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## OFFICIAL. POSTAL CONVENTION

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES AND SWITZERLAND.

Convention for the Amelioration of the Postal  
Intercourse between the United States of  
America and the Swiss Confederation

The post department of the United States,  
by special commissioner, John A. Kasson,  
and the federal council of the Swiss Con-  
federation, by Dr. Jaques Dubbs, vice-president  
of the federal council and chief of the federal  
department, have agreed upon the follow-  
ing articles, subject to ratification by the respec-  
tive authorities of the two countries:

ARTICLE I. There shall be an exchange of  
correspondence between the United States of  
America and the Swiss confederation by means  
of their respective post departments, and this  
correspondence shall embrace:

Letters, ordinary and registered.

Newspapers, book-panels, prints of all  
kinds (comprising maps, plans, engravings,  
photographs, lithographs, and all  
other productions of mechanical processes)

Patterns of music, and samples  
of merchandise, including grains and seeds.

Such correspondence may be exchanged,  
either originating in either of said countries  
or passing from the other, or originating in or  
passing to foreign countries, to which these  
countries respectively serve as intermediaries.

ARTICLE II. The office for exchange of mails  
shall be, on the part of the United States: New  
York.

On the part of the Swiss Confederation:

Basle.

Geneva (when the Swiss confederation  
shall find it expedient).

Such offices, by agreement may at any  
time establish different offices of exchange.

ARTICLE III. The principle is agreed, that each  
country shall make its own arrangements for the  
transport of its mails to the other office by  
the most direct lines of communication, and shall at its  
own expense pay the expenses of such intermediate  
transport. It is also agreed that the cost of  
international ocean and territorial transit of  
registered mails between the frontiers of the  
two countries shall be first defrayed by that one  
of the two departments which shall have ob-  
tained from the intermediaries the most favor-  
able pecuniary terms for such conveyance, and  
shall effect such transport in that case  
in both directions; and any amount so ad-  
vanced by one for account of the other shall be  
promptly reimbursed.

ARTICLE IV. The standard weight for the single  
unit of international postage, and rule of pro-  
portion, shall be:

For letters, fifteen grammes.

For all other correspondence, mentioned  
in the second paragraph of the first article,  
the despatching office shall adopt  
weights which it despatches to the other,  
adapted to the convenience and habits of its  
own administration. But each office shall  
give notice to the other of the standard weight,  
and of any subsequent change thereof.

Weights stated by the despatching office  
shall be accepted except in the case of  
mistake.

ARTICLE V. The single rate of postage on the  
direct correspondence exchanged between the  
two administrations, subject to the reserve  
mentioned in Art VII, shall be as follows:

1. On letters from the United States, 15  
cents.

2. On letters from the Swiss confederation,  
80 centimes.

2. On all other correspondence mentioned in  
the second paragraph of the first article, the  
rate shall be, for the mails despatched that  
which the despatching office shall adopt,  
adapted to the convenience and habits of its  
interior administration. But each office shall  
give notice to the other of the rate it adopts,  
and of any subsequent change thereof.

ARTICLE VI. The prepayment of postage on or-  
dinary letters shall be optional, subject to the  
conditions in Art. VII, mentioned, but on re-  
gistered letters, and all other correspondence  
mentioned in paragraph second of the first ar-  
ticle, it shall be obligatory.

ARTICLE VII. If, however, the postage of any  
correspondence shall be prepaid insufficiently,  
it shall nevertheless be forwarded to its desti-  
nation, charged with the deficient postage, add-  
ing full amounts, instead of fractions, of 1  
cent or 5 centimes.

ARTICLE VIII. Registered correspondence shall,  
in addition to the postage, be subject to a re-  
gister fee not exceeding ten cents in the Uni-  
ted States, and not exceeding fifty centimes in  
Switzerland and this fee shall always be pre-  
paid.

ARTICLE IX. Any correspondence may be regis-  
tered, as well international correspondence as  
that originating in or destined for other coun-  
tries to which these two administrations may  
respectively serve as intermediaries in either  
direction for the transmission of such regis-  
tered articles. Each department shall notify the  
other of the countries to which it may thus  
serve as intermediary.

ARTICLE X. Accounts between the two offices  
shall be regulated on the following basis: From  
the total amount of postage and register fees  
collected by each office on letters, added to  
the total amount of prepaid postages and regis-  
ter fees on other correspondence which it des-  
patches, the despatching office shall deduct the  
amount required as the agreed rate for the  
cost of intermediate transit thereof between  
the two frontiers, and the amount of the two  
net sums shall be divided between the two offices  
in the proportion of three-fifths to the  
United States office and two-fifths to the Swiss  
Office.

ARTICLE XI. The correspondence mentioned in  
the second paragraph of the first article shall  
be despatched under regulations to be estab-  
lished by the despatching office, but always in-  
cluding the following:

First. No packet shall contain anything  
which shall be closed against inspection; nor  
any written communication whatever, except  
to state to whom and from whom the packet is  
sent; and the numbers and prices placed upon  
patterns or samples of merchandise.

Second. No packet may exceed two feet in  
length, or one foot in any other dimension, or  
the equivalent in Swiss measurement.

Third. Neither office shall be bound to de-  
liver any article the importation of which may  
be prohibited by the laws or regulations of the  
country of destination.

Fourth. So long as any customs duty may be  
chargeable on any article exchanged in the  
mails, such duty may be levied for the use of  
the customs.

Fifth. Except as above, no charge whatever,  
otherwise than as herein expressly provided  
shall be levied or collected on the correspon-  
dence exchanged.

ARTICLE XII. The two post departments shall  
establish by agreement and in conformity  
with arrangements in force at the time, the  
conditions upon which the two offices may  
respectively exchange, in open mails, the cor-  
respondence originating in, or destined to, the  
other foreign countries to which they may  
reciprocally serve as intermediaries. It is al-  
ways understood, however, that such corres-  
pondence shall only be charged with the rate

applicable to direct international correspond-  
ence, augmented by the postage due to foreign  
countries, and by any other tax for exterior  
service.

ARTICLE XIII. Each office accords to the other  
the privilege of transit of closed mails exchang-  
ed, in either direction, between the latter and  
any country to which the other may serve as  
an intermediary, by its usual means of mail  
transportation, whether on sea or land. Such  
transit across its own territory shall be reciprocally  
free of expense.

For such transit by sea the United States  
office shall receive as follows:—  
For transit across the waters of the Atlantic  
Ocean:  
a. For letters, 8 cents per single letter rate.  
b. For other correspondence, 12 cents per  
kilogramme, net.  
2. For transit across the waters of the Pacific  
Ocean:  
a. For letters, 10 cents per single rate.  
b. For other correspondence, 20 cents per  
kilogramme, net.  
For such transit by sea the Swiss office shall  
receive as follows:  
For transit across the waters of the Atlantic  
Ocean:  
a. For letters, 8 cents per single letter rate.  
b. For other correspondence, 12 cents per  
kilogramme, net.  
For intermediate territorial transit each of-  
fice shall receive the amount it actually dis-  
burses for such transit.

ARTICLE XIV. The postal accounts between  
the two offices shall be stated quarterly, and  
transferred and verified as speedily as practi-  
cable, and the balance found due shall be  
paid to the creditor office either by exchange  
on London or Paris, or at the debtor office, as  
the creditor office may desire.

The rate for the conversion of the money  
of the two countries shall be fixed by common  
agreement between the two offices.

ARTICLE XV. When in any port of either  
country a closed mail is transferred from one  
vessel to another without any expense to the  
office of country where the transfer is made,  
such transfer shall not be subject to any postal  
charge by one office against the other.

ARTICLE XVI. Official communications between  
the two offices shall not be the occasion of any  
accounts on either side.

ARTICLE XVII. Letters wrongly sent or wrongly  
addressed or, not deliverable for whatever  
cause, shall be returned to the originating  
office, at its expense, if any expense is incurred.  
Registered correspondence of all kinds, not  
deliverable for any cause, shall also be return-  
ed in like manner. All other correspondence  
which cannot be delivered shall remain at the  
disposition of the receiving office.

Any postages, upon correspondence return-  
ed, which shall have been charged against the  
office of destination, shall be discharged from  
the account.

ARTICLE XVIII. The two offices shall, by mutual  
consent, establish detailed regulations for car-  
rying these articles into execution, and they  
may modify such regulations, in like manner,  
from time to time, as the exigencies of the  
service may require.

ARTICLE XIX. This convention shall take effect  
at a time to be fixed by common accord of  
the two administrations, and shall continue in  
force until terminated by mutual agreement  
or otherwise, until one year from the date when  
one office shall have notified the other of its  
desire to terminate it.  
Executed in duplicate at Bern, this eleventh  
day of October, A. D. 1867.

[SEAL.] JOHN A. KASSON,  
Special Commissioner, &c., &c.,  
[SEAL.] DR. J. DUBBS.

Post-Office Department,  
Washington, November 12, 1867.

Having examined and considered the afore-  
going articles of a convention for the amelio-  
ration of the postal intercourse between the  
United States of America and the Swiss Con-  
federation, which were agreed upon and exe-  
cuted in duplicate at Bern on the eleventh  
day of October, one thousand eight hundred  
and sixty-seven, by Hon. John A. Kasson,

special commissioner, &c., &c. on behalf of  
this department, and by Dr. Jaques Dubbs,  
vice-president of the federal council and chief  
of the federal post department, on behalf of the  
federal council of the Swiss Confederation, the  
same are by me hereby ratified and approved  
by and with the advice and consent of the  
President of the United States.

In witness whereof, I have caused the seal  
of the Post-Office Department to be hereto  
affixed, with my signature, the day and year  
above written.

[L. S.] ALEX. W. RANDALL,  
Postmaster-General.

I hereby approve the foregoing convention,  
and in testimony thereof I have caused the  
seal of the United States to be affixed.

[L. S.] ANDREW JOHNSON.  
By the President:  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
Secretary of State

## REGULATIONS

Agreed upon between the Post Office Depart-  
ment of the United States of America and  
the Postal administration of Switzerland for  
the Execution of the Convention for the  
Exchange of Postal Correspondence, signed  
the 11th October, 1867, and in accordance  
with the Provisions of Article XVIII. of said  
Convention.

ARTICLE I. The exchange office of New York  
shall make up mails for the Swiss exchange  
office of Basle.

The latter shall make up mails for the ex-  
change office of New York.

ARTICLE II. Each mail exchanged between the  
respective offices shall be accompanied by  
a letter bill showing the postages and the char-  
ges of transit, the fees, etc., according to each  
office upon the different kinds of correspond-  
ence.

The form of this letter bill shall follow the  
models A and B hereto annexed, and they shall  
be consecutively numbered by the despatching  
office during each calendar year.

The receiving office shall acknowledge its  
receipt by return despatch.

ARTICLE III. The exchange offices shall divide  
the correspondence which they despatch into a  
suitable number of separate packages, accord-  
ing to the letter bill.

Each of these packages shall bear the prop-  
er etiquette and number corresponding to the  
letter bill.

ARTICLE IV. When more than a single rate is  
chargeable upon any letter or other article,  
the number of rates to which it is subject shall  
be indicated, by the despatching office, by a  
figure in the upper left corner of the address.

ARTICLE V. Registered correspondence shall be  
entered upon the register list. This list shall  
conform to the model hereto annexed, mark-  
ed C.

Registered letters shall be enveloped togeth-  
er in strong paper and well secured. The pack-  
age shall be inscribed with the words "Regis-  
tered" or "Objects Charges" and placed in  
the mail.

ARTICLE VI. The receiving exchange office shall  
acknowledge to the despatching office the  
receipt of the registered articles numerically.  
Whenever the verification of the list shall dis-  
close an error or any differences the fact shall  
be notified to the despatching office by the next  
mail.

ARTICLE VII. The two administrations mutually  
engage to take needful measures for the care-  
ful transmission of registered correspondence and  
for pursuing it when lost; but it is understood  
that neither assumes towards the other any  
pecuniary responsibility in case of loss.

ARTICLE VIII. The letters exchanged between  
the two offices shall indicate, by stamp or writ-  
ing thereon, the office of origin.  
Correspondence fully paid to destination shall  
be stamped in the United States PAID ALL,  
and in Switzerland PD.

Registered articles shall be stamped "Regis-  
tered" in the United States, and "Charge" in  
Switzerland. Correspondence insufficiently pre-  
paid shall be stamped in the United States  
"Insufficiently PAID," and in Switzerland  
"Affranchissement Insuffisant," and the  
amount of deficient postage expressed in figures  
on the face.

[continued]