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No. 5897

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
CANADA**

**Postal Convention. Signed at Ottawa, on 12 January 1961,
and at Washington, on 13 January 1961**

Official text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 29 September 1961.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
CANADA**

**Convention postale. Signée à Ottawa, le 12 janvier 1961,
et à Washington, le 13 janvier 1961**

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistrée par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 29 septembre 1961.

No. 5897. POSTAL CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA. SIGNED AT OTTAWA, ON 12 JANUARY 1961, AND AT WASHINGTON, ON 13 JANUARY 1961

For the purpose of making better postal arrangements between the United States of America and Canada, the undersigned, The Honourable Arthur E. Summerfield, Postmaster General of the United States of America, and The Honourable William Hamilton, Postmaster General of Canada, by virtue of authority vested in them by law, have agreed upon the following articles :

Article 1

ADMISSIBLE ARTICLES

(a) Unless they are specifically prohibited by the country of destination, articles of every kind or nature which are admitted to the domestic mails of either country, and except as herein prohibited, shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this Convention subject, however, to such regulations as the Postal Administration of the country of destination may deem necessary to give effect to customs and other Government regulations.

(b) The following articles are prohibited admission to the mails exchanged under this Convention :

Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination ; any article or matter that is inadmissible in the domestic mails of either country ; packages sent at parcel post rates the weight of which exceeds twenty-five pounds ; printed books sewn or bound sent at printed matter rate the weight of which exceeds eleven pounds.

Article 2

POSTAGE RATES AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Where the classifications are comparable in both countries, the rates of postage and special service fees to be collected on mail matter originating in either country and addressed to the other, shall be those applicable in the country of origin for its domestic mails according to its postal laws and regulations provided that—

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1961, the date mutually agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties, in accordance with article 19.

- (a) The rates of postage and the registration and special delivery fees so levied shall not exceed in either country the rates of postage and fees prescribed for articles of a like nature by the Acts of the Universal Postal Union¹ in force at the time.
- (b) Second class matter in each country addressed for delivery in the other shall be chargeable at a rate not less than the lowest international postage rate in effect for such printed matter.
- (c) When separately addressed copies of newspapers and periodicals intended for delivery at one office are enclosed under one label, bearing the address of such office, the individual copies shall be delivered without further charge to the respective addressees. Postage may be paid on the cover either by means of postage stamps affixed, postage meter impressions or other authorized imprints,
- (d) Parcel post matter in each country, addressed to the other shall be chargeable at a rate not less than the rate applicable to a parcel of similar weight in the country of origin for the maximum distance or zone.

Article 3

FREEDOM FROM DETENTION OR EXAMINATION

Except as required by the regulations of the country of destination for the collection of its customs duties, or as required by other Government regulations covering examination of such items as plant material, drugs and medicine, or for security reasons, all admissible matter mailed in one country to the other, or received in one country from the other, shall be free from any detention or examination whatever, and shall be forwarded to its destination by the most expeditious means available for the class of mail involved, and shall be promptly delivered to the addressees, being subject in its transmission to the laws and regulations of each country.

¹ Universal Postal Convention, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 364, p. 3 ; Vol. 391, p. 322, and Vol. 404 ; Agreement concerning insured letters and boxes, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 364, p. 331 ; Vol. 391, p. 326, and Vol. 404 ; Agreement concerning postal parcels, signed at Ottawa, on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 365, p. 3 ; Vol. 391, p. 327, and Vol. 404 ; Agreement concerning postal money orders and postal travellers' cheques, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 365, p. 207, and Vol. 391, p. 328 ; Agreement concerning transfers to and from postal cheque accounts, signed at Ottawa, on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 366, p. 3, and Vol. 391, p. 329 ; Agreement concerning cash-on delivery items, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 366, p. 87, and Vol. 391, p. 330 ; Agreement concerning the collection of bills, drafts, etc., signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 366, p. 141, and Vol. 391, p. 331 ; Agreement concerning the international savings bank service, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 366, p. 193, and Vol. 391, p. 332, and Agreement concerning subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, signed at Ottawa on 3 October 1957 : United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 366, p. 255, and Vol. 391, p. 333.

Article 4

RETENTION OF POSTAGE AND FEES

Each Administration shall retain the whole of the postage and special fees, collected.

Article 5

UNPAID OR INSUFFICIENTLY PAID POSTAGE

(a) Letters and post cards on which postage is unpaid or insufficiently paid, originating in either country and addressed to the other, shall be forwarded rated double the deficient postage collectible in the country of destination.

(b) Other articles (including parcel post) on which postage is unpaid or insufficiently paid, originating in either country and addressed to the other, shall be dealt with in accordance with the domestic laws and regulations of the country of origin.

Article 6

INDEMNITIES

(a) The sender is entitled to indemnity for the loss of a registered article. The amount paid shall be based on actual value and shall not exceed \$100.00. The country of origin shall undertake the payment of indemnity according to its postal laws and regulations, subject to its right to make a claim on the country responsible. However, either country may refuse to undertake the risks of force majeure (causes beyond control).

(b) The country of origin shall be responsible for and undertake the payment of indemnity for loss, rifling and damage of insured parcels in accordance with its postal laws and regulations. However, either country may refuse to undertake the risks of force majeure (causes beyond control).

Article 7

PARCEL POST. TERMINAL AND TRANSIT CHARGES

(a) On parcel post packages weighing in excess of eight ounces the country of origin shall allow to the country of destination the following terminal charges :

<i>On parcels from</i>	<i>Terminal charges per parcel payable to</i>
Canada	United States : 50 cents
United States	Canada : 45 cents

Settlement is to be made in the General Postal Account between the two countries on the basis of statistics taken during the first seven days of April and October of each year.

(b) The transit rates to be charged in respect to parcels sent from one country to the other for onward transmission to a third country shall be those fixed by the intermediary Administration.

Article 8

ADDITIONAL POSTAL CHARGES

(a) No postage charges shall be levied in either country on fully paid articles originating in the other; nor shall any charge be made in the country of destination upon official correspondence which under the postal laws and regulations of the country of origin is entitled to freedom from postage, but the country of destination will receive, forward and deliver the same free of charge; provided that in case a parcel post package is redirected from one address to another in the country of destination, it shall be subject to an additional charge for postage, and, in case of insured packages, additional postage and insurance fee.

(b) However, the country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressee for customs clearance, interior service and delivery, a charge, the amount of which is to be fixed according to its own regulations, but which shall in no case exceed that charged for articles from other countries.

Article 9

EXCHANGE OF MAILS

(a) Exchanges of mails under this Convention shall be effected through the post offices of both countries designated as exchange post offices, or through such other offices as may be hereafter agreed upon, under such regulations relative to the details of the exchanges as may be mutually determined to be essential to the security and expedition of the mails and the protection of the customs revenues.

(b) Each country shall provide for and bear the expense of the conveyance of its surface mails to the other; or if by agreement the conveyance in both directions in overland exchanges, other than by railway, is provided by one of them, the expense of transportation shall be shared between them in proportion to the distance traveled over the territory of each.

(c) Insofar as concerns regular civilian air mail, despatches originating in Canada for the United States will be transported over the United States domestic air routes

without cost to Canada ; despatches originating in the United States for Canada will be transported over the Canadian domestic air routes without cost to the United States.

(d) It is further agreed that Canada may despatch regular civilian air mail by United States air carriers operating between points in Canada and the United States and the United States may despatch regular civilian air mail by Canadian air carriers operating between points in the United States and Canada without cost to the despatching Administration.

(e) Transportation charges for air service other than those set forth in (c) and (d) of this article shall be at the rates quoted by each Administration through the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, unless other rates are mutually agreed upon. Transportation charges for air parcel post will be as mutually agreed upon by both Administrations.

(f) The provisions of this article apply also to Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Canal Zone, Canton Island (United States), Midway, Wake and Guam.

Article 10

TRANSIT

(a) Each Administration grants to the other, free of any charges, detention or examination whatsoever, the transit across its territory, by all surface transport that it uses for its own mails, of the surface closed mails made up by any authorized exchange office of either country addressed to any other exchange office of the same country, or to any exchange office of the other country.

(b) In the case of closed mails originating in either country and sent in transit through the territorial and/or maritime services of the other en route to a third country, the country in which the mails originate shall pay for the intermediary services performed by the other on the basis of accounts rendered periodically and at rates mutually agreed upon, but which in the case of regular mails may not exceed those prescribed by the Acts of the Universal Postal Union in force at the time.

Article 11

CUSTOMS DECLARATION

The sender shall prepare one customs declaration for each parcel post package weighing in excess of eight ounces sent from each country upon a special form provided for the purpose by the country of origin. The customs declaration shall be securely attached to the parcel.

Article 12

REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY

(a) Any article of mail, with the exception of parcels paid at parcel post rates, may be registered upon payment of the postage and the registration fee applicable thereto in the country of origin.

(b) Parcels paid at parcel post rates may be insured upon payment of the insurance fee applicable thereto in the country of origin in addition to postage, provided their contents do not contravene the insurance regulations of either country.

(c) An acknowledgment of delivery of a registered article shall be returned to the sender when requested ; but either country may require of the sender prepayment of a fee therefor in accordance with that charged in its domestic service.

Article 13

LETTER BILLS, REGISTRY LISTS AND PARCEL BILLS

(a) Exchanges of ordinary mail may be effected without the use of letter bills ; also no parcel bills are to be used in the exchange of parcel post (ordinary or insured), except during the April and October statistical periods. However, registered articles must be accompanied by a descriptive list, by means of which the articles may be identified by the receiving office, except that the bulk billing arrangement provided by the Acts of the Universal Postal Union for registered articles may be mutually agreed upon.

(b) If a registered article advised shall not be found in the mails by the receiving office, the irregularity shall be promptly reported to the administration of origin.

Article 14

PREPARATION OF DESPATCHES

Ordinary, registered and insured exchanges shall be effected in properly closed sacks, under such regulations as may be mutually determined to be essential.

Article 15

UNDELIVERABLE ARTICLES

(a) Undeliverable printed matter and "other articles" (A. O.) without value are not returned unless the sender has requested their return by a notation placed on the article. All other undeliverable articles and parcels shall be reciprocally returned without charge, through the appropriate exchange offices of the two countries, after the expiration of the period for their retention prescribed by the laws or regulations of the country of destination; except that returned packages sent at parcel post rates shall be liable on return to senders to a charge equal to the amount required to fully pay the postage thereon when originally mailed, and that insufficiently paid articles shall be liable on return to senders to the charge for deficient postage that would have been collected from the addressees if said articles had been delivered.

(b) Fully paid articles which bear requests by the senders for their return in case of non-delivery by a certain date or within a specified time, shall be reciprocally returned without charge (except as provided for in (a) directly to the country of origin at the expiration of the period of retention indicated in the requests.

(c) Fully paid articles bearing on the covers a return address without request for their return in case of non-delivery within a specified time, shall be reciprocally returned without charge (except as provided for in (a) directly to the country of origin at the expiration of the period of retention prescribed by the country of destination.

Article 16

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

All matters connected with the exchange of mails between the two countries, which are not herein provided for, shall be governed by the Acts of the Universal Postal Union in force at the time, so far as these Acts shall be obligatory upon both of the contracting parties, except as hereafter modified or changed.

Article 17

CHANGES IN POSTAGE RATES AND FEES

Each Administration shall notify the other, at least thirty days prior to the effective date, of any changes in postage rates and fees applicable to mail exchanged between the two countries under the provisions of this Convention.

Article 18

MODIFICATIONS

The Postmaster General of the United States of America and the Postmaster General of Canada shall have authority to make jointly such further regulations of order and detail and to provide for such changes and modifications as may be found necessary to carry out the present Convention from time to time; and may by agreement prescribe conditions for the admission to the mails of any of the articles prohibited by Article 1.

Article 19

DURATION OF CONVENTION

This Convention abrogates the special Postal Convention between the two countries signed at Ottawa, Canada, December 20, 1922, and at Washington, District of Columbia, December 22, 1922,¹ and all amendments thereto. It shall be ratified by the contracting countries in accordance with their respective laws. It shall take effect on a date mutually agreed upon and shall continue in force until terminated by agreement or annulled at the instance of the Postmaster General of either country, upon six months previous notice given to the other.

DONE in duplicate and signed at Ottawa, the 12th day of January, 1961, and at Washington, the 13th day of January, 1961.

Arthur E. SUMMERFIELD
The Postmaster General of the United States of America

Wm. HAMILTON
The Postmaster General of Canada

[SEAL]

¹ United States of America : 42 Stat. 2226. Post Office Department Print.