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Article: The Hamburg American Line - Mail Packets from New York 4
January 1870 to 23 December 1875 - via Plymouth and Cherbourg to
Hamburg

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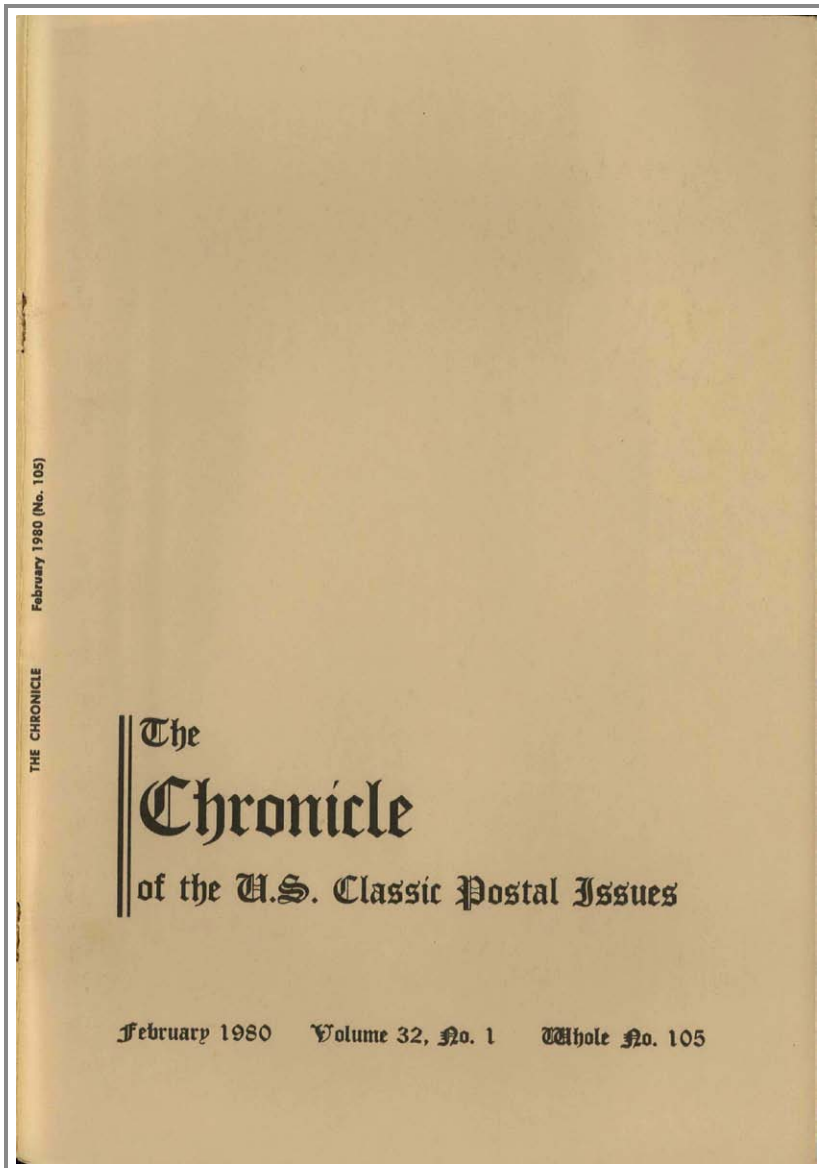


Table Of Contents

items marked with * cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 32 No: 1 Chronicle: 105](#)

| | <u>Starting Page</u> |
|--|----------------------|
| Front Cover (1 page) | Front Cover |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. | Inside Front Cover |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Robson Lowe Ltd | 1 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Jack E. Molesworth, Inc. | 2 |
| Masthead (1 page) | 3 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Richard Wolfers Inc. | 4 |
| Table of Contents (1 page) | 5 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: John W. Kaufmann Inc. | 6 |
| Editorial (1 page) <i>Susan M. McDonald</i> | 7 |
| Guest Privilege | |
| New York Postmaster's Provisional Covers to Foreign Countries (4 pages) <i>Philip T. Wall</i> | 8 |
| Errata and Apologies (2 pages) <i>Philip T. Wall</i> | 11 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Gary Hendershott | 12 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Andrew Levitt, Inc. | 12 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Leonard H. Hartmann | 13 |
| Prestamp and Stampless Period | |
| A Change in Rate - 1821 (5 pages) <i>Kenneth R. De Lisle</i> | 14 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: New England Stamp | 18 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Jacques Schiff, Jr., Inc. | 19 |
| 1847 Period | |
| The Noble 1847 Covers (5 pages) <i>Creighton C. Hart</i> | 20 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: William A. Fox Auctions, Inc. | 25 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Edelman's | 25 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: George Alevizos | 25 |
| 1851-61 Period | |
| Sonora, California, Straight Line (4 pages) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i> | 26 |
| Plate Flaws in the 3¢ 1857 Issue (S4 and S5) (4 pages) <i>Robert R. Hegland</i> | 30 |
| New York City Grid (1 page) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i> | 34 |
| U.S. Postal Markings: 1851 - 61 (2 pages) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i> | 34 |
| New York to Panama Ship Sailings (3 pages) <i>Stanley B. Ashbrook</i> | 35 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Al Zimmerman | 37 |
| 1861-1869 Period | |
| Plate Scratches on the 12¢ Stamps of 1861 (3 pages) <i>Richard B. Graham</i> | 38 |
| Some Questions about Federal Occupation Postmarks, 1861-1865 (3 pages) <i>Richard B. Graham</i> | 40 |
| Review: "Official Documents of the Post Office Department of the Confederate States of America" (2 pages) <i>Brian M. Green</i> | 42 |
| Partially Erased Grill Variety on the 3¢ "C" Grill (2 pages) <i>William K. Herzog</i> | 44 |
| MOVED AWAY Handstamp (1 page) <i>Richard B. Graham</i> | 46 |
| 1861-1869 Period | |
| Late Use of the 24¢ 1861 Stamp (1 page) <i>Richard B. Graham</i> | 47 |
| 1869 Period | |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Via San Domingo Steam Line (2 pages) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 48 |
| Chicken a Turkey? (2 pages) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 49 |
| Last Day of 15 - Cent Rate to France (2 pages) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 50 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Jack L. Jenkins | 51 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: McBride Stamp Auctions, Inc. | 51 |
| Bank Note Period | |
| Some Comments and Questions (2 pages) <i>Richard M. Searing</i> | 52 |
| 1869 Period | |
| National Bank Note Company (1 page) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 53 |
| Continental Bank Note Company (1 page) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 53 |
| American Bank Note Company (2 pages) <i>Michael Laurence</i> | 53 |
| Bank Note Period | |
| Literature Notes (1 page) <i>Susan M. McDonald</i> | 54 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Henry M. Spelman III | 55 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Henry M. Spelman III | 55 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Alan T. Atkins | 55 |
| Railroad Postmarks | |
| Way and Railroad Postmarks (2 pages) <i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i> | 56 |
| Foreign Mails | |
| An 1860 Prussian Closed Mail Cover to Sweden, Paid to Border (2 pages) <i>Allan Radin</i> | 58 |
| Foreign Currencies with Approximate U.S. Equivalents, 1849 - 75 (3 pages) <i>Charles J. Starnes</i> | 60 |
| Alps' Eastbound Voyage from New York in February 1857 (2 pages) <i>Walter Hubbard</i> | 62 |
| American Packet Transit Via England in the "Interim Period" of U.S. - French Mails (3 pages) <i>Charles J. Starnes</i> | 63 |
| The Hamburg American Line - Mail Packets from New York 4 January 1870 to 23 December 1875 - via Plymouth and Cherbourg to Hamburg (2 pages) <i>Walter Hubbard</i> | 65 |
| The Hamburg American Line - Mail Packets from New York 4 January 1870 to 23 December 1875 - via Plymouth and Cherbourg to Hamburg (3 pages) <i>Clifford L. Friend, Walter Hubbard</i> | 66 |
| Classified (1 page) | 68 |
| The Cover Corner | |
| Answer to Problem Covers in Issue No. 104 (3 pages) <i>Scott Gallagher</i> | 69 |
| Problem Covers for This Issue (2 pages) <i>Scott Gallagher</i> | 71 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: John J. Brennan Jr. | 71 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: J. Randall Rare Stamps | 72 |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Harmers of New York Inc. | Inside Back Cover |
| Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Raymond H. Weill Co | Back Cover |

Apart from the break in the service caused by the war, the Hamburg American Line carried the mails to Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg throughout these six years—by contracts to the end of 1873 and then under the new arrangement which allowed the United States Post Office Department to decide which vessels should carry out the mails on each of the allotted sailing days.

The figures given in the Annual Report of the United States Postmaster General and those in the Sailing List are set out below :

| Fiscal Year to 30 June | | Sailing List | PMG Reports |
|------------------------|------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1870 | | 24 ¹ | 62 |
| do | 1871 | 28 | 29 |
| do | 1872 | 50 | 50 |
| do | 1873 | 52 | 52 |
| do | 1874 | 51 | 51 |
| do | 1875 | 50 | 50 |
| do | 1876 | 26 ² | 39 |

1. Only 51 trips from New York to Hamburg have been noted in this Fiscal year but, allowing for three unlisted voyages in January, the Sailing List agrees with the *USM & POA*.

2. 46 trips from New York to Hamburg have been noted in this Fiscal Year so, presumably, mails were not carried on all of them.

The Sailing List has been compiled by Clifford L. Friend, with the addition of reports from the contemporary London press. (Also see G. E. Hargest, *History of Letter Post Communication, etc.*, pp. 154 and 159.)

THE HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE—MAIL PACKETS FROM NEW YORK 4 JANUARY 1870 TO 23 DECEMBER 1875—via PLYMOUTH and CHERBOURG to HAMBURG

CLIFFORD L. FRIEND AND WALTER HUBBARD

Abbreviations : NY New York : Ha Havre : P Plymouth : H Hamburg : F/V or L/V first or last voyage for the Hamburg American Line : PD planned date of departure : Tu Tuesday : * supplementary mail service available.

4 JANUARY TO 19 JULY 1870—on Tuesdays to Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg

1870

| PD | H | Ha | ARR NY | PACKET | PD NY | ARR P | NOTES |
|--------|-------|----|--------|-------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|
| 15 Dec | | 19 | 30 Dec | HAMMONIA II | 4 Jan* | 14 Jan (0330) | no Plymouth mails |
| 22 do | | 25 | 5 Jan | SILESIA | 11 Jan | 20 Jan (2315) | do |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 18 Jan | | |
| | 5 Jan | 9 | 21 do | HOLSATIA | 25 Jan* | 4 Feb (0015) | see note 1 |
| 12 do | | 15 | 30 Dec | ALLEMANNIA | 1 Feb* | 15 Feb (1530) | |
| 19 do | | 23 | 4 Feb | CIMBRIA | 8 Feb* | 19 Feb (2045) | sailed ld late f. NY |
| 26 do | | 29 | 12 do | WESTPHALIA | 15 Feb* | 26 Feb (0630) | |
| 2 Feb | | 5 | 16 do | HAMMONIA II | 22 Feb | 6 Mar (1200) | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 1 Mar | | |
| 16 do | | 20 | 2 Mar | HOLSATIA | 8 Mar* | 18 Mar (0600) | |
| 23 do | | 27 | 8 do | SILESIA | 15 Mar* | 25 Mar (0600) | sailed ld late f. H |
| 2 Mar | | 5 | 15 do | CIMBRIA | 22 Mar* | 1 Apr (0730) | |
| 9 do | | 12 | 26 do | SAXONIA | 29 Mar* | 11 Apr (0630) | |
| 16 do | | 19 | 30 do | HAMMONIA II | 5 Apr* | 15 Apr (1700) | sailed ld late f. H |
| 23 do | | 26 | 6 Apr | ALLEMANNIA | 12 Apr* | 24 Apr (0100) | do |
| 30 do | 2 Apr | | 12 do | HOLSATIA | 19 Apr* | 29 Apr (0930) | |
| 6 Apr | | 9 | 19 do | SILESIA | 26 Apr | 6 May (0700) | |
| 13 do | | 16 | 26 do | CIMBRIA | 3 May* | 13 May (0500) | |
| 20 do | | 23 | 6 May | SAXONIA | 10 May* | 22 May (0100) | |
| 27 do | | 30 | 11 do | HAMMONIA II | 17 May* | 26 May (2330) | |
| 4 May | | 7 | 20 do | ALLEMANNIA | 24 May* | 4 Jun (1300) | |
| 11 do | | 14 | 25 do | HOLSATIA | 31 May* | 10 Jun (1130) | |
| 18 do | | 21 | 31 do | SILESIA | 7 Jun* | 17 Jun (0700) | |
| 25 do | | 28 | 8 Jun | WESTPHALIA | 14 Jun* | 24 Jun (0800) | |
| 1 Jun | | 4 | 14 do | CIMBRIA | 21 Jun* | 1 Jul (1900) | |
| 8 do | | 11 | 22 do | HAMMONIA II | 28 Jun* | 8 Jul (1630) | end FY 1870; note 2 |

1. The carriage of the British mails to Plymouth was resumed.

2. The Line's last call at Cherbourg until 4 July 1871.

| 1870 | | | ARR NY | PACKET | PD NY | ARR P | NOTES |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| PD H | Ha | | | | | | |
| 15 do | 18 | 29 do | | ALLEMANNIA | 5 Jul* | 16 Jul (1200) | see note 3 |
| 22 do | 25 | 5 Jul | | HOLSATIA | 12 Jul* | 22 Jul (1200) | see note 4 |
| 29 do | 2 Jul | 12 do | | SILESIA | 19 Jul* | Leith 29 Jul | see note 5 |

15 NOVEMBER 1870 TO 24 JANUARY 1871—on Tuesdays to Hamburg

| 1870 | | | ARR NY | PACKET | PD NY | ARR | NOTES |
|--------|----|-------|--------|------------|--------|----------|----------------------|
| PD H | Ha | | | | | | |
| 27 Oct | — | 8 Nov | | THURINGIA | 15 Nov | H 28 Nov | |
| 3 Nov | — | 14 do | | CIMBRIA | 22 Nov | H 5 Dec | |
| 9 do | — | 23 do | | WESTPHALIA | 29 Nov | H 13 Dec | sailed 2d late f. H |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 6 Dec | | |
| 27 do | — | 9 Dec | | SILESIA | 13 Dec | H 26 Dec | sailed 1d late f. NY |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 20 Dec | | |
| 7 Dec | — | 20 do | | THURINGIA | 27 Dec | H 9 Jan | |
| 1871 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 3 Jan | | |
| 22 do | — | 5 Jan | | CIMBRIA | 10 Jan | H 23 Jan | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 17 Jan | | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 24 Jan | | |

31 JANUARY TO 27 JUNE 1871—on Tuesdays to Plymouth and Hamburg

| 1871 | | | ARR NY | PACKET | PD NY | ARR P | NOTES |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|---------------|--|
| PD H | Ha | | | | | | |
| 15 Jan | — | 28 Jan | | HOLSATIA | 31 Jan* | 13 Feb (0245) | sailed 2d late f. NY |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 7 Feb | | |
| 29 do | — | 10 Feb | | THURINGIA | 14 Feb | 25 Feb (0230) | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 21 Feb | | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 28 Feb | | |
| 16 Feb | 19 | 1 Mar | | CIMBRIA | 7 Mar* | 17 Mar (1015) | westbound called at P |
| 24 do | 27 | 10 do | | WESTPHALIA | 14 Mar* | 24 Mar (1650) | do at Falmouth |
| 1 Mar | 4 | 18 do | | HOLSATIA | 21 Mar* | 1 Apr | do at Southampton; |
| | | | | | | | sailed 1d late f. NY |
| 11 do | — | 22 do | | THURINGIA | 28 Mar* | 7 Apr (2200) | |
| 15 do | — | 27 do | | SILESIA | 4 Apr* | 14 Apr (0400) | |
| 22 do | — | 5 Apr | | ALLEMANNIA | 11 Apr* | 22 Apr (2050) | see note 6 |
| 29 do | 1 Apr | 9 do | | CIMBRIA | 18 Apr* | 28 Apr | westbound called at Southampton |
| | | | | | | | with Hamburg mails only |
| 5 Apr | — | 16 do | | WESTPHALIA | 25 Apr* | 5 May (1800) | |
| 12 do | — | 26 do | | HOLSATIA | 2 May* | 13 May (0600) | sailed 1d late f. H |
| 19 do | — | 2 May | | THURINGIA | 9 May* | 19 May (1015) | |
| 26 do | — | 7 do | | SILESIA | 16 May* | 26 May (1230) | |
| 3 May | — | 18 do | | GERMANIA II | 23 May* | 3 Jun (1900) | F/V—sailed 1d late f. H |
| 10 do | — | 21 do | | CIMBRIA | 30 May* | 9 Jun (1730) | |
| 17 do | — | 29 do | | WESTPHALIA | 6 Jun* | 16 Jun (0730) | |
| 24 do | — | 5 Jun | | HOLSATIA | 13 Jun* | 23 Jun (1900) | |
| 31 do | — | 13 do | | THURINGIA | 20 Jun* | 30 Jun (1400) | sailed 1d late f. H |
| 7 Jun | 10 | 19 do | | SILESIA | 27 Jun* | 7 Jul (0430) | westbound called at Leith; end FY 1871 |

3. The Franco-Prussian war was imminent and ALLEMANNIA landed the Cherbourg and Plymouth mails. The rate for Direct Steamer to Hamburg or Bremen was reduced from 10 cents to 7 cents (per 1/2 oz) on 1 July 1870.

4. HOLSATIA landed the Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg mails. She sailed from Plymouth 21 August for the Clyde where she arrived 22 August "for repairs" and did not return to Hamburg (Cuxhaven) until 9 January 1871.

5. SILESIA landed all her mails, including those originally intended for HERMANN of the North German Lloyd Line, at Leith—"from New York via the Pentland Firth." She sailed from Leith on 29 September for Hamburg where she arrived 1 October 1870.

6. From 12 April Supplementary Mail had to be double prepaid.

4 JULY TO 26 DECEMBER 1871—on Tuesdays to Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg

1871

| PD | H | Ha | ARR NY | PACKET | PD NY | ARR P | NOTES |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 14 Jun | — | 27 Jun | | GERMANIA II | 4 Jul* | 15 Jul (1600) | sailed 1d late f. H |
| 21 do | — | 2 Jul | | CIMBRIA | 11 Jul* | 21 Jul (0700) | |
| 28 do | — | 14 do | | VANDALIA | 18 Jul* | 31 Jul (1215) | F/V on this route |
| 5 Jul | — | 18 do | | HAMMONIA II | 25 Jul* | 5 Aug (0200) | |
| 12 do | — | 23 do | | WESTPHALIA | 1 Aug* | 11 Aug (1030) | |
| 19 do | 22 | 2 Aug | | HOLSATIA | 8 Aug* | 18 Aug (2115) | |
| 26 do | 29 | 8 do | | THURINGIA | 15 Aug* | 25 Aug (0510) | |
| 2 Aug | 5 | 10 do | | ALLEMANNIA | 22 Aug* | 2 Sep (1800) | |
| 9 do | 10 | 21 do | | SILESIA | 29 Aug* | 8 Sep (0245) | |
| 16 do | 19 | 30 do | | HAMMONIA II | 5 Sep* | 16 Sep (0800) | |
| 23 do | 26 | 5 Sep | | WESTPHALIA | 12 Sep | 22 Sep (2345) | |
| 30 do | 2 Sep | 13 do | | HOLSATIA | 19 Sep* | 30 Sep (2330) | |
| 6 Sep | 9 | 19 do | | THURINGIA | 26 Sep* | 6 Oct | westbound called at P |
| 13 do | 15 | 25 do | | CIMBRIA | 3 Oct* | 14 Oct (0020) | see note 7 |
| 20 do | 24 | 3 Oct | | SILESIA | 10 Oct | 20 Oct (0800) | |
| 27 do | 30 | 10 do | | HAMMONIA II | 17 Oct* | 27 Oct (0900) | |
| 4 Oct | — | 16 do | | WESTPHALIA | 24 Oct* | 5 Nov (1215) | sailed 1d late f. NY |
| 11 do | — | 24 do | | HOLSATIA | 31 Oct* | 10 Nov (2300) | |
| 18 do | 21 | 1 Nov | | THURINGIA | 7 Nov* | 17 Nov | |
| 25 do | 28 | 8 do | | CIMBRIA | 14 Nov* | 26 Nov (0330) | |
| 1 Nov | — | 14 do | | SILESIA | 21 Nov* | 2 Dec (2000) | |
| 28 Oct | — | 11 do | | ALLEMANNIA | 28 Nov* | 11 Dec (2015) | see note 8 |
| 15 Nov | 18 | 29 do | | WESTPHALIA | 5 Dec* | 16 Dec (0015) | |
| 22 do | 25 | 6 Dec | | HOLSATIA | 12 Dec* | 22 Dec | |
| 29 do | 3 Dec | 14 do | | THURINGIA | 19 Dec* | 29 Dec (0700) | |
| | | | | NO SAILING | 26 Dec | | |

7. The rate for Direct Steamer to Hamburg or Bremen was reduced from 7 cents to 6 cents (per ½ oz) on 1 October 1871.

8. ALLEMANNIA developed trouble with her crankshaft and landed all her mails at Plymouth.

(To be continued)

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