August 1853–15 November 1858



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Gorlitz, Prussia to New York, 4 August 1858

Ship: *Ariel*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line

Depart: Bremerhaven, 7 August 1858

Arrive: New York, 26 August 1858

Rate: 6½ silbergroschen prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Bremen did not use handstamps to show credits and debits, but the international rate and foreign postages when going beyond the GAPU. In this case, Bremen marked red, boxed PAID and "10" handstamps to show the international rate of 10 grote was prepaid. On the books, the U.S. was actually credited with 9¢ since an American packet carried the letter.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: New York to Bremen, 3 September 1859

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 3 September 1859
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 17 September 1859

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single treaty rate
7¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: New York hastily wrote the prepayment in pencil below the circular datestamp, looking like the letter "w." The datestamp shows not only the credit to Bremen of 7¢ (letter carried by Bremen packet) but also that the letter was fully paid.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867



Envelope: New York to Bremen, 20 January 1860

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 21 January 1860
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 5 February 1860

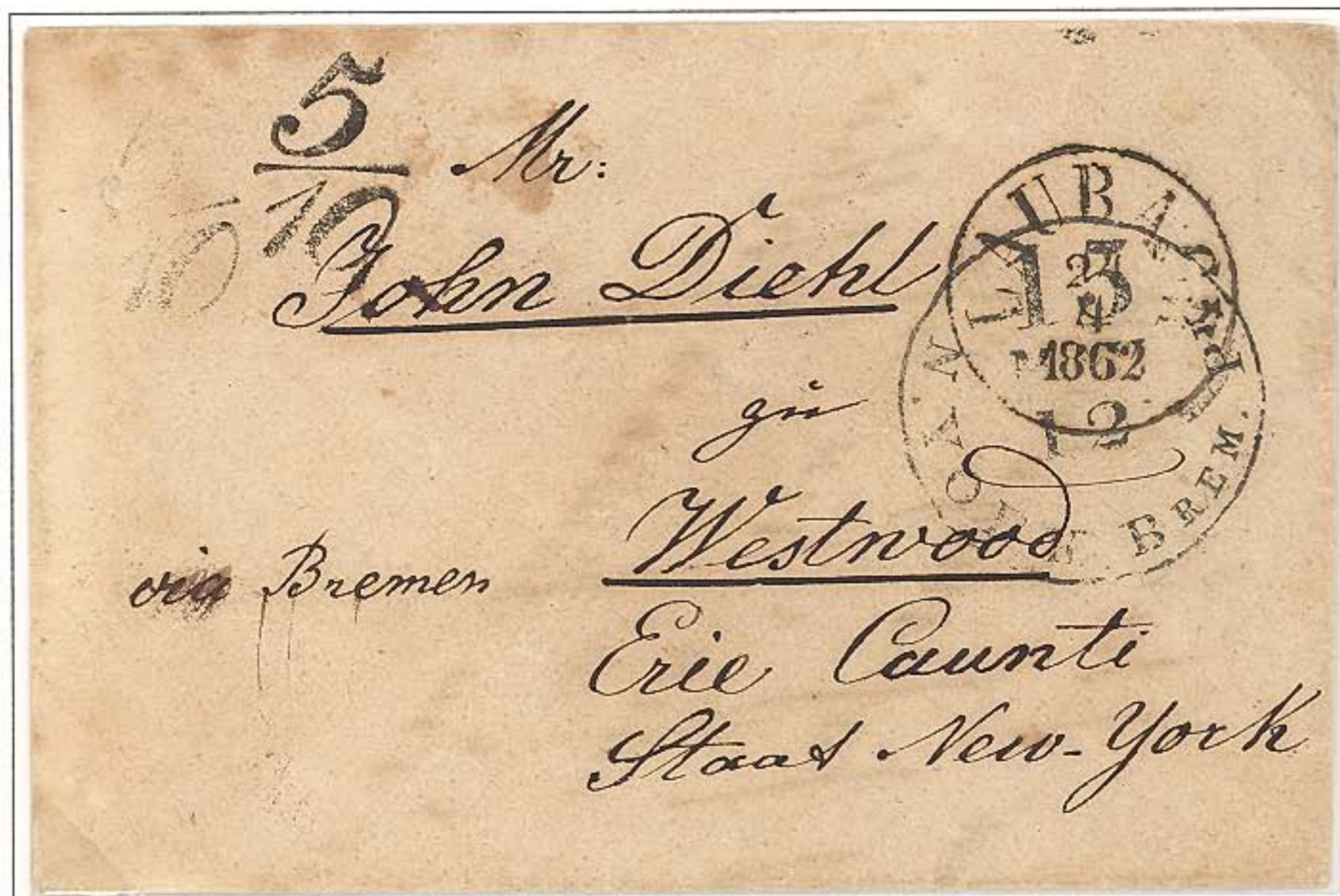
Rate: 10¢ prepaid for single treaty rate
7¢ U.S. credit to Bremen

Notes: Since Bremen packet carried this letter, U.S. entitled to keep only 3¢ of the prepayment. The U.S. portion was reduced from 5¢ to 3¢ in July 1858 on the return inaugural voyage of the North German Lloyd Line.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867



Envelope: Laubach, Hesse–Darmstadt to Westwood, New York, 24 April 1862

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 27 April 1862
Arrive: New York, 12 May 1862

Rate: – – – letter sent unpaid
15¢ postage due in Westwood

Notes: Bremen applied the "5/10" handstamp to show the breakdown of the total postage due, 5 grote German transit and 10 grote international fee. This was equivalent to 15¢, the postage due marked at New York.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867

Paid to Bremen.



Envelope: Rakovicz, Austria to Davenport, Iowa, 28 May 1862

Ship:	<i>Bremen</i>	
Company:	Norddeutscher Lloyd (North German Lloyd Line)	
Depart:	Bremerhaven, 7 June 1862	
Arrive:	New York, 24 June 1862	
Rate:	15 neukreuzer 10¢	prepaid for transit fees to Bremen postage due in Davenport
Notes:	Letter endorsed "franco bis Hamburg," but it was sent to Bremen for the next German steamer to the U.S., apparently just missing the Hamburg steamer of 1 June 1862. The 15 kreuzer adhesive (Scott No. 16) paid only GAPSU transit fees to the German departure port. Bremen marked the boxed "Paid to Bremen" and showed the 10 grote international fee was unpaid. New York did not mark an additional postage due since the 10 grote handstamp was equivalent to the postage due of 10¢. Letters with just the internal German or Austrian postage prepaid are quite uncommon.	

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Hamburg to Philadelphia, 6 June 1862

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 7 June 1862
Arrive: New York, 24 June 1862

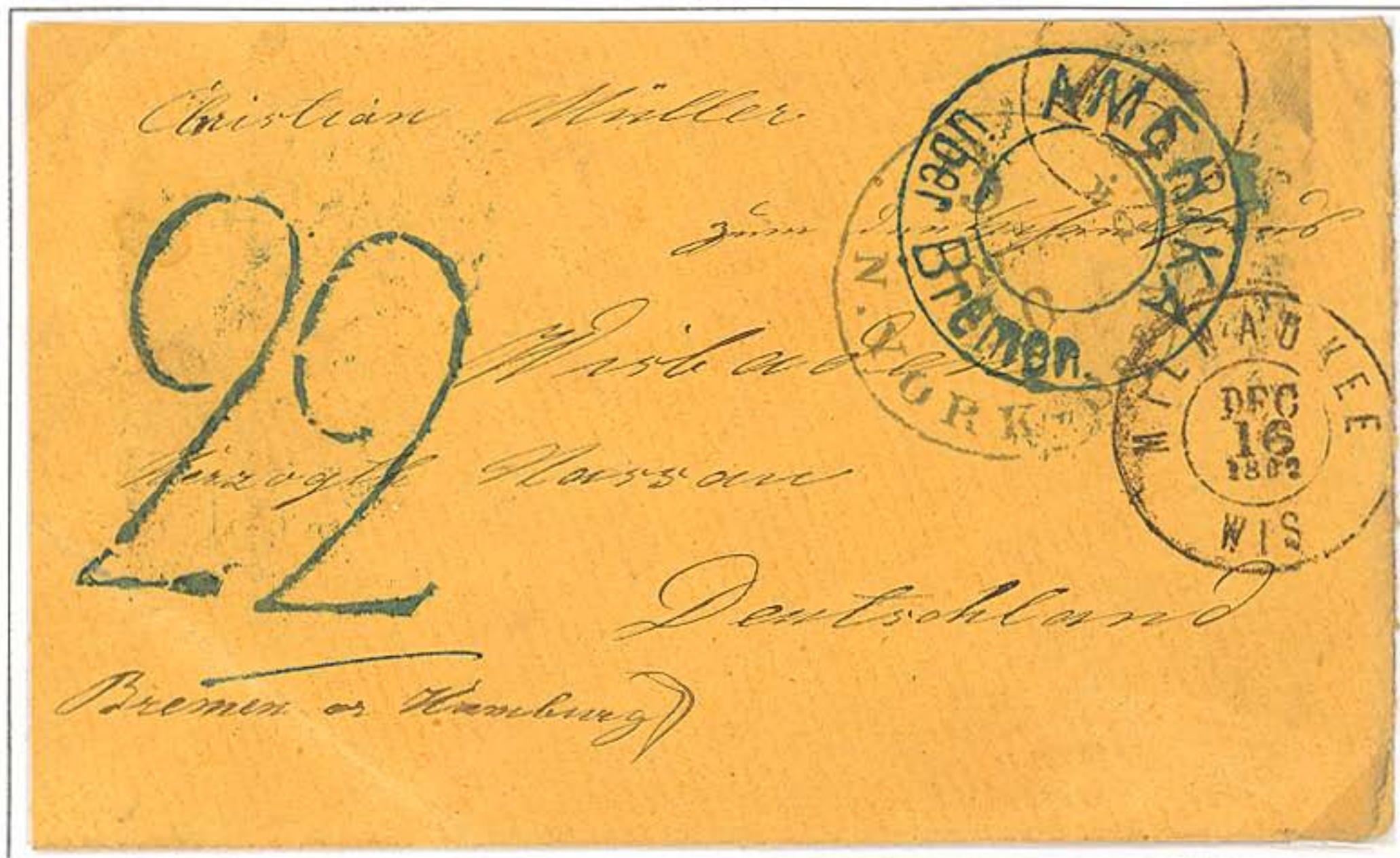
Rate: 9 schillinge prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Bremen restated the prepaid international rate of 10 grote with the red handstamp "10." Prepayment of 9 schillinge (Hamburg currency) was equivalent to 4½ silbergroschen (marked in pencil) or 15¢. Bremen marked the red boxed PAID.

U.S. – Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.–Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853–1868
19 June 1858–31 December 1867



Envelope: Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Wisbaden, Nassau, 16 December 1862

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 20 December 1862
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 2 January 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
3¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
22 kreuzer postage due in Wisbaden

Notes: Bremen used a double circle blue handstamp to show letter was from America via Bremen. Normally, the center of this marking would show numerals for the postage due such as "22" (kreuzer) or "6½" (silbergroschen). This marking comes in two types depending on the spacing between the words "über" and "Bremen," 3 mm. or 6 mm. This is the 3 mm. type

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853-1868
19 June 1858-31 December 1867



Envelope: Frankfurt am Main to Washington, D.C., 31 December 1863

Ship: *America*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 17 January 1864
Arrive: New York, 3 February 1864

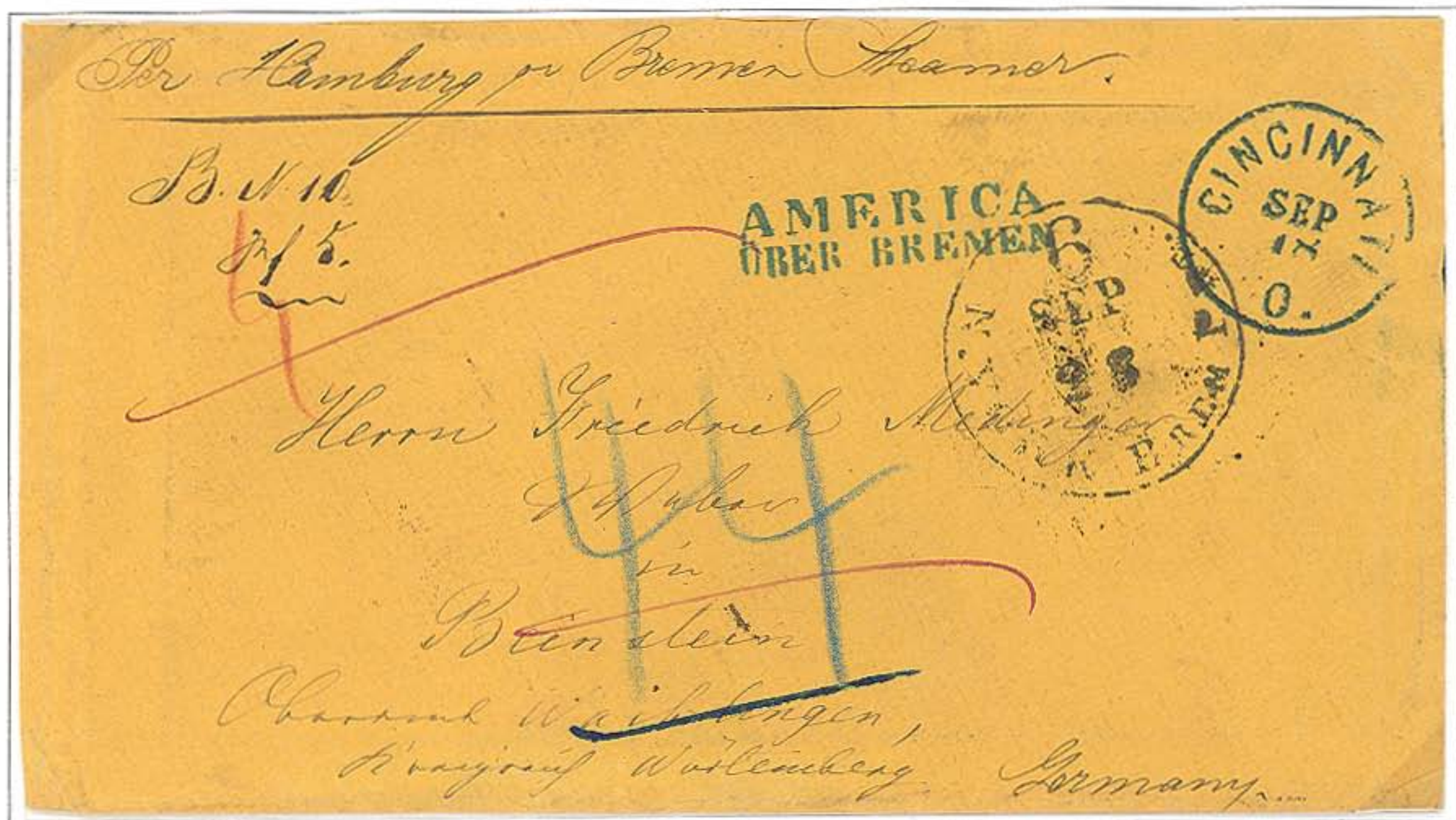
Rate: 22 kreuzer prepaid for transit fees to destination

Notes: Payment of 22 kreuzer was the treaty rate of 15¢ in Southern German currency, equivalent to 6½ silbergroschen in the Northern German currency. Letter carried by Thurn & Taxis Post from the Frankfurt to their Bremen office, where it was turned over to Bremen stadtpost. Frankfurt marked the oval PD. Bremen showed that 4½ silbergroschen or 10¢ international fee was paid with red crayon marking and handstamp. Blue circle 2 may indicate internal postage of 2 silbergroschen retained by Frankfurt.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853-1868
19 June 1858-31 December 1867



Envelope: Cincinnati, Ohio to Beinstein, Württemberg, 18 September 1865

Ship: *America*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 23 September 1865
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 5 October 1865

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
44 kreuzer postage due in Beinstein

Notes: Letter originated in the German Consulate of Cincinnati. New York debit was $2 \times 3\text{¢} = 6\text{¢}$ for a double rate letter. Postage due in Württemberg was $2 \times 22 = 44$ kreuzer.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853-1868
19 June 1858-31 December 1867

6½



Envelope: St. Louis, Missouri, to Gebhardshain, Prussian Rhineland, 16 November 1866

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 24 November 1866
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 8 December 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
3¢ U.S. debit to Bremen
6½ silbergroschen postage due in Gebhardshain

Notes: Letter originated in the Prussian Consulate of St. Louis. New York debit was 3¢ for a single rate letter. Bremen used a blur handstamp to show postage due of 6½ silbergroschen.

U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

U.S.-Bremen Treaty of 1853
Bremen Contract Steamship

1853-1868

19 June 1858-31 December 1867

AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN

Envelope: New York to Neckarsulm, Württemberg,
9 May 1867

Ship: *America*
Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Llyod Line)
Depart: New York, 9 May 1867
Arrive: Bremerhaven, 23 May 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
9¢ New York debit to Bremen
66 kr postage due in Würt.

Notes: Letter was triple rate. New York debited 3x3=9¢ to Bremen, where blue AMERICA/ÜBER BREMEN marking applied. Bremen showed 3x4½=13½ sgr. international fee due. Württemberg marked 3x22 kr postage due. Letter weighed 2 2/10 loth or 3 rates.

