

ARRANGEMENT

ESTABLISHING

# INTERNATIONAL SEA POST OFFICES

ON STEAMERS OF THE

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD STEAMSHIP COMPANY

AND

HAMBURG-AMERICAN PACKET COMPANY,

PLYING BETWEEN

New York and Bremen and Hamburg.

DECEMBER 24, 1890.



WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

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## International Sea Post Offices on Board Steamers

OF THE

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND  
THE HAMBURG-AMERICAN PACKET COMPANY,  
PLYING BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BREMEN  
AND HAMBURG, RESPECTIVELY.

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DONE AT WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 24, 1890.

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The undersigned, N. M. Brooks, Superintendent of Foreign Mails, Post Office Department of the United States of America, and G. A. Sachse, Director of the Post and Telegraph Department of the German Empire, on behalf of their respective Administrations, have this day agreed upon the following, subject to the approval of their highest Postal Authorities:

1.

For the purpose of expediting the delivery of the correspondence exchanged between the United States of America and Germany, Sea Post Offices are hereby established, to go into effect on the 1st of April, 1891, on the steamship lines between New York on the one side and Bremen and Hamburg on the other.

2.

These Sea Post Offices are considered as an establishment common to both Administrations, and therefore are designated in the direction from New York to Germany: "UNITED STATES-GERMAN SEA POST OFFICE, NEW YORK-BREMEN (or HAMBURG),"

and in the direction from Germany to New York: GERMAN-UNITED STATES SEA POST OFFICE, BREMEN (or HAMBURG)-NEW YORK."

## 3.

The officials or employés for the Sea Post Offices will be, as far as practicable, furnished in equal proportion as to numbers by the two Administrations in such a manner that United States and German officials will be employed simultaneously in each of said offices. To begin with, every Sea Post Office shall have two officials, one to be furnished by the United States and one by Germany.

The necessary subordinates will, until further notice, be furnished by the German Postal Administration. It is presumed that for the present *one* subordinate will be sufficient for each Sea Post Office.

Each of the Administrations will pay the salaries of the officials or employés furnished by it. If the number of said officials, employés or subordinates of one Administration shall exceed the number thereof furnished by the other, the Administration which furnishes the extra force shall be paid by the other Administration one half of the expenses therefor.

## 4.

For furnishing the necessary space on the steamers, for the conveyance of the Sea Post Offices, and the board of the officials, the German Postal Administration has made the following agreement with the North German Lloyd of Bremen, and the Hamburg-American Packet Company of Hamburg, which may be annulled at the desire of either contracting party upon six months previous notice given to the other:

"A. The Company furnishes on each of its fast steamers the necessary space which must have an area of about 10 square meters, which is to serve at the same time as office room and sleeping room for the officials; and cares for the cleaning, heating, and sufficient lighting of the same.

"B. On every trip the Company furnishes board for one official and one subordinate, also, if requested, one day previous to the sailing of the steamer from Bremerhaven or Hamburg, and during the stay in New York. The official is furnished board at the officers' mess, and the subordinate at the underofficers' mess.

"C. The Captain is obliged to facilitate as far as possible the official duties of the postal officials, especially to furnish as far as possible the necessary force for transporting the mail bags between the office and the storeroom, and in case of sickness of the officials to furnish substitution.

"D. The Company is paid 1,500 marks for every round trip (\$357.00). If a steamer is accompanied by postal officials only in one direction, because the steamer conveys correspondence only in this direction, the payment is 750 marks (\$178.50). If there are more postal officials on board than are mentioned under B, the Company receives for every additional official 3 marks (\$0.61.4) per day, and for every additional subordinate 1 mark 50 pfennig (\$0.35.7) per day."

All the official business with the two Steamship Companies referred to, resulting from the above agreement, will be transacted by the German Postal Administration, which will see to it that the Companies duly fulfill their obligations, and will pay all sums due to the Companies. In case the Company furnishes a substitute, the substitute can engage in the duties of the postal service only under the supervision or in the presence of one of the postal officials on board the vessel.

## 5.

The expenses caused by the payments to the Steamship Companies for furnishing the room, and the board of the officials, as well as for the equipment and maintenance of the Sea Post Offices, will be borne in equal parts by the two Administrations. The existing general agreement, however, between the United States and the German Postal Administration, according to which the necessary mail bags are alternately furnished by each of the two Administrations for two years, shall remain in force in the Sea Post-Office service. Each Administration will likewise furnish, at its own expense, the necessary stamps, seals, and forms.

Apart from this, the German Administration will furnish all the necessary material and office supplies.

## 6.

The account showing the amounts due by each Administration for the necessary expenses of said Sea Post-Office service shall be prepared quarterly by the German Administration, and transmitted to the United States Administration for examination; and payment, when found correct, shall be made therefor as soon as practicable.

## 7.

The officials, employés and subordinates of the Sea Post Offices are, during their stay on the steamer, obliged to observe the regulations of the steamer, and are in this regard subjected to the orders of the Captain.

At the end of each trip all officials, employés and subordinates must call officially on the chiefs of the post offices at the terminal points, or their representatives, and receive any instructions relative to the Sea Post-Office service.

## 8.

On the trip to New York the German official directs the business of the office, and consequently is responsible for the mails, especially for the registered articles, and for the proper reforwarding of the closed mails. The United States official or employé shall assist him; and shortly before the arrival at New York the entire mail will be turned over to him. In the direction from New York to Germany the reverse takes place, so that the United States official or employé

shall direct the business of the office, whilst the German official assists him; and shortly before the arrival at the German port the entire mail will be turned over to him. The responsibility for the care of the mail will devolve on the said official or employé after the said transfer.

The formalities of the despatch and mutual transfer of the mails, etc., will be governed by the Postal Union Regulations in this manner: in the direction of Germany the Sea Post Office will be considered in its practical operations as a United States post office, and in the direction of the United States as a German post office.

## 9.

For the present the Sea Post Offices are to be maintained on the trips made twice a week by the fast steamers of the North German Lloyd, and once a week by the fast steamers of the Hamburg-American Packet Company. In case at some future time the number of these trips should be increased, the two Postal Administrations will, by correspondence, arrive at some agreement relative to the establishment of Sea Post Offices on the additional trip.

## 10.

From the period of the establishment of the Sea Post Offices the two Administrations will exclusively deliver all correspondence exchanged between the United States and Germany to the said German steamers upon which Sea Post Offices are established, unless the senders shall have especially requested the use of some other means of conveyance. Exceptions from this rule are only permissible if trips of steamers which should have been accompanied by Sea Post Offices are not effected. As regards correspondence for third countries despatched in closed mail transit through the intermediary of the United States or Germany, the selection of the route is left to each Administration.

## 11.

The two Administrations will in due time advise each other what mails shall be exchanged from the 1st April, 1891, between the two countries; they will also exchange their respective distribution schemes, which are to guide the officials and employés of the Sea Post Office in the distribution of the correspondence. In establishing these distribution schemes the same principle should be applied to registered as to ordinary articles.

## 12.

The chief object of the Sea Post-Office service is to provide for the distribution and prompt delivery of correspondence between Germany and the United States; but correspondence for America despatched from countries beyond Germany (*e. g.*, Scandinavia) in

transit through Germany, and correspondence for Germany despatched from countries beyond the United States (*e. g.*, Mexico) in transit through the United States, will likewise be distributed in the Sea Post Offices as far as possible.

## 13.

The Sea Post Offices will keep on hand a supply of German and United States postage stamps, etc., and will, during the trip and during the stay of the steamer in a German or United States port—but *not* during its stay in a foreign port—receive correspondence mailed by passengers or the crew, exclusive however of registered articles. For the prepayment of correspondence mailed in German ports, or during the trip from Germany to New York, only German postage stamps shall be used; and for the prepayment of correspondence mailed in United States ports, or during the trip from New York to Germany, only United States postage stamps shall be used. All the correspondence in question shall be subject to the postage rates and conditions of the Universal Postal Union Convention; and to those applying in Germany and the United States to correspondence destined for countries foreign to the Universal Postal Union.

Each of the fast steamers will be provided with at least one letter box; this box will remain closed during the stay of the steamer in foreign ports.

## 14.

The Sea Post Office service will go into operation for the first time in the direction of the United States on the fast steamer sailing from Bremerhaven or Nordenham, on Wednesday, April 1st, 1891, and in the direction of Germany on Wednesday, April 15th, on the return of the same steamer from New York. For the first Sea Post Offices to be despatched from Germany the United States Postal Administration will in due time send the necessary number of American officials or employes to Bremen and Hamburg. If the Steamship Companies claim payment for the conveyance of these officials, the expenses incurred thereby will be shared equally by the two Administrations.

The changes in the exchanges of the mails (see No. 11) will go into effect in the direction of the United States on the 1st of April, 1891, and in the direction of Germany on the 15th of April, 1891.

The correspondence relating to the current business of the Sea Post Office shall be carried on, on the part of the United States by the New York post office, and on the part of Germany by the Chief Directors of Posts at Bremen and Hamburg.

## 15.

The provisions of this protocol will remain in force for an indefinite period, each Administration hereby reserving the right to annul

it upon due notice (by mail or telegraph) given to the other; but such notice shall be given on the first day of a calendar quarter, and at least six months prior to the date at which such annulment shall become operative.

N. M. BROOKS,

G. A. SACHSE.

I hereby approve and ratify the foregoing.

JOHN WANAMAKER,

*Postmaster General.*

The above agreement is hereby approved and ratified.

BERLIN, *Janaury 17th, 1891.*

*The Secretary of State for the Imperial German Post Office.*

v. STEPHAN.

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