

2 Rules

This section is about rules applied for postcards only. Let's begin with two of the most bizarre rules invented by the Swedish post.

The Text "Carte Postale"

From the 1 August 1901, international postcards should have the text "carte postale". Postcards with Swedish text only were taxed as letters. This rule was abolished after less than one month because of protests from other countries like Germany and the UK.

Sender's Name Stamp

The sender was allowed to put a name stamp on the back of a postcard, but not on the address side. This was normally accepted without postage due.

Reference

- ♦ Karlsson, T., & Gustafson, P., "Hur får ett brevkort se ut? Postala regler 1887-1907", Aktuellt om posthistoria, Vol. 13, 2016.

PLK 2185 A
(Alvesta-Karlskrona)
19 August 1901

Taxed as letter and
postage due because
the French text "Carte
Postale" is missing.



KARLSKRONA
9 October 1884

WEXIÖ
9 October 1884

On postage due:
TINGSRYD
11 October 1884

Taxed as letter and
postage due because
the sender has put a
name stamp on the
address side.

2.1 The Jubilee Postcard 1897

The jubilee postcard from 1897 celebrated 25 years at the throne for king Oscar II.

Issue Date

The regulations clearly stated that it was forbidden to sell the jubilee postcard before the issue date.

International Usage

Jubilee postcards were not allowed according to UPU, so this card should only be used within Sweden. When used abroad, two questions arises:

- ◇ Should the card be taxed as postcard or letter?
- ◇ Should the value stamp be credited or not?

Four combinations are possible. All of them exist and, on top of that, different combinations of postage due was applied.

Reference

- ◇ Karlsson, T., & Gustafson, P., "Utrikes användning av Jubileumsbrevkortet från 1897", Aktuellt om posthistoria, Vol. 11, 2012.



TIERP
17 September 1897
STOCKHOLM
18 September 1897

**Used the day
before issue.**

STOCKHOLM
KUPOLEN
18 September 1897

Sent to France as printed matter at 5 öre rate. This was neither permitted nor explicitly forbidden in the regulations.



2.1 The Jubilee Postcard 1897

KALMAR
30 December 1897
KJØBENHAVN
31 December 1897

Taxed as postcard.
Value stamp credited.



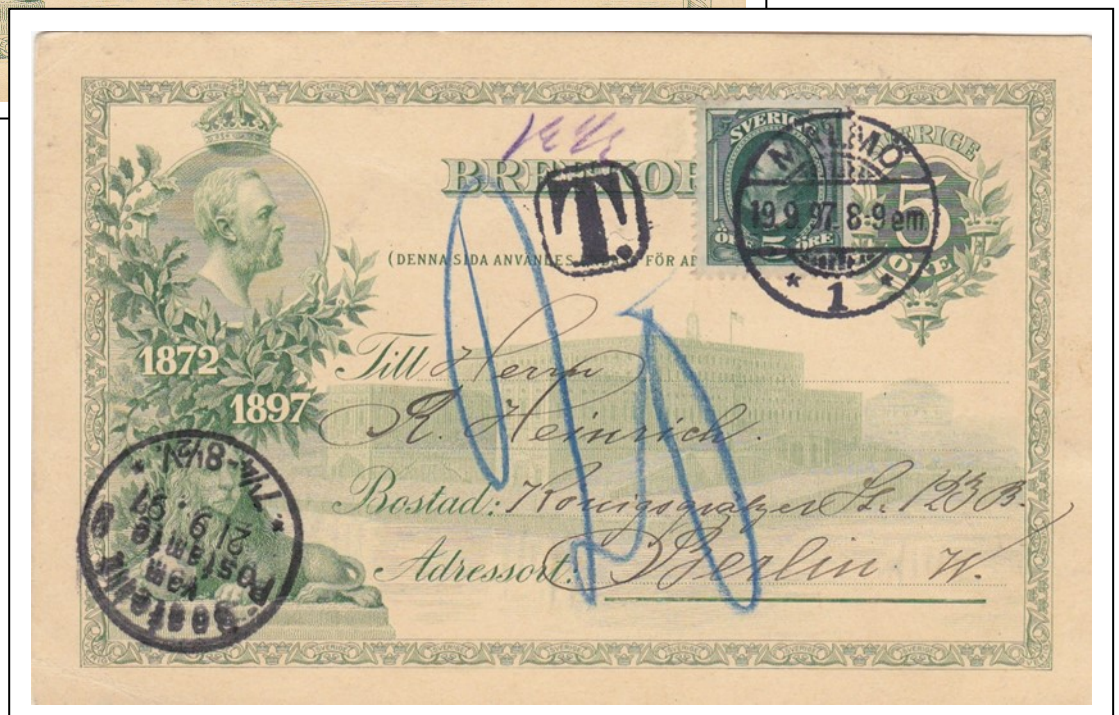
BORÅS
19 September 1897
KJØBENHAVN
20 September 1897

Postage due:
Taxed as letter.
Value stamp
not credited.



MALMÖ
19 September 1897
BERLIN
21 September 1897

Postage due:
Taxed as letter.
Value stamp credited.



2.1 The Jubilee Postcard 1897



PKXP No. 81 B
(Göteborg-
Helsingborg)
14 January 1899

ZITTAU
16 January 1899

Taxed as postcard.
Value stamp
not credited.



PKXP No. 34
(Stockholm-
Katrineholm)
20 September 1897

DRESDEN
22 September 1897

Taxed as postcard.
Value stamp credited.



STOCKHOLM
26 September 1899

MUENCHEN
28 September 1899

Taxed as letter.
Value stamp
not credited.

2.2 Divided Back

Inland

Sweden allowed postcards with divided back from the 1 April 1905.

International

Great Britain allowed divided back for inland postcards in 1902. The same year, such cards started to arrive to Sweden. If text was written on the address side, postage due was applied.

In November 1904, Sweden made an agreement with

France that allowed postcards with divided back from France to Sweden (but not in the opposite direction).

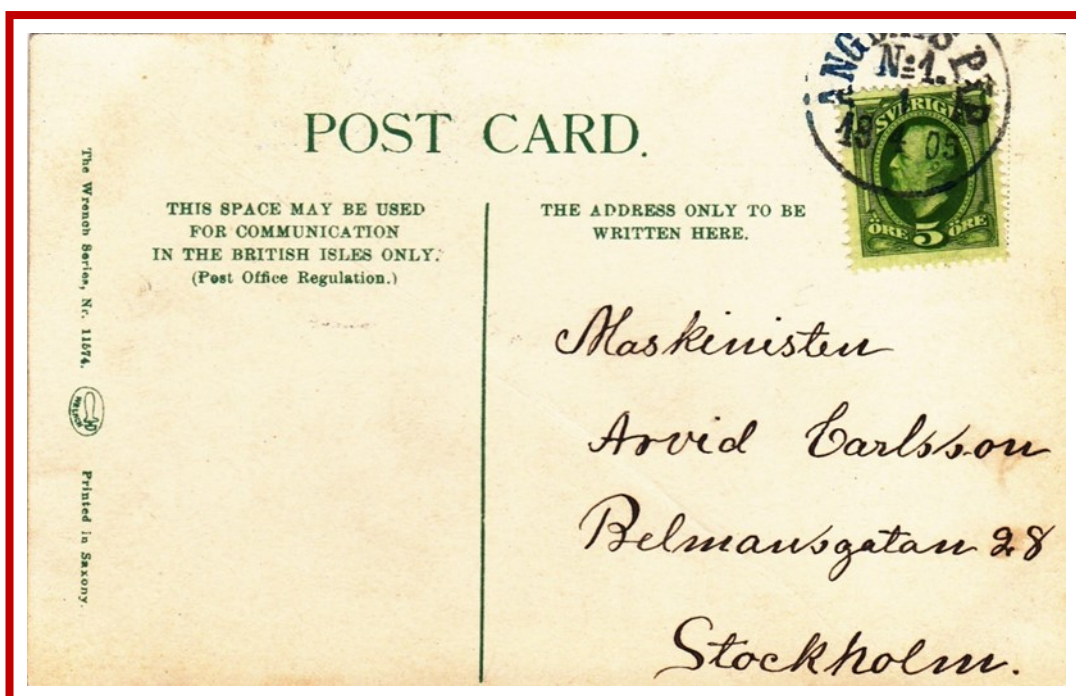
From 1 April 1905, Sweden allowed divided back to an enumerated number of countries. More countries were added until 30 May 1906 when Sweden ceases to apply postage due to postcards with divided back.

Reference

- ◇ Gustafson, P., & Karlsson, T., "Brevkort med delad adressida", Aktuell om posthistoria, Vol. 11, 2012.

STOCKHOLM
20 September 1904

Postcard with divided back with Swedish text used more than half a year before postcards with divided back were allowed in Sweden.



ÅNGBÅTS EXP No. 1
(Lake Mälaren)
1 April 1905

British postcard with divided back used first day postcards with divided back were allowed within Sweden.

2.2 Divided Back

BEDHILL

19 December 1902

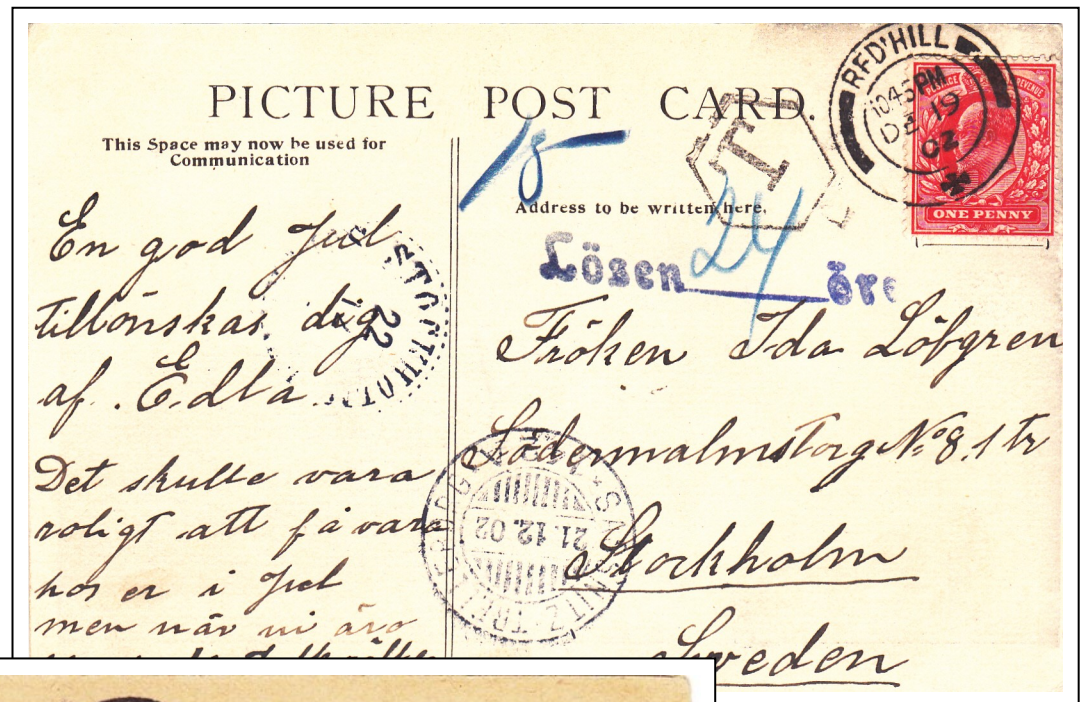
SASSNITZ-

TRELLEBORG

21 December 1902

STOCKHOLM

22 December 1902



PARIS

15 March 1905

STOCKHOLM

18 March 1905

No postage due according to a special bilateral agreement with France.

MALMÖ

28 May 1905

CHICAGO

Postage due two days before the Sweden stopped applying postage due on postcards with divided back.



2.2 Divided Back



PLK 275 C
(Falun-Storvik)
2 November 1905

AUCKLAND
12 December 1905

WHANGEREI
14 December 1905

TO PAY 1d
DOUBLE DEFICIENT POSTAGE



URSVIKEN
9 January 1906
DURBAN/NATAL
19 February 1906
LOURENZO
MARQUES
21 February 1906



STOCKHOLM
20 February 1907

Correct letter rate to USA due to divided back. However, letter rate was not needed in practice because both Sweden and the USA had ceased to apply postage due because of divided back.

2.3 Glued Objects

Early Rules

From 23 June 1887, it was explicitly forbidden to glue anything but stamps on a postcard. Before that, gluing objects to postcards was neither allowed nor forbidden.

The period after 1900 is especially interesting since a large variety of postcards with glued objects were produced for the commercial market. Such cards were taxed as letters and are normally sent at letter rate.

Rules from 1 October 1907

After a decision at the UPU congress in Rome, it was allowed to glue objects tightly to postcards from 1 October 1907.

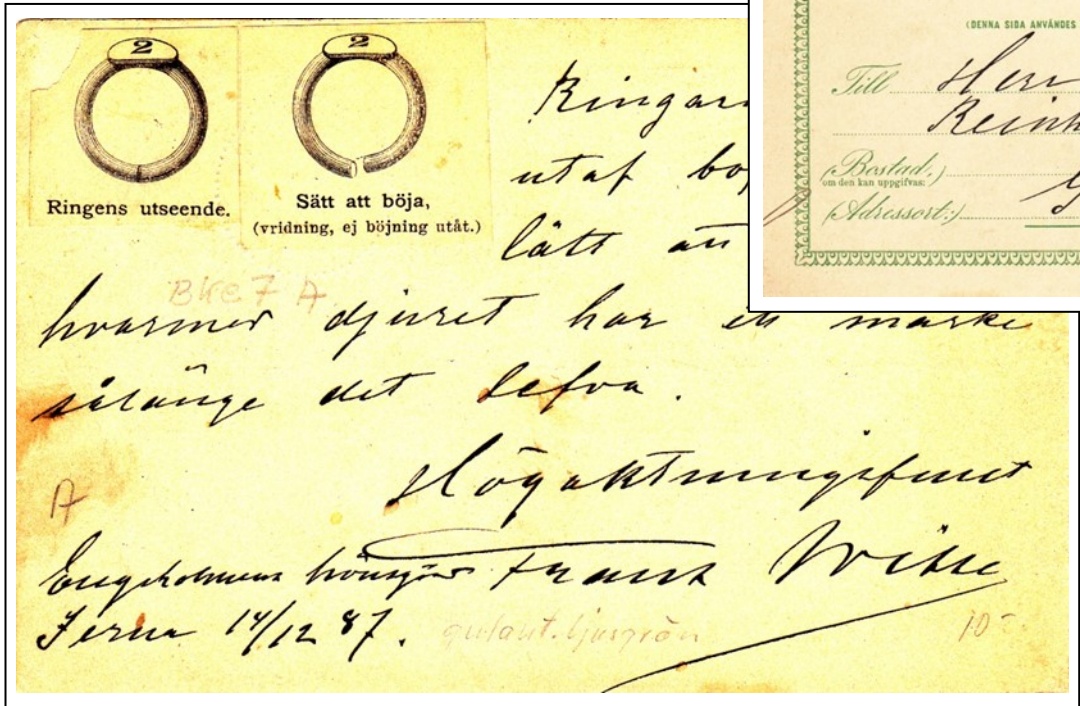
WARBERG
19 August 1872

Glued object on a postcard
sent the first year 1872.



JERNA
14 December 1887

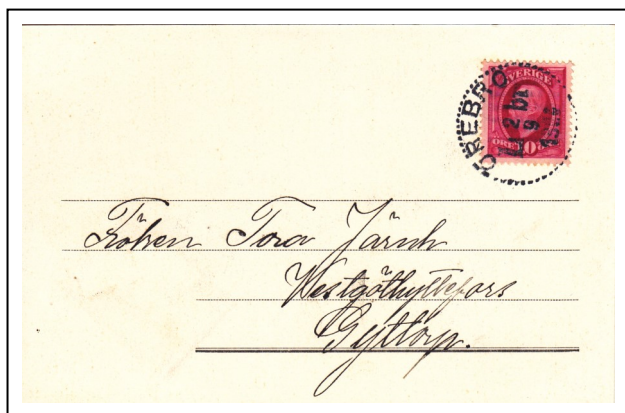
Glued objects less than
six months after it was
forbidden. However, no
postage due was ap-
plied on this card.



2.3 Glued Objects

PLK 274
(Gävle-Sala)
12 December 1905

Postcard with
glued envelope
correctly taxed as
letter.



ÖREBRO
2 September 1900

Postcard with glued suit case
correctly taxed as letter.



2.3 Glued Objects

Glued Photos

One typical example of glued objects on postcards are glued photos, both privately and commercially produced cards. The commercially produced postcards with glued photos are of special interest because they

have the text “postcard” (“brefkort” in Swedish) indicating postcard rate although they should be sent at letter rate. Postcards with glued photos are normally sent at letter rate, but sometimes they pass at postcard rate without notice.

GÖTEBORG
15 August 1905

International postcard
sent at letter rate because
of the glued photo.



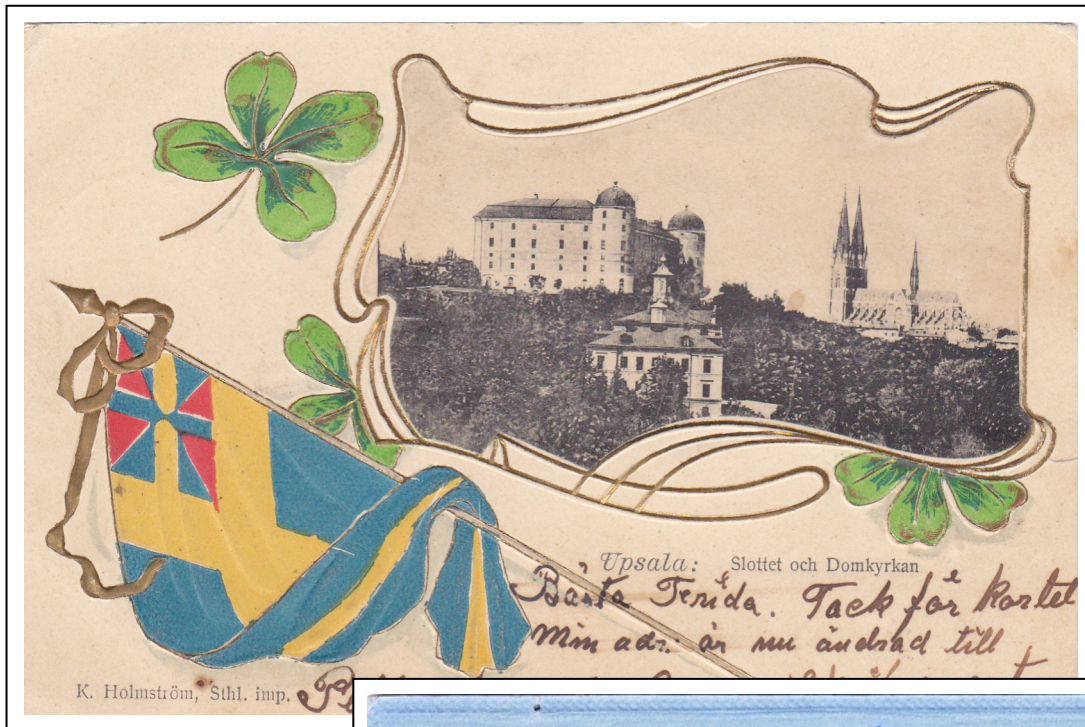
SUNDSVALL
15 July 1902

TRELLEBORG-
SASSNITZ
17 July 1902

International postcard
sent at letter rate because
of the glued photo.



2.4 Glued Objects



UPSALA
1 November 1903

STOCKHOLM
2 November 1903

Inland postcard
sent at postcard
rate and, despite
the glued photo,
not imposed with
postage due.

STOCKHOLM
14 January 1904

Inland postcard
taxed as letter with
20 öre postage due
because of a glued
photo.



HELSINGBORG
18 April 1901

Inland postcard
sent at letter rate
because of the
glued photo.

2.3 Glued Objects

Cloth Flowers

Postcards with cloth flowers appeared on the Swedish market in 1904. They did not comply with the paper-quality rules and were taxed as letters.

However, in Circular Appendix A No. 27 from the 10. June 1905, the Post announced that cards with cloth flowers should be accepted as postcards.



ÖREBRO, 8 August 1904

Postcard with cloth flowers incorrectly sent at postcard rate and with correct application of postage due.



SKEDE

11 March 1905

Postcard with cloth flowers correctly sent at letter rate.



2.4 Charity Stamps

The first charity stamp sold by the Swsish Post Office was announced on the 10 December 1904. Since it was not allowed to glue objects on postcards, it was explicitly pointed out that charity stamps could be used on inland postcards only.

First Date of Use

Earliest known usage of charity stamps is the 17 December 1904.

International Usage

Before 1 October 1907, charity stamps were not allowed on postcards in the international main exchange. Postcards with charity stamps were taxed as letters.

Norway and Denmark

On the 30 December 1904 it was announced that charity stamps were allowed on postcards to Norway and Denmark.



ÖREBRO
24 December 1904

Correct inland
usage of the first
charity stamp.

LANDERYD
17 December 1904

First day the charity
stamps were used.

Incorrectly used
charity stamp to
USA. For some reason
postage due was
not applied.



2.4 Charity Stamps



STOCKHOLM
 27 December 1905

TUNIS
 2 January 1906

Postcard correctly
 taxed as letter due to
 charity stamp.



PKXP No. 81 C
 (Göteborg-Helsingborg)
 December 1904

SLAGELSE
 24 December 1904

Postage due to Den-
 mark because of charity
 stamps was possible for
 less than two weeks.



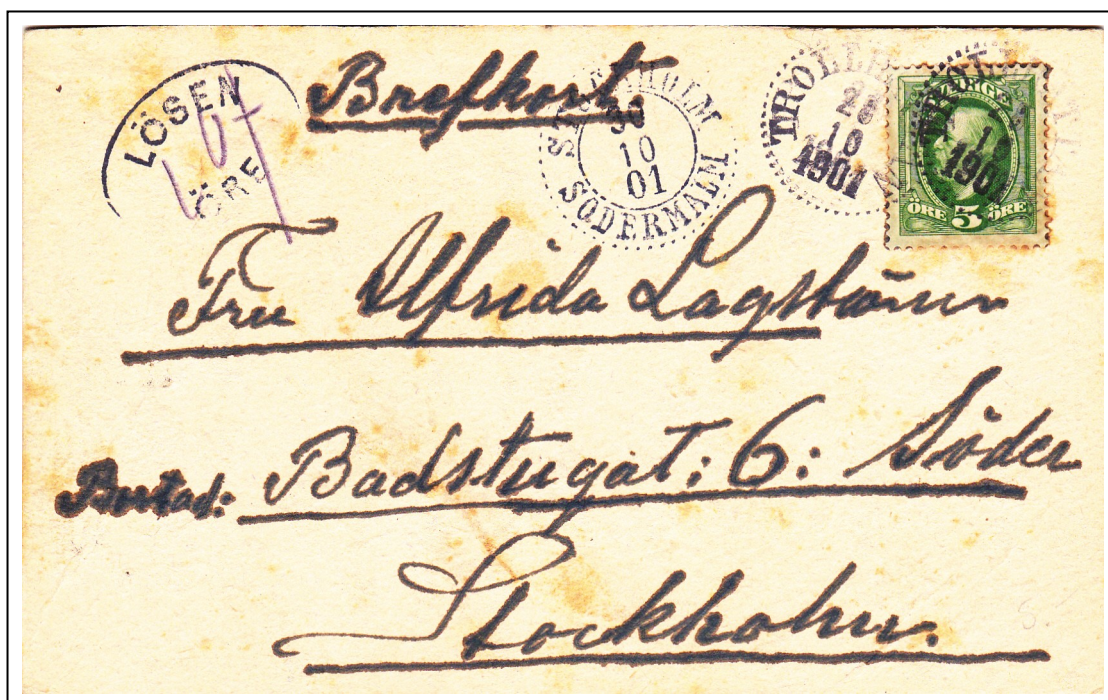
2.5 Paper Quality

According to the rules, privately printed postcards should have a paper quality similar to postal stationery postcards. The years after 1900, different types of postcards on the market broke this rule and they were taxed as letters. Such cards were often thicker than the postal stationery postcards. Privately produced postcards in different materials are also known, and they were taxed as letters.



GÖTEBORG, 31 December 1903

The letter box is produced from two cartons and it was possible to put a small letter in it. This card has, correctly, been sent at letter rate.



TROLLHÄTTAN
28 October 1901

STOCKHOLM
30 October 1901

Privately produced
postcard made of
thick carton taxed
as letter. Correct
application of post-
age due.

2.5 Paper Quality

GÄLLÖ

21 July 1904

Birch-bark postcard
correctly taxed as letter.



GÖTEBORG

14 November 1901

Birch-bark postcard
correctly taxed as letter.



MUNKA ÅGÅRD, 25 June 1907

Wooden postcard correctly taxed as letter.

2.5 Paper Quality

Portrait Photo in a Punched Oval

An oval was punched in any postcard, a portrait photo was inserted and a new back was attached to the card. The result was a thick card definitely violating the paper quality rules.

The cards were produced by travelling photographers taking the photo and providing the new back. That explains the variety of original postcards and persons on the portraits.



STOCKHOLM, 1 October 1903

Correct letter rate.



PKXP No. 67
(Kornsjö-Mellerud-
Göteborg)
3 July 1903

On arrival:

STOCKHOLM
4 July 1903

Sent at postcard rate and
correct application of
postage due.



2.5 Paper Quality

STOCKHOLM
SÖDER 3 TUR
27 July 1903

Correct local
letter rate.

Below:
Scan of picture side.



TORSÅNG
9 July 1907

Sent at postcard rate
and
correct application
of postage due.

Above:
Scan of picture side.

This card seems to be
a private production,
maybe inspired by the
commercial cards.

2.5 Paper Quality

Embossed Postcards

Embossed postcards have a front carton with a photograph in embossment and a back carton with the address side. Embossed postcards were twice as thick as a normal postcard and violated the paper quality rules. They were produced by a German company and imported to Sweden by *Göteborgs Litografiska Aktiebolag*. In a letter on the 27 November 1900 they complained to the Swedish Post that the embossed postcards were not accepted at postcard rate in three towns and wanted the a clarification of the rules.

The response from the Swedish post was published on the 11 December 1900. However, the response was that such postcards were *not* accepted as postcard rate. From that date, embossed postcards should definitely be taxed as letters.

Reference

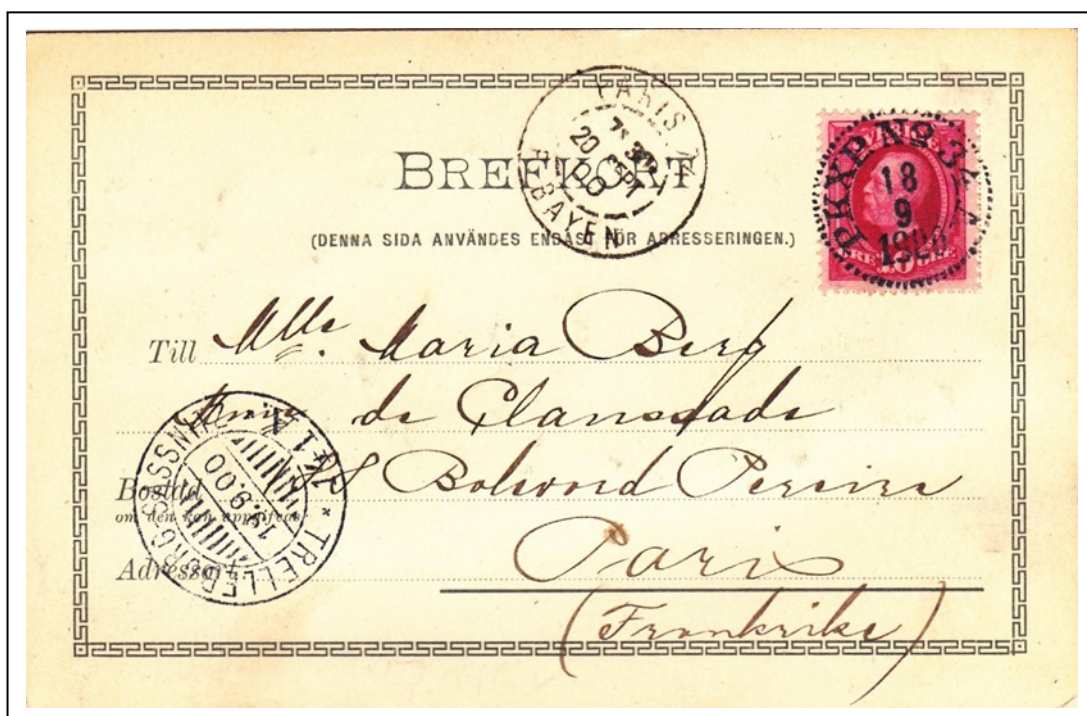
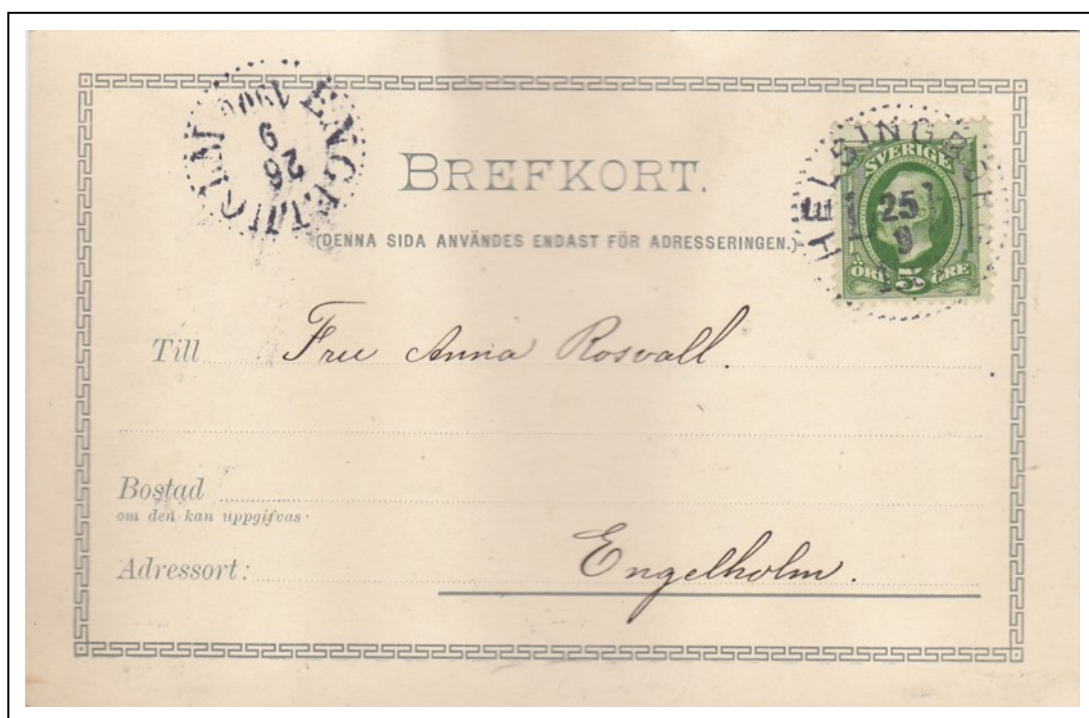
- ◇ Cirkular Appendix A No. 66, 11:th of December 1900. Postal archive at Riksarkivet (SE/RA/420543/089/F 1 A/73).

HELSINGBORG
25 September 1900

On arrival:

ENGELHOLM
26 September 1900

Correct inland post-
card rate before
explicit rules.



PKXP No. 34
(Stockholm-
Katrineholm)
18 September 1900

TRELLEBORG-
SASSNITZ
19 September 1900

On arrival:

PARIS
20 September 1900

Correct foreign post-
card rate before
explicit rules.

2.5 Paper Quality

PKXP No. 5
(Stockholm-
Tillberga-Örebro)
10 June 1902

On arrival:

STOCKHOLM
11 June 1902

Incorrect inland post-
card rate and correct
application of postage
due under explicit
rules.



LUND
24 December 1900

On arrival:

HALMSTAD
24 December 1900

Correct inland letter
rate under explicit
rules.

HALMSTAD
4 March 1901
PKXP No. 64
(Göteborg-
Helsingborg)
5 March 1901

Correct foreign letter
rate under explicit
rules.

