

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

Separate payment of US and packet parts of the International Rate was not authorized, but letters, like the bottom cover, often were paid only to NY. The Exchange Office treated such letters as unpaid from NY, hence an implicit 29¢ rate.

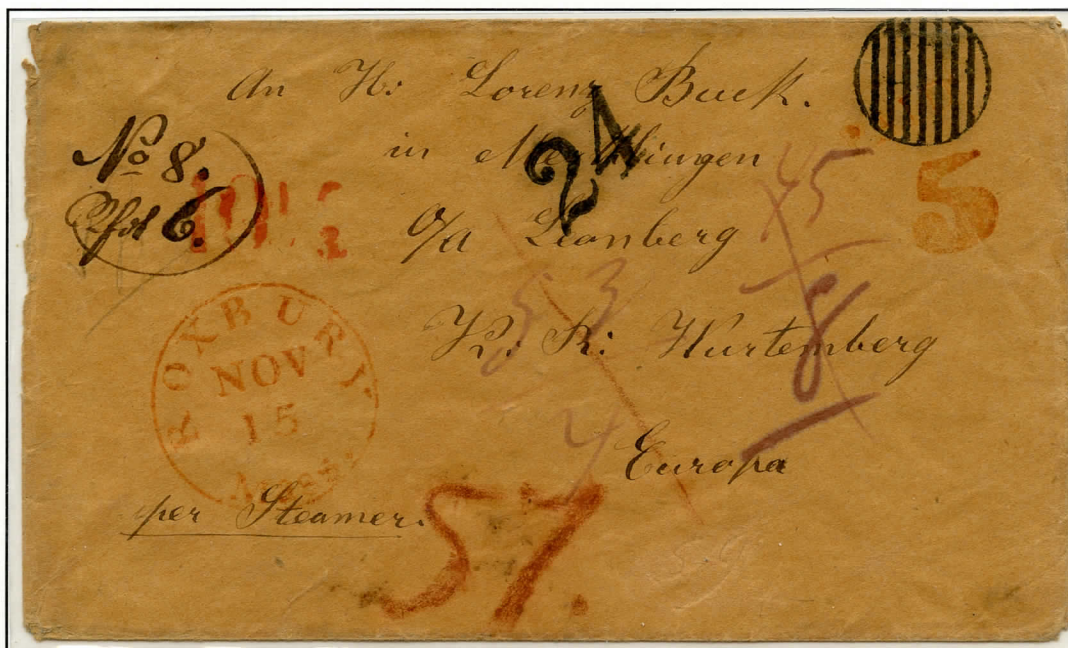
1847-51 International Rates (29¢)

Rate Breakdown	Top (Double-Rate)		Bottom		
	¢	ggr	¢	ggr	kr
US Postage	5x2=10	} 21¾	(5)*	} 10½	45
Packet	24x2=48		24		
Debit to Bremen	29x2=58	24	1½		
Hanover Transit		2x2=4			
Th. & T. Postage					8
Local Delivery					4
Total Postage Due		25¾			57

* Separate payment unauthorized, but accepted



- Middletown, CT, 1 July 1849, to Goslar am Harz, Hanover.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 20 July 1849, arr Bremerhaven 6 Aug.



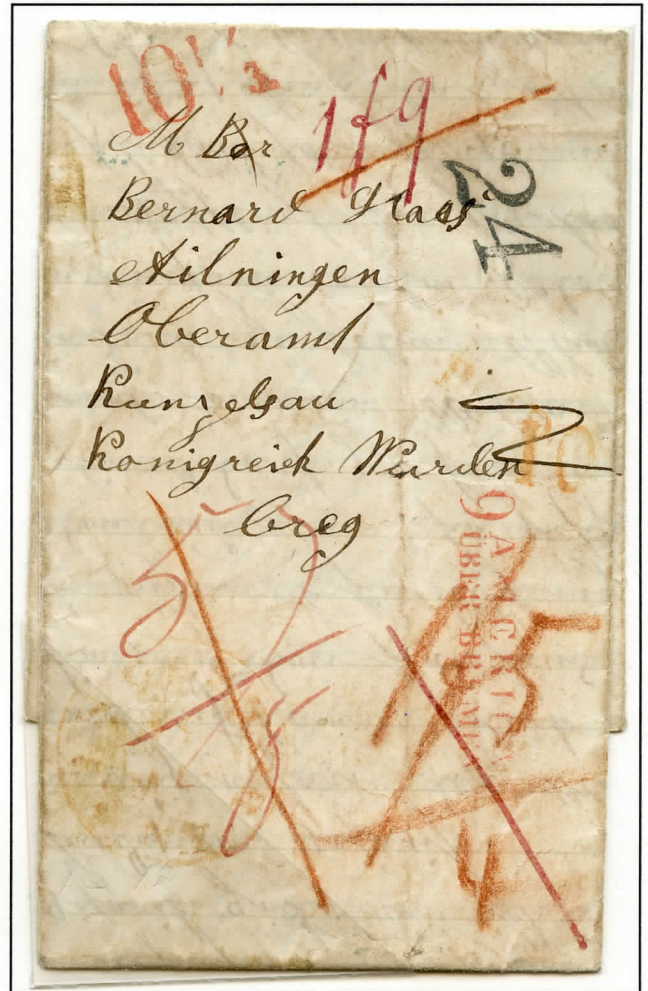
- Roxbury, MA, 15 November 1850, to Merklingen, Württemberg.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 20 Nov 1850, arr Bremerhaven 8 Dec.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

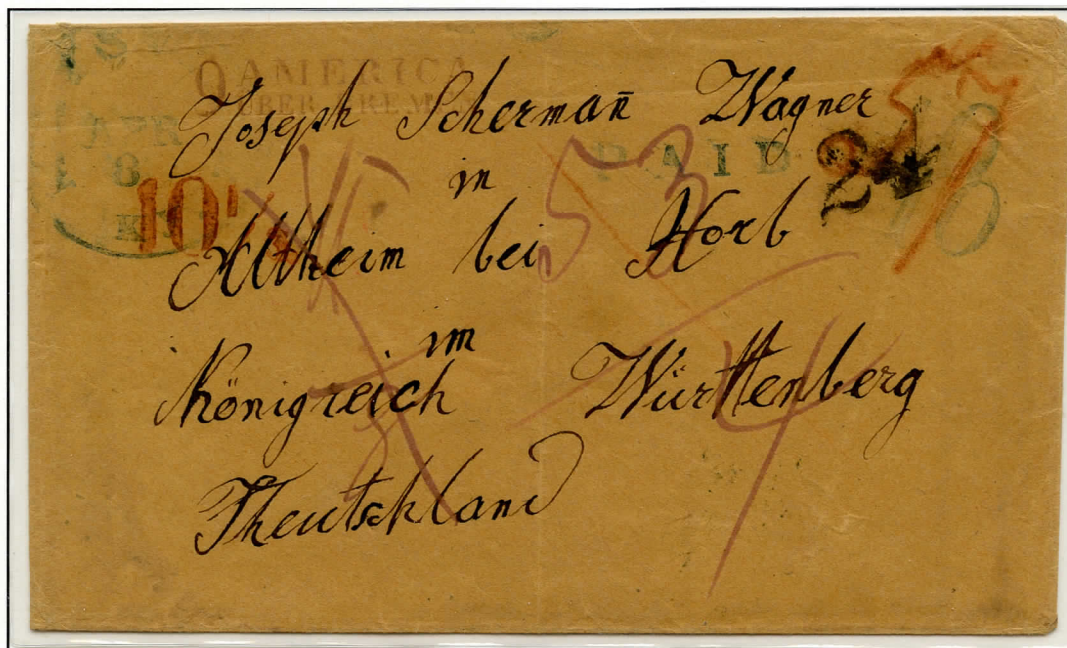
Accounting for foreign mail was error-prone. The Thurn & Taxis clerk processing the top cover marked the cumulative debit as 57 kr, i.e., the total postage for a single-rate letter, instead of 45 kr, the equivalent of 10½ ggr. Mistake or not, once the accounting was made between two entities, the addressee had to pay.

Rate Breakdown	Bottom Cover			Top Cover		
	¢	ggr	kr	¢	ggr	kr
US Postage (Paid)	10			10		
Sea (Debit to Bremen)	24	9		24	9	
International Rate	34			34		
Hanover Transit	(3)	1½		(3)	1½	
Cumulative Debit		10% 45		10% 57		
Thurn & Taxis Transit	(5)		8	(5)		8
Cumulative Debit			53			1f/5 (65)
Local Delivery	(3)		4	(3)		4
Postage Due			57			1f/9 (69)
Total Postage Paid	45		57	55		69

1847-51 International Rates (34¢)



- Alden, NY, 12 May 1850, to Ailringen, Oberamt Künzelsau, Württemberg.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 21 May 1850, arr Bremerhaven 5 June.
- Cumulative debits counter-clockwise from top left: 10½ ggr—57 kr—1 florin/5 kr—1 f/9 kr (1 florin or gulden = 60 kr).



- Maysville, KY, 8 April 1851, to Altheim bei Horb, Württemberg.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 19 April 1851, arr Bremerhaven 5 May.
- Cumulative debits left to right: 10½ ggr—45kr—53kr—57 kr.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

Conversion among German and US currencies was imperfect due to rounding. The *kreuzer* equivalent of the 20¢ international rate was first set at 33 (top cover), but changed to 32 (bottom cover) in July 1852.

Minimum prepayment was the 20¢ international rate; payment of 3¢ postage from OH to NY on the bottom cover was ignored and the letter sent unpaid.

1851-53 20¢ International Rate

		Unpaid Letters		
Rate Breakdown		¢	kr	
International Rate		20	33/32	} 20¢ Debit to Bremen
GAPU Transit		(7)	9	
Postage Due			42/41	
Total Postage Paid		27	42/41	

**AMERICA
UBER
BREMEN** $\frac{33}{9}$

42 kr Due,
33 to Bremen, 9 to
Th. & T.
(top center)



- West Newton, PA, 25 Nov 1851, to Sickenhausen, Oberamt Tübingen, Württemberg.
- Atlantic, Collins Line, dpt NY 6 Dec 1851, arr Bremerhaven 22 Dec (Bremen Closed Mail).



$\frac{32}{9}$ **R AMERICA
UBER
BREMEN**

41 kr Due,
32 to Bremen, 9 to
Th. & T.
(top center)

- Winesburgh, OH, 3 Aug 1852, to Ingelfingen, Kuzelsau, Württemberg.
- Hermann, Ocean Line, dpt NY 14 Aug 1852, arr Bremerhaven 29 Aug.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1851-53 20¢ International Rate Bremen Closed Mail

Ocean Line ships often did not sail in winter in the early 1850s, so NY made up “closed mails,” i.e., locked mail bags sent to England by other American or British ships and then sent on to Bremen for processing. Bremen Closed Mail was used throughout 1851-52 to meet demand.

Both of these covers were endorsed to go in British Open Mail by US packet, but instead were sent by Bremen Closed Mail aboard **Atlantic, Collins Line**, which departed New York 6 December 1851 and arrived at Liverpool 17 December; the mails arrived in Bremen on 22 December.

3

3 schillinge (sch—5¢) Due
(center)



<u>Rate Breakdown</u>	¢	sch
International Rate	20	Paid
GAPU Transit	(5)	3 Due
Total Postage Paid	25	

- **Cleveland, 24 Nov 1851, to Hamburg.**
- Mail to Hamburg was sent through Bremen in a separate bag, so there is no “AMERICA UBER BREMEN.”



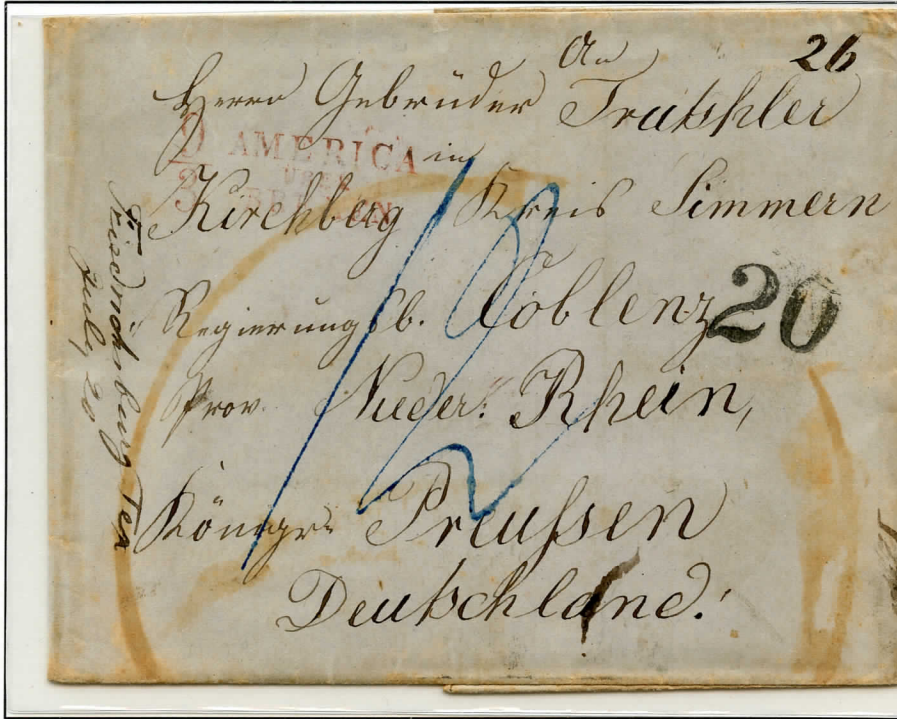
- **Louisville, KY, 23(?) November 1851, to Ankum, Hanover.**
- Despite the “PAID PART” marking, no postage due appears to have been charged.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1851-53 20¢ International Rate

Covers of this period reflect simplified accounting due to the formation of the GAPU. The bottom cover is marked "PAID PART," but since there was no transit fee for mail addressed to Bremen itself, 20¢ sufficed to pay fully mail to Bremen.

Rate Breakdown	Top		Bottom	
	¢	sgr	¢	sgr
Int'l. Rate	20	(9)	20	(9)
GAPU Transit <i>Due</i> (7)		3	—	—
Total Postage	27	12	20	12



9 AMERICA
3 UBER
3 BREMEN

One Of The First
Hanover PO
Handstamps To Show
Postage Due in sgr for
US (9) and GAPU (3)

- **Fredericksburg, TX, 20 July 1852, to Kirchberg, Rhenish Prussia.**
- **Hermann, Ocean Line**, dpt NY 14 Aug 1852, arr Bremerhaven 29 Aug.



- **Philadelphia, 5 Nov 1852, to Bremen.**
- **Washington, Ocean Line**, dpt NY 6 Nov 1852, arr Bremerhaven 23 Nov.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1853-58 15¢ Rate

In 1853, additional convention articles made the primary international rate 15¢.

These two covers show reciprocal debit on an unpaid letter (top) and credit on a paid letter (bottom) for the 15¢ rate by US packet.

Rate Breakdown	¢	sgr	
US Postage	5	2	} 9¢ Debit to Bremen for Unpaid Letter (US Packet)
Sea	4	1½	
Bremen Transit	1	1	} 6¢ Credit to Bremen Paid Letter
GAPU Transit	5	2	
Total Postage Paid	15	6½	

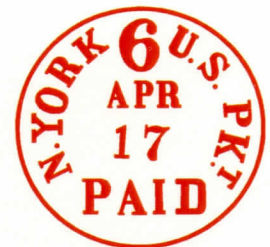
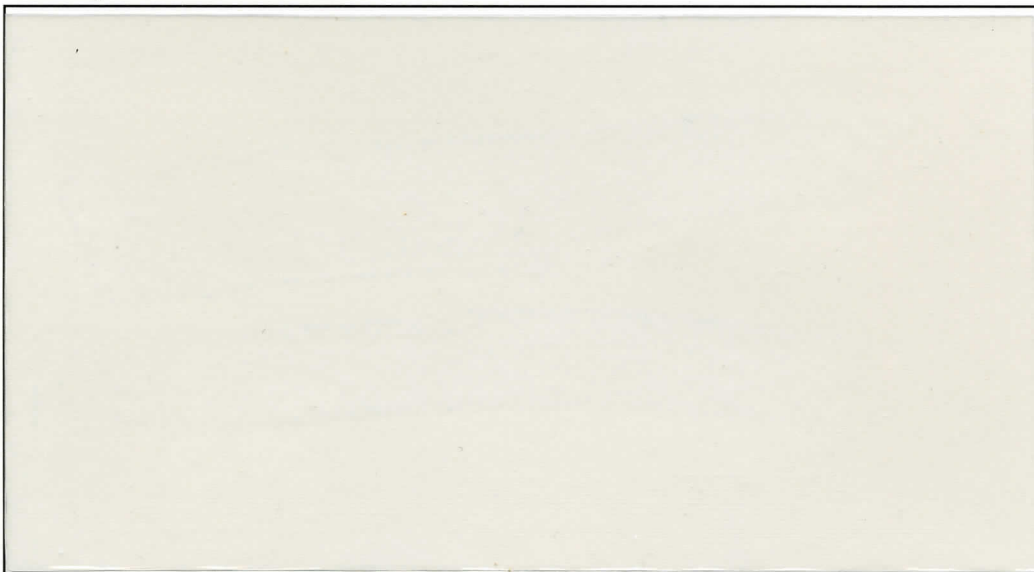
4½ Sgr AMERICA ÜBER BREMEN
2

6½ sgr (15¢) Due;
4½ to Bremen, 2 to Prussia (left)



- New York, 18 Apr 1856, to Berlin, Prussia.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 19 Apr, arr Bremerhaven 6 May.

PF Certificates 62 645 & 191637



NY Exchange Office Marking (right)

221899

- Pekin, IL, 6 Apr 1858, to Berlin, Prussia.
- North Star, Vanderbilt Line, dpt NY 17 Apr, arr Bremerhaven 3 May.
- Uncommon mixed franking—10¢ Type III and 5¢ imperforate.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1853-58 15¢ Rate

Letters via Bremen for Hamburg and states served by it were in a separate bag, so they show handstamps for Hamburg or one of the other major postal systems with offices there. Prussia handled mail for Mecklenburg-Schwerin; its handstamp is on the back of the top cover.



Prussian PO in Hamburg
(reverse—top cover)



Hamburg City PO
(reverse—bottom cover)



- Milwaukee, WI, 31 Oct 1854, to Graubow, Mecklenberg-Schwerin.
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 4 Nov 1854, arr Bremerhaven 21 Nov.



- New Orleans, 11 May 1855, to Hamburg.
- Hermann, Ocean Line, dpt NY 19 May 1855, arr Bremerhaven 6 June.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1853-58 22¢ Rate US Packet

The 1853 additional articles created a 22¢ rate for states served by Thurn & Taxis, which refused to adopt the low North German transit fee until 1858, when the 22¢ rate was eliminated.

These two covers show the reciprocals for debit and credit of the 22¢ rate by US packet.

Rate Breakdown	¢	KrR	
US Postage	5	8	} 14¢ Debit to Bremen for Unpaid Letter
Sea	9	14	
Bremen Transit	1	2	} 8¢ Credit to Bremen for Paid Letter
GAPU Transit	7	9	
Total Postage Paid	22	33	



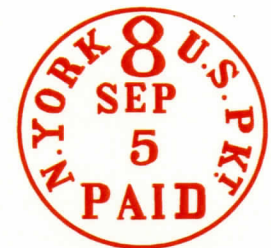
NY Exchange Office
Debit Marking
(right center)

24 KrR AMERICA
9 KrR ÜBER
BREMEN

33 Rhenish Kreuzer (22¢) Due
(24 Bremen, 9 Th. & T.)



- Watertown, WI, 23 Jan 1854, to Höchst im Odenwald, Landrats Bezirk Breuberg, Hessen.
- Hermann, Ocean Line, dpt NY 25 Feb, arr Bremerhaven 14 Mar.



NY Exchange Office
Credit Marking
(center)

- Chicago, IL, 2 Sep 1857, to Wiesbaden, Nassau. Paid by cash.
- North Star, Vanderbilt Line, dpt NY 5 Sep 1857, arr Bremerhaven 19 Sep.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

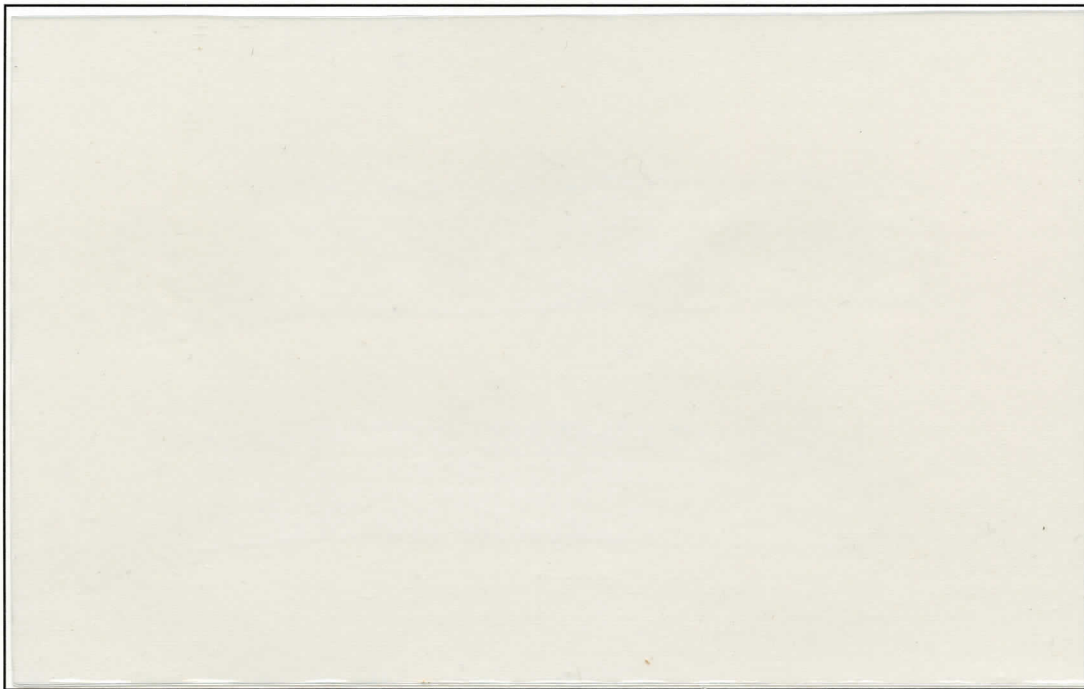
1853-58 22¢ Rate
US Packet

The top cover was endorsed for PCM, but sent via Bremen. The English postmaster at Olmsted did not recognize "Braunschweig" as Brunswick, so he charged the "All others" 22¢ rate instead of the Brunswick 15¢ rate. New York credited Bremen with 8¢ as a regular 22¢ letter.

The bottom cover from a fort near a German settlement in Minnesota Territory combines a 3¢ envelope with a cash payment of 19¢, an unusual franking.



- Olmsted, OH, 25 Mar 1855, to Calvörde, Braunschweig (Brunswick).
- Washington, Ocean Line, dpt NY 21 Apr 1855, arr Bremerhaven 8 May.



- Fort Ridgely, Minn. Terr., 4 Apr 1855, to Altingen, Württemberg.
- Hermann, Ocean Line, dpt NY 19 May 1855, arr Bremerhaven 6 June.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1858-67 15¢ Rate
Multiples

- **Manitowoc, WI, 9 May 1859, to Pfullingen, Württemberg.**
- **Bremen, NGL Line, dpt NY 14 May 1859, arr Bremerhaven 29 May.**
- Sender intended to prepay ("Paid" and "franco" lined through at lower left).
- Blue "44" at center is 44 kr postage due; the 15¢ Bremen rate rounded to 22 kr, so a double rate letter was 44. This contrasts with the Prussian Closed Mail 30¢ rate, which rounded up to 45 kr.



NY Bremen Packet "6"
Debit Marking

<u>Double Rate</u>	¢	kr	
US Postage	6	8	} 6¢ (8kr) Debit
Sea	12	18	
Bremen Transit	2	2	} 24¢ (36kr) Due
GAPU Transit	10	16	
Total Postage Paid	30	44	

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1858-67 15¢ Rate Multiples

Under the original Bremen agreement, there was a double rate (½-1 oz.), but no triple rate; larger letters progressed by the full ounce. Progression by the half-ounce was adopted in August 1860.

Multiple Rates	Double	Quadruple	
US Postage	6¢	12¢	} 6¢/12¢ Debit (Unpaid)
Sea	12¢	24¢	
Bremen Transit	2¢	4¢	} 24¢/48¢ Credit (Paid) (German Packet)
GAPU Transit	10¢	20¢	
Total Postage Paid	30¢	60¢	

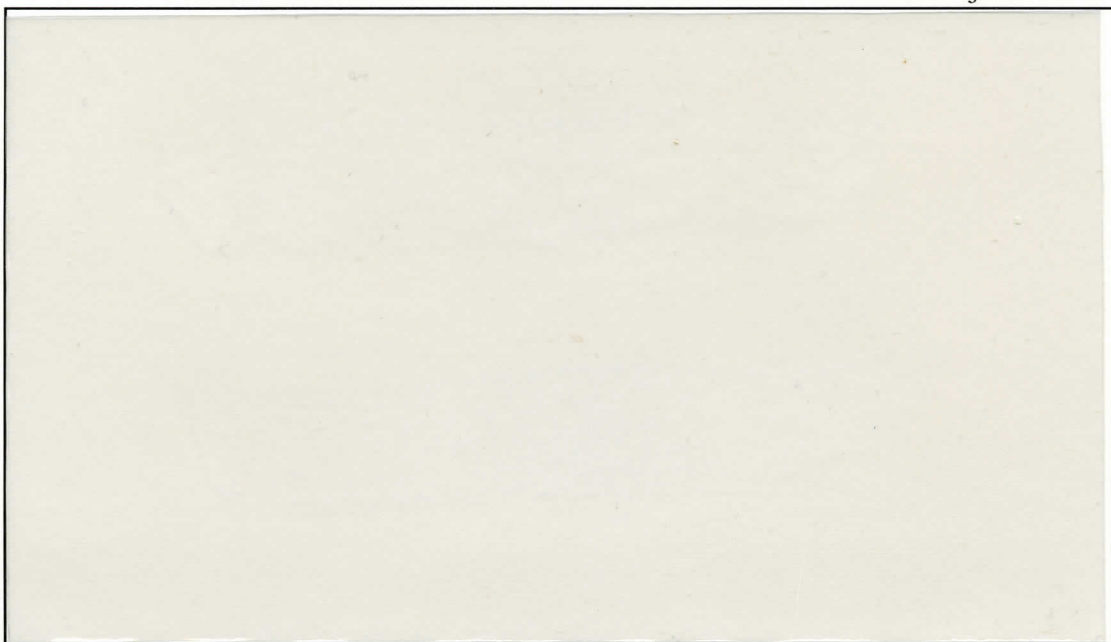


Brünn, Austria
Townmark
(reverse)



- **New York, 12 May 1860, to Brünn, Moravia, Austria.**
- **New York, NGL Line**, dpt NY 12 May, arr Bremerhaven 27 May.
- Quadruple rate (1-2 oz.—60¢). NY credited Bremen 40¢ (magenta ink, center), then realized that was for the old rate and corrected it to 48¢.
- Bremen wrote "45" at lower left showing GAPU postage in Austrian neukreuzer; small "0" at right shows no postage due.

PF Certificate 471606



- **Bethlehem, PA, 16 Nov 1860, to Neustadt, Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach.**
- **Bremen, NGL Line**, dpt NY 24 Nov 1860, arr Bremerhaven 8 Dec.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

1858-67 15¢ Rate City Variant—10¢ (Bremen Packet)

In 1858, the North German Lloyd (NGL) steamship line began to carry mail on the Bremen route. Prior to that time, American and British vessels carried most Bremen mail, the exception being a few trips by the short-lived line of W. A. Fritze & Co. in the mid-1850s.

These covers show the Bremen ship reciprocals.

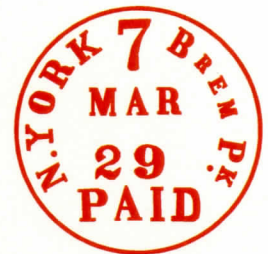
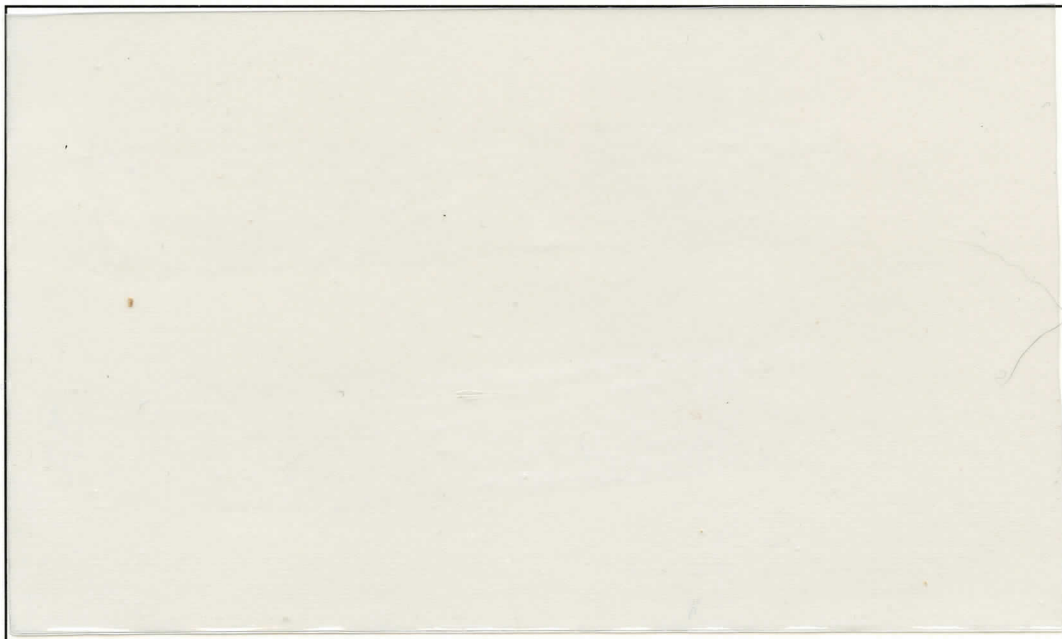
Rate Breakdown (Bremen Ship)	
US Postage	3¢ } 3¢ Debit (Unpaid Ltr)
Sea	6¢
Bremen Transit	1¢ } 7¢ Credit (Paid Ltr)
Total Postage	10¢ 10 grote



NY Exchange Ofc
Debit Marking



- Louisville, KY, 12 Dec 1858, to Bremen.
- Bremen, NGL Line, dpt NY 18 Dec 1858, arr Bremerhaven 2 Jan 1859.
- Intended routing was Prussian Closed Mail ("30" upper right), but it was changed to the cheaper Bremen packet.



NY Exchange Ofc
Credit Marking

- New York, 29 March 1862, to Bremen.
- Hansa, NGL Line, dpt NY 29 Mar 1862, arr Bremerhaven 14 Apr.

1847 US-Bremen Agreement

Transit to Other Countries

The top cover went in Bremen closed mail. The US debited Bremen 20¢, which was converted to 12 sgr; other markings are in Hamburg schillinge (sch), commonly used in Schleswig.

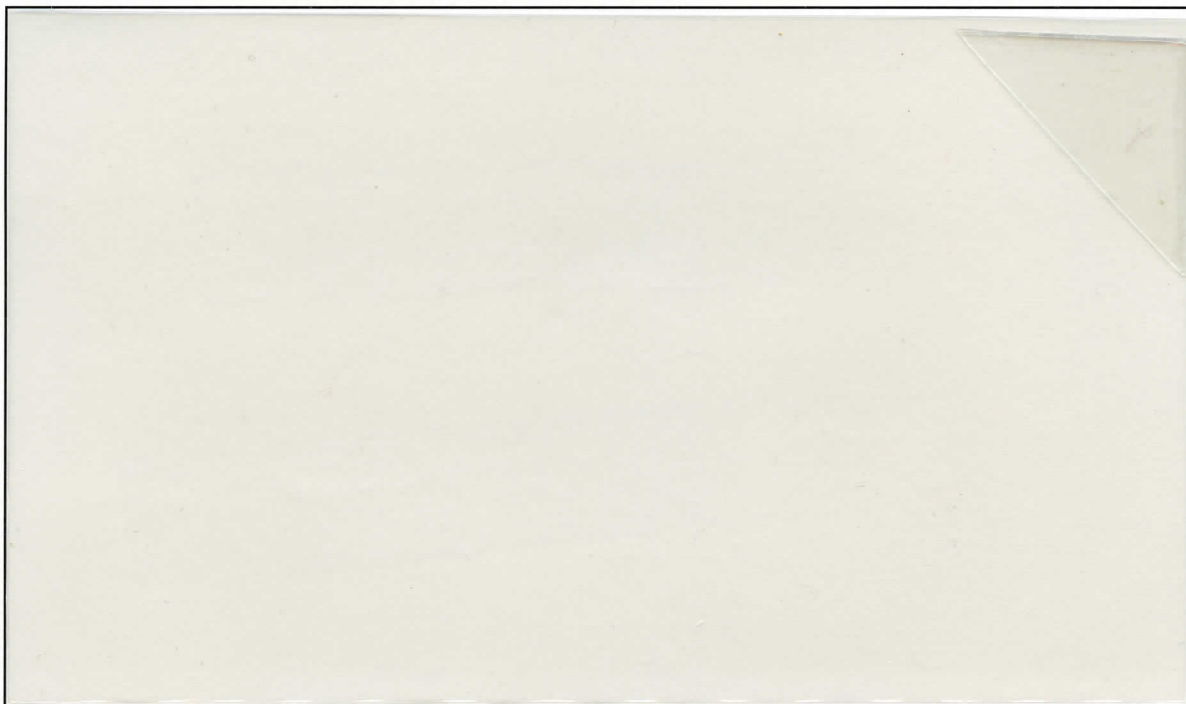
The final rating of the bottom cover was in post-1854 Danish skilling Rigsmonet (skR).

Rate Breakdown	Top		Bottom	
	sgr	sch	sgr	skR
Int'l. Rate	(12)	16	6½	(28)
Hamburg		4	—	—
Denmark		4		9
Total Postage Due		24		37




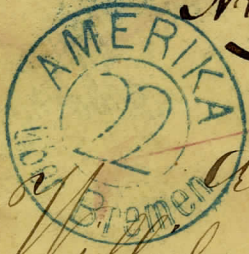
Royal Danish PO
in Hamburg
(reverse)

- **Prairie du Rocher, IL, 26 January 1852, to Garding, Schleswig (Denmark).**
- **Arctic, Collins Line**, dpt NY 7 Feb 1852, arr Liverpool 17 Feb, Bremerhaven 23 Feb.
- The sender paid 3¢ US postage that was unnecessary; NY stamped "20" over it.




- **New York, 20 October 1862, to Helsingør, Denmark.**
- **Hansa, NGL Line**, dpt NY 25 Oct 1862, arr Bremerhaven 9 Nov.



No. 6. 2/8.
via Bremen
Dr. Gynäk.
Willebad Müller
Rohrdorf, Oberamt
Heubahn
Württemberg



per Ariel
Loren Bernhd. Lottau
10 am Brill Nr 10
paid
Bremen Germany

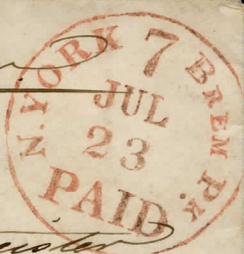


94/12
WESTERMANNSCHE LUFTPOST
in
Braubachsweg
113
Germany





Herrn Reser



*Herrn Gildemeister
class. Herrn M. G. Gildemeister*

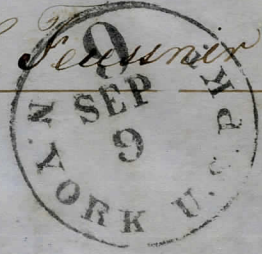
paid *Bremen*

34
By Gottlieb Langner
in
Städt. Oberrealschule
Königsplatz
Württemberg



Herrn 10
*24/9 K.R. AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN*

9^{3/4} / 14
Gymnasiallehrer Dr. H. Fiedler



New-York-Bremen
Steamer

Printeln.

AMERICA
FEB 21 BREMEN
FRANCO

Herrn Dr. Preufz, Advocat und Notar
Weine Duven. Strasse
zu Hannover

Friendship Washington
paid

Königreich Hannover

Nr. 3. Postzettel
König 20^c
Bremen

Postamt
Eberdingen

43
Königreich Württemberg

ELLENVILLE
FEB 2
N.Y.

Postamt
Tübingen a.d. Enz

hll. Nr. 8. 24
AMERICA
14 30

Postamt
Tübingen a.d. Enz

OCT 30
PHILADELPHIA

354 Königreich Württemberg

~~N. York August 31~~

~~30~~

AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN

6
AUG
NEW YORK
BREMEN

Luxemb
Carl Eberhard

46+

Wellendingen
Oberamt Rothweil
Württemberg

Per Bremen Steamer.

AMERICA
ÜBER BREMEN

M. Conrad Uttenwieser

6
AUG
30
NEW YORK
BREMEN

Dotternhausen.

Oberamt Rothweil

Württemberg.

44

for "Hansa"

J. J.

Herrn Johann N. G. Kirch

FRANC MEINCKE & CO
SHIP BROKERS
NEW YORK

3
OCT
NEW YORK
BREMEN

Handwritten scribbles and markings