

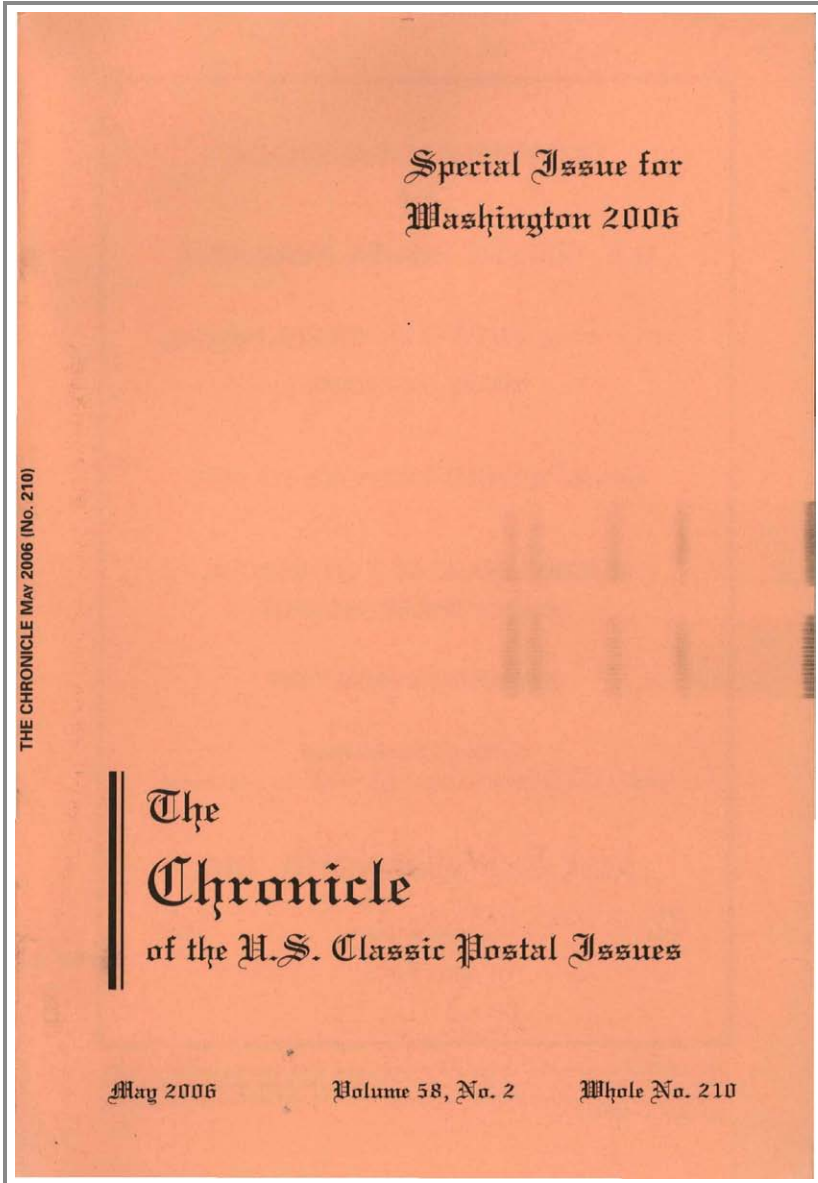


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

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Article: Display Advertisement

Advertiser: Kristal Kare, Inc.



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5 silbergroschen was prepaid, since this is all that is indicated by the red crayon after the manuscript "paid all." This is consistent with this endorsement because the 5 silbergroschen paid the postage only to England, but not the packet fee, which would be collected in the United States under the open mail provisions of the United States–Britain Convention. Nevertheless, the manuscript "paid all" might indicate that, even though it is not shown on the letter, an additional 6¾ silbergroschen for packet fee was paid in Deutz for a total of 11¾ silbergroschen. The letter shows neither "P.P." nor "P.D." as required by Article XXXIV. It shows no credit to Britain and no other Prussian exchange office markings. The letter reached London on December 5, 1864, as indicated by the small red double circle date stamp on the front. Based on the "paid all" endorsement, the London clerk applied a red 16/CENTS stamp, indicating a credit to the United States for the packet fee since the letter was to go by an American contract steamer. The letter was sent on the Allan Line steamship *Peruvian*, which sailed from Londonderry, Ireland, on December 16, 1864, and arrived at Portland, Maine, on December 28, 1864. The letter was carried from Portland to Chicago on the Canadian Grand Trunk Railway via a branch that connected with Portland.<sup>12</sup> The Chicago exchange office clerk applied a blue CHICAGO AM. PKT./DEC/29/5 circular date stamp to indicate that 5¢ was due in specie (coin) for the United States internal fee under the United States–British Convention's open mail rates. The clerk also applied a blue 11/U.S. NOTES handstamp to indicate that 11¢ would be due if payment were made in paper currency.

### Conclusion

The Anglo–Prussian Convention provided one of the principal routes for the exchange of mail between the United States and the German states between 1846 and 1852. After 1852, it was still available but used less frequently. The 1852 United States–Prussian Convention provided a lower cost alternative and permitted a letter to be sent entirely paid or entirely unpaid. The United States post office did not encourage use of the British open mail and, consequently, it did not encourage use of the Anglo–Prussian Convention after the 1852 convention between the United States and Prussia. In some cases when the open mail rate was prepaid for a letter to Germany, the letter was treated as underpaid and, therefore, it was considered as an unpaid letter under the United States–Prussian Convention. ■

<sup>12</sup> Hubbard and Winter, *op. cit.*, p. 130.

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