

First Class Surface Treaty Rate Mail from the U.S. to Germany, 1909 – 1915.

Purpose: This exhibit will show the different aspects and usages of the special treaty rate agreement between Germany and the continental U.S., including Alaska and expanding to including Hawaii at a later date. The story will show many parts of the agreement were there was lack of understanding and confusion surrounding the implementation during the 73 months and 4 days of the treaty rate agreement.

Scope: The different first class surface letters and uprated registered letters are shown for both of the different registration rate periods that cross over the agreement period. The story line is augmented with additional information at the top of each exhibit page.

History: A series of discount, or ask they became known as, treaty rates that began on October 1, 1908. The first group to encompass the treaty rate was Great Britain and various Western Hemisphere British colonies. On January 1, 1909, a different type of treaty rate was developed between Germany and the continental U.S., including Alaska. The treaty was expanded to include Hawaii on August 1, 1909. The first class surface letter rate mailed directly to Germany, an not via England or France, became 2 cents / ounce, as was written in the Postal Bulletin 8781, December 15, 1908. Postal Bulletin 10656, February 5, 1915, announced the ending of the treaty rate agreement, since there was no longer direct service to Germany do to the War in Europe.

Special Exhibit Notes:

Important pieces are double matted using the “exhibitor’s signature design” with “black / red” matting. *Historical and or special notes are identified in Italic print.*

Exhibit Plan: Title Page Plus 2nd Day Usage of the First Class Surface Treaty Rate.
First Class Surface Treaty Rate Plus Eight Cent Registration Period.
First Class Surface Treaty Rate Plus Ten Cent Registration Period.

Second Day Usage of the First Class Surface Treaty Rate.

This “**double weight**” letter was mailed from the famous Thorndale Stock Farm in Millbrook, N.Y. on Thursday, January 2, 1909 to Herrn D. Rapp in Wuerttemberg, Germany.



Special Note: *William Thorne established the estate of the Thorndale Stock Farm in 1787. The Thorne family legacy lives on today on about 1000 areas of land raising cattle and horses to this day.*