

# U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaties

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

1853-1868  
19 June 1858-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Dinkelsbühl, Bavaria, to New York, 27 October 1865

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 5 November 1865  
Arrive: New York, 20 November 1865

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
15¢ postage due in coin in New York  
22¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Bavaria debited Hamburg 2 sgr. for the German transit. Letter arrived at Hamburg after the steamer had departed, so it was sent to Bremen for next steamship to New York. Bremen showed breakdown of unpaid amount, 5¢ German transit plus 10¢ international fees. The depreciated currency rates were computed daily upon arrival of the mails from Great Britain, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, and Belgium. This letter was marked for 15¢ if paid in coin and 22¢ if paid in depreciated greenback currency (notes).

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1853–1868  
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Folded Letter: Bremen to New York, 27 January 1866

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 26 January 1866  
Arrive: New York, 15 February 1866

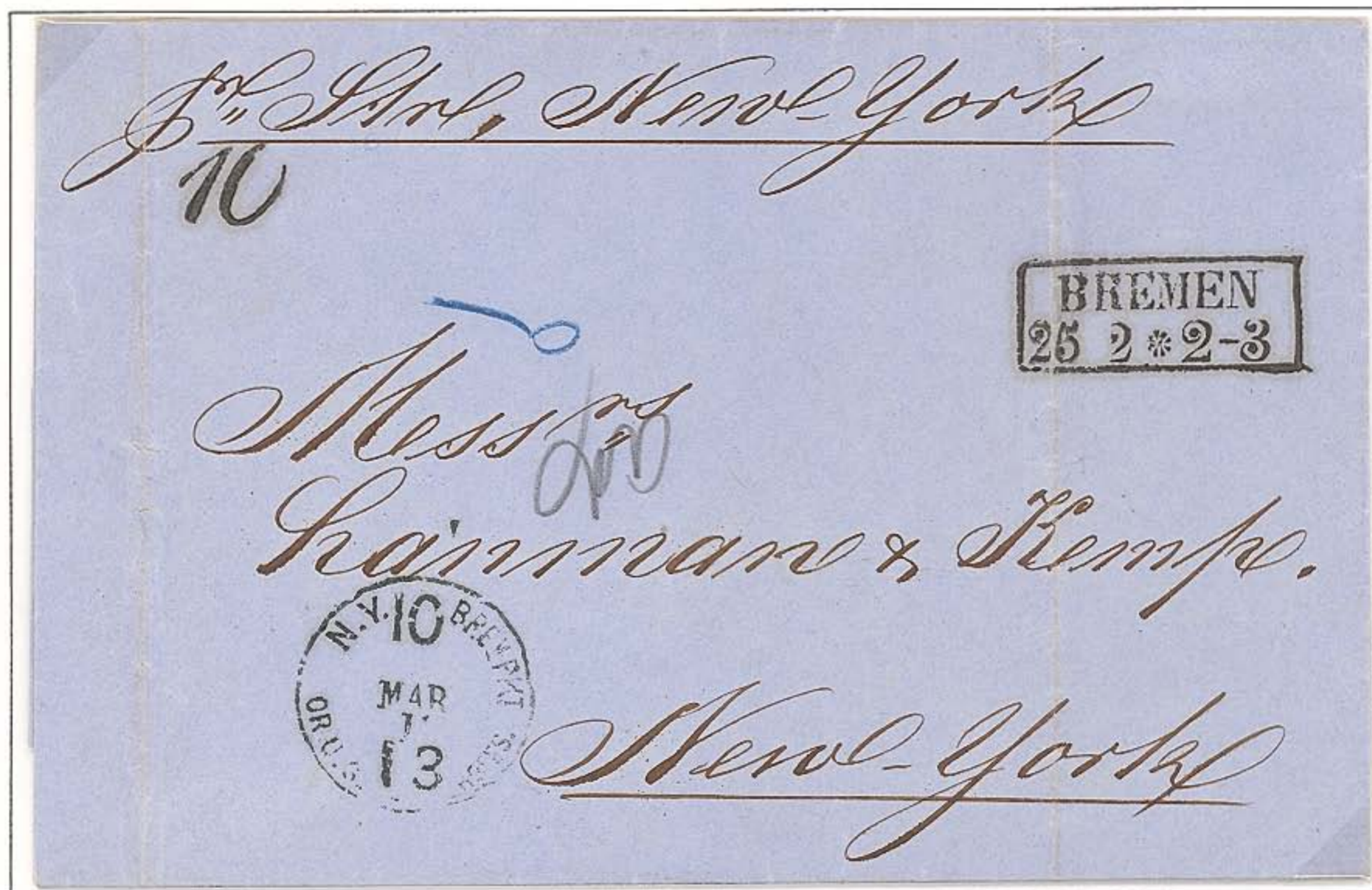
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ postage due in coin in New York  
14¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: New York introduced dual rate circular datestamps for the Bremen mails in September 1863. The postage due in coin was at the top and in greenback currency, at the bottom. The depreciated currency rates were computed daily upon arrival of the mails.

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Folded Letter: Bremen to New York, 25 February 1866

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 26 February 1866  
Arrive: New York, 13 March 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ postage due in coin in New York  
13¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: The depreciated currency rates were computed daily upon arrival of the mails from Great Britain, France, Prussia, Hamburg, Bremen, and Belgium. To date, the formula for calculating the daily premium has not been found. Undoubtedly, the rates were largely influenced by the daily gold premium.

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Envelope: Brixen, Austria (Tyrol) to Bristol, Rhode Island, 7 July 1867

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 13 July 1867

Arrive: New York, 29 July 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
30¢ postage due in coin in Bristol  
41¢ postage due in notes in Bristol

Notes: Larger 29 mm. dual rate circular datestamp, introduced at the New York exchange office in late 1866, is much more uncommon than the normal 27 mm. size. New York erred in using "AM.PKT." type instead of "BREM.PKT." type. Bremen showed the breakdown of the unpaid letter rate, 10 grothe German internal and 20 grothe international fees for this double rate letter (1 8/10 loth weight) in blue crayon since a handstamp was not available. German internal transit fee of 4 silbergroschen (Prussian currency) marked in blue crayon also.

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Folded Letter: Leipzig, Saxony to New York, 22 July 1867

Ship: *Weser II*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 27 July 1867  
Arrive: New York, 10 August 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
15¢ postage due in coin in New York  
21¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Larger 29 mm. dual rate circular datestamp, introduced at the New York exchange office in late 1866, is much more uncommon than the normal 27 mm. size. Bremen showed the breakdown of the unpaid letter rate, 5 grote German internal and 10 grote international fees. German internal transit fee of 2 silbergroschen (Prussian currency) marked in blue crayon.

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**Folded Letter: Bremen to Dayton, Ohio, 8 November 1867**

Ship: *America*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Bremerhaven, 9 November 1867  
Arrive: New York, 23 November 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
20¢ postage due in coin in Dayton  
27¢ postage due in notes in Dayton

Notes: Bremen marked 2x10 = 20 grote unpaid international rate for double rate letter. Pencil "21" in lower left may have been a Dayton letter carrier misreading the postage due marked at New York as 21¢ in greenback currency.