

1848 US-UK Convention (British Open Mail)

German Transit

The outcry from merchants over the Retaliatory Rate forced the two governments to negotiate a convention, resulting in the 1848 US-UK Convention, which took effect in February 1849. It required that letters be paid to reach the UK, after which they were unpaid letters with postage due from addressees.

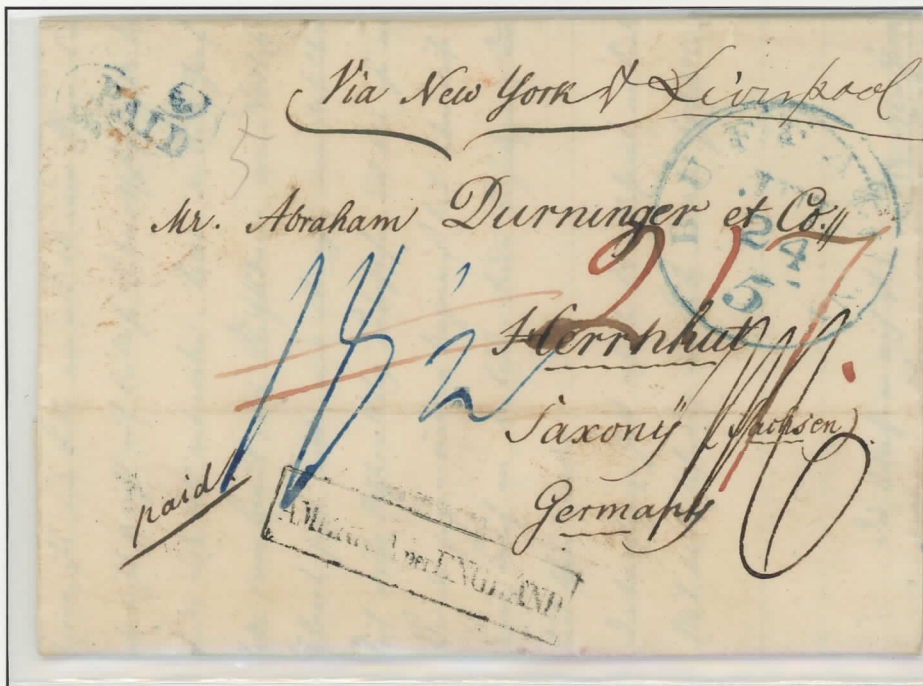
The UK had postal conventions with key north German states, so mail to them was usually sent directly or through Belgium and Prussia. France had postal conventions with south German states and Thurn & Taxis, so mail to them was usually routed through France. Since the markings and accounting are different, German transit and French transit are treated as separate sections under British Open Mail.

The 1846 UK-Prussia Convention made the penny (d) equivalent to 10 pfennigs (.8 silbergroschen (sgr)). It allowed the UK 6d postage per 1/2 oz. single rate.

The UK debit to Prussia was marked in shillings and pence in ink. The letter below was marked 1shilling/6d due (18d; 1 sh = 12d) for single rates for the US, UK, and Prussia, and double for Belgium. Like France, Belgium set a single rate at 7 1/2 gram (1/4 oz.).

Features of a British Open Mail Cover via Prussia:

US Payment	British Transit	British Debit Marking	Prussian Transit
			
<p>5¢ or 21¢ paid by cash or stamps (10¢ or 26¢ from the West Coast)</p>	<p>London Transit Marking (reverse)</p>	<p>1sh/6d Debit to Prussia (front)</p>	<p>"America via England" (front or reverse) (Superseded by round markings in 1852)</p>



US Postage	5¢		
Foreign Postage	d	sgr	
UK Packet	(8)	6 2/3	}
UK Transit	(6)	5	
Belg. Transit (2x)	(4)	3 1/3	
Prussia	(4)	3 1/3	
Saxony	(4)	3 1/3	
Postage Due	(26)	21 1/2*	

* 2/3 sgr = 8 Prussian pf or 6.6 Saxon npf rounded up to 21 Saxon ngr & 7 npf

- Buffalo, NY, 24 July 1849, to Herrnhut, Saxony.
- Caledonia, Cunard Line, dpt Boston 1 Aug 1849, arr Liverpool 14 Aug.
- Buffalo, over 300 miles from New York, required 10¢ US postage, but the convention mandated a 5¢ US rate (except West Coast).

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French Transit

The 1843 Anglo-French Convention established the bulk rate for unpaid letters from overseas through the UK at 3 shillings (sh) 4 pence (d) per 30 grams. The customary single rate was one-quarter of that, or 10d for a letter not exceeding 7½ grams, about ¼ oz. This was in contrast to the standard American and British single letter weight of ½ oz., a difference that caused complications throughout the period.

The convention made the British penny (d) equivalent to the French decime (dec). Before July 1851, in lieu of a debit marking, the UK post office applied a handstamp, "Colonies &c. Art. 13," to letters sent under the bulk rate.

Before January 1857, the bulk rate specified did not include a specific amount for packet postage, so the rate did not vary based upon the nationality of the packet.

Features of a British Open Mail Cover via France:

US Payment	British Transit	British Debit Marking	French Transit
			
<p>5¢ or 21¢ Paid By Cash Or Stamps (10/26¢ from West Coast) <i>(In this case, double- weight uprated to 10¢)</i></p>	<p>London Transit Marking (reverse)</p>	<p>3sh4d per 30g Bulk Rate Debit to France (pre-July 1851) (front)</p>	<p>Calais Exchange Office (front)</p>



<u>US Postage (2x)</u>	<u>10¢</u>
<u>Foreign Postage</u>	<u>d/dec</u> <u>kr</u>
UK Bulk Rate (3x)	(30) 84
French Transit (3x)	(10½) 30
Subtotal	114*
Th. & T. Transit	12
Postage Due	126*

*Written in florins and kr, 1f54 and 2f6, respectively

- Philadelphia, 18 March 1850, to Gerlingen, Württemberg.
- Canada, Cunard Line, dpt NY 20 March 1850, arr Liverpool 1 April.
- This weighed ½-¾ oz., so it was French triple-rate; that governed reimbursement to the UK under the bulk rate (like the US, the normal UK single rate was ½ oz.).

1848 US-UK Convention (British Open Mail)

Background

In 1847, the first voyage of the Ocean Line's *Washington* threatened the monopoly on transatlantic mail service British steamers had enjoyed since 1840. The UK began to charge sea postage on letters carried by US packet. The US retaliated on 27 June 1848 by charging sea postage on letters arriving or departing by UK packet.

The top cover was sent two weeks before the Retaliatory Act. Sea postage was included in the bulk rate for reimbursement under the 1843 Anglo-French Convention. The recipient of the bottom cover paid the same amount, but the sender also had to pay the US Retaliatory Rate, making a double charge for packet postage.

Postage	Rate Breakdown					
	June 1848 (Top)			Nov 1848 (Bottom)		
	¢	d/dec	kr	¢	d/dec	kr
US Domestic	5			10		
US Retaliatory	N/A			24		
UK Bulk Rate		10	(30)		10	(30)
French Transit		3	(8)		3	(8)
Th. & T. Transit			4			4
Postage Paid	5			34		
Postage Due	(28)		42	(28)		42
Total Postage	33			62		



- Oley, PA, 5 June 1848, to Dürmentz, Württemberg.
- *Hibernia*, Cunard Line, dpt NY 7 June 1848, arr Liverpool 21 June.

34

"34" Retaliatory Rate Paid
(right center under transit markings)

- New Orleans, 27 Oct 1848, to Backnang, Württemberg.
- *Europa*, Cunard Line, dpt NY 8 Nov 1848, arr Liverpool 20 Nov.

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German Transit British Packet

The German-Austrian Postal Union (GAPU), formed 1 July 1850, simplified and reduced postage among members. The usual single-rate postage due for British Open Mail letters by British packet was 16½ sgr for most northern states and 49 kr for most southern states and Austria. The Austrian *kreuzer Conventions-Münz* (krCM) was deemed equivalent to the German *kreuzer* (kr) for GAPU transactions.

US Postage	5¢	Top Bottom	
Foreign Postage	d	sgr	krCM
UK Packet	(8)	} 13½	} 40
UK Transit 1sh/4d	(6)		
Belg. Transit	(2)		
GAPU		3	9
Postage Due		16½	49



- Charleston, SC, 12 September 1850, to Berlin.
- *Hibernia*, Cunard Line, dpt Boston 18 Sep 1850, arr Liverpool 29 Sep.



- New Orleans, 17 May 1851, to Vienna.
- *Cambria*, Cunard Line, dpt Boston 28 May 1851, arr Liverpool 8 June.

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German Transit British Packet

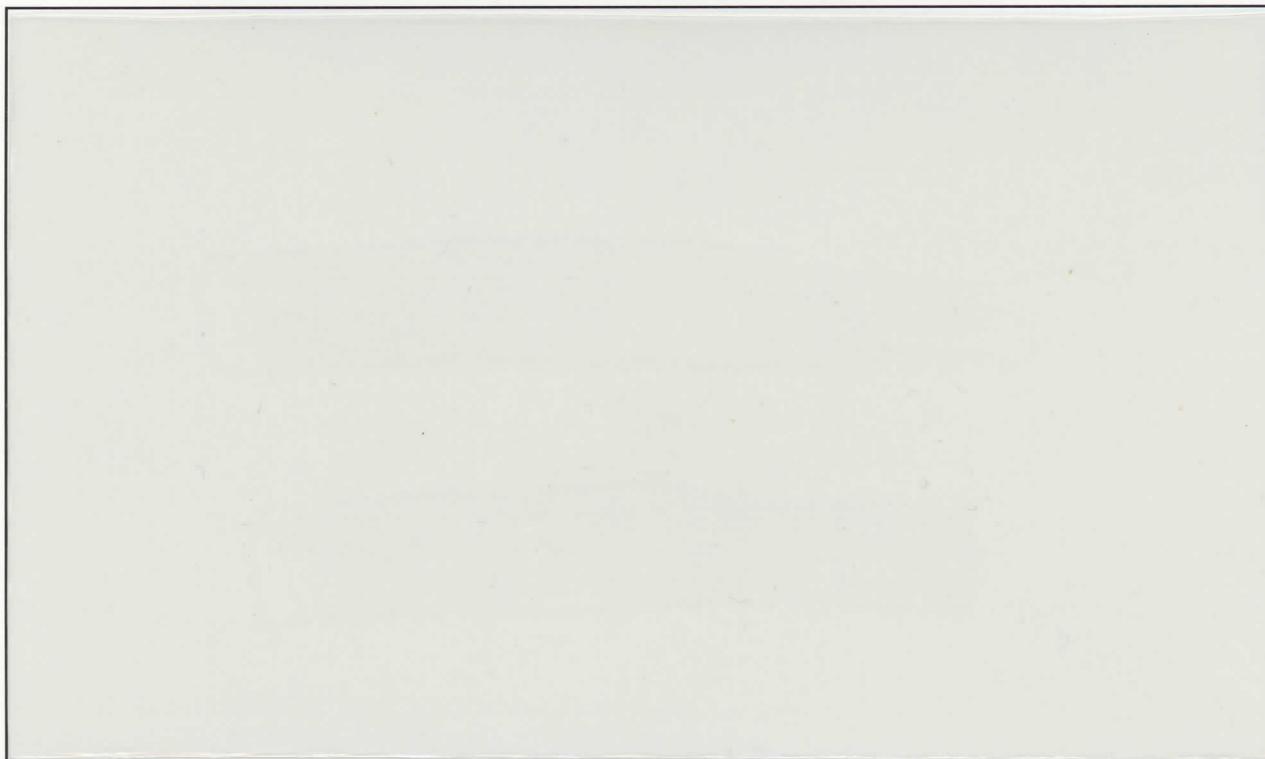
US Postage	5¢		Top	Bottom
Foreign Postage	d	sgr	ngr	kr
UK Packet	(8)	6%	} 10%	} 30
UK Transit	(4)	3% 3%		
Belg. Transit	(1/2)	1/2		1
GAPU	(3 1/2)	3	3	9
Postage Due		13%	13⁸/₁₀	40

An August 1852 amendment to the UK-Prussia Convention reduced English and Belgian transit postage, but rounding increased the UK transit charge from 3 1/2 to 3 1/2 sgr.

Since the Saxon ngr was decimal, the 13 1/2 sgr postage due was first rounded to 13 3/4 (blue), then 13 8/10 ngr (red).



- New Orleans, 24 September 1854, to Limbach, Saxony.
- Arabia, Cunard Line, dpt NY 4 Oct 1854, arr Liverpool 14 Oct.



- New Orleans, 15 May 1855, to Trieste, Austria.
- Asia, Cunard Line, dpt Boston 23 May 1855, arr Liverpool 2 June.

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French Transit British Packet

The single UK bulk rate was 10d (top) until July 1851, when it was reduced to 8d (bottom).

In 1849, France instituted a 5dec uniform transit charge for letters. That was usually charged for multiple-rate covers (top), but postal conventions often prevented the full charge for single-rate letters (bottom).

	Top (Double Rate)		Bottom (Single Rate)	
US Postage	10¢		5¢	
Foreign Postage	d/dec	kr	d/dec	kr
UK Bulk Rate	(20)	57	(8)	23
French Transit	(10)	28	(3½)	11
Baden		12		4
Postage Due		97		38



- New York, 15 April 1850, to Riegel bei Freiburg, Baden.
- Europa, Cunard Line, dpt NY 17 April 1850, arr Liverpool 29 April.



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Bühl was near an exchange office, so Baden postage was 4kr instead of 6kr

- New Orleans, 21 Sep 1851, to Bühl, Baden.
- Europa, Cunard Line, dpt Boston 1 Oct 1851, arr Liverpool 12 Oct.

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Also in mid-1851, the UK and France agreed to reduce the rate charged mail arriving in the UK on US packets, so new handstamps with the nationality of the packet were adopted.

Baden added standard 6 kr domestic postage for total fee of 45 kr. The top cover is double-rate, so 1 florin 30 kr was due.

French Transit British Packet

<u>British Packet Rate</u>		
<u>Foreign Postage</u>	<u>d/dec</u>	<u>kr</u>
UK Transit	(8)	24
French Transit	(5)	15
Transit Subtotal		39



New handstamp
for transatlantic
conveyance by
British packet

- **Cincinnati, OH, 19 March 1852, to Werneck, Bavaria.**
- **Asia, Cunard Line**, dpt NY 24 Mar 1852, arr Liverpool 6 Apr.



- **New York, 25 August 1852, to Mittenwald an der Isar, Bavaria.**
- **Africa, Cunard Line**, dpt NY 25 Aug 1852, arr Liverpool 5 Sep.

per Atlantic via Liverpool & London

Mr. Johann Maria Farina
gegenüber dem Fährplatz

Cologne
Prussia

Empfangen
London 1850

per Atlantic via Liverpool & London

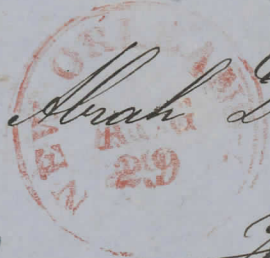
U.S. 64
Mr. Johann Maria Farina
gegenüber dem Fährplatz

Cologne
Prussia

per Steamer via Liverpool

PAID
5

Mr. Abraham Gurringer & Co.



1374
1374

Herrnhut
King of Saxony
Germany.

via New York
Steamships
~~Atlantic~~

An

Herrn Heinrich, Unger.



W. G. ...
Berlin.

Teilfrancobrief. Franco Brief bis USA Einschiffungshafen. Die Weiterbeförderung als Portobrief bis Sachsen.

Beförderung: Philadelphia 21. Okt. 1851, New-York 22. Okt. 1851 mit dem Schiff **Asia Cunard-Line, Br. Pack., Liverpool 02. 11. 1851, London 03.**

11. 1851, Belgien, Aachen Stpl. America per England, Bischofswerda

Francozusammensetzung: Franco USA Inland = 5 Cent Paid rot

Portozusammensetzung erfolgte nach dem neuen Postvertrag Preußen England 01. 07. 1849 bis 31. 07. 1852

Seeporto Amerika England = -/8d + = 6 ¼ Ngr. +

Engl. Transit = -/6d + = 5 Ngr. +

Belg. Transit = -/2d = 1 ¼ Ngr.

Seeporto, Engl. Transit = 1s/4d (hands. schw. Tinte) + = 13 ½ Sgr.

Vereinsporto = 3 Sgr. = 16 ½ Sgr. = 16 5/10 Ngr.

Porto Empfänger

Per Asia to from NY
Mist J. Hermann von
W. Bischofswerda
Saxony

PHILADELPHIA
OCT 21 1851
PAID

PAID

per Liverpool steamer
Nov 30th Paris 5
S. Howard's address
Mr William Glenn
Gewaldstr.
W. K. Schenk
via Berlin.

Altona
Danish PO
12 Feb 1850

Paid 10
Mr. Cornils. Deutz
Linnemann sen
Detonnes
Germany
Europa
P. A. 600
22 50
ALTONA

Viagara, via Ostende
Jonas Selig
Mann Isaac
Berlin
nexte

Boll-PR Transit

not selected

An Herrn Adam Hinkel,

Schulmeister in Oberflingen

O. A. Freudenstadt

Königreich Württemberg

Europa



Mr. H. Lang

1853
No 6

Das fuge das mit dem Brief

From
Jacob Lang, Ginn and Co
No. 10 in
Riverpool
Waldorf
Via London
Kingdom of Prussia



via Leipzig
Herrn
Gregor Lambert
Schmid-
Hofen
by Landst.
South Germany



42
Herrn.
C. Glock
Kaufmann in Wiesbaden
Old. Wickburg
Wiesbaden



grüßes going
Mr. T. Heinrich Fischer,
Gohmannstr. No 245.
Königsstadt
near Erfurt
Germany.
per Washington.
Bremen.

