

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

## SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THE 1934 CAIRO CONGRESS.

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The ideal of the Universal Postal Union is that the world shall be a single territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence. The Universal Postal Union holds a congress at least once every five years. The last one was in Cairo, March 20th, 1934. The convention is ratified by member administrations and forwarded to head office at Berne, Switzerland. Then it is binding on all members indefinitely unless they withdraw after giving one year's notice, or is revised by common consent.

The Head Office is under the supervision of the Swiss Postal administration. The cost of administration is divided into units and members are charged 1-3-4-10-15-20 or 25 units depending on their classification. These seven classifications represent roughly the quantity of international mail to and from the member countries. Short cuts in accounting are used and simplicity is the rule. For instance, in translating rates from francs and centimes into dollars and cents the nearest unit amount is used, providing not more than 5 centimes are added to make a unit amount. At present, letters, postcards, commercial and printed papers are covered. A start has been made on Air Mail, too. Other services are covered by special agreement which members are permitted to negotiate with each other. Members are also permitted to reduce postage by special agreement. The Universal Postal Union specifies classification of mails, sizes, weights and rates for international posts. At present, rates are: letters 4-7¢; postcards 2-4¢; reply cards 5-8¢; miscellaneous  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per unit. Registration 9-10¢ per ounce - 20 grammes of letters; two oz. - 50 grammes of commercial or printed papers. Countries having cheaper rates may refuse to forward letters posted from across their border by foreigners trying to take advantage of these cheaper rates. Such letters may be returned or taxed extra.

Living animals, except bees, leeches and silkworms, are forbidden the posts.

Ship letters bear stamps of ship's nationality, unless posted when ship is in a foreign port, when they bear stamps of the port.

No postage or transit charges on letters to or from prisoners of war, or interned belligerents.

Members of the Universal Postal Union agree:-

Stamps for single letter rate shall be blue.

Stamps for postcard rate shall be red.

Stamps for single unit of printed paper shall be green.

Meter or franking machines shall print in bright red.

Freedom of transport is guaranteed. Penalty - other countries may suppress postal service with offender.

No provision for or consideration of "a state of war".

Charges other than those prescribed are forbidden.

Transit charges per lb. are 6-36¢ by land, and 6-40¢ by sea, depending upon distance.

Trans-Siberian and Trans-Andean Railways may charge more.

Most rapid routes shall be used.

Postage stamps must bear country name in Roman Characters and value in Arabic figures.

Extra-ordinary services are - Air Mail, Special Land Conveyance of the Indian Mail, Special Motor Service in Palestine, Syria and Iraq.



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UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (Cont.)

U. P. U. Air Mail Provisions:

Same classes as for ordinary mail are covered.

Freedom of transit guaranteed through entire territory of Union, regardless of what country does the work.

Planes shall be used, if used for domestic mail, otherwise most rapid route.

Sender may specify route, if that route is normally used by transit countries.

An extra fee may be charged. It shall not exceed 3¢ per oz. or per postcard, per 625 miles of flight if ordinary service. Between European countries it must not exceed 3¢ per oz. regardless of distance.

For extraordinary air mail service fee depends on extraordinary expenses involved.

Fees for other than letters and postcards must not be lower than 1/5 of the above maximum, but by special agreement countries may abolish special air fee.

Utmost possible speed must be used.

Special delivery, change of address, registration, insurance and responsibility are all covered in the regulations.

Each country keeps all fees collected.

Transit and destination countries can collect for air services.

When several routes exist, one rate applies to all routes.

Rates are uniform to all countries using any countries' air service.

Transit rates are payable to country housing aerodrome where air mail is taken over by plane.

Transit rate - .006 francs per Kilogram per Kilometre, or about 1/20¢ per lb. per mile maximum for ordinary service.

No charge for use of air over any member country.

Statistical period is the 7 days following June 14th and November 14th of each year. June for summer service and November for winter service. During this period closed and open mail is bundled separately and weighed at each handling point. Weight must check within an ounce each time.

Sender notifies each country of total weight using its services.

Transit and destination countries notify sender within 15 days of total weight.

Reports are then sent to postal headquarters of each country.

Creditor multiplies statistical weight by frequency of service, and sends account to debtor.

Air Mail must bear blue marking "Par Avion" in blue, be enclosed in blue covers, or in bags all blue or with wide blue bands.

In case of accident, aeroplane staff must deliver mail to nearest post office where condition of mail is checked, repaired if necessary, and then forwarded by the most rapid routes to destination. Particulars of incident and measures taken are reported to sending and receiving offices.

British India and U.S.S.R. may collect fees for each section of their Inland Air Services.

Certain European countries, which due to their geographical location find it difficult to adopt a uniform charge for all Europe, may levy charges proportionate to the distances involved.