

Post Office Department  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion No. 470 (July 10, 1885)  
2 Ops. Sol. POD 40 (pub. 1905)

SIR: Replying to your inquiry of date the 8th instant, whether under section 3977, Revised Statutes, a postal card should be considered a letter, and payment be made by a postmaster to the master of a vessel therefor at the rate of 2 cents, I have the honor to state that within the meaning of said section a postal card is not a "letter or packet," and the postmaster is not authorized to make payment thereon. The "letters and packets" referred to in said section are those in which at the time of passage of that section the full first-class rate of postage was chargeable, and not the classes of mail matter on which lesser rates were charged.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN E. BRYANT

THE FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL