

HAWAIIAN-AMERICAN POSTAL CONVENTION, 1870

The undersigned, being thereunto duly authorized by their respective governments, have agreed upon the following articles, establishing and regulating the exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom:

ARTICLE I.

There shall be an exchange of correspondence between the United States of America and the Hawaiian Kingdom, by means of the subsidized line of United States mail steamers plying between San Francisco and Honolulu, as well as by occasional steamers, and by sailing vessels running between Honolulu and the ports of San Francisco, California, Portland, Oregon, or ports in Puget Sound, Teekalet, Olympia, and Port Townsend, comprising letters, newspapers, and printed matter of every kind, originating in either country, and addressed to and deliverable in the other country.

ARTICLE II.

San Francisco, New York, Boston, Portland, Oregon, Teekalet, Olympia and Port Townsend shall be the United States offices of exchange, and Honolulu and Hilo the Hawaiian offices of exchange, for all mails transmitted between the two countries under this arrangement.

ARTICLE III.

The United States office shall defray the expenses of the sea conveyance of all mails transmitted in both directions by means of its subsidized line of mail steamships, so long as said line is maintained by the government of the United States; and the Hawaiian office shall defray the expenses of the sea conveyance of all mails transmitted, in both directions, by means of occasional steamships or by sailing vessels.

ARTICLE IV.

No accounts shall be kept between the post-office departments of the two countries upon the correspondence exchanged between them, but each country shall retain to its use the postage which it collects.

The single rate of international letter postage shall be six cents on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, and an additional rate of six cents for each additional weight of half an ounce or fraction thereof, which shall in all cases be fully prepaid, by means of postage-stamps, at the office of mailing in either country. If not fully prepaid, they shall not be forwarded. Letters received in either country from the other shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever.

The United States office shall levy and collect on newspapers, (whether transient or sent to regular subscribers,) addressed to or received from the Hawaiian Kingdom, the established rates of United States domestic postage; and upon all articles of printed matter, except newspapers, addressed to or received from the Hawaiian Kingdom, a postage charge of four cents per each weight of four ounces or fraction of four ounces.

The Hawaiian post-office shall levy and collect on newspapers and other articles of printed matter, addressed to or received from the United States, the regular rates of postage chargeable thereon by the laws or regulations of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

ARTICLE V.

Letters mailed in the Hawaiian Kingdom and addressed to countries beyond the United States, with which the United States have direct postal relations, may be forwarded through the United States to their respective destinations, subject to the same additional postage charges as are paid by the inhabitants of the United States to such countries, which, in all cases where prepayment is obligatory in the United States, may be paid by the senders in the Hawaiian Islands, by fixing uncanceled United States postage-stamps of sufficient value to effect such prepayment.

On the other hand, prepaid letter from countries, received in and forwarded from the United States to the Hawaiian Kingdom, shall be delivered in said kingdom free of all charges whatsoever; and letters received in the Hawaiian Kingdom from the United States, addressed to Micronesia or neighboring islands, will be forwarded to destination, subject to the same conditions as are applicable to correspondence originating in the Hawaiian Kingdom and addressed to the islands.

ARTICLE VI.

Every letter dispatched from one country to the other shall be plainly stamped with the words "paid all," in red ink, on the right-hand upper corner of the address, in addition to the date-stamp of the office at which it was posted.

ARTICLE VII.

Dead letters, newspapers, &c., which cannot be delivered, from whatever cause, shall be mutually returned, without charge, monthly, or as frequently as the regulations of the respective offices will permit.

ARTICLE VIII.

The two offices may, by mutual consent, make such detailed regulations as shall be found necessary to carry out the objects of this agreement,

such regulations to terminate at any time on a reasonable notice by either office.

ARTICLE IX.

This convention shall come into operation on the 1st day of July, 1870, and shall be terminable at any time on a notice by either office of six months.

Done in duplicate and signed in Washington on the 4th day of May, A.D. 1870.

[SEAL] JNO. A. J. CRESWELL,
Postmaster-General of the United States

[SEAL] ELISHA H. ALLEN,
His Hawaiian Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.