

# Early Mail and Stampless Letter Postal Markings of Sweden

## Synopsis

As a marcophily exhibit, this study tells the story of Sweden's early mails and their postal markings. The earliest mail was delivered by messengers (couriers) and normally does not have handstamp markings. Following the messenger mail is the Crown Post for official mail that was in effect from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until 1874 when official postage stamps were introduced. Thus several systems of mail existed in parallel use rather than sequentially.

The General Mail was established in 1636. The first handstamp markings were the crown over B (Betalda or paid) and the crown over F (Fribrev or free letter). The first place-name cancellations were undated and consisted of STOCKHOLM enclosed in a ribbon. These are shown chronologically from internally dated contents and known periods of use of the varieties. The normal straight line town name cancels in capital letters are presented alphabetically and again are dated by letter contents or periods of known use.

The exhibit continues with the same treatment of the arc cancels (year date in curved format) followed by the rectangular or box cancels. The latter two are dated and again are shown alphabetically by town name with periods of use indicated. With all three categories—straight line, arc, and box cancellations—a complete showing would be impossible with the limited number of frames. The examples shown are lesser known towns and less common varieties. In a few cases auxiliary manuscript notations are mentioned, e.g. “urgent.”

The next section shows examples of Free Letter (Fr Br) handstamps followed by postage due markings. The final frame takes a look at foreign mails to and from Sweden with their associated postal markings.

What the exhibit does not include—the Circle Cancels, with year date in horizontal format, which began during the pre-stamp period, are not shown as they are extremely numerous. The exhibit does not show rate and route information since the focus is on the postal markings. The exhibit reflects over 50 years of study and acquisition by the exhibitor.

### Treatment

Overall the approach is to show the markings that were used somewhat chronologically. However this cannot be done literally as there were different mail systems used in parallel and the periods of use of types of markings overlap. The types of markings are the over-riding differentiators.

### Importance

Sweden is an important Nordic country with a rich postal history. The evolution of stampless mail postal markings in all the Nordic countries is interesting and those of Sweden are somewhat complex with many types and varieties.

### Philatelic Knowledge

Most of the literature in this field is in the Swedish language, offering a challenge for the exhibitor to obtain and understand the many sources.

## Rarity and Condition

The material is generally not found outside Sweden and was mostly obtained from Swedish dealers and auction houses. Key pieces are noted with boxed text. Most surviving stampless mail has held up well over time due to the high fiber content of the paper.

## References

Since most important references are in Swedish, only the following English language ones are cited.

Lithén, Gunnar, ed. *FACIT Postal IX*, Facit Förlags, Malmö, Sweden, 2015. Postal history catalog; descriptions are in Swedish and English.

Stenquist, Ulf. "Swedish Crown Mail Cancellations 1720-1873," in the Monacophil 2013 Exhibition Catalog, edited by Jonas Hällström.

Hallar, Eric. "Sweden: Its Pre-Adhesive and Postal History and Covers," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, vol. XXX, no. 11 (March 1951) pp 85-98.

## **Awards Track Record**

1. DELPEX 1967 (local show) – Second Award
2. SEPAD 1985 (Philadelphia) – Vermeil
3. COMPEX 1987 (Chicago) – SCC Grand Award
4. SARAPEX 1988 (Sarasota) – Gold
5. PLYMOUTH SHOW 1988 (Michigan) – Gold
6. SESCAL 1988 (Los Angeles) – Vermeil, Best Scandinavian non-traditional award
7. ARIPEX 1991 (Tucson) – Gold
8. NORDIA 2013 (Garðabær, Iceland) – Vermeil
9. Royal 2013 Royale (Winnipeg) – Gold, SCC Jed Richter Award for best classic philately
10. PNSE 2014 (Philadelphia) – Vermeil, AAPE award of honor
11. WESTPEX 2017 (San Francisco) – Large Vermeil, AAPE award of honor

*Alan Warren, 2017*



## Early Mail and Stampless Letter Postal Markings of Sweden

This marcopily exhibit tells the story of postal markings used in Sweden, primarily before the introduction of adhesive postage. The time period is from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, although some examples of stampless covers extending into the 1860s are included. This study explores the early types of mail including messenger mail, crown post, military mail, and general mail. Some manuscript markings are also identified. Key items have boxed text.

Messenger Mail (hand-delivered): Folded letter, Lifland (Livonia)  
to Stockholm, November 12, 1611



### Plan

Messenger Mail (Courier Post)

Crown Post

Manuscript and handstamp markings

Military mail

General Mail

B and F markings

### General Mail (cont'd)

Straight line cancels

Arc cancel

Box cancels

Free letter cancels

Postage due

Foreign mails

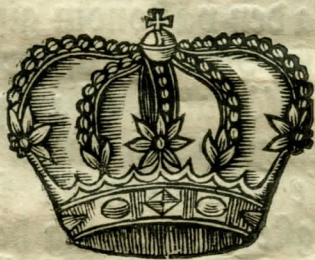


“RESOLUTION of his Royal Majesty and the Chancery Board of the Realm Concerning the Filling of Proposals and Accounts of Postal Administrators / and Clearance of Funds. Stockholm 13 April 1725. By Grace and Privilege of His Royal Majesty. Stockholm, given at the Royal Printing Office by Johan Henr. Werner, Director of all Printing Plants in the Realm.”

Kongl. Maj:ts  
Och Rikens Chancie-Collegii  
**RESOLUTION,**

Angående  
Post-Förmaltarnes Förslagers och  
Räkenskapers insändande / samt Medlens  
clarerande.

Stockholm den 13 Aprilis 1725.



Cum Gratia & Privilegio S:æ R:æ Maj:tis

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STOCKHOLM/uti Kongl. Boftryckeriet uplagdt/

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Hos JOHAN HENR. WERNER,  
Directeur öfver alla Tryckerien i Riket.



# Messenger Mail (Kurirpost)

The oldest form of mail delivery was by private messenger or relayed via agents.

Jem Zellen vndt Preussis  
ten Herz Hieronimus von  
Birchholtz dem ultimum  
mimum großmüthigen Herzog  
vndt vnzertiteltem  
gms  
Dinn 12. Januarij vnzfangen,  
Dinn 13. im dinn schauet  
Cito cito cito.

←

Circa 1600 to Hieronymus von  
Birchholtz (1570- 1618) marked

**Cito. Cito. Cito.** (Latin for fast,  
i.e., urgent)

→

Sent from Stockholm

August 4, 1605

Jes Lone: vnzst. Leonor:  
vnsibum  
Ogen  
vnsamisten bid Agata  
Zuniz vnzst.

Sub dato em. 4.  
Augusti 1605.

Messenger Mail (Kurierpost)

De. De. Welborne welbördige Herrar  
och gods män som den höglöfliga  
Kungens vänskap i Stockholm behåller,  
minn guds nåde, och syn,  
nåliga guds nåde, där jag din  
willigan og ronnligen till  
kommer.  
Præsenterat i sig till  
Den 7. Octob. 1635.

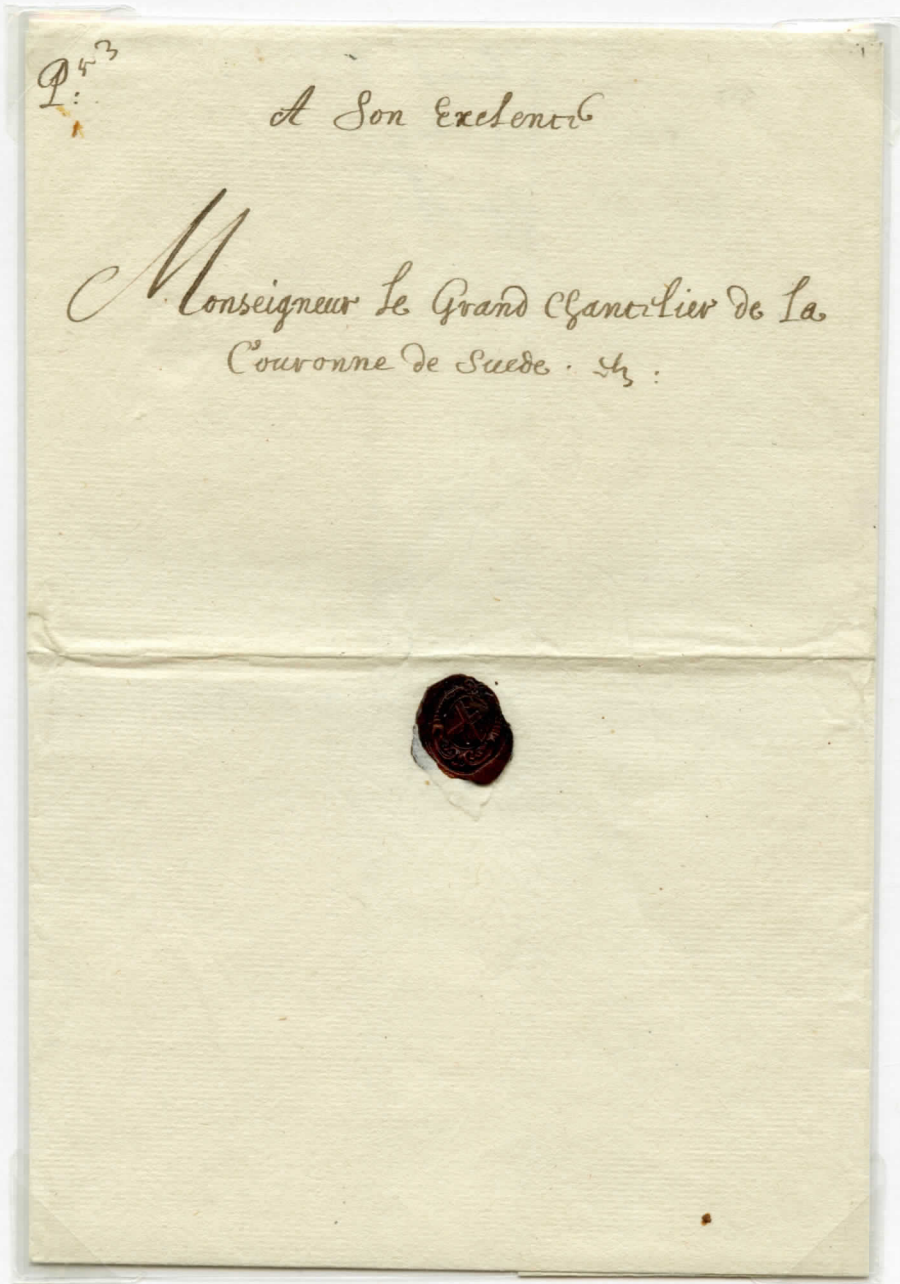
Above: to the Court Martial in Stockholm, October 7, 1635

Below: to the War Council in Stockholm, June 5, 1635

Denne Kong. Majest. beordrer den Högste Rådhuset,  
och den Högste Rådhuset att till den Högste Rådhuset  
Män Rådhuset och till de förordnade Rådhus Rådhus. Men  
Högste och respective guds nåde förordnade Rådhus  
Einsparning  
Præsenterat Den 5. Junij 1635.  
Hans Gouvernören till  
Ordnung, Helsing.  
Lefwens die Kungens Rådhus.



Messenger Mail (Kurirpost)



April 25, 1634 to His Excellency the Royal Grand Chancellor Axel Oxenstierna, who was instrumental in establishing the General Post in Sweden in 1636.

Le Blanc  
propos: du Le Blanc  
du 25<sup>me</sup> de Avr 1634

Messenger Mail (Kurirpost)

Från mig till Ditts Dag  
Admiralens Wärd  
Domingflys Admiralitet  
Collegium i Stockholm  
Ladestugan i Söder  
Lagårdens Dyrings till  
Lagmanshuset i Söder  
min gärdstun i Söder  
Märgården i Söder  
Därmed  
i Stockholm

To Stockholm, April 20, 1649

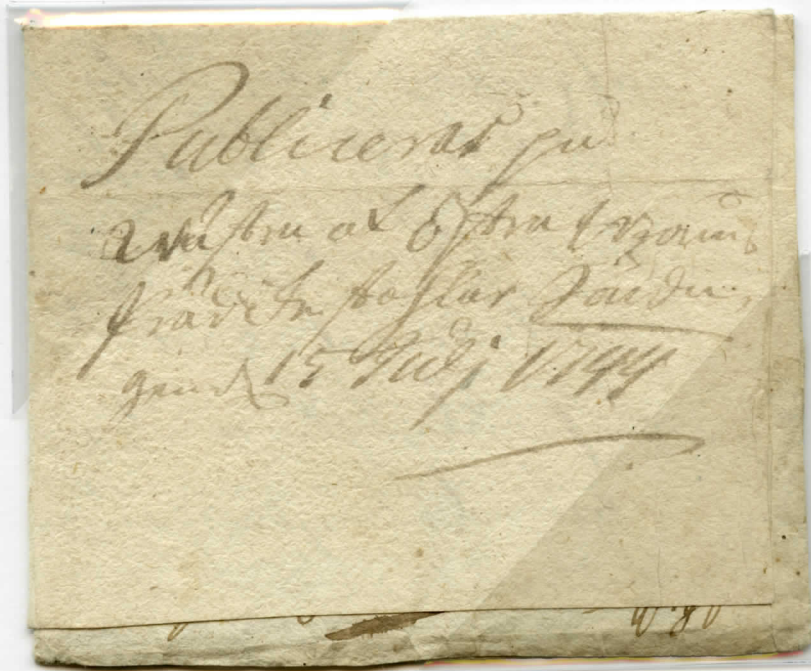
To the Admiralty in Stockholm with Citto (Urgent) markings, 1664

Gott hys loffligast  
liga Admiraltets  
Collegio i Stockholm  
Därmed  
i Stockholm  
Citto Citto



## Crown Post or Mail (Kronopost)

The Crown Post consisted of communications sent by royalty or government officials and dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until 1873 when official correspondence was taken over by the General Post Office. The mail was identified with hand drawn crowns (usually three) and later with handstamp crown markings. The manuscript notation evolved into three or more curves or loops with a line drawn through, sometimes referred to as a coil or meander.



Above: complete crown post letter internally dated July 3, 1744

Below: 18<sup>th</sup> century crown post penalty letter to Kjälleberg with notation that it "shall arrive the 25<sup>th</sup> of October with 5 Riksdaler fine."







Letter from Kristianstad with crown mark of that city, August 29, 1744

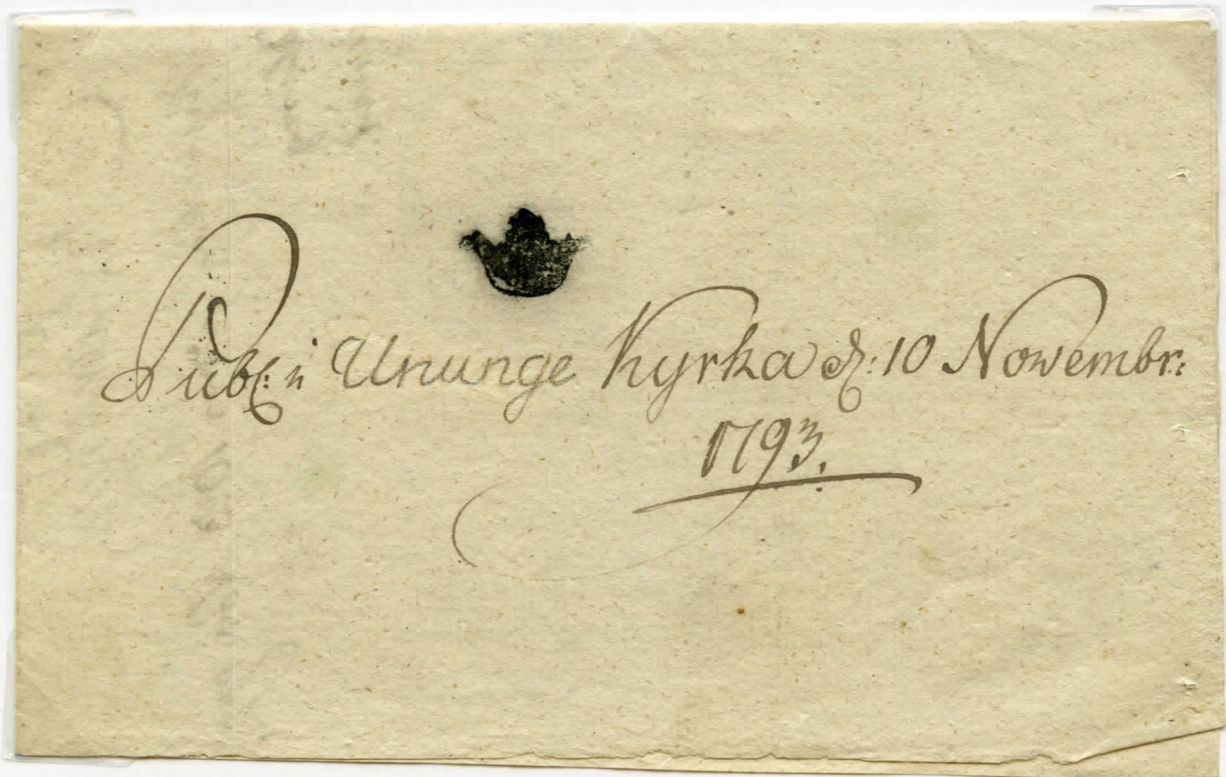


Crown marking on letter internally dated April 28, 1777

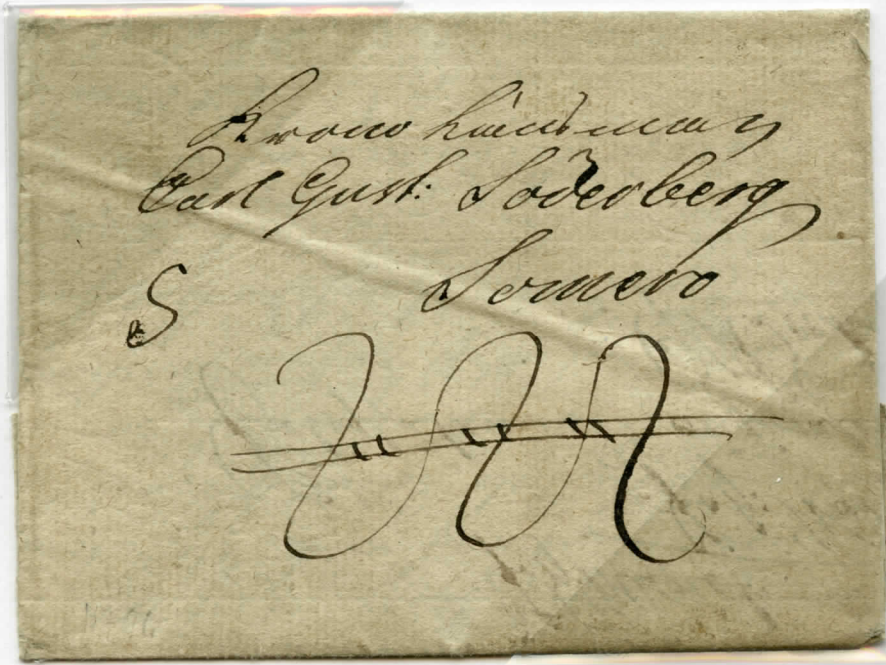




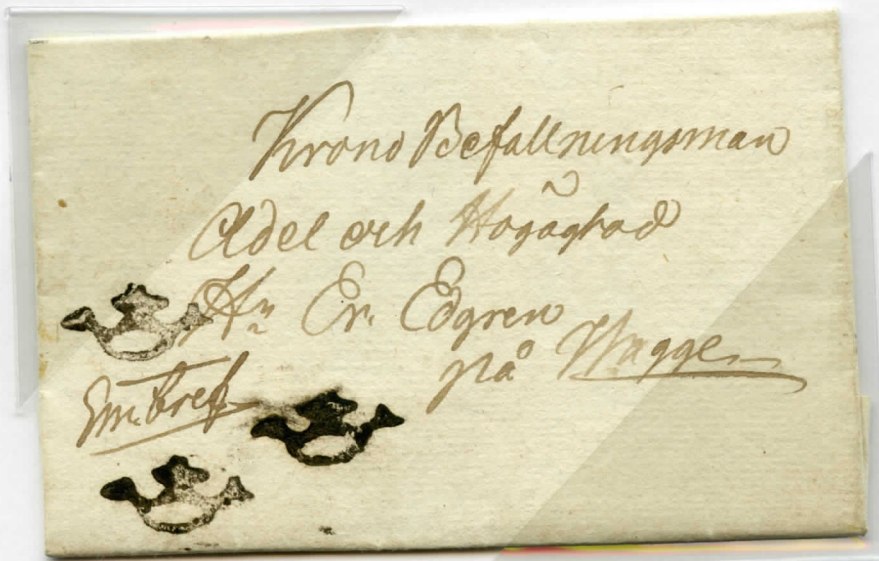
18<sup>th</sup> century marking



Crown marking on letter to Ununge Church in 1793



Manuscript crowns sent from Lund, May 24, 1796.  
The letter "S" indicates to the carrier in which direction to bear the letter.



Handstamp crowns on letter from Södra Röjdåsen,  
January 23, 1807 with manuscript "Em bref" (official mail)

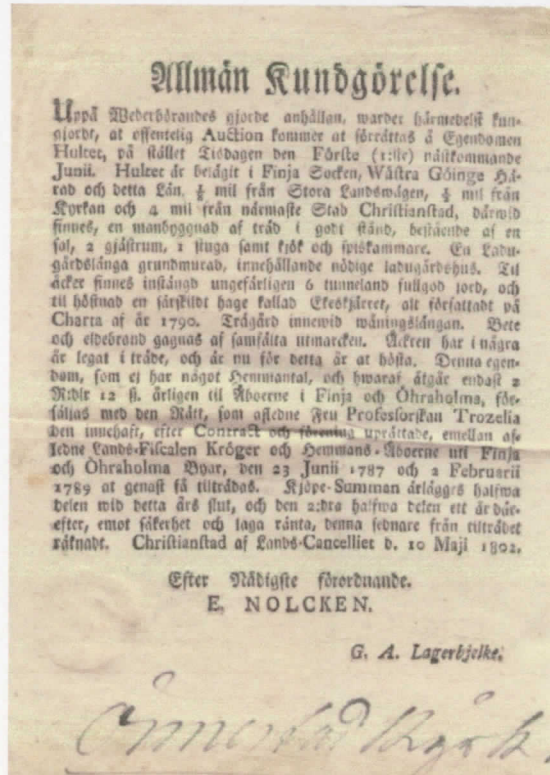




Feathers were used on mail to denote emergency (express) delivery, in this case in addition to the manuscript crown marking. Internal notes indicate the letter transited four locations, all on the same date, December 23, 1808. 1) Brannestad, Östergötland; 2) Kumla, Örebro County; Thorlunda, Östergötland; 4) Tornby, Östergötland.



Crown Post mailing of proclamation dated May 23, 1802 with pair of crown markings. The notice as shown in the reduced first page announces the public auction of a property near Christianstad, including the main building and several outlying structures.





Crown Post

Handstamp Markings

→

Crown Post letter with initial W (Wijkman), sent from Ankarlöf to Nyboda, August 21, 1813. With manuscript note, "Högst angeläget och måste dag och natt utan fortskaffas" (Highest urgency and must be conveyed day and night without delay).



←

Crown Post marking, sometimes described as a "cat's paw," on royal proclamation concerning importing supplies by merchants and ship handlers, May 8, 1828.





Tju Krono Fogde  
 Contoret  
~~Stohlan~~ Stohlan  
 Post af krono Brevbarare vid Haga  
 ansvaret från Sköfde den 11 April 1831.  
 1/2. eftermiddag - antyder. Boström

Use of manuscript serpentine coils on 1) letter from Sköfde to Stohlan, April 11, 1831, and 2) letter from Åsen to Mönbacka December 9, 1837, both with feather fragments in wax seals on reverse.

Näringsmannen  
 Anders Eriksson  
~~Mönbacka~~ Mönbacka  
 af 9. des 9 December 1837  
 Sk. 1/2. eftermiddag från Åsen  
Wahlberg

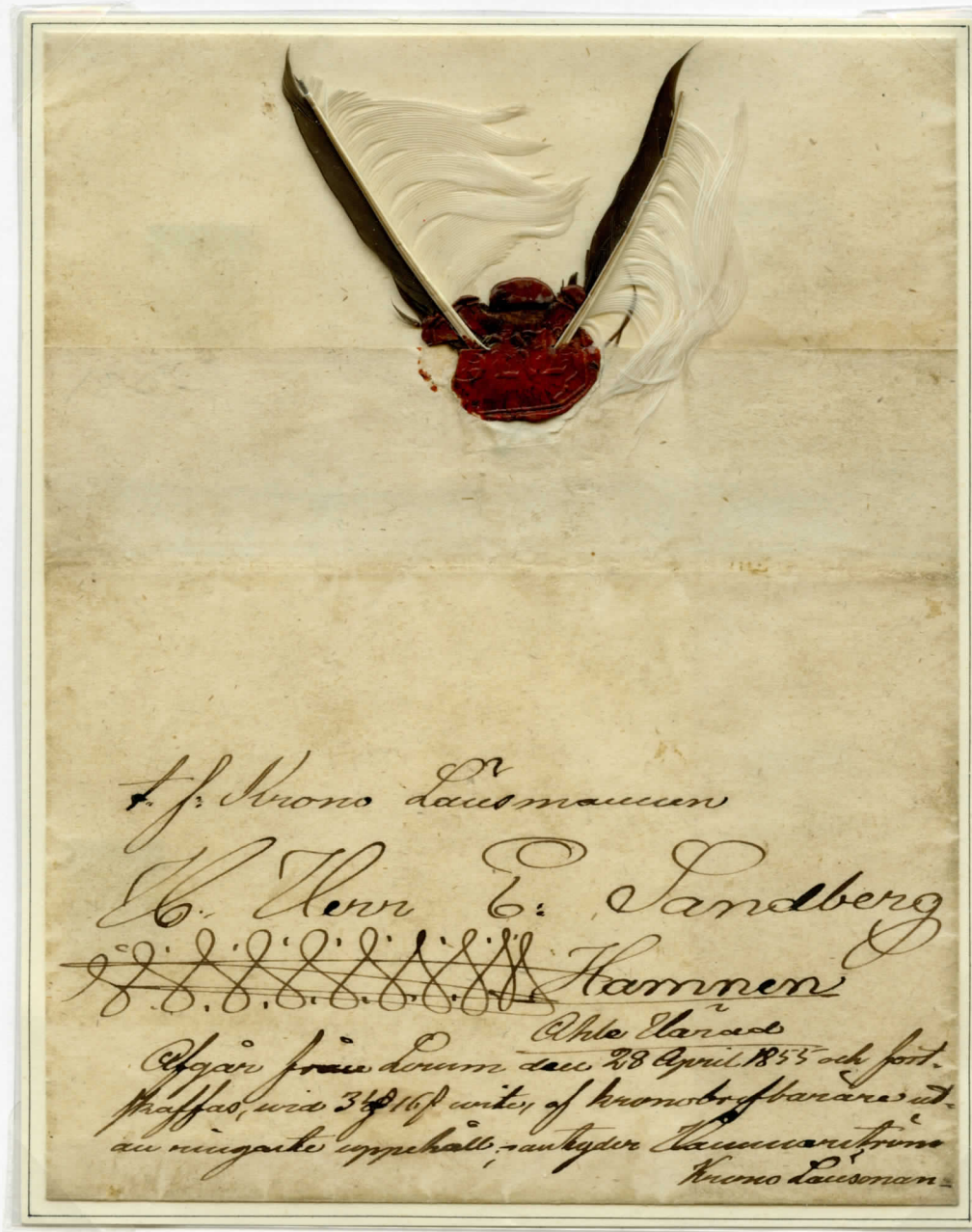
## Crown Post

## Handstamp Markings

Stampless folded letters that have one corner turned to the back indicated the mail was that of a commoner rather than royalty or the clergy. Both covers bear crown marks. The top one was sent to Räfvalofsta January 27, 1834. The bottom cover was sent December 23, 1841 to a gamekeeper in Landskrog. Its lower right corner was originally folded back as shown by the crease. Manuscript "Angeläget" or "Urgent."







Crown Post feather letter with elaborate manuscript serpentine coil, sent to Lerum, April 28, 1855. Both black and white feathers were used to indicate the highest urgency with transit both day and night.



Military letter sent from Kråk February 8, 1762 to regimental clerk in Bredared, discussing noncommissioned officer who was in debt. Crown marks contain the letters F.B. for Fri Brev (free letter).

Lievred och Högaltare Gern  
Regiments Secretair

Kråk den 8 Febr.

Louff. Månst  
Ero kinnare Regiments  
Secretair, vidsee och  
Högaltare Gern  
Adolph Sandberg  
Bredared  
i upp hvar ad.



gintensat, att vara ofvordig  
upplikt af K. Regent. Hård  
gifne innehållning 2 1/2 sept  
1761 från Sösten dref. 16 1/2 /

Konge Maj<sup>ts</sup>  
 Högst Betrodde Man Vice Ammiral  
 Vice Landshöfdinge och Öfver  
 Commendant samt Riddare  
 af Konge Svärds Orden  
 Högvalborne Baronn Herr  
 Jacob Pederström  
 Amb<sup>t</sup> Göteborg

Two military letters addressed to Göteborg, c. 1780

Konge Maj<sup>ts</sup>  
 Högst Betrodde Man General  
 Lieutenant Landshöfdinge, Öfver  
 Commendant och Commendeur  
 af Konge Svärds Orden  
 Högvalborne Baronn Herr  
 Carl Rud. DeRietz  
 Amb<sup>t</sup> Göteborg



Military feather letter with serpentine coil, dated March 20, 1828, and endorsed, "Dispatch from Ferglanda 20 March at 6 o'clock and convey by special military post to the Commander for No. 16 West Götha Dahls Regiment, Forstena" in West Tunhem.



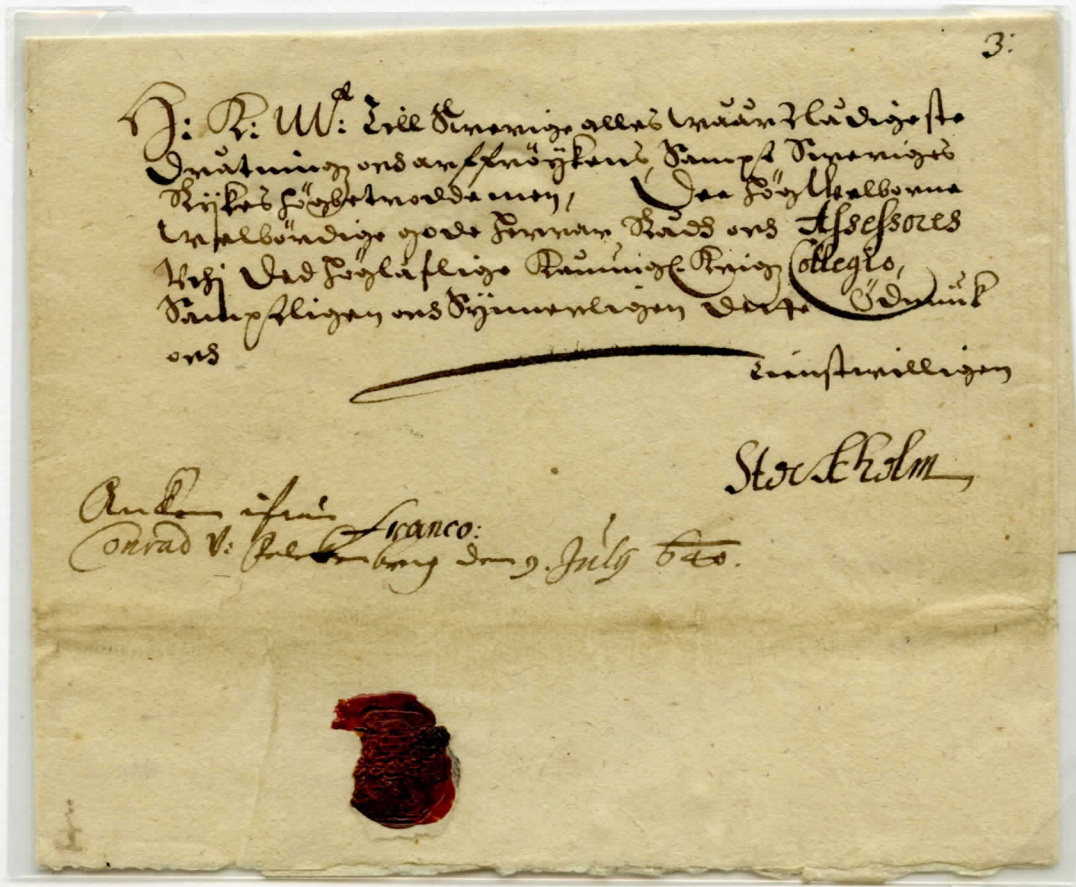


# The General Mail

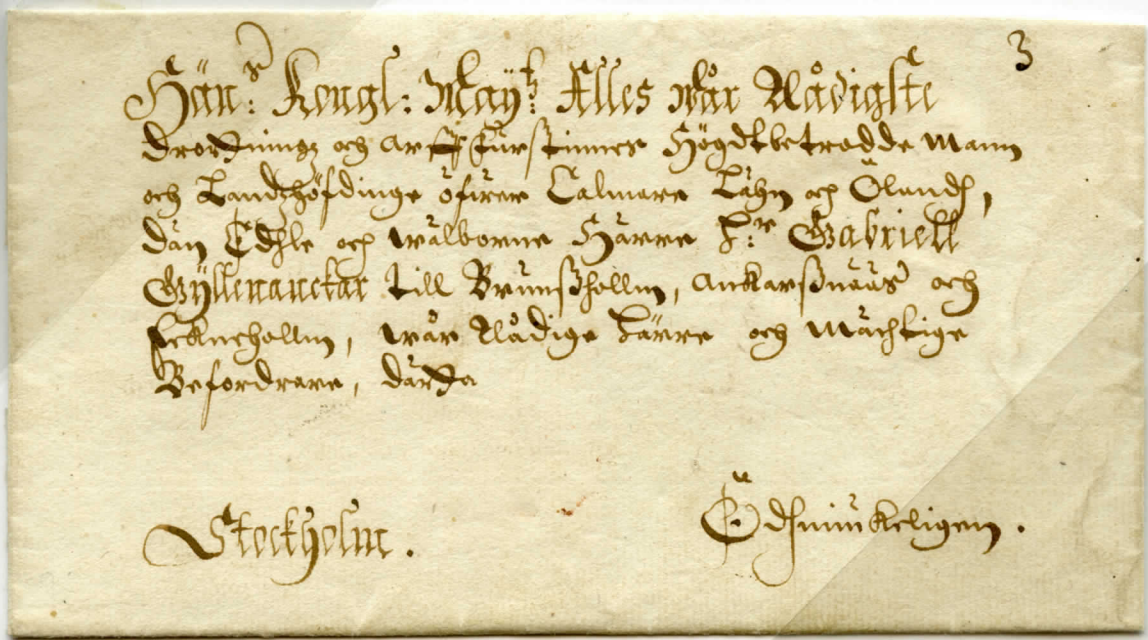
Sweden's General Mail was established in 1636 by Chancellor of the Realm Axel Oxenstierna during the reign of Queen Christina. The remaining sections of the exhibit are groupings by subject, generally in chronological order within each group. The general mails are usually recognized with handwritten charter numbers in the upper right corner of the cover. These numbers represent listings of the letters in the records of the postal service.



Letter to military college in Stockholm, July 9, 1640, from Conrad v. Falkenberg (1591-1654) while he was Governor of Kalmar. Early use of manuscript "Franco" (Paid).



To Governor Gabriell Gyllenanckar dated September 19, 1650.





# The General Mail



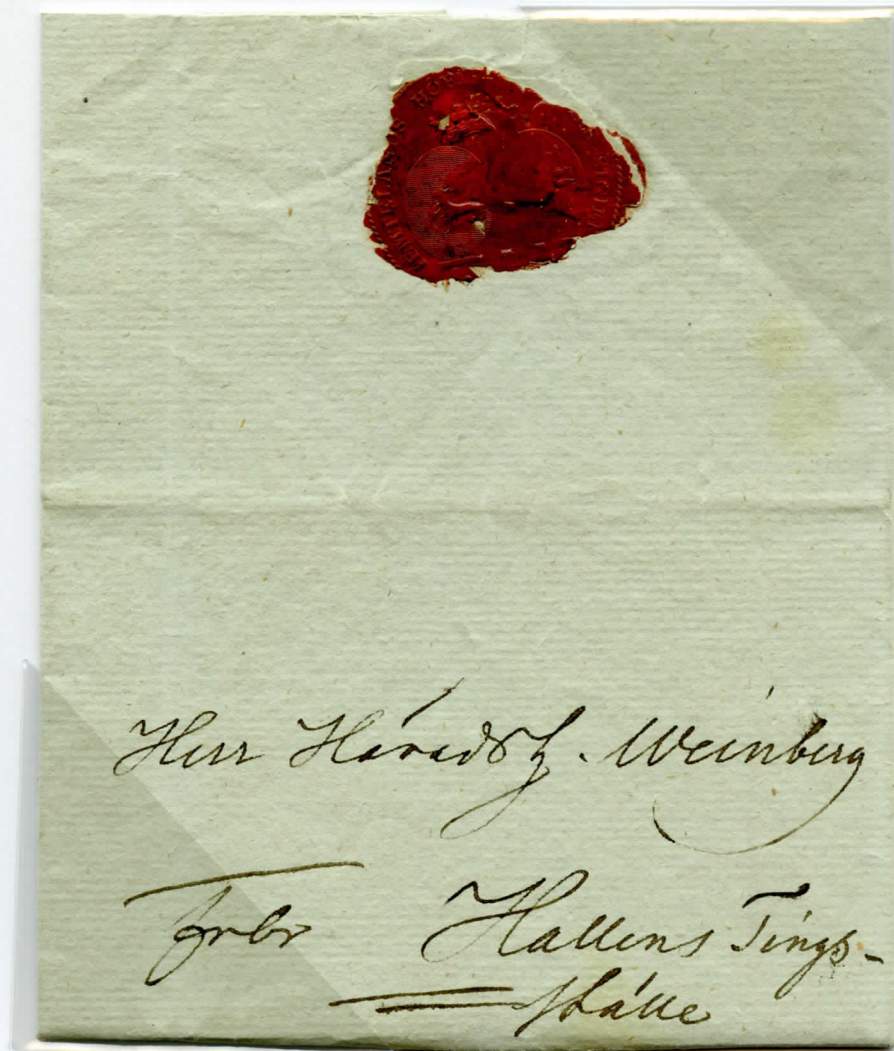
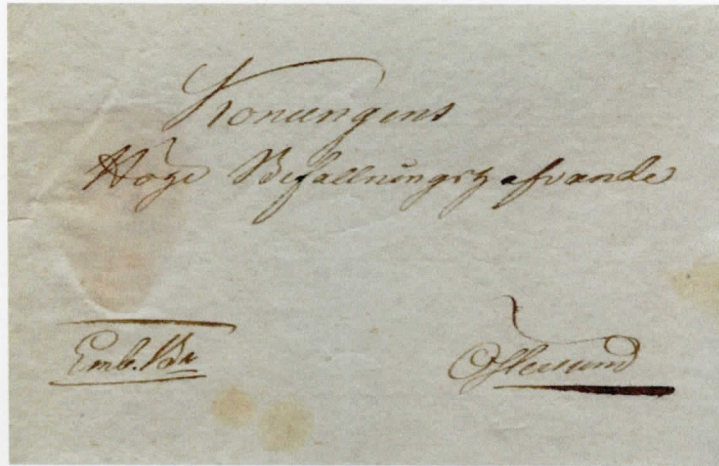
Complete letter from Malmö  
to Engelholm, March 8, 1710.



Complete letter from Westerås  
to Skara, October 13, 1741.



General Mail cover used twice. First it was sent from Oviken to Östersund March 19, 1832. It was then turned inside out and used to send a message to a magistrate in Hallen.

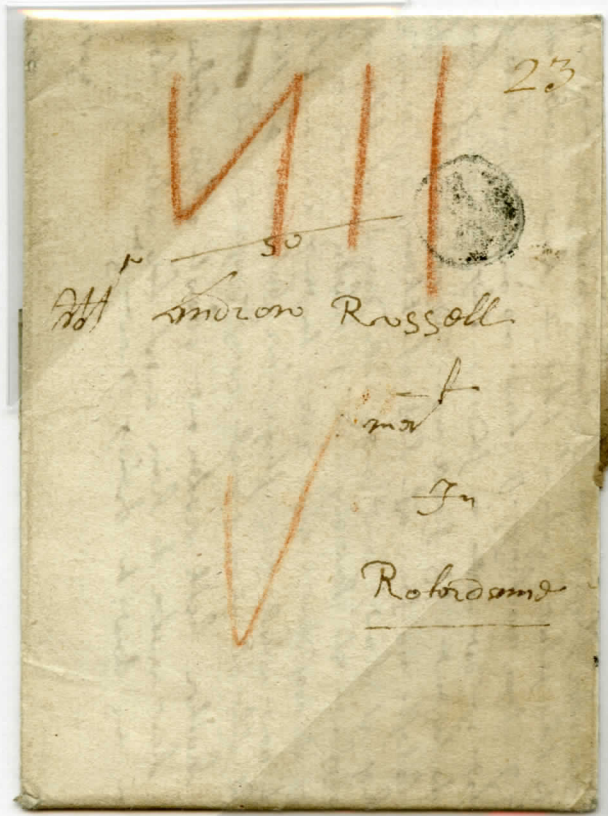




# The B & F Crown Markings

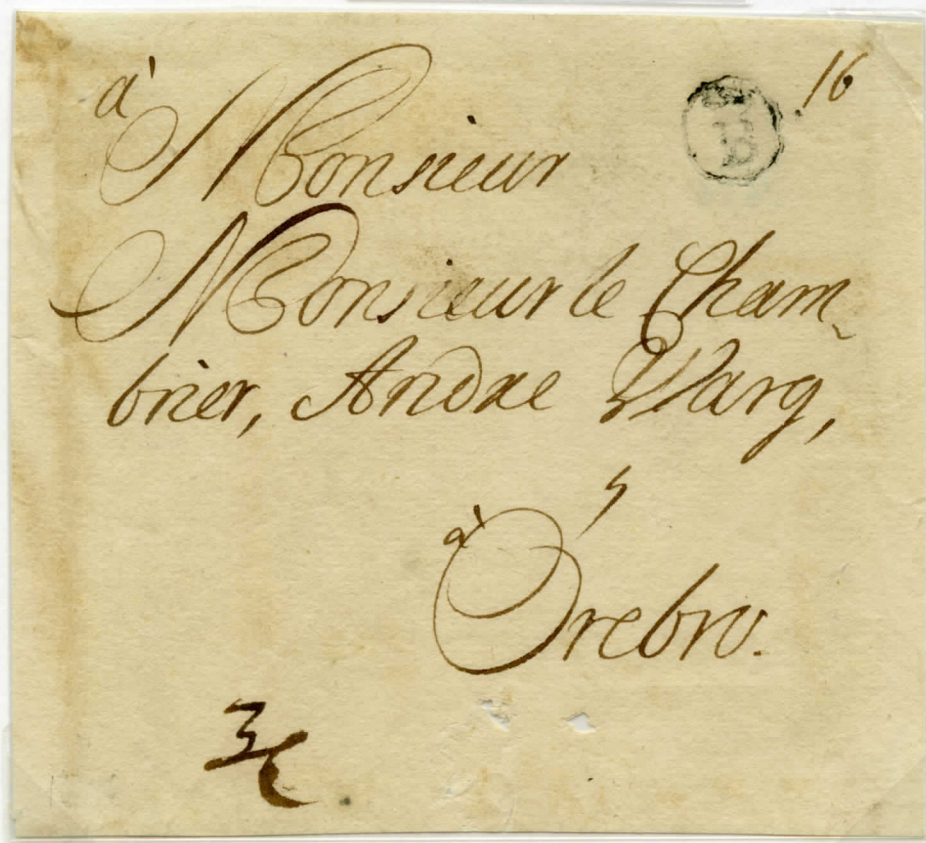
# Crown B

From 1686 until 1708 the General Mail used two basic types of handstamps, consisting of a crown over a capital B (Betald or paid) or over a capital F (Fribrev or free letter). Within the types are subtypes that differ in shape (oval vs round) and in the dimensions.



1686-1691

Stockholm to Rotterdam, March 19, 1687. Paid to Hamburg, with red due markings to Amsterdam and then Rotterdam.



1694-1696

1696 cover front to Örebro



1696-1708

Two covers to Carlsrona, the bottom one dated internally 1707

35  
Monsieur  
Monsieur Jean Guillardie  
Leyonfelt, Maitre d'Ar.  
Elyerie Kavale  
Carlsrona.

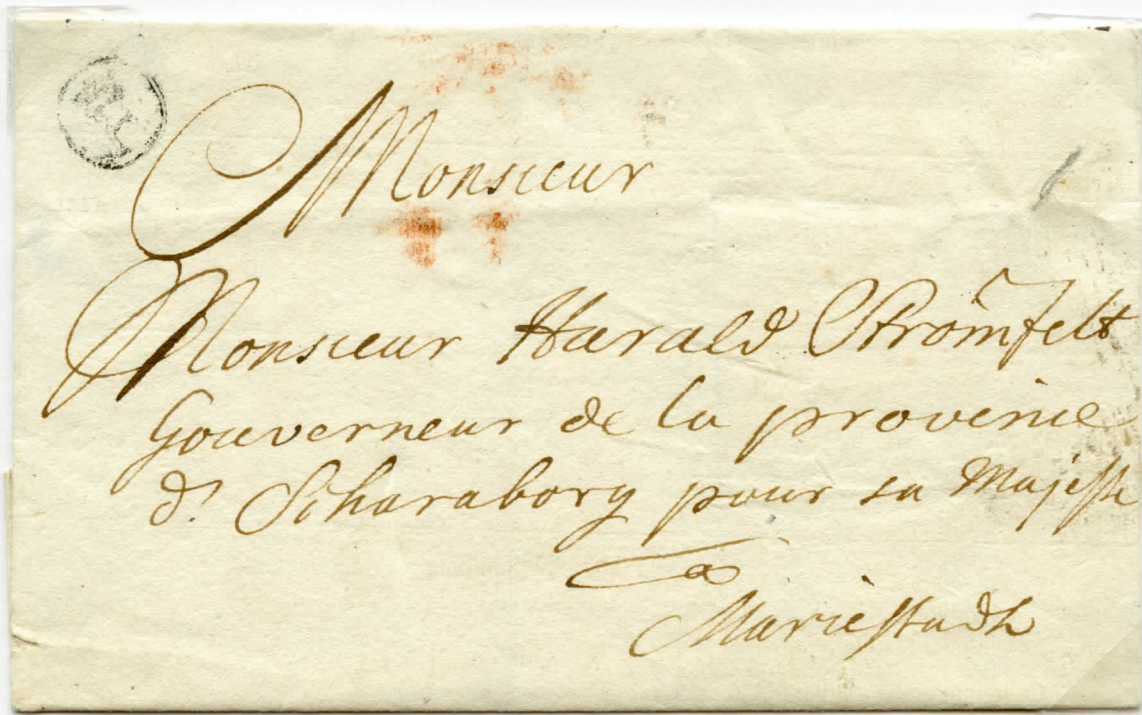
21  
Cille Post Jogg. Loug.  
Ambiralibets Collegium.  
a Carlsrona





January-November 1686

Crown F (Fribrev or free letter) to Mariestad, 1686 above, and 1697 below (the latter to Governor Harald Strömfelt who was governor 1695-1707).

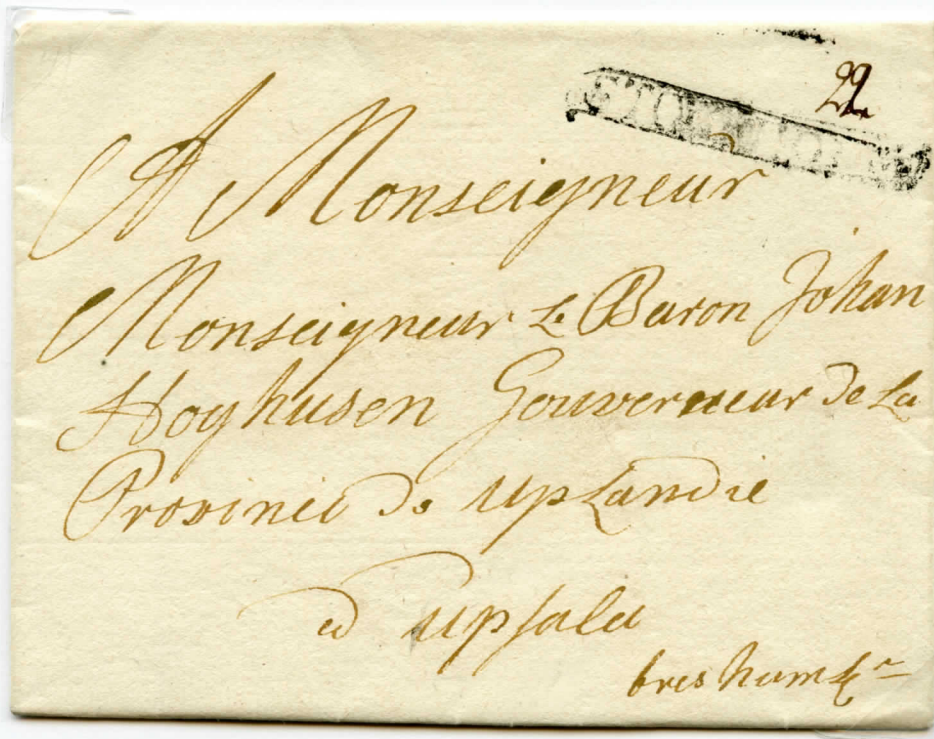


1696-1702

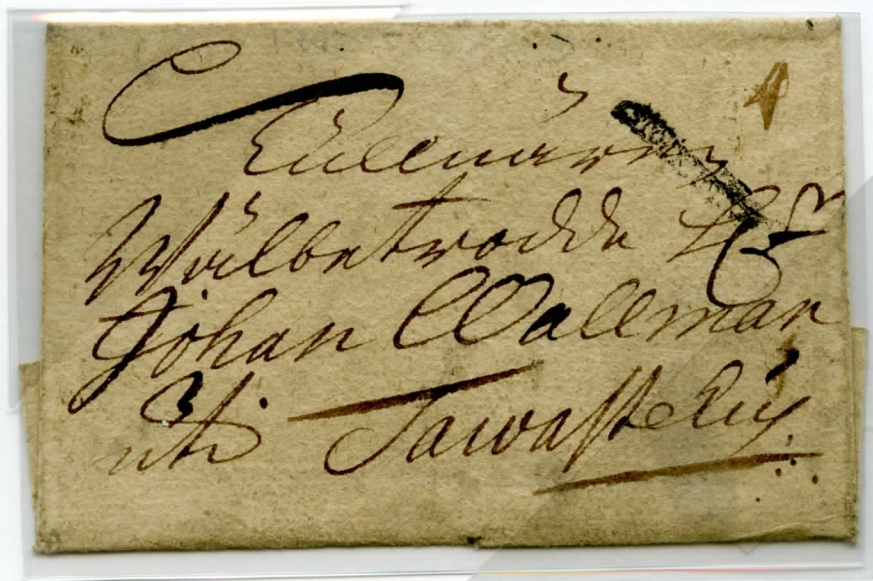
## Straight Line Cancels

## Stockholm Ribbon

Sweden introduced place name cancellations in 1708 in Stockholm. The name appears in a sort of banner with curved ends known as a "ribbon." A variety of the ribbon markings were used from 1708 to 1751. The exhibited items have the year of use where documented, followed by the known range of use.



1711 to Uppsala (1708-1718)

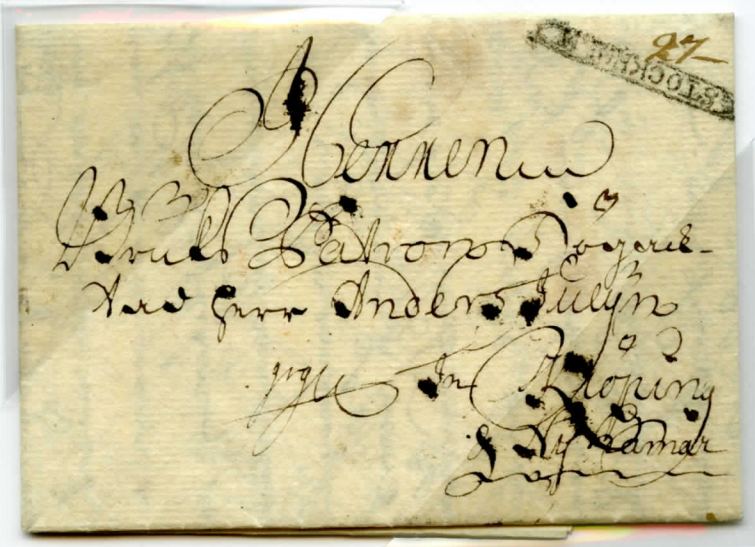


April 12, 1730 to Tavastehus, Finland (1722-1730)

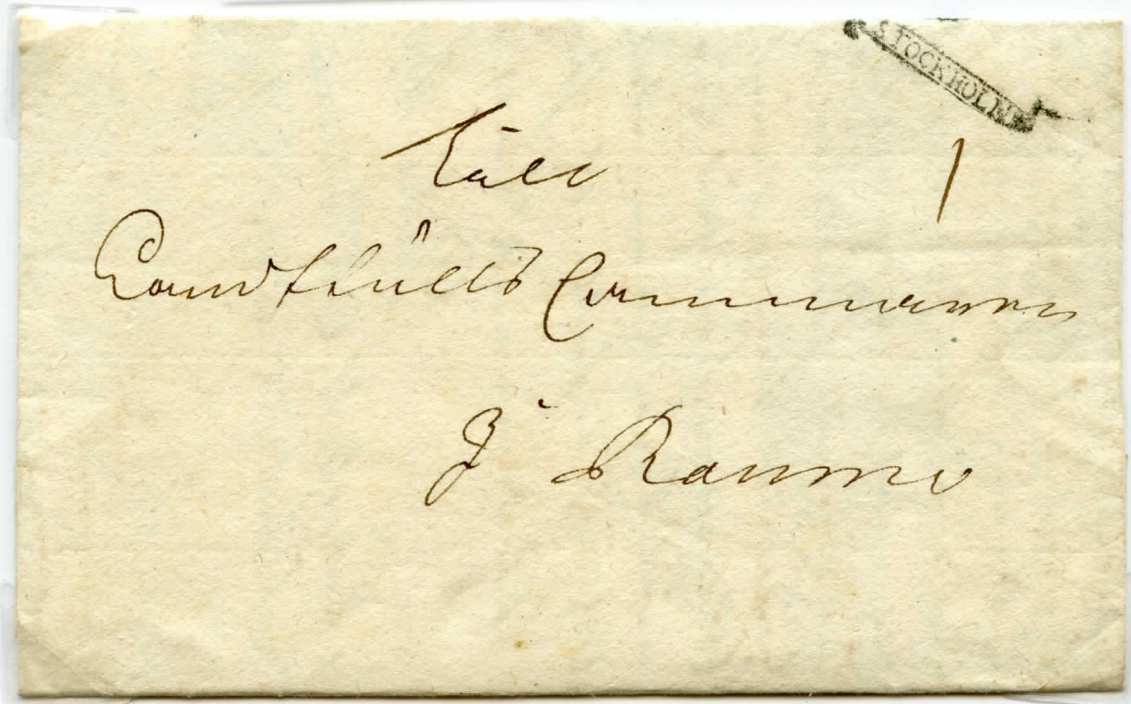


Straight Line Cancels

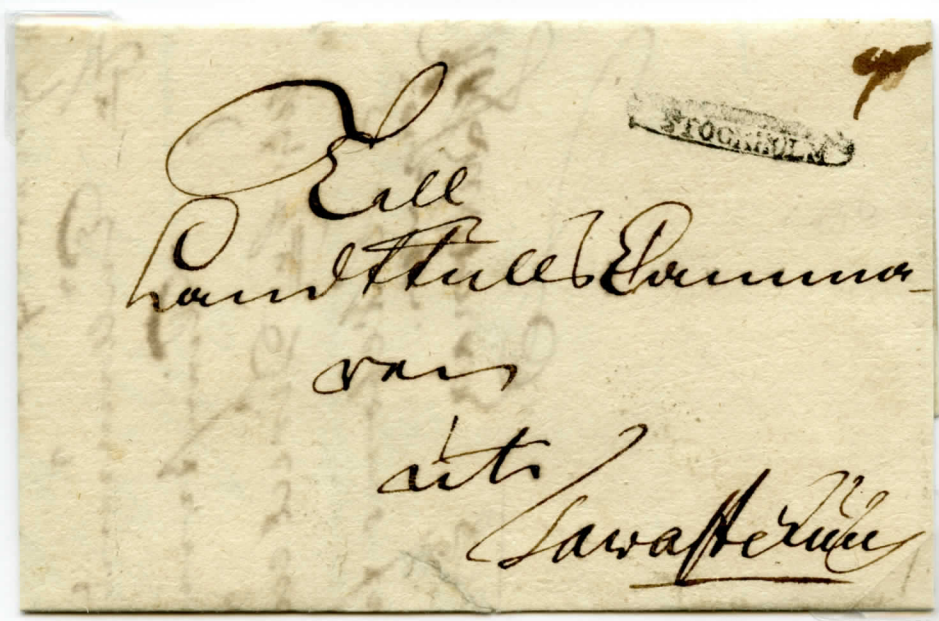
Stockholm Ribbon



←  
 January 20, 1737  
 (1731-1742)



→  
 January 5, 1736  
 (1731-1741)



←  
 September 15, 1736 to  
 Tavastehus, Finland  
 (1733-1737)



Straight Line Cancels

Stockholm Ribbon

3  
 Hice  
 Kullerby  
 Sviltved  
 Johan Wallman  
 J. Tavastehus

←  
 1742 to Tavastehus  
 Finland (1731-1742)

ci  
 Kullerby  
 J. Tavastehus

→  
 September 22, 1742 to  
 Tavastehus (1742-1746)

999  
 à Madame  
 Madame la  
 Baronne, veuve  
 d'Adelstein  
 à Upsala.

←  
 November 2, 1747  
 (1747-1751)



## Straight Line Cancels

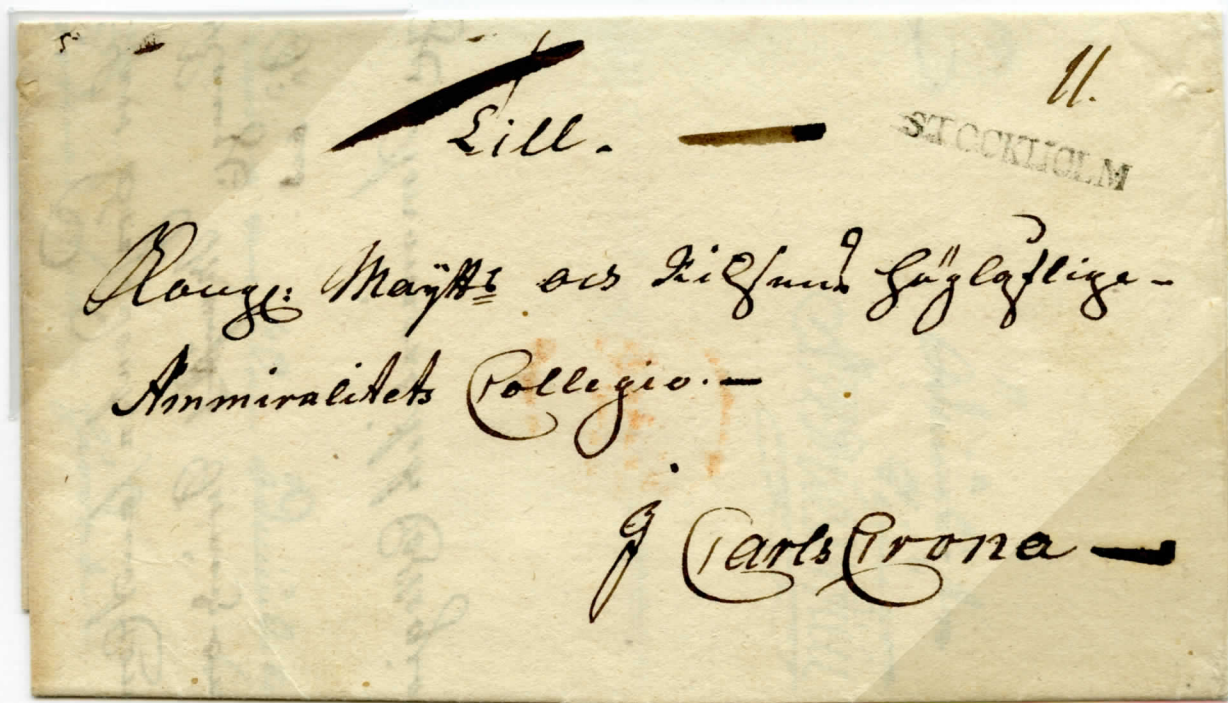
## Stockholm

The cities and towns of Sweden received the new straight line cancels in capital letters beginning in 1819 (see following section). The exception was Stockholm, which began using this type of undated cancel in the 1750s. Over the years a number of varieties of the Stockholm canceller were used. Dates of use are shown in parentheses.



Above, July 15, 1755 to Tavastehus, Finland (1752-1771)

Below, letter dated August 17, 1756 (1752-1770)





11/17

STOCKHOLM

Pastorens  
 Årsvörddige och Höglärde  
 Herr Magister Bengt  
 Neander  
 Norrköping

Above, (1770-1775)  
 Below, (1771-1780)

10

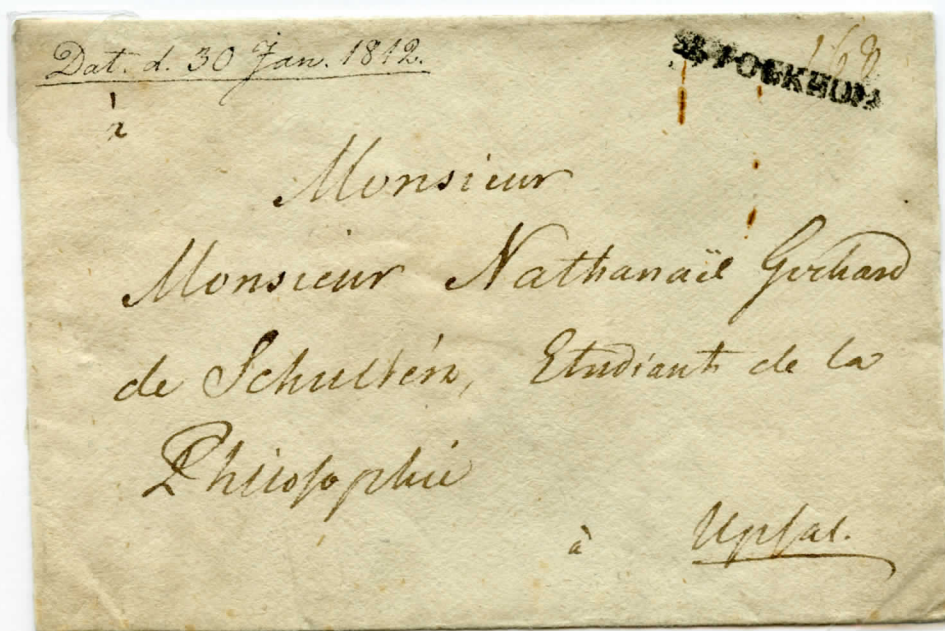
STOCKHOLM

Konung Majest  
 Chans Vice Kungl. Kammar  
 Konjely.



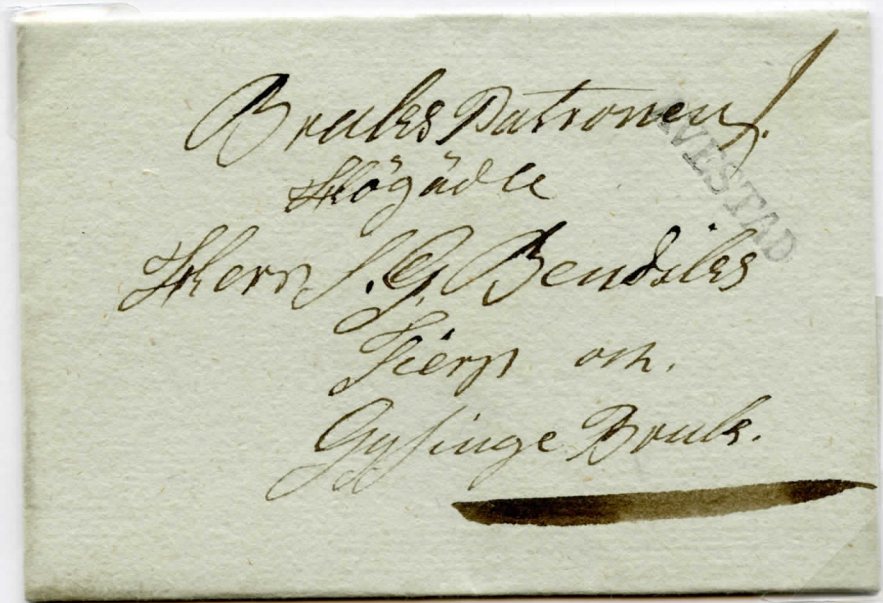
Above, November 10, 1775 (1775-1787)

Below, January 30, 1812 (1779-1819)





In 1819 Sweden introduced stronger undated straight line cancellations with the town name in capital letters. They were used until 1830 when they were replaced with the Arc cancellation. Folded letters or covers that contain actual dates are noted.

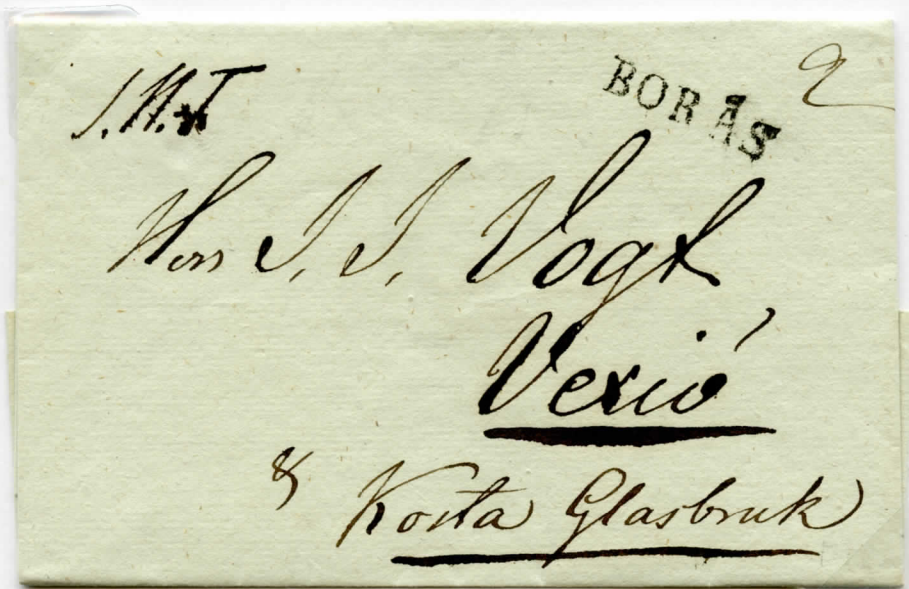


The cancel was spelled AVESTAD up until 1827 and then changed the following year to AVESTA. Cover below is dated June 27, 1830 (late use).



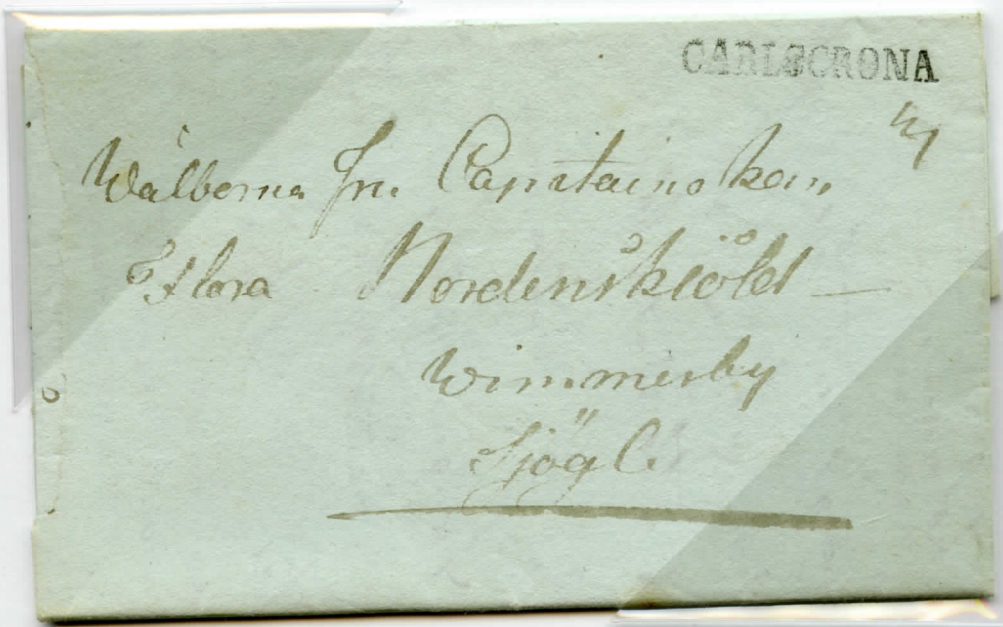


Borgholm cancel on printed proclamation, December 16, 1824

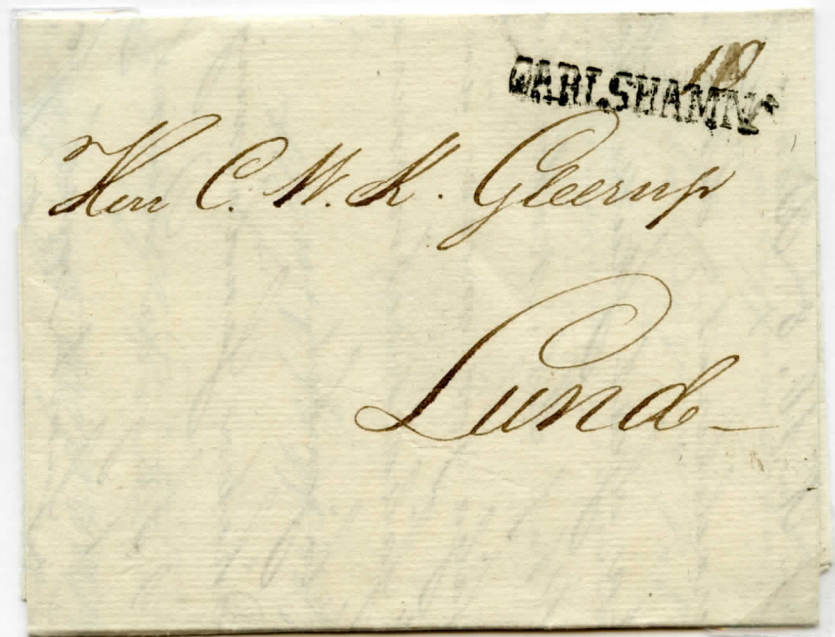


Straight Line Cancels – 1819-1830

Carlsrona, Carlshamn



Carlsrona January 21, 1821



Carlshamn December 3, 1828



The manuscript "2" on the left indicates second weight step

CIMBRITSHAMN /

*Befälhafvaren för Kongl. Ranska Dragon Regimentet*

---

*J. Eng*

*Engelholm*

---

*Rögle*

2

*Öne*

/

DAHLARÖ

*Kongl. General Post-Inspektör,*

2

*Stockholm*



ARMÉENS 3<sup>e</sup> BAYÉROLAME  
 Commissariat  
 Lieut. A. L. Wimmerberg

EKESIÖ

Hofraths Notarius  
 Höjädle H. Johan Hoberg  
 Stockholm

17  
 EKOLSUND

Konungens Tro. Sjund  
 fäste Expeditions Secretarien  
 Höjädle  
 Hr. Gustaf J. Bohm.  
 Stockholm  
 atföres hos Högskole-  
 Comiteens bef-

ELFCARLEBY

Elfcarleby May 22, 1820



10  
 Kungl. Secretarien  
 vid Stora Barnhus Directionen  
 Höga'dle Mr. A. Hellman  
 Stockholm

Enköping January 16, 1826

FALKÖPING  
 Till Herr Krauss Fogden C. E. Gallander  
 1.  
 Mansfeld  
 Skoklan

2  
 Krono Befallningsman  
 Herr  
 N. Liden  
 GEFLE  
 Stenrikswall  
 Glemsta

GRENNA. 8  
Bakfällanad etc.  
vid Rikens Händers Bausa  
Dijnska, verk Högade Gen  
C. Mantelius  
Stockholm

Grenna May 28, 1824

24  
Helsingborg  
C. C. Linnell Esq.  
Stockholm





HVETLANDA  
 Konungens  
 Notgenare Salt-kammrarsca  
 Hogade Her J. H. Dahlström  
 f. Mj. 2. Skessjö  
Solberga

HÖRBY  
 Wälföliga Magistraten  
 f. Mj. Lund

Hörby August 31, 1827



Kongl. Maj: ts  
 Befallningshafvande  
 Göteborg

KONGSBACKA

~~Post~~

10/5 Recommenderas<sup>29</sup>  
 Curator ad litem  
 Högad. Hrn Fr. Sev.  
 Bergström  
 Stockholm

KÖPING

Registered letter ("Recommenderas")

4

LAHOLM

Tull-distrikts Chef  
Embete

Gothaborg

1.

LANDSCRONA

Chefs Embetet för Kongl:  
Södra Skanska Infanterie Regementet

Friben

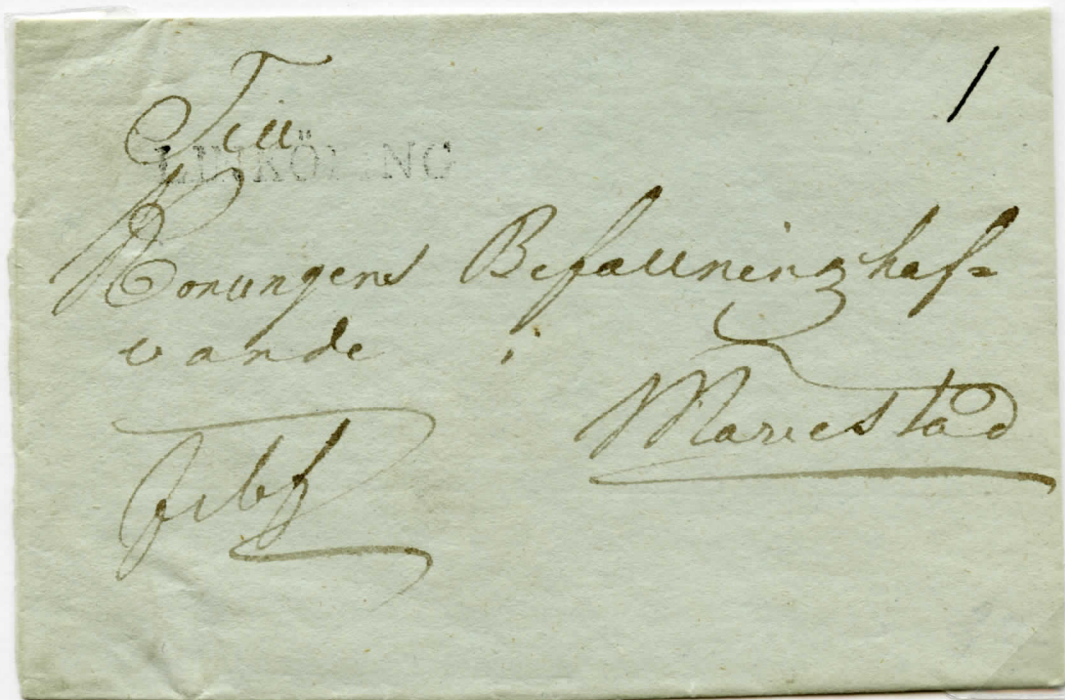
~~Gösta~~





Above: 35 mm marking used 1819-1825

Below: 40 mm marking used 1825-1830



569

MALMKÖPING 4 2

Sakmanlands Regimente

Malmköping

Belus. Kåpung

Above, manuscript note that addressee was not there.

1/2

MALMÖ

Chiper

för Norra Skånska Kongl

Infanteri Regimentet

Chrietiaurta

pro



Thonungens  
 Protocollare Capitanei vid  
 Thonung: Tonhögens by: Piddarna  
 af Thonung Svards Odere  
 Wälborne  
 Af: Gyllenskjöld  
 Gränna

MEDEVI 1

Medevi letter July 10, 1830 (late use for marking)

Riks Rättsalen  
 Wälborne  
 Hovt. Sjöskips  
 Samfundet  
 och Oboda

NORA 2

RAMUNDEBODA 6c  
Curator ad Libem,  
Göyrisla Gars & S. Bergström.  
Stockholm.

Runneby  
• Rob. Handlaren  
Herr A. N. J. Persson  
Lund



3  
 Tili Kapiteulan  
 Peter G. Nordmarken  
 Himmelin  
 Sjögren. <sup>og</sup> ~~Tand~~

Schenninge February 6, 1825

Tili  
 Nordijsa Souffajillet  
 ubi  
 Hennesand  
 Goben.

SKENNINGE

Kamminibeam  
 Årenvåriget av ~~Wimmerby~~  
 Herr A. P. Hallstrand.  
 S. br.  
 Ströbro  
 Edberg av  
 Snarps

STRÄNGNÄS 21

Below, Strömsholm October 29, 1828, returned to Wimmerby

Returen ä Wimmerby 21 1.  
~~Wimmerby~~  
 Wälborns Herr O. N. Nordenskiöld  
 Capitaine vid Kongl. ~~Stenåsa~~ Lif  
 Grenadier Regimentet.  
 Lindköping  
 a.  
 Sjögren



24.  
SÄTER  
Wälöfe Rådhus Patten  
2  
Stockholm

SÖDERKÖPING  
2  
Siu Befälhafvande Herr Amiralen.  
i  
Carlskrona.  
Gr. 13r.  
2

Straight Line Cancels – 1819-1830

Wadstena, Warnäs, Waxholm

WADSTENA 6

Herr Gustaf Skinnar  
 Commerce Riv.  
 Ca  
 Wothberg

Wadstena October 12, 1829

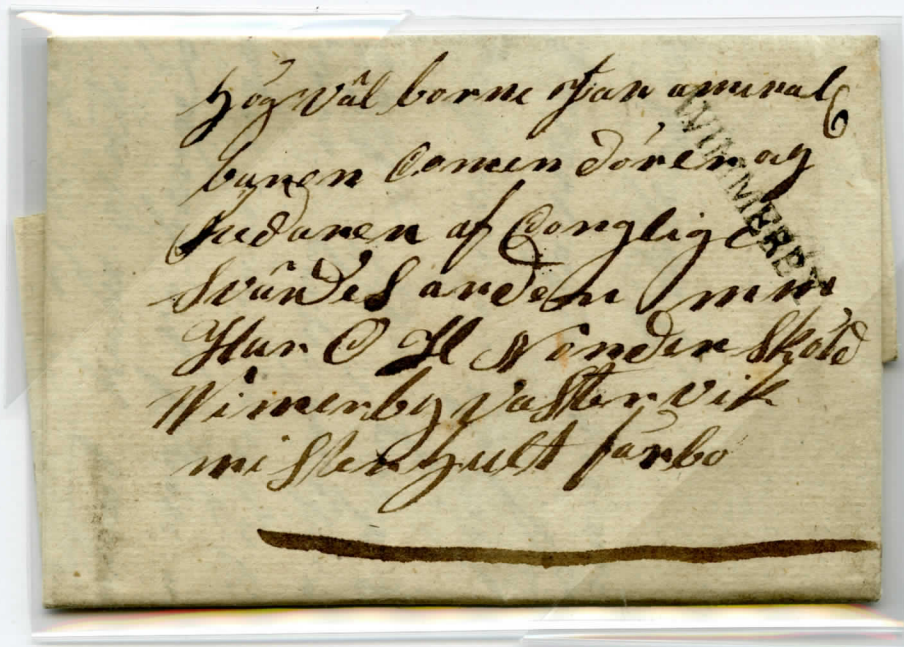
WARNÄS 10

Bokhållaren  
 Adel och Högskolans Högskole  
 Hultén.  
 Stockholm.

STOCKHOLM 7

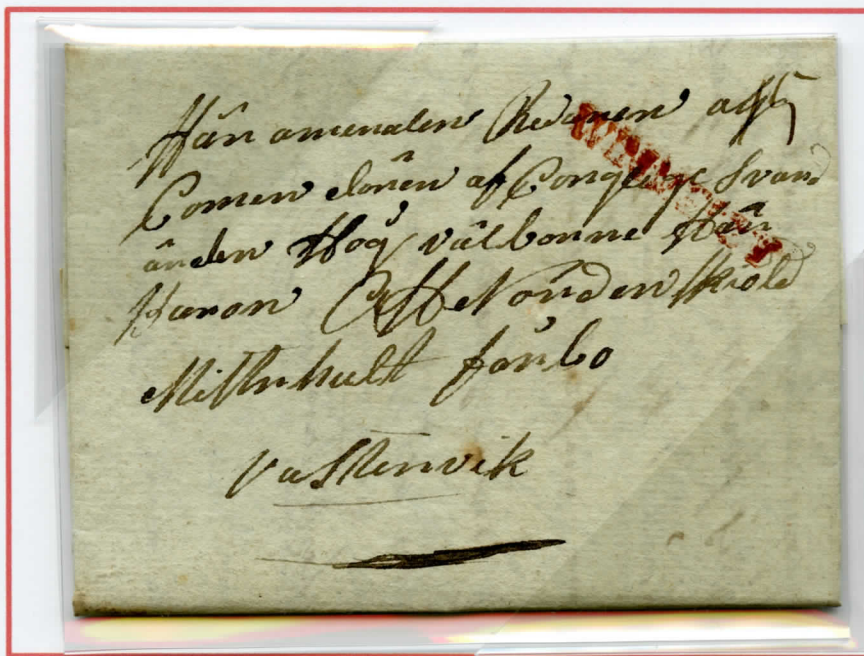
Rådhus Rätten  
 2  
 Fri. B.  
 Stockholm.

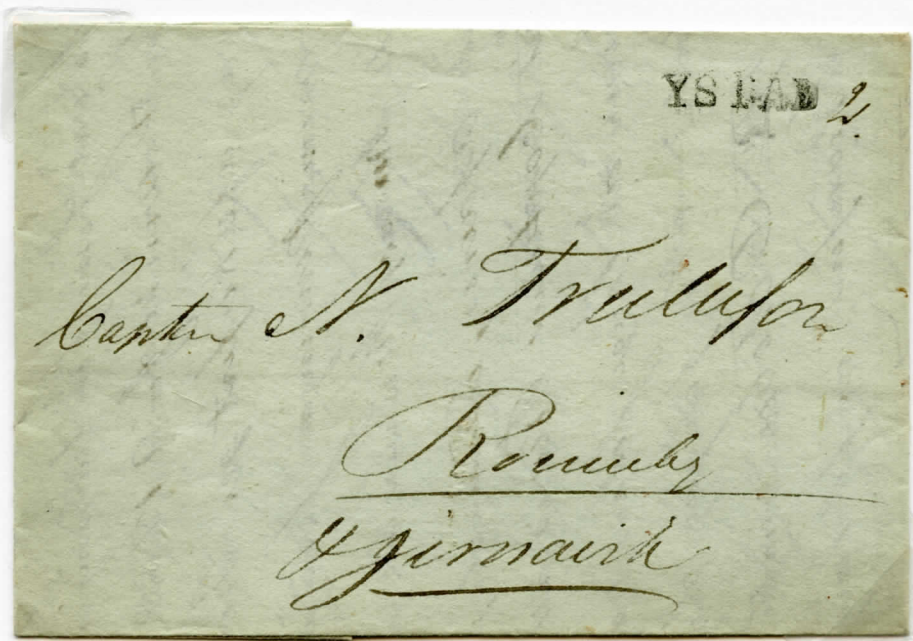




In black, May 20, 1820

In red, January 27, 1823  
The red Wimmerby cancel was used October 1822 to March 1824. Six examples are known. This is one of only three that are dated internally.



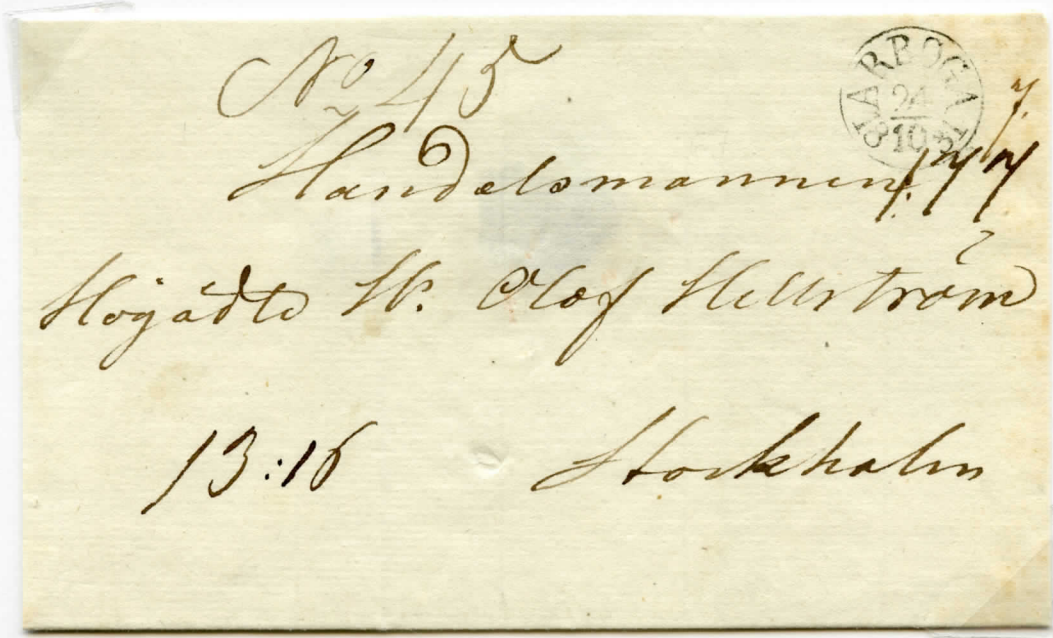


Ystad August 18, 1827



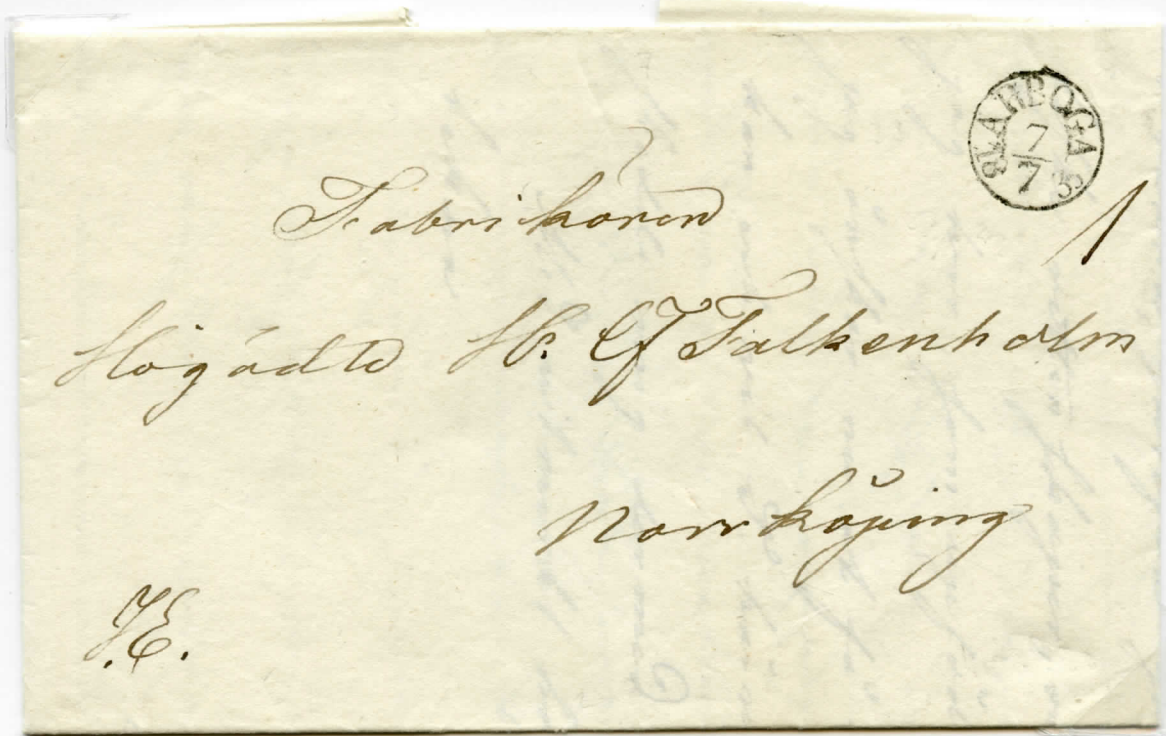


The first dated cancellations of Sweden began to appear in the latter part of 1830. They consisted of a single circle with the town name, the month and day in the lower center, and the year numerals placed in curved format on both sides of the month/day numbers. This distinguishes the cancellation from the later Circle cancelers that had the year date in horizontal format. In some cases the Arc cancels were used as late as 1869. The specific periods of use for each cancel are shown.



Above (1830-33)

Below (1834-35)





*Offen Auditeur*  
*Herrn Herr J. J. Larsson*  
*Post 2* *Larsson*

Above (1830-33)

Below (1834-38)



*Post 5*  
*Herrn Herr J. J. Larsson*  
*Post 2* *Larsson*  
*Arviden af Larsson*





Above, spelled AWESTAD (1830-34)

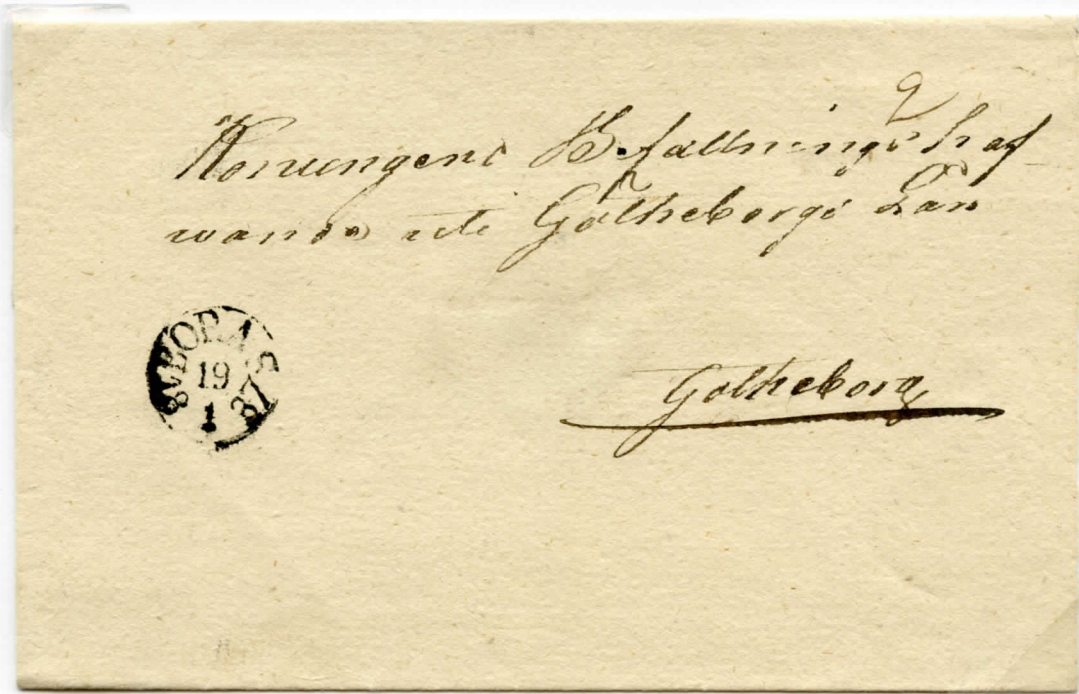
Below, spelled AVESTAD (1834-48)





Above, (1830-35)

Below, very worn marking dated three days before last known use (1834-37)





Konungens Tronvagn  
 Hofmarskalken och Theddaren af Kongl:  
 Nordtyske Orden Högwärdborne  
 Grefve Herr C. L. Hecksfries  
Malmo



← 1833 only

Donhafvanden  
 Herr Karadschding <sup>typ 3</sup> v. K. von Bonnewitz  
Tr. K. Korby  
Luby



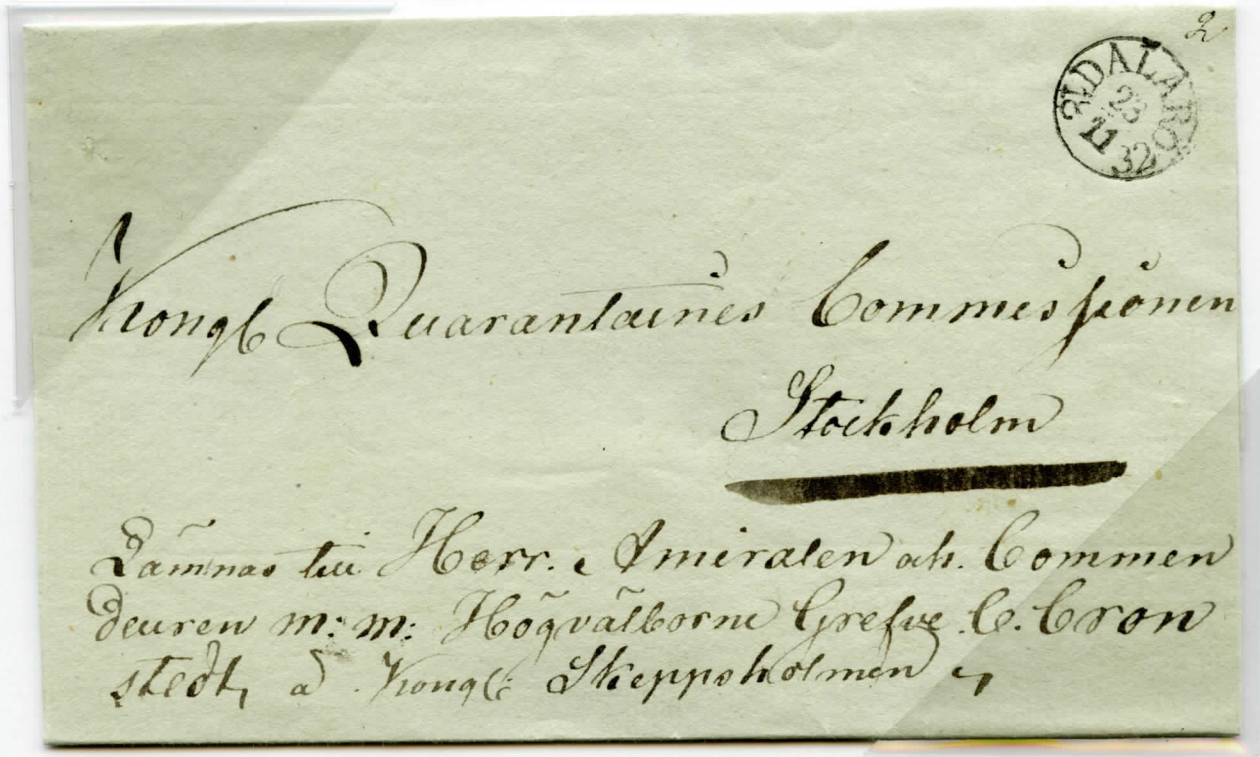
(1834-37) →

(1837-38) ↓

Kongl. Majts  
 och Rikets Götha Hofstall  
Tr. K. Jonköping

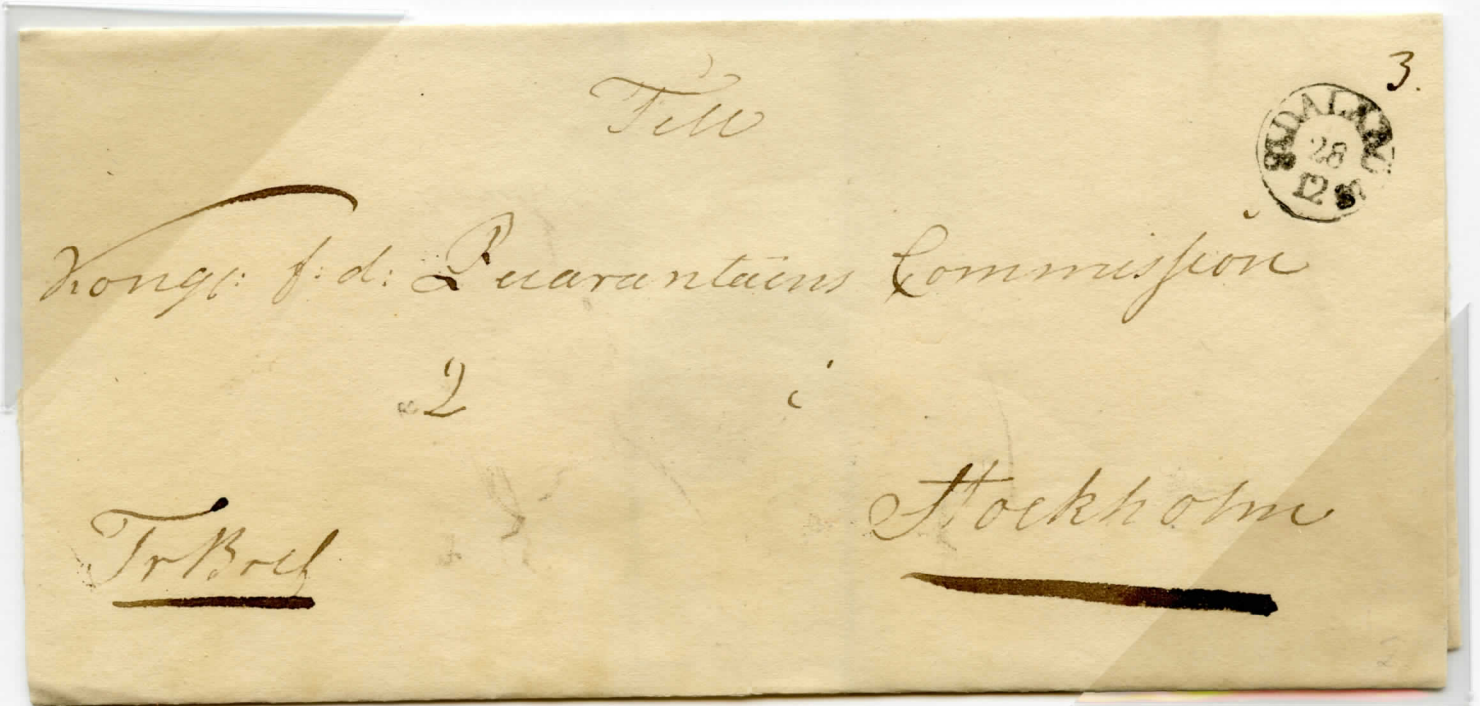




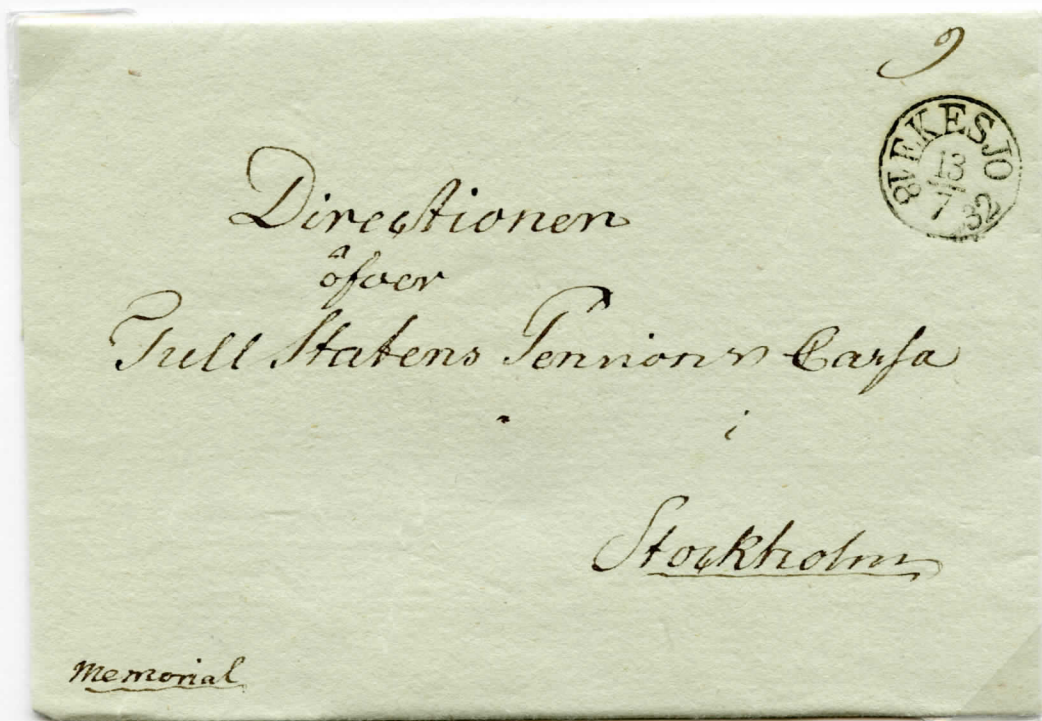


Above (1830-33)

Below (1834-38)



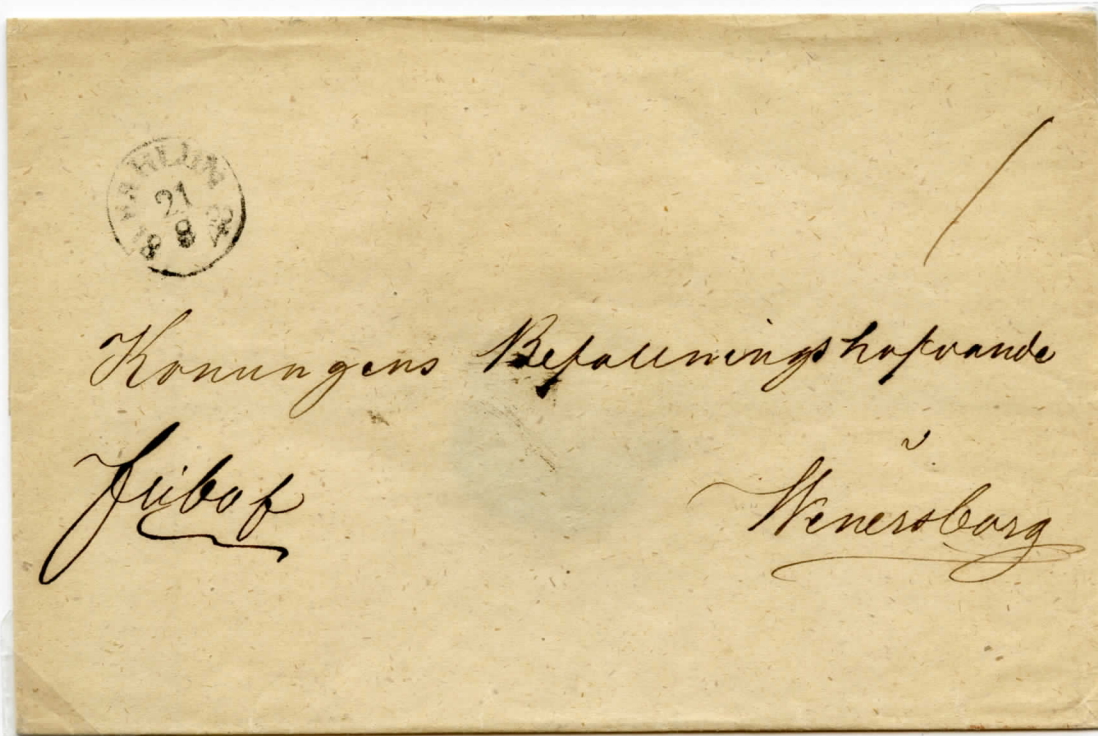




Above (1830-33)

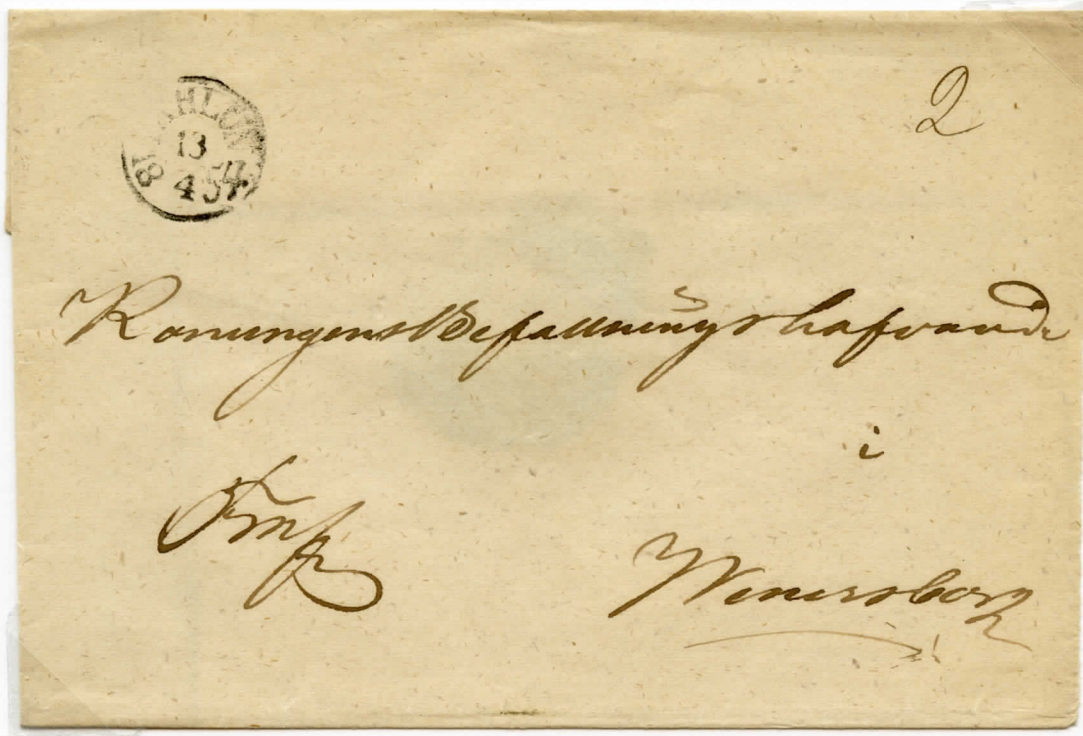
Below (1834-38), Registered





Above, (1840-55)

Below, (1847-56)







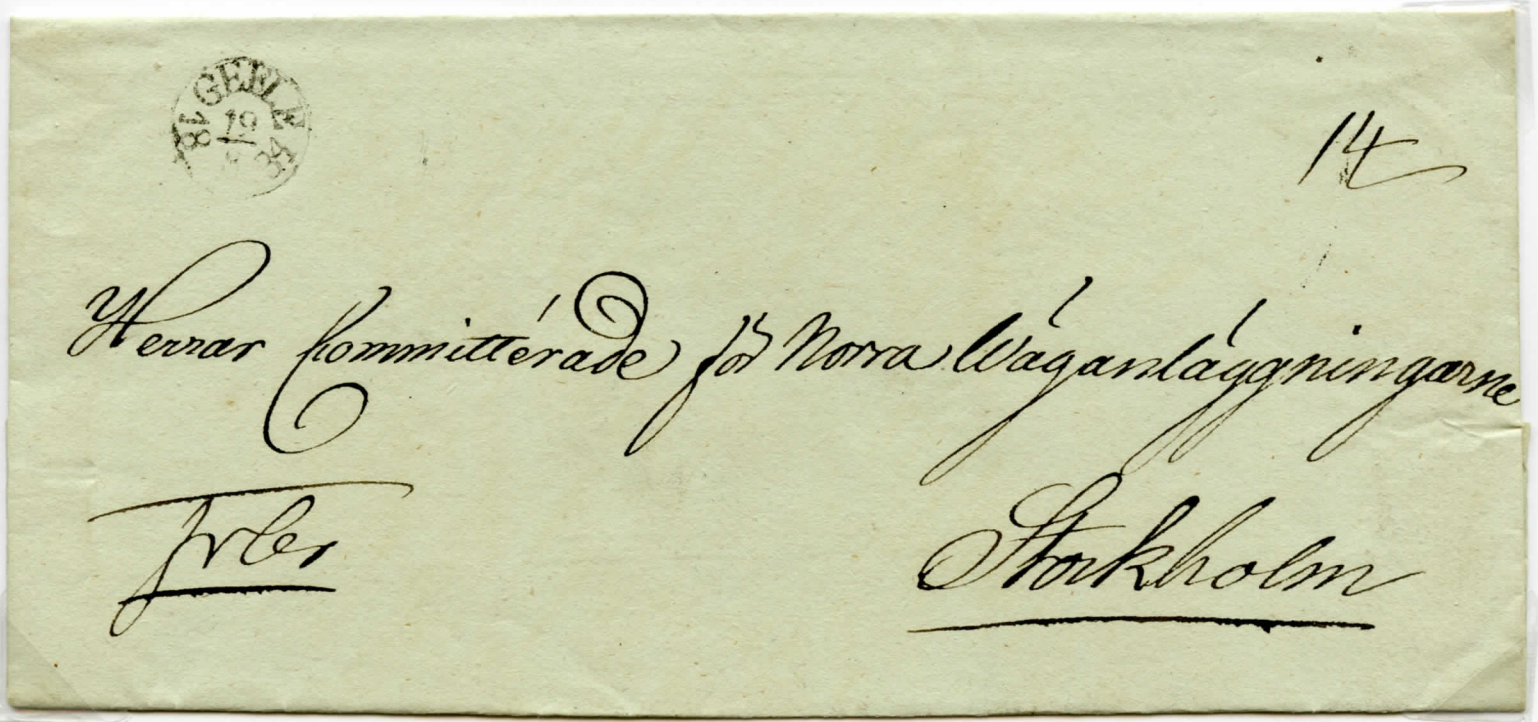
Letter dated December 31, 1837 (cancel used 1834-38), registered, "In Specie Recommendas," i.e. letter contained cash.





Above, (1830-32)

Below, (1834-35)





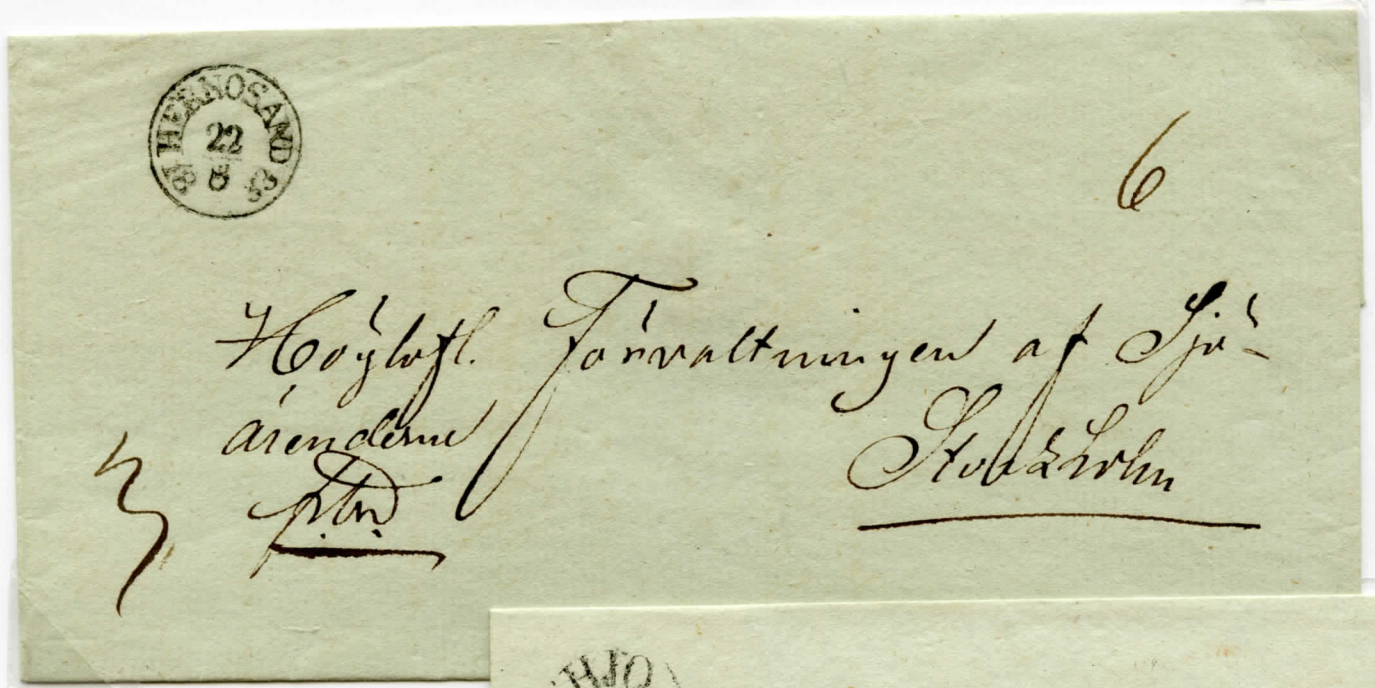
Arc Cancels

Hedemora, Hernösand, Hjo

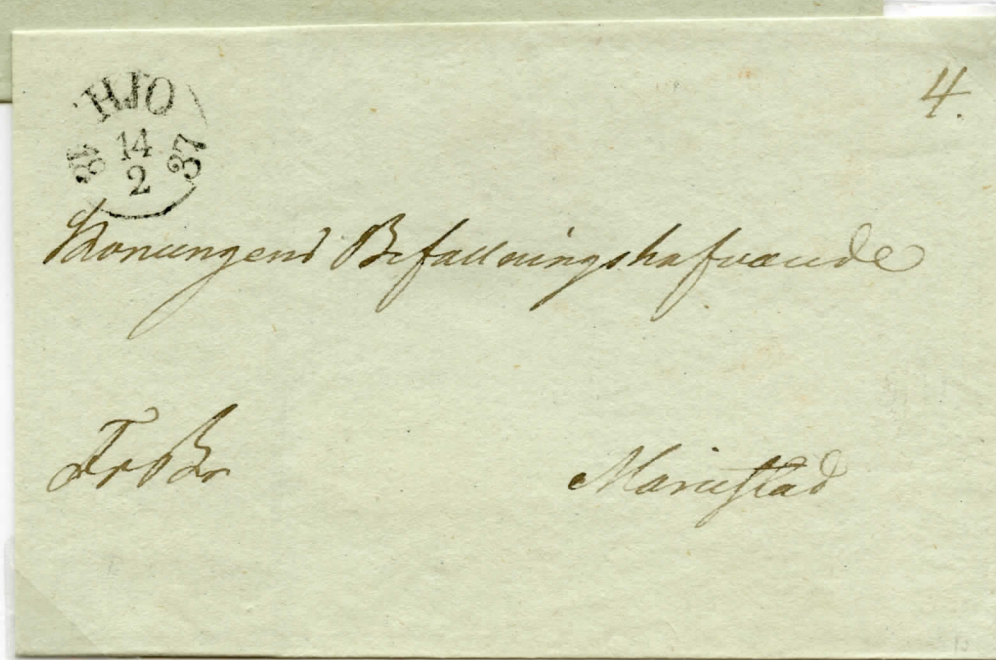
(1830-34) →

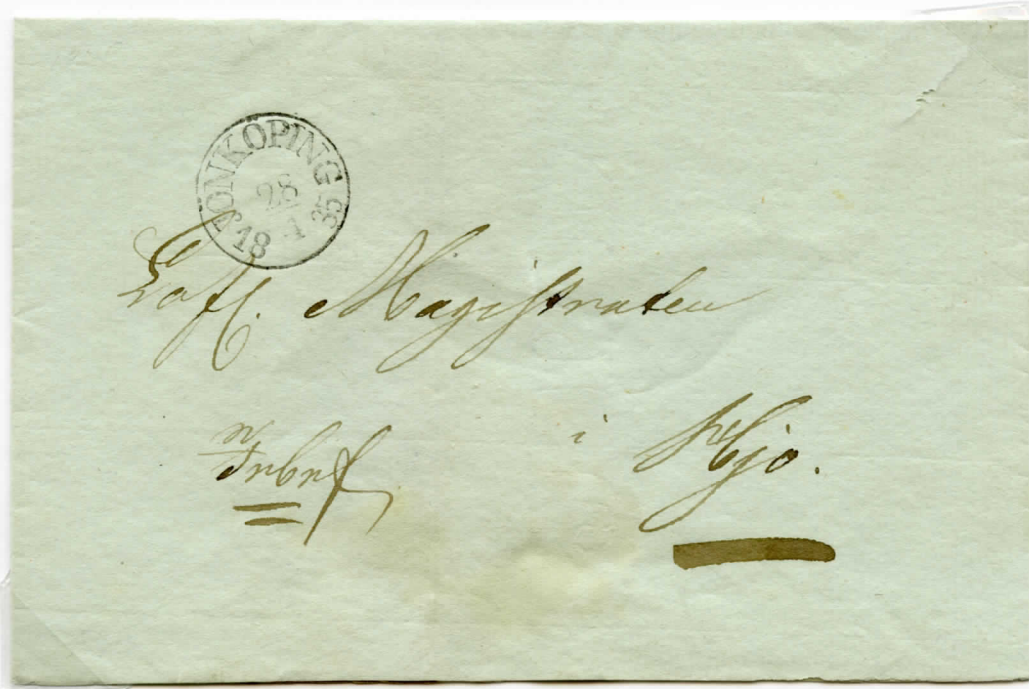


↓ (1830-33)



(1834-38) →



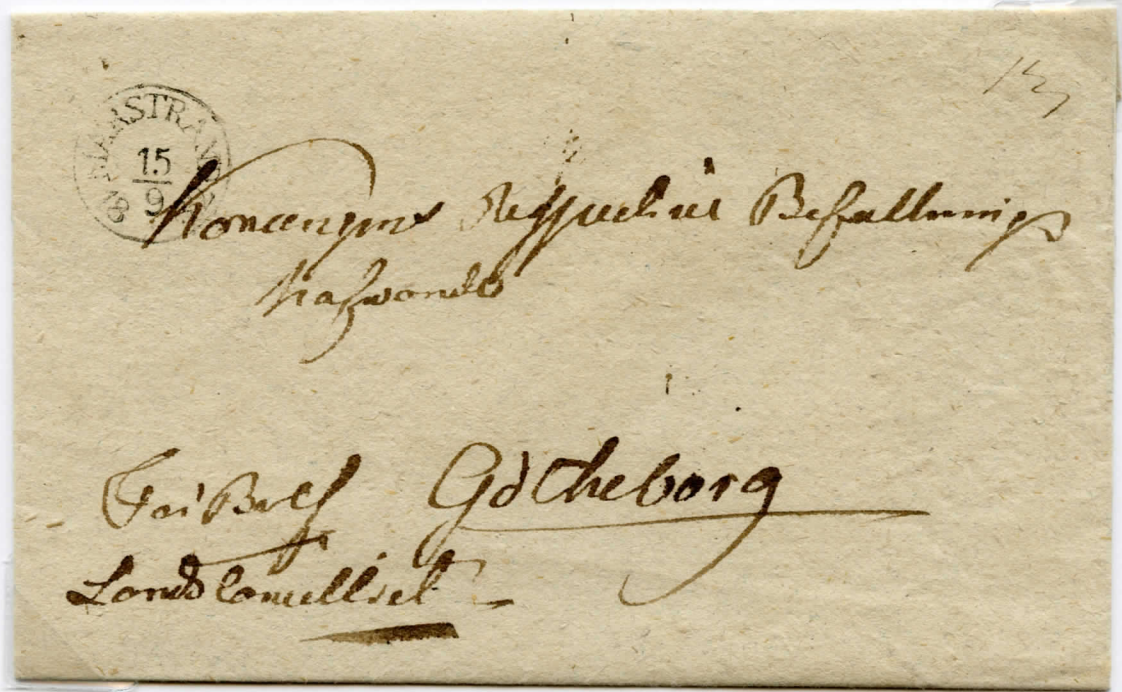


Above, used 1835 only

Below (1830-33)

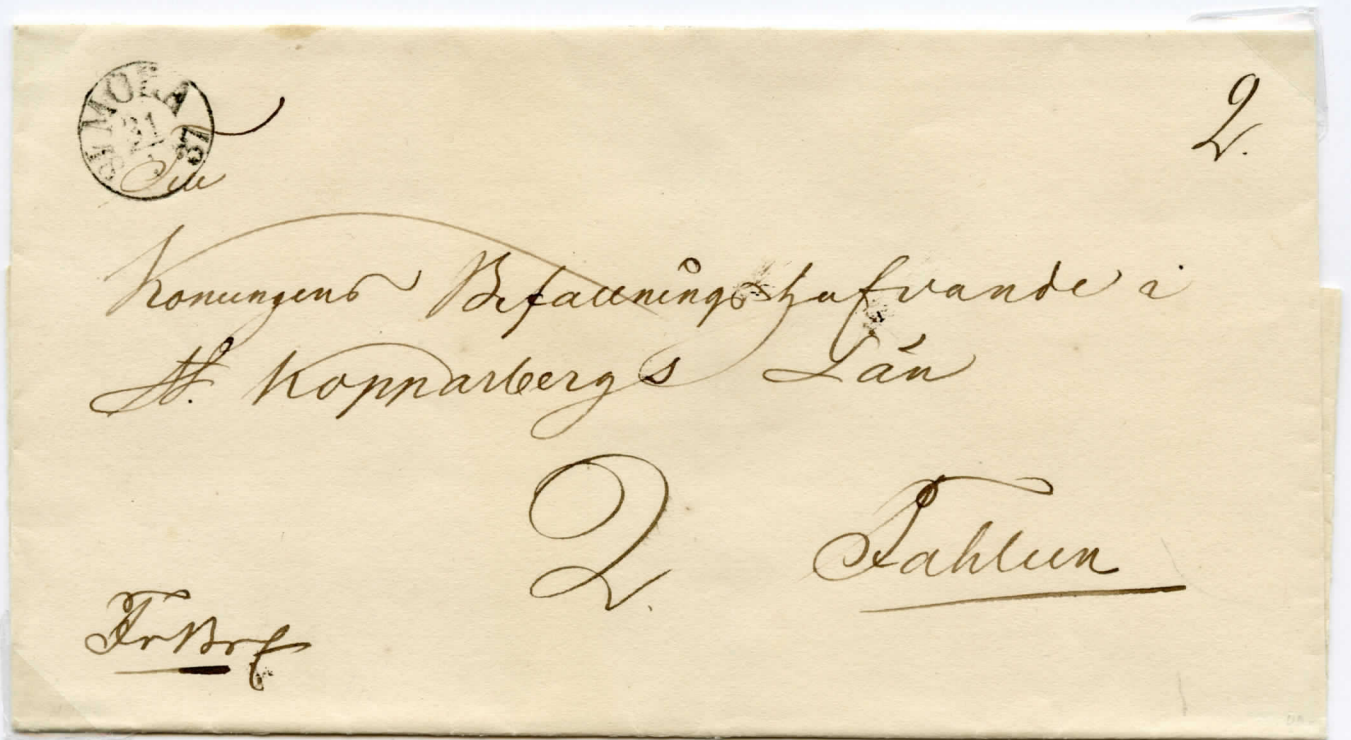






Above, (1830-33)

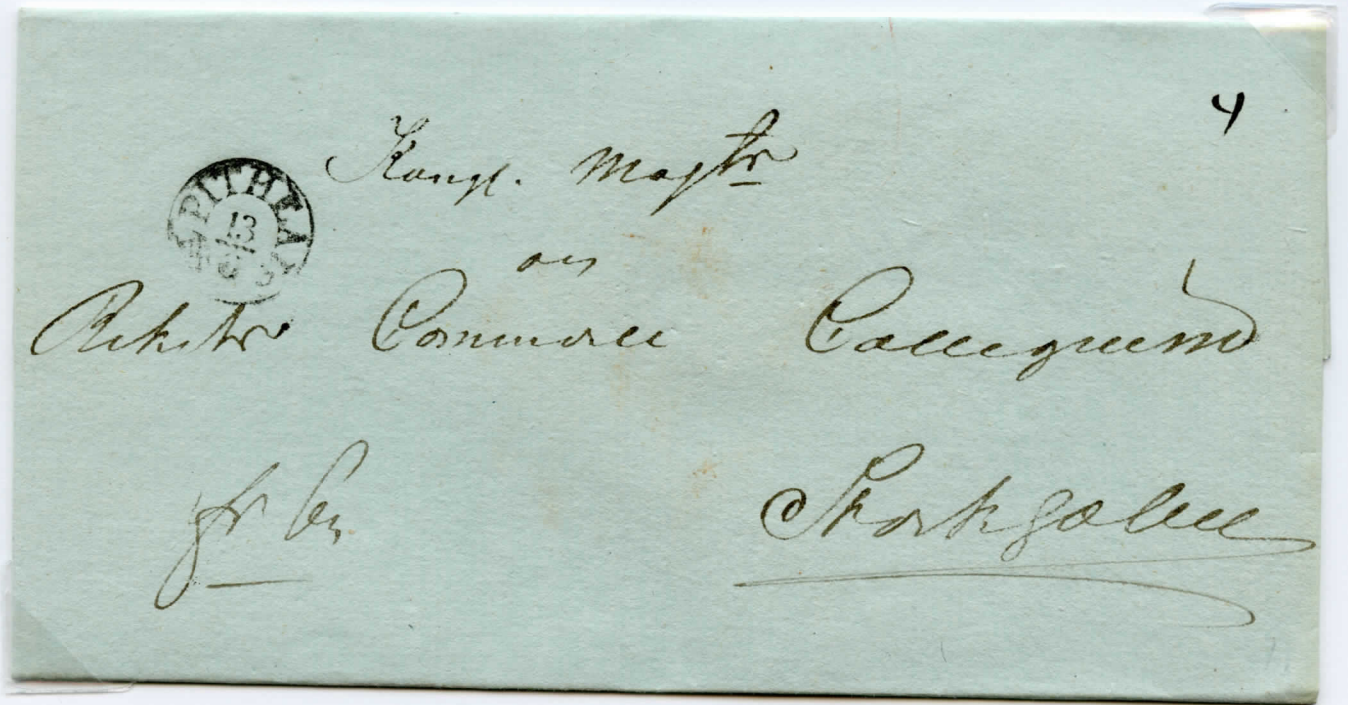
Below, (1834-38)



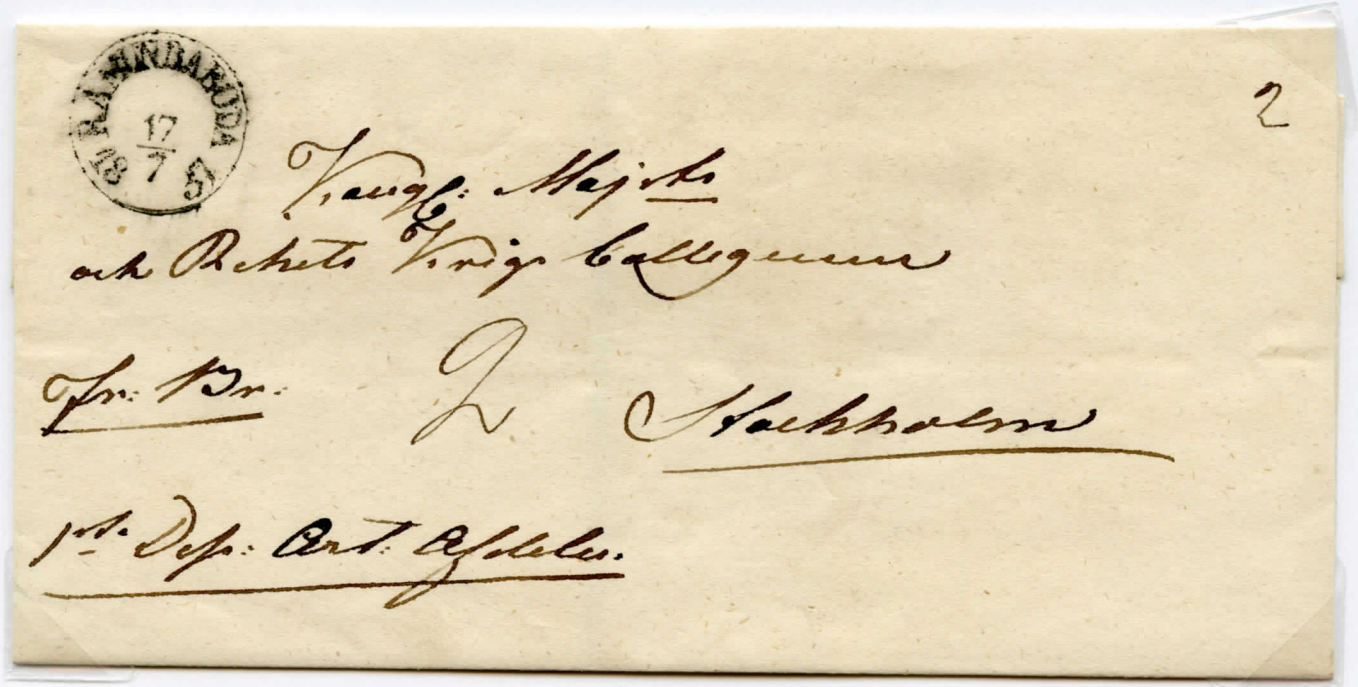


Above, registered, "Recommenderas in Specie" (1830-33)

Below, (1830-33)

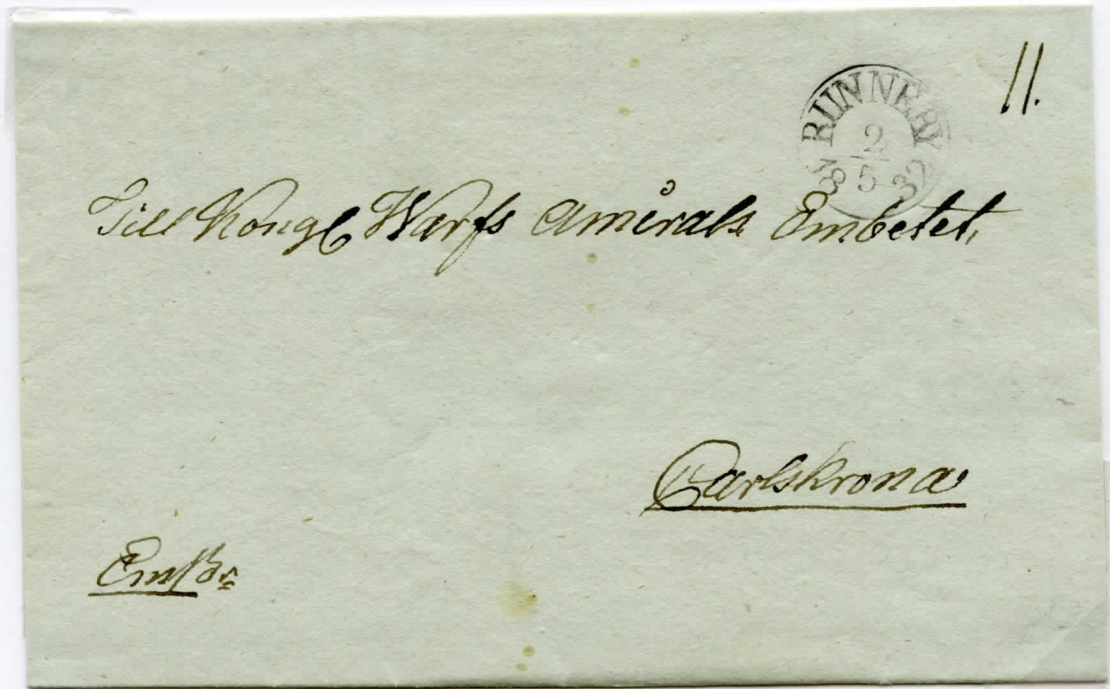


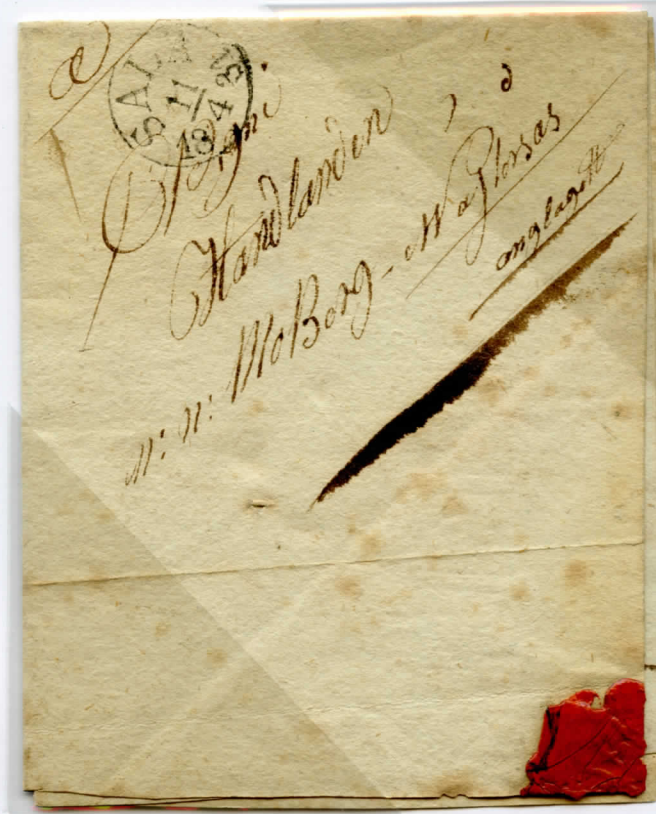




Above, (1834-38)

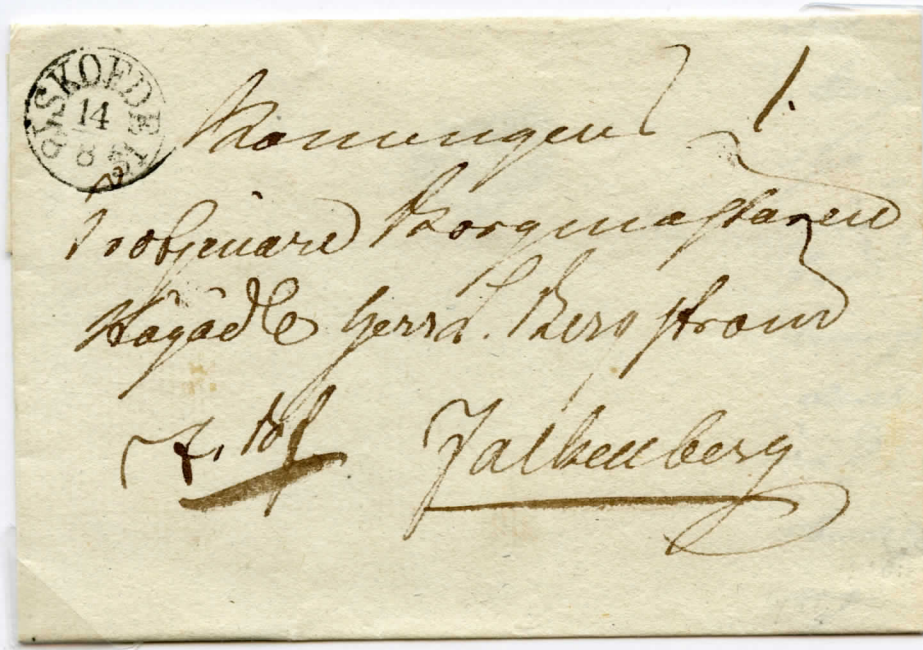
Below, (1830-33)





Above, (1830-33) with "urgent" notation

Below, (1830-33)







Above, (1830-33)

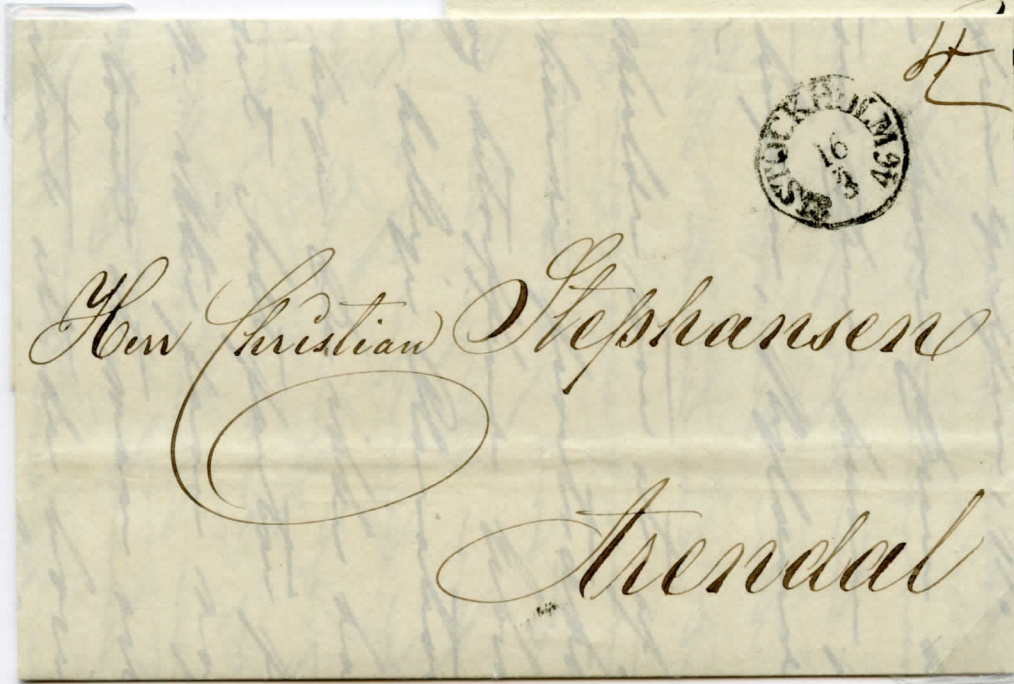
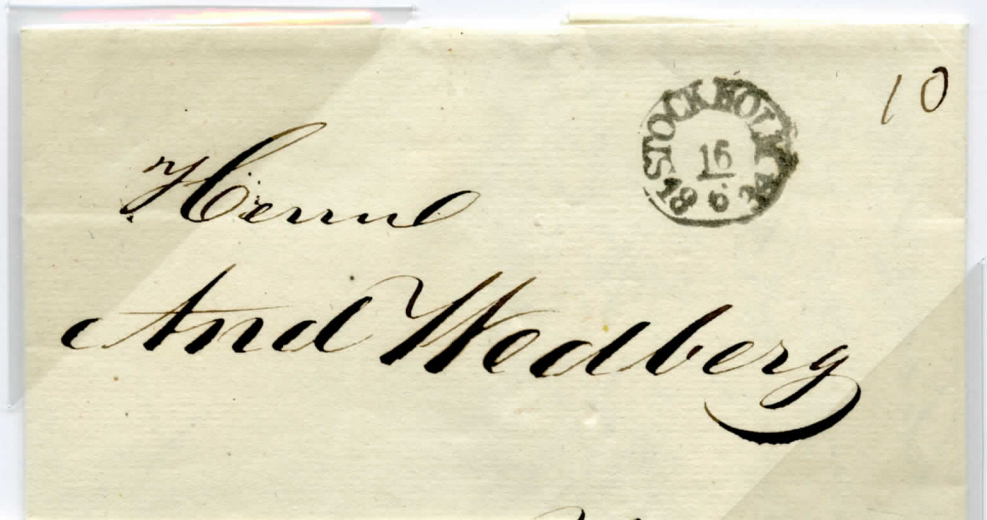
Below, (1834-38)



Arc Cancels

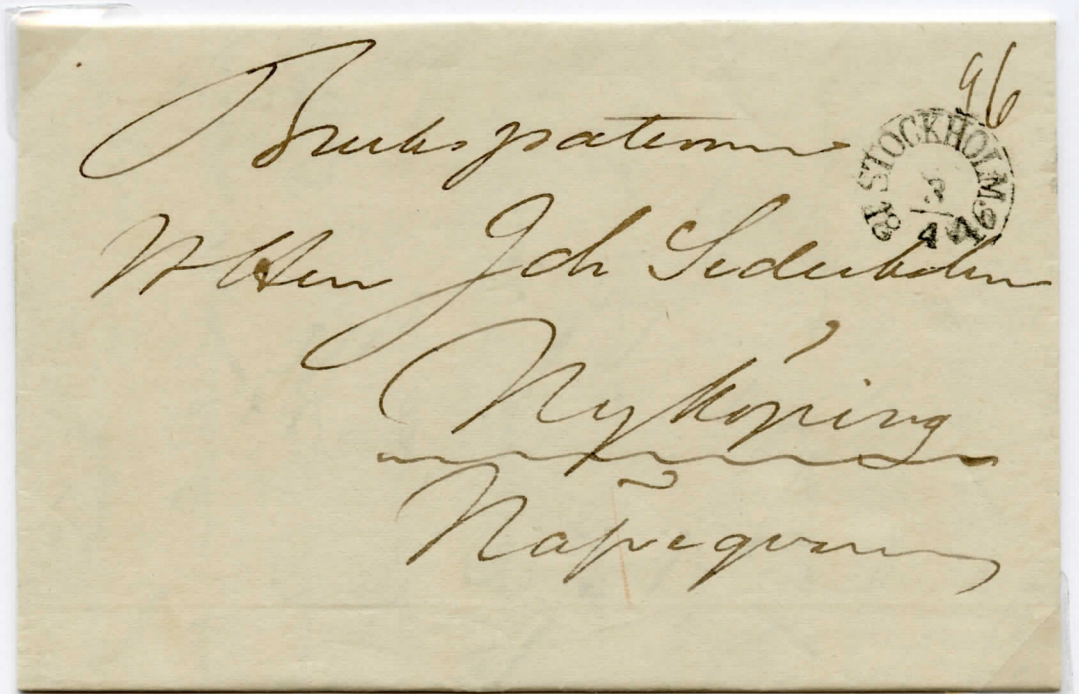
Stockholm

(1834-38) →

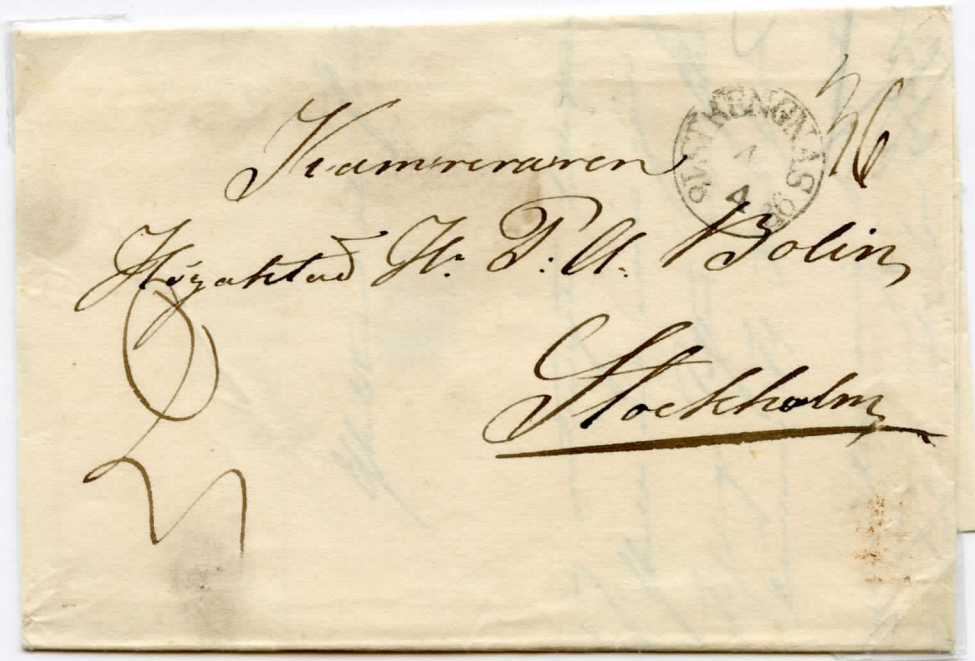


← (1838-46)  
To Norway

Used 1846 only →







Above, (1834-38)

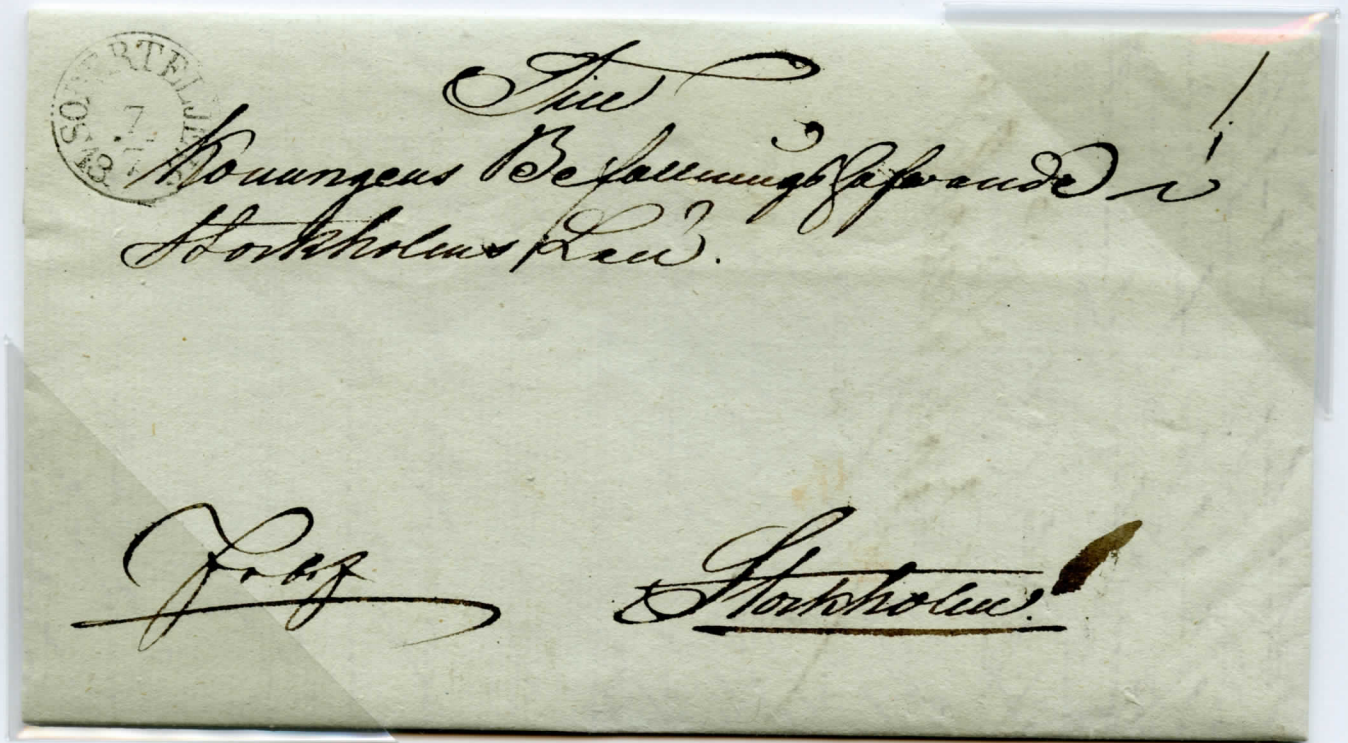
To Denmark, used 1830 only



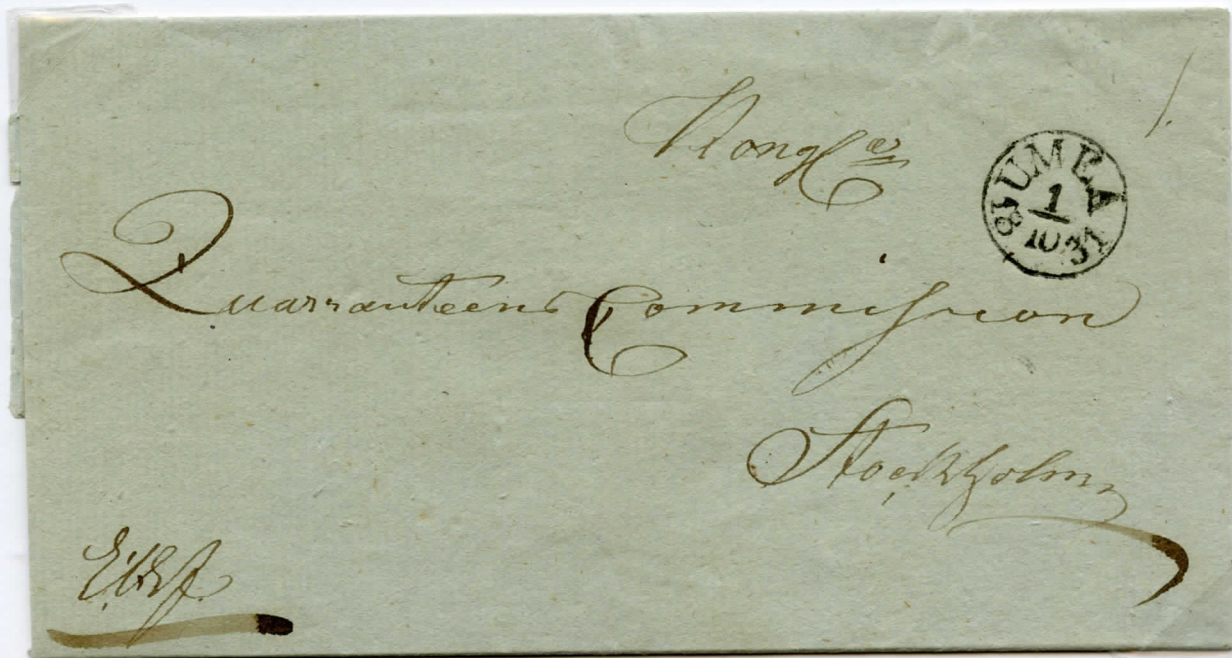


Above, (1834-38)

Below, (1830-33)

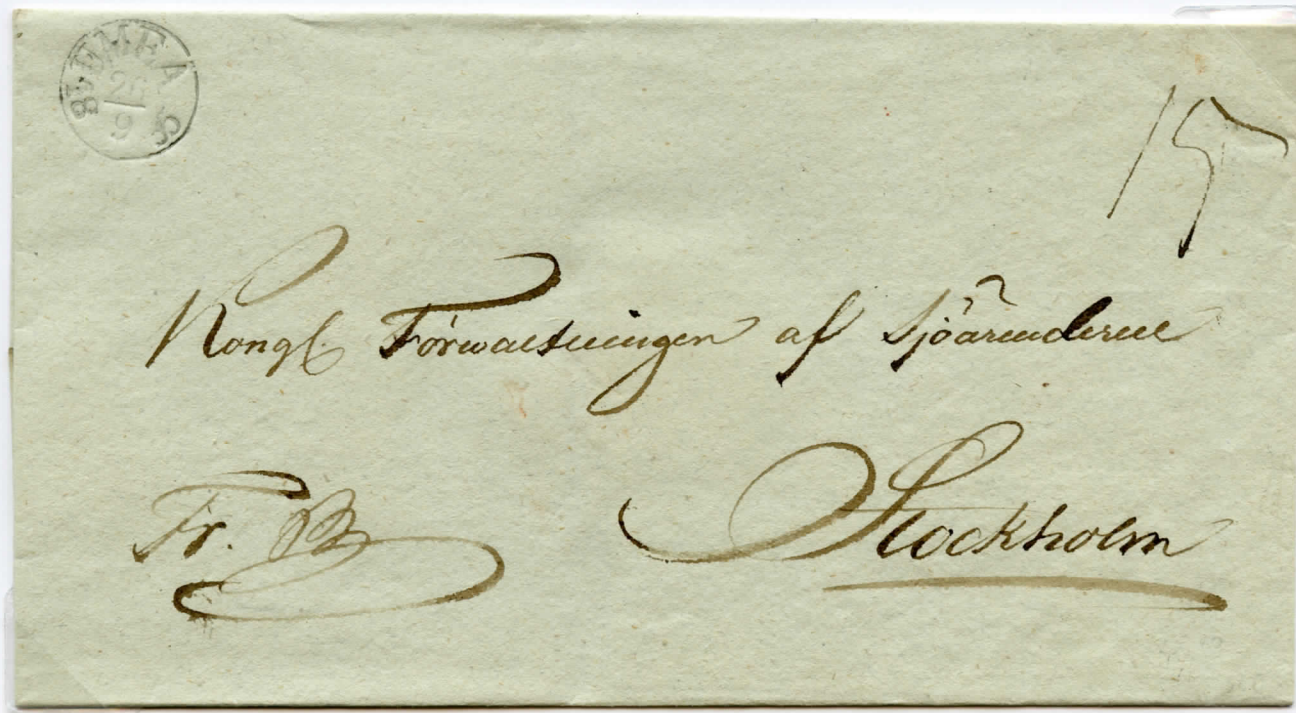


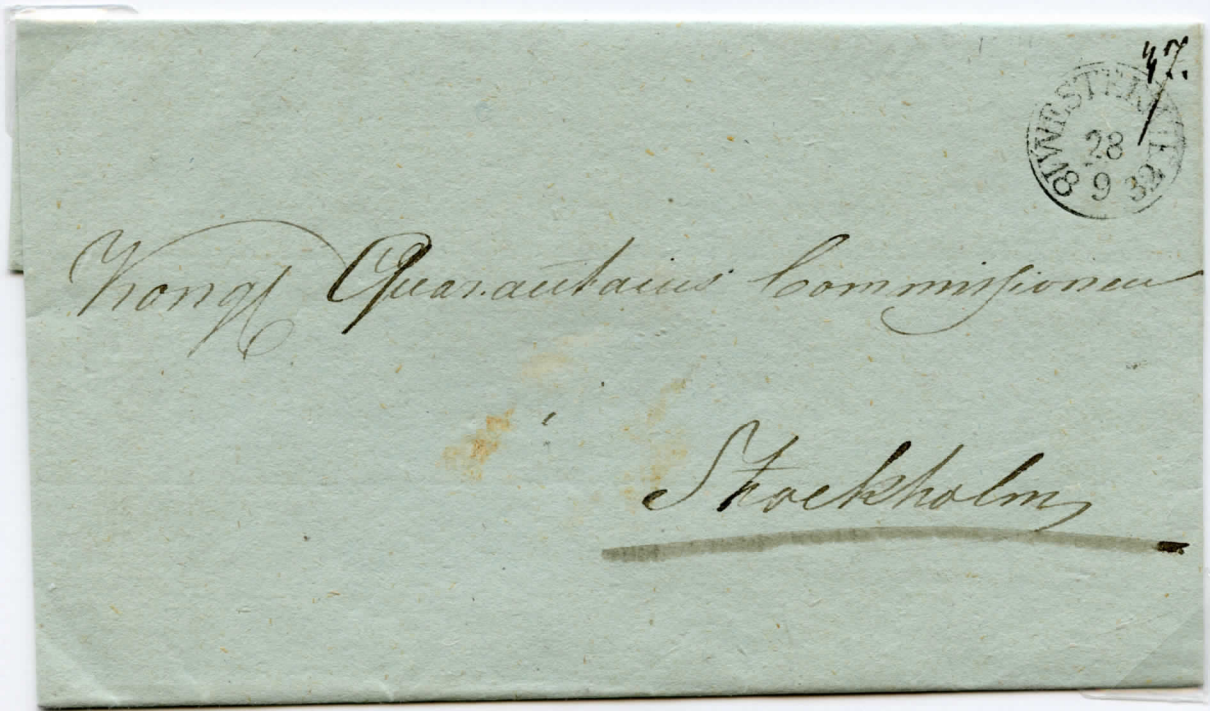




Above, (1830-31)

Below, (1834-36)



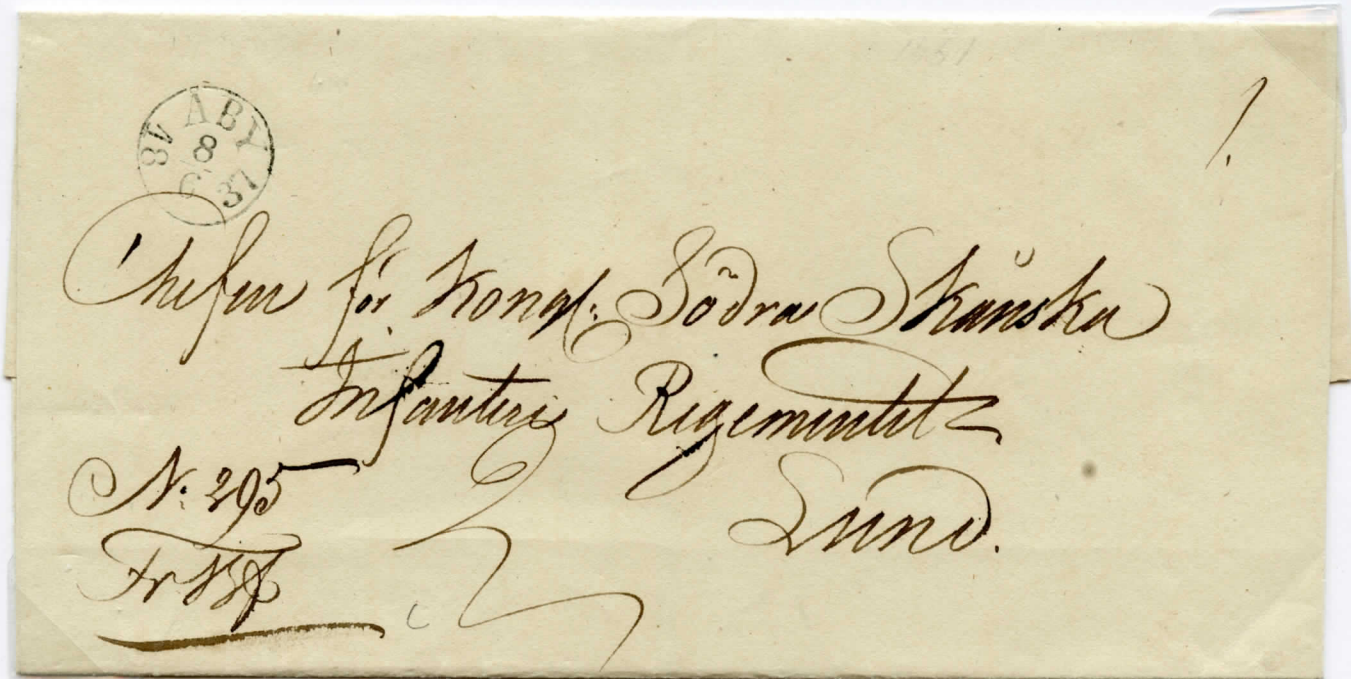


Above, (1830-32)

Below, (1830-33)







Above, (1834-37)

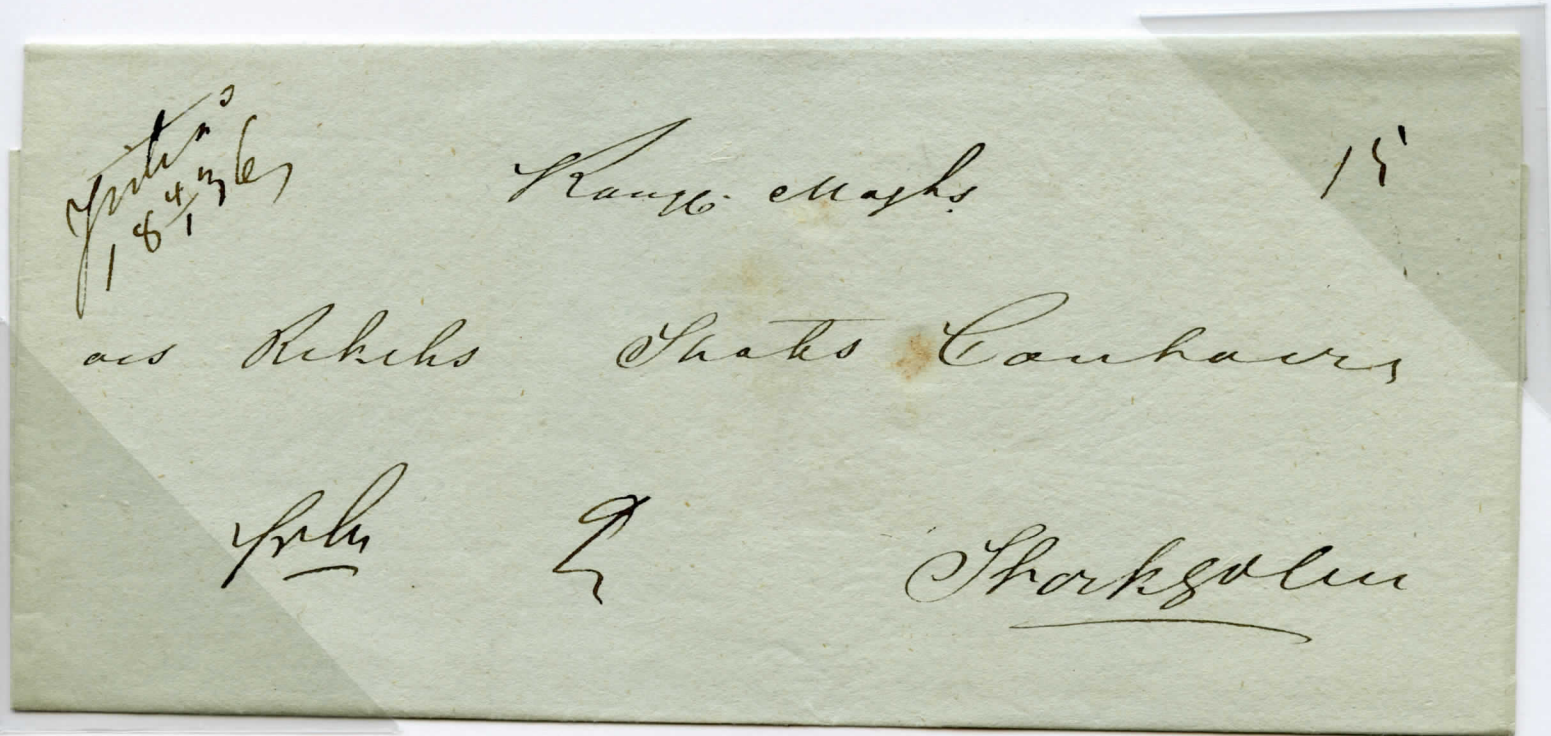
Below, (1830-33)



## Box Cancels

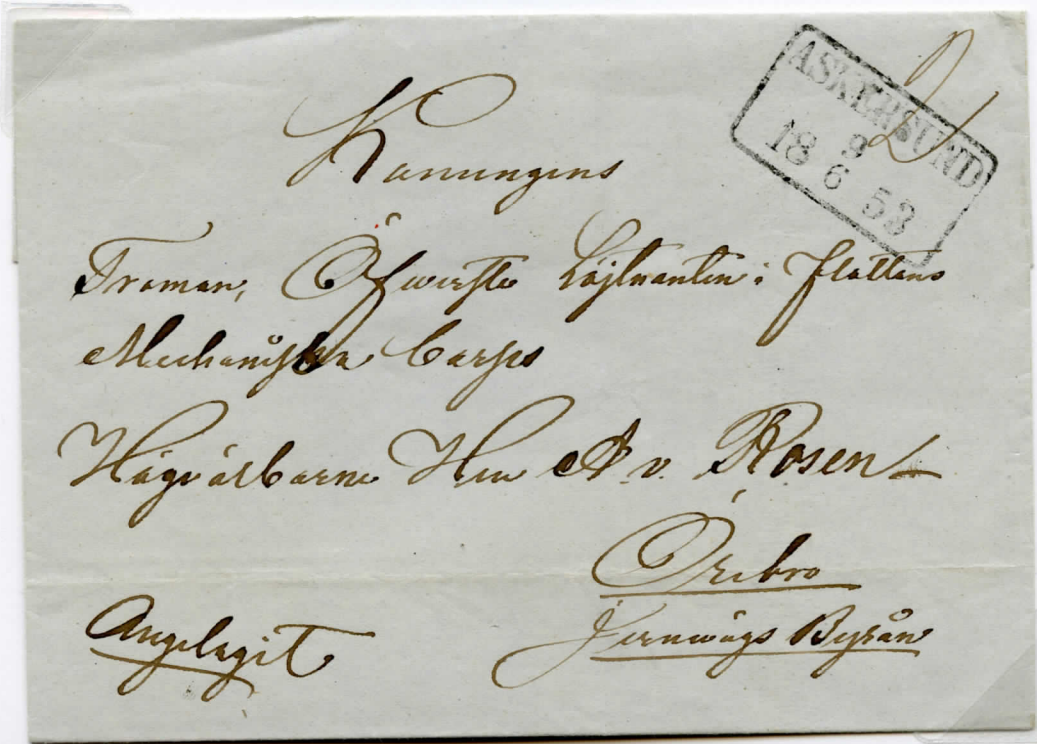
## Precursor, Piteå

By the mid 1830s when the Arc Cancellations were being widely used, a new type of dated handstamp postal marking was adopted to replace the Arc design. The first box (rectangular) cancels were introduced in 1830 in Stockholm for Free (official) Mail. The new box cancels, with their bold easy-to-read town names in capital letters and the more legible dates, were gradually sent to the town and city post offices to replace the Arc type. These cancels are also found on covers bearing postage stamps from 1855 on. The Box cancels remained in use in some cases into the 1860s.



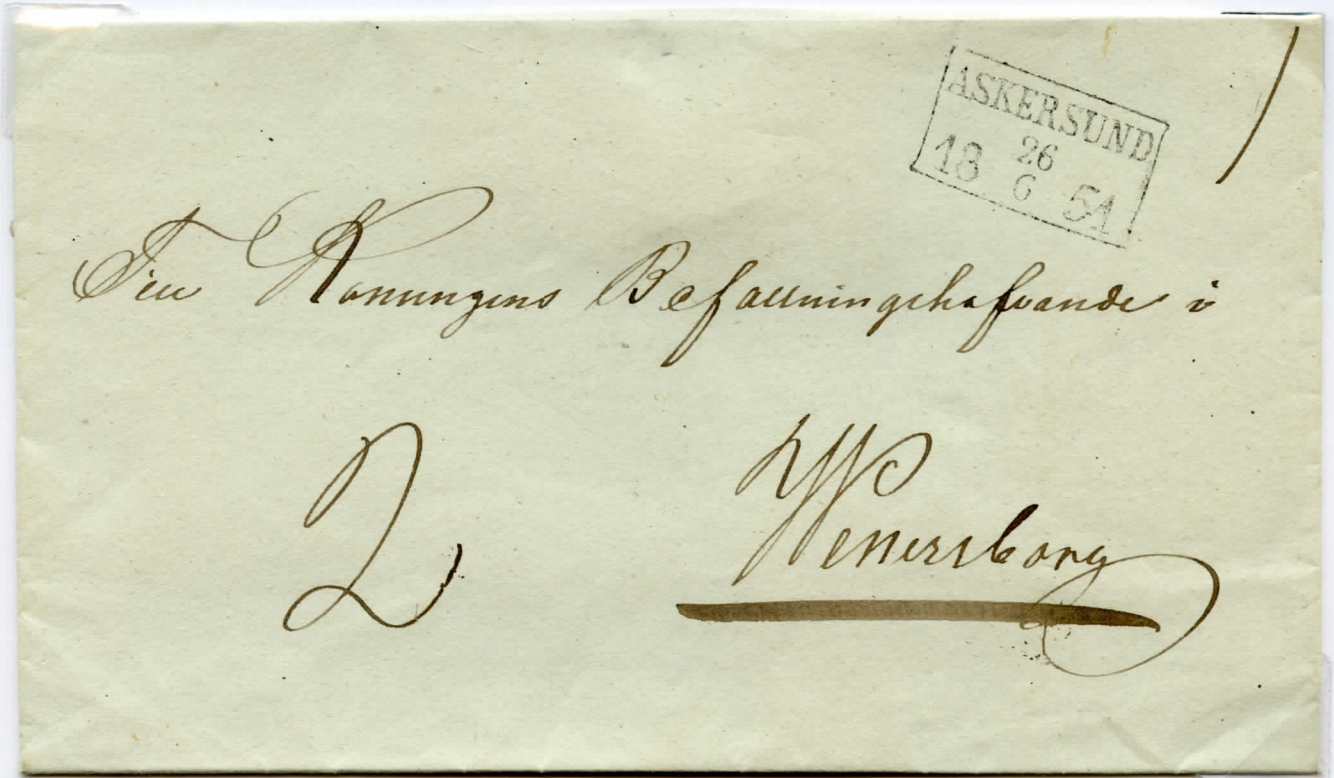
Manuscript cancellation January 4, 1836 at Piteå in the format of a box cancel. The arc canceller was returned but the replacement box canceller had not yet arrived. Possibly unique.





Above design used 1851-60, with "Urgent" marking

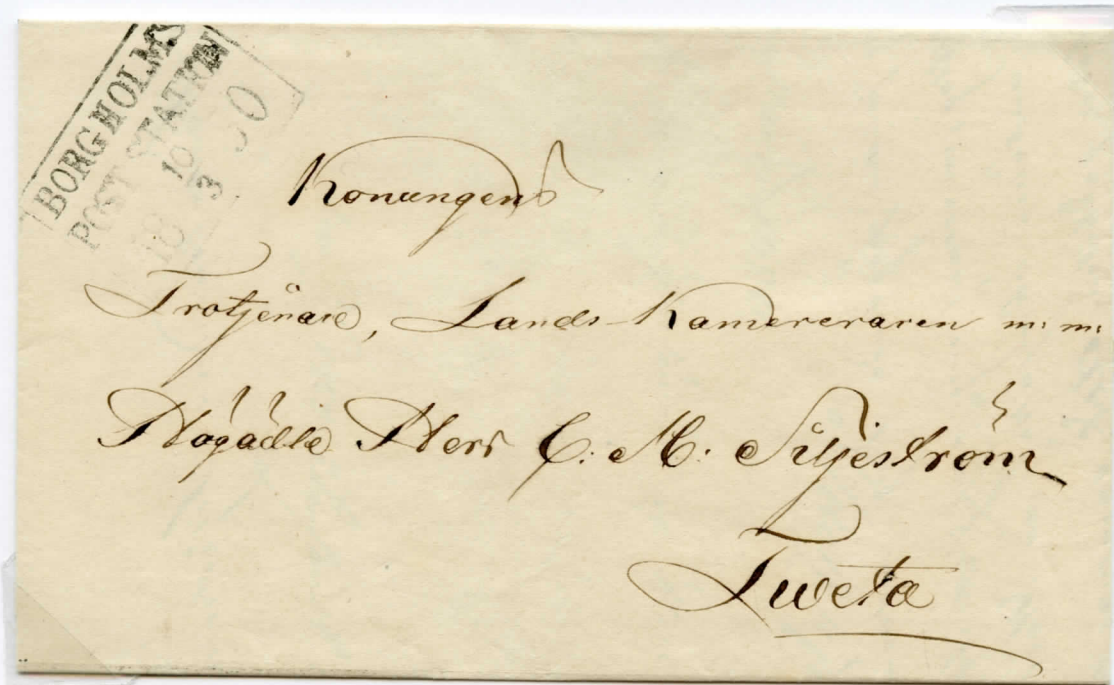
Below, (1848-59)





Above, (1852-56)

Below, scarce "Post Station" marking (1844-50)





CARLSKRONA  
28  
16 2 41

Konungens Befallningshafvande

Stho.

L

i  
Göteborg

Above, (1840-42)

To Finland with spelling "Carlskrona" (1844-48) and marked FRANCO GRÄNSEN for paid to the border.

FRANCO  
GRÄNSEN

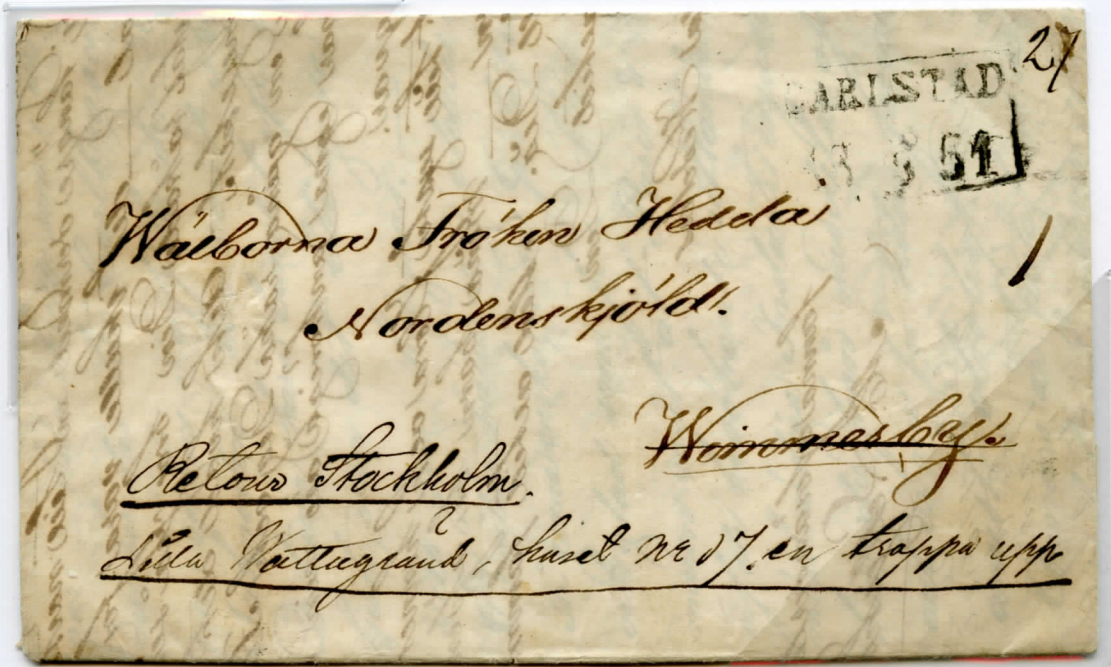
S. T. H. Franco Gränsen 1/5

Handlanden Högade Herr

CARLSKRONA  
13  
16 8 47

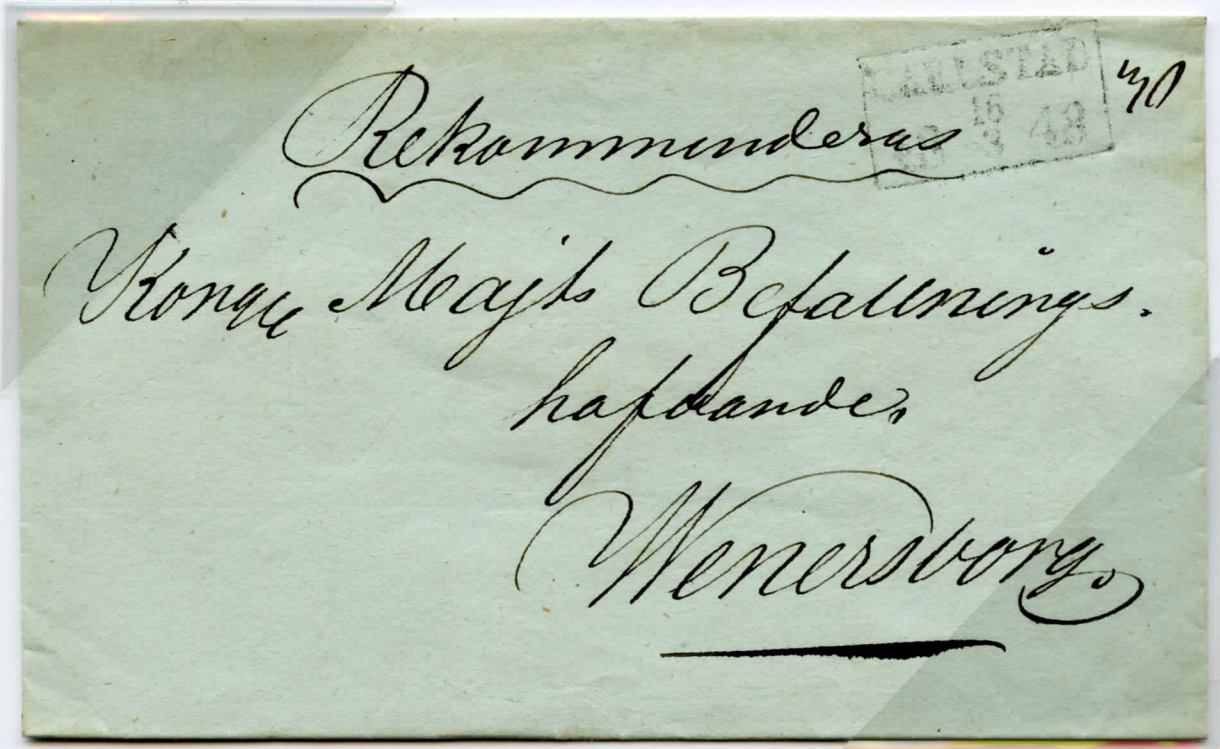
Peter Malm jun

Jacobstad

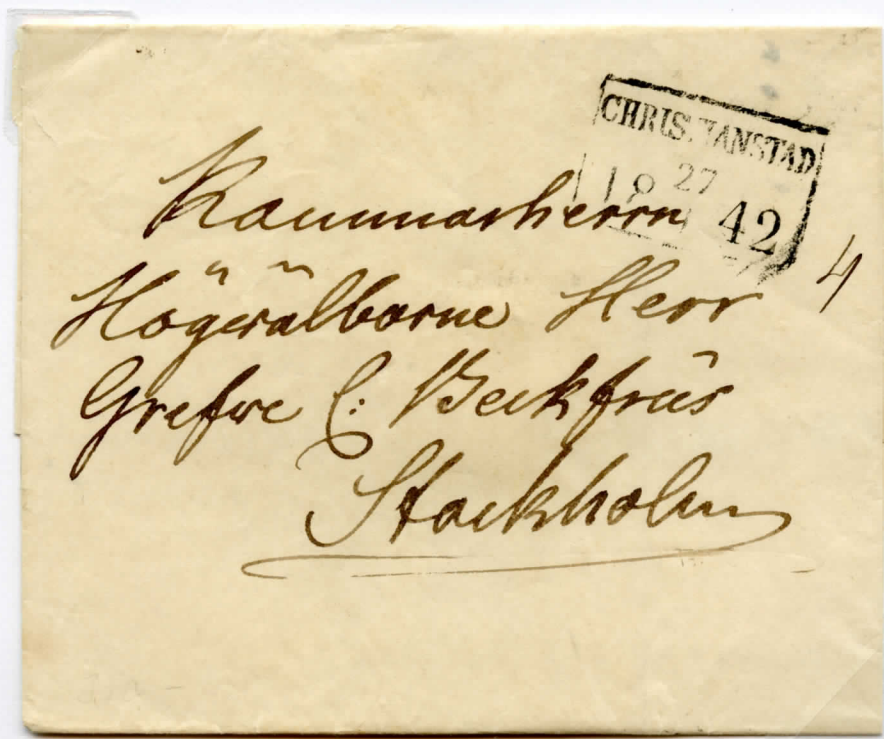


Above, returned to Stockholm, and below, registered.

Marking used 1848-52

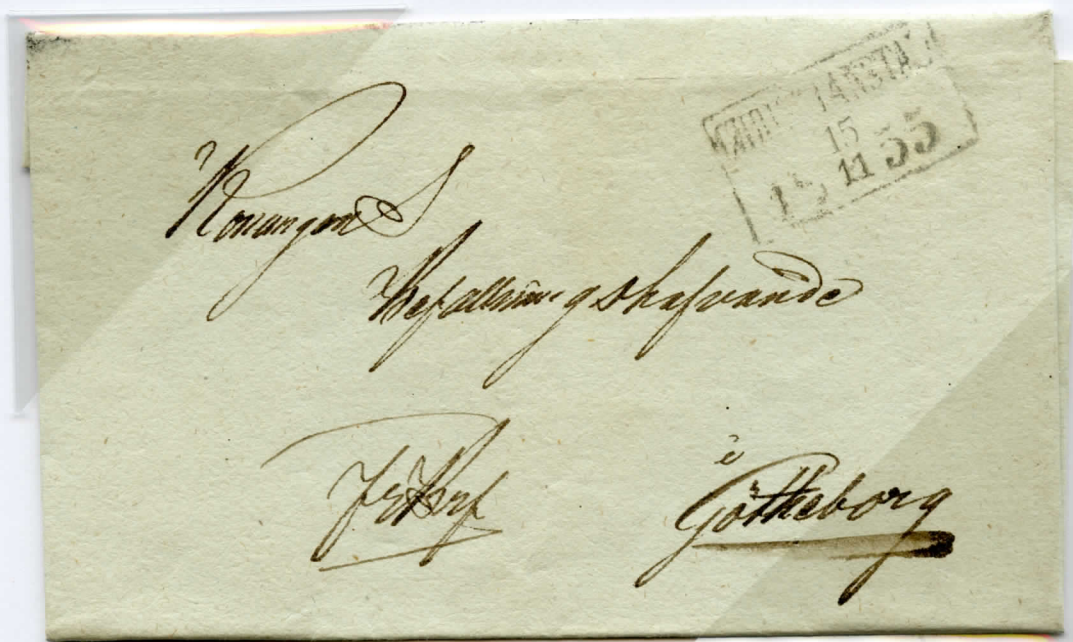


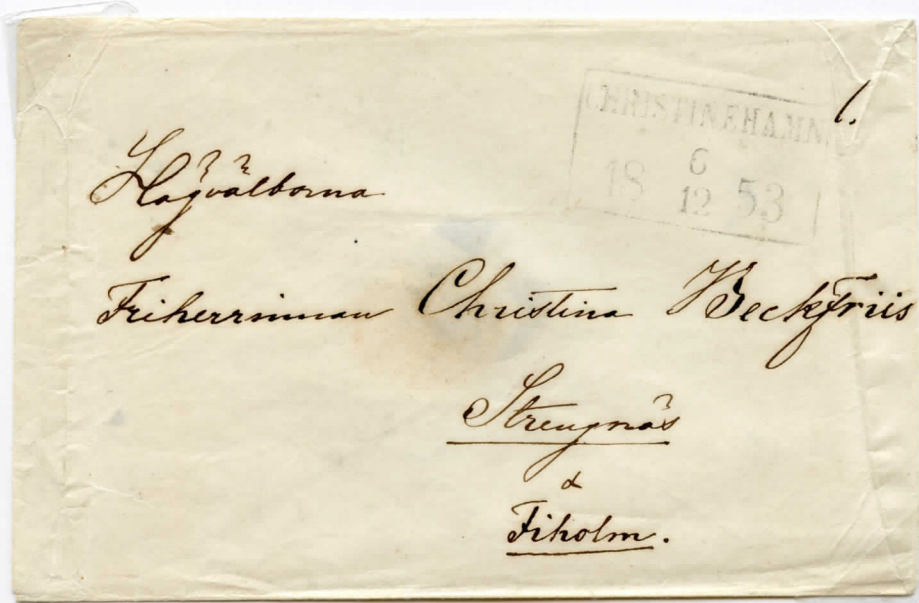




Above, (1839-44)

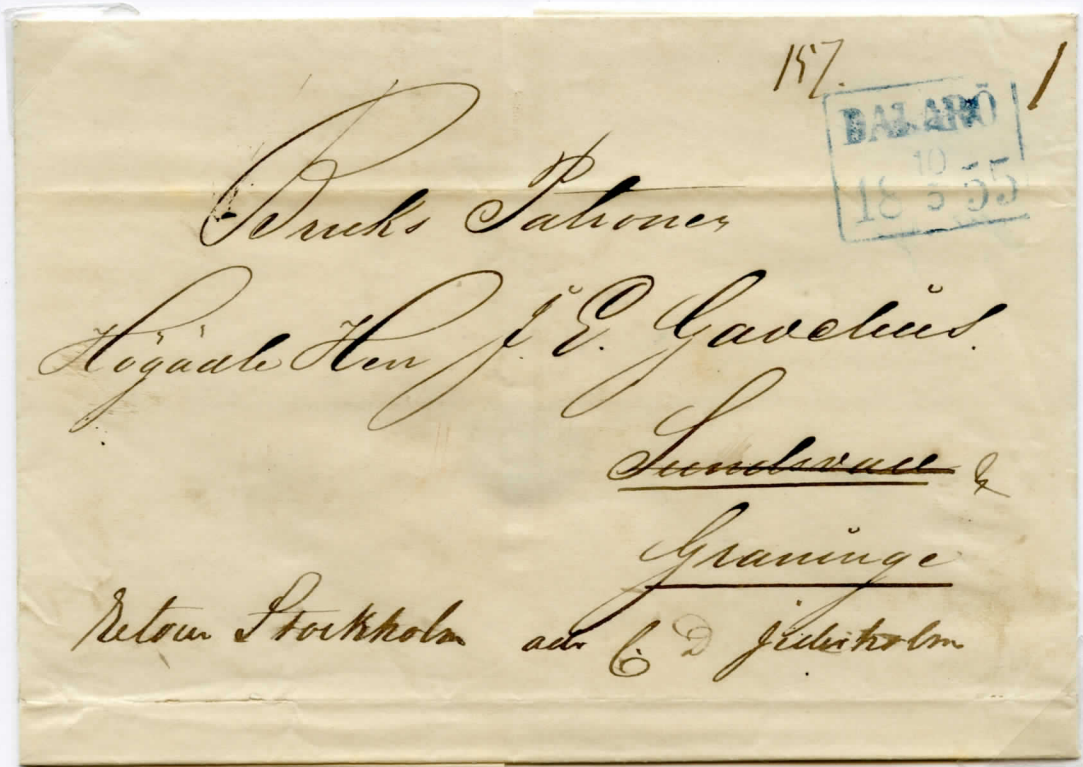
Below, (1853-56)





Above, (1852-55)

Below, (1850-57) in blue

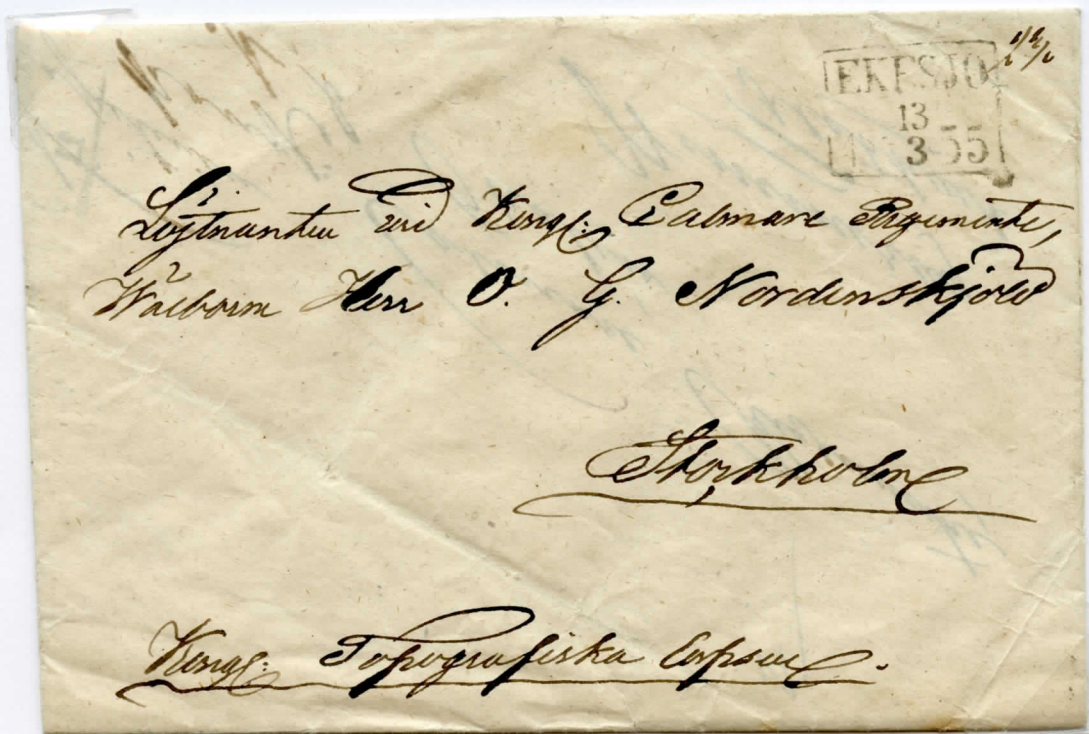


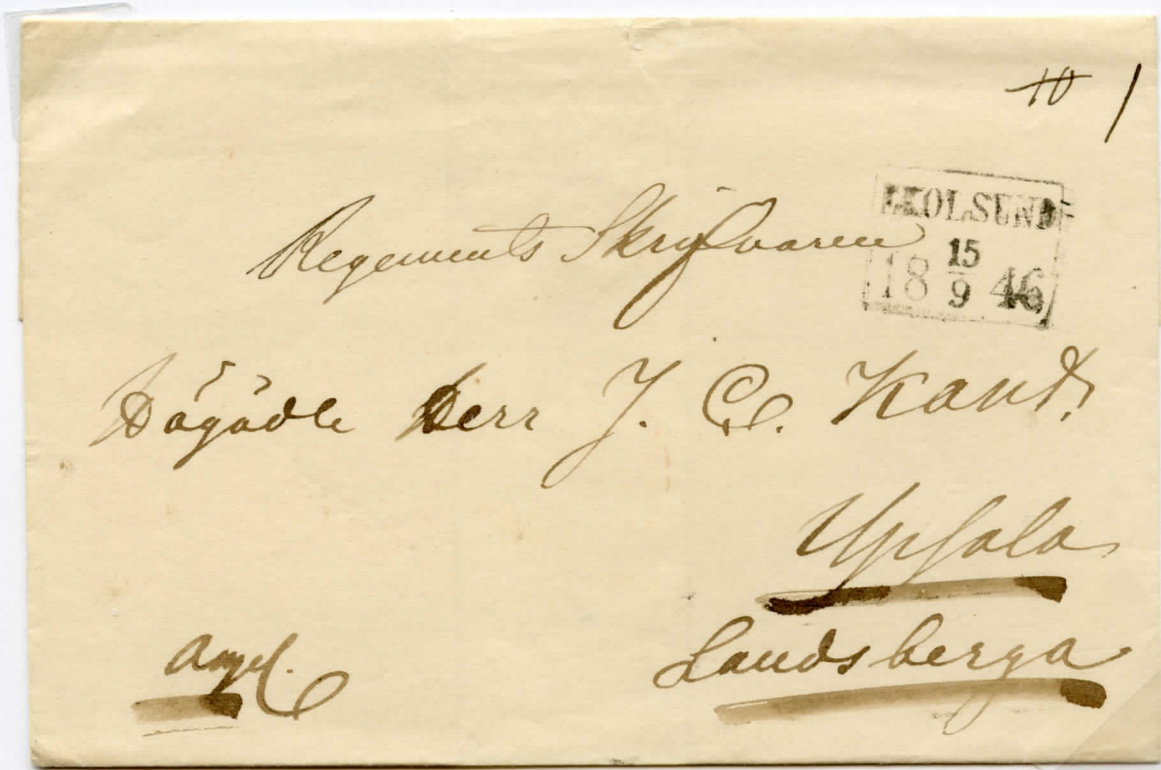




Above, (1838-48)

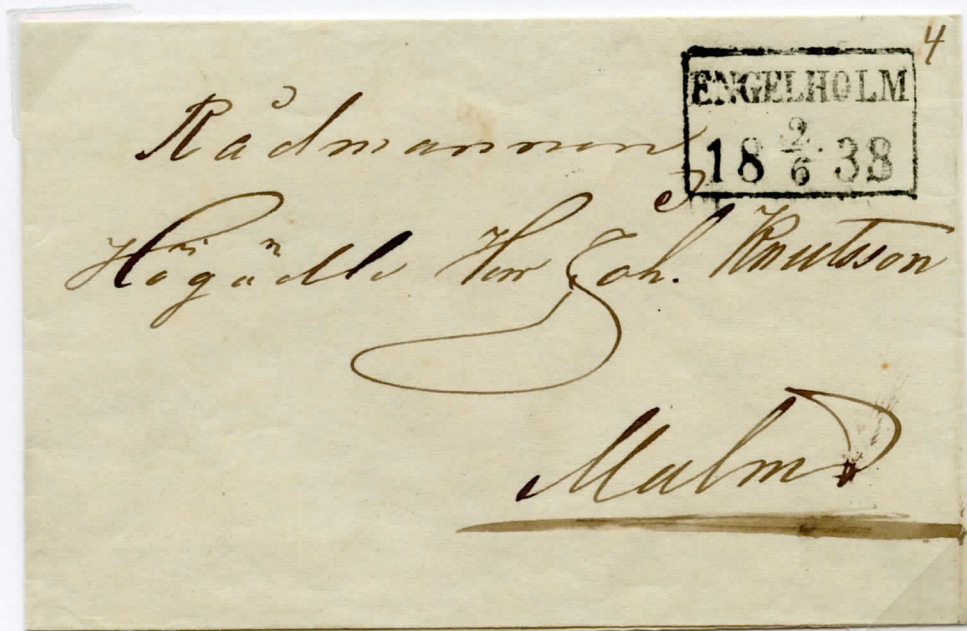
Below, (1853-57)



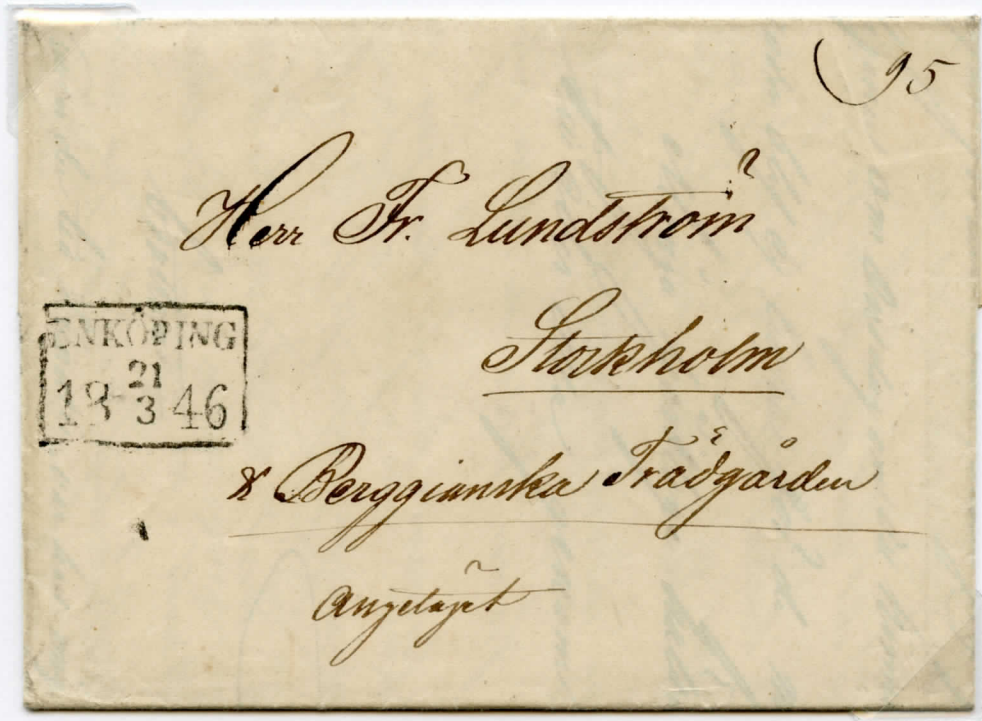


Above, (1838-55)

Below, (1838-43)







Above, (1838-48)  
Both with "Angeläget" (Urgent)  
Below, (1852-58)



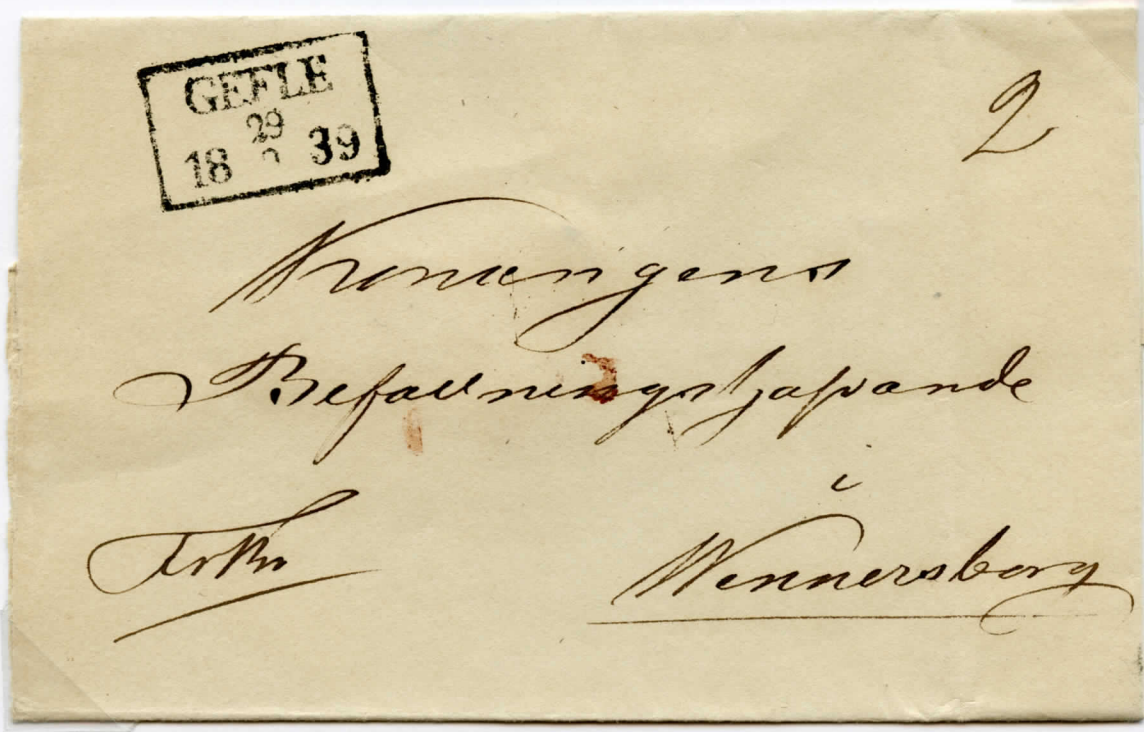


Falkenberg (1839-45) arrival mark with manuscript "Unpaid from Göteborg, Due 5 sk bco"

Below, Färösund (1852-64) to Flensburg, Denmark (Schleswig-Holstein)

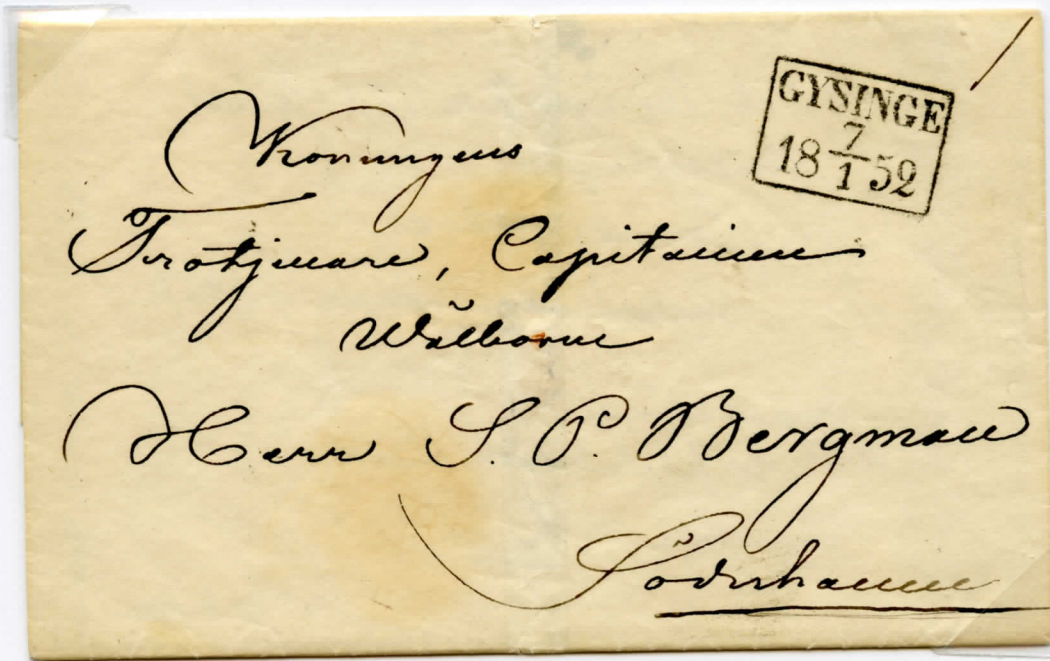






Above, (1835-40)

Below, (1851-58)



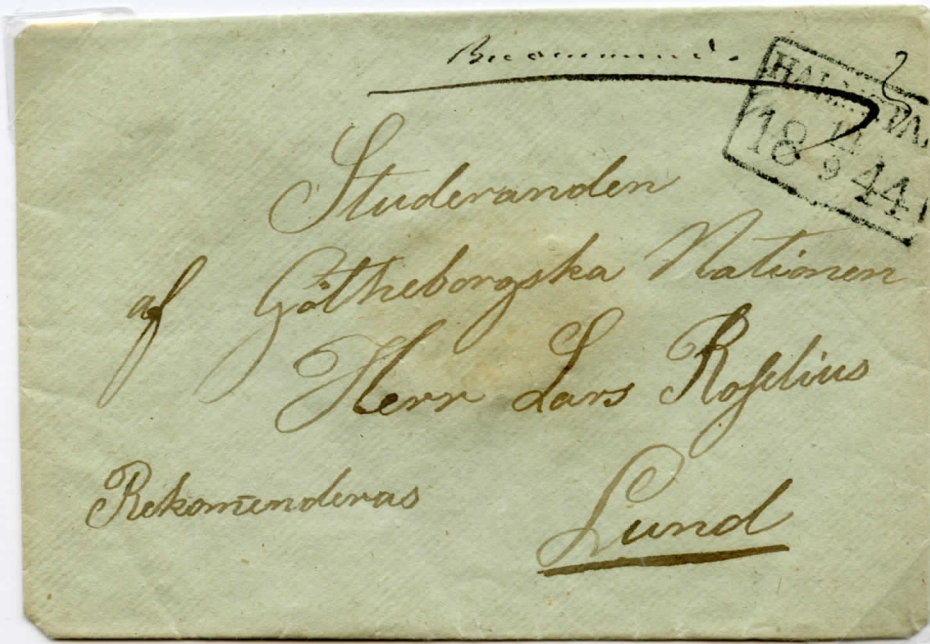
Box Cancels

Göteborg

(1842-45) on reverse of letter from Gothenburg to London via Hull, with Hull transit and London arrival markings.



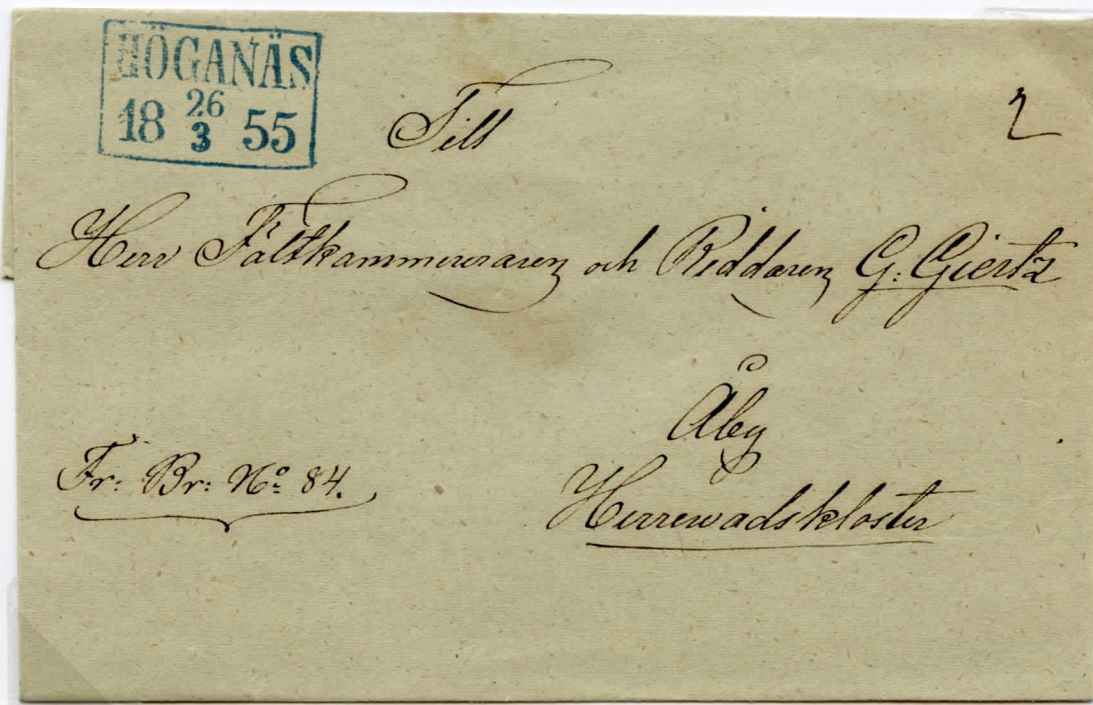




Above, (1839-43) registered

Below, (1847-58)





Above, (1854-55) in blue

Below, (1839-57)





JÖNKÖPING

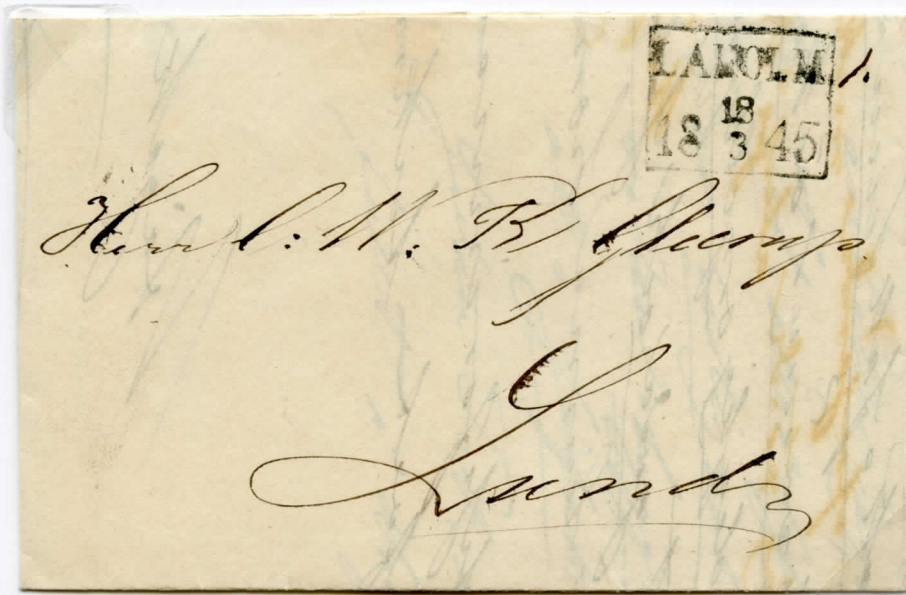
18<sup>27</sup> 4 55.

10.  
Konungens Befattningshufvuds

Zebel

Wenersborg

(1853-55), late use, frame worn away

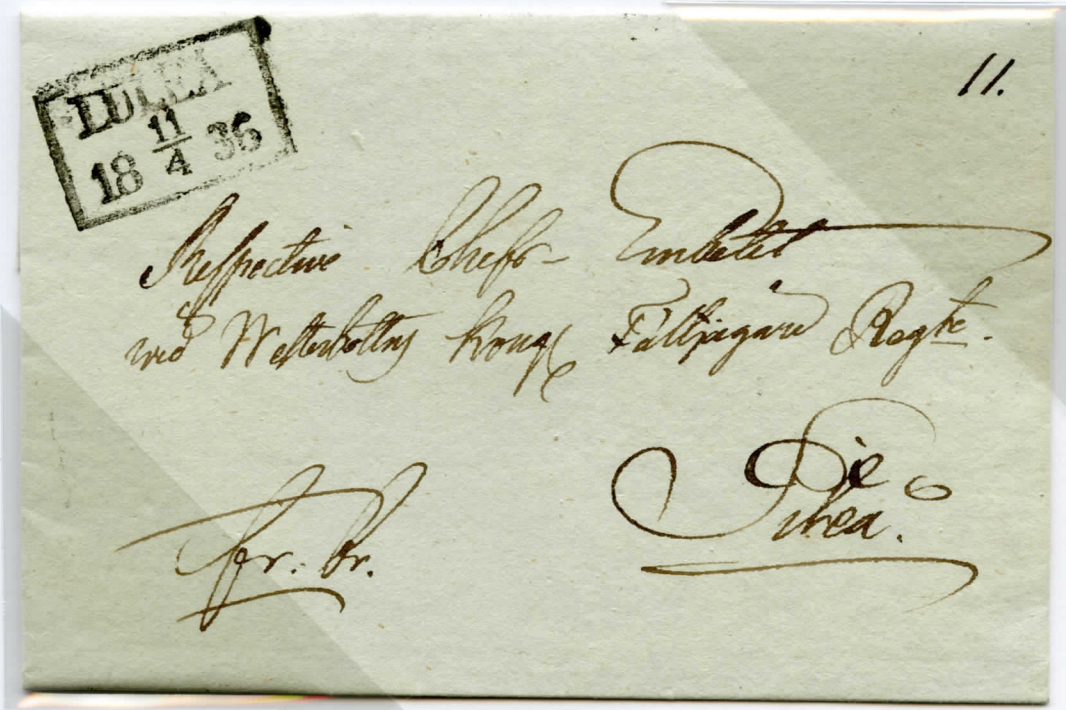


Above, (1838-47)

Below, (1847-51), registered

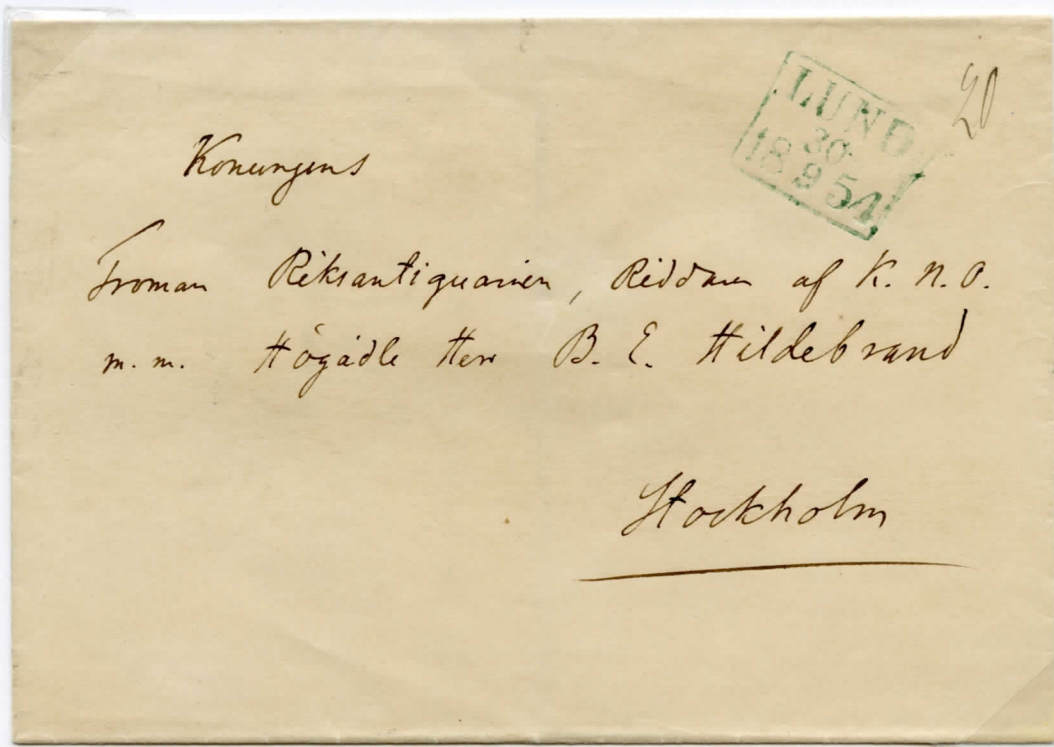






Above, (1836-39)

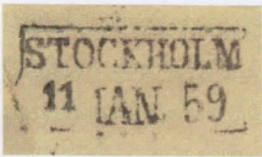
Below, (1853-55) in blue



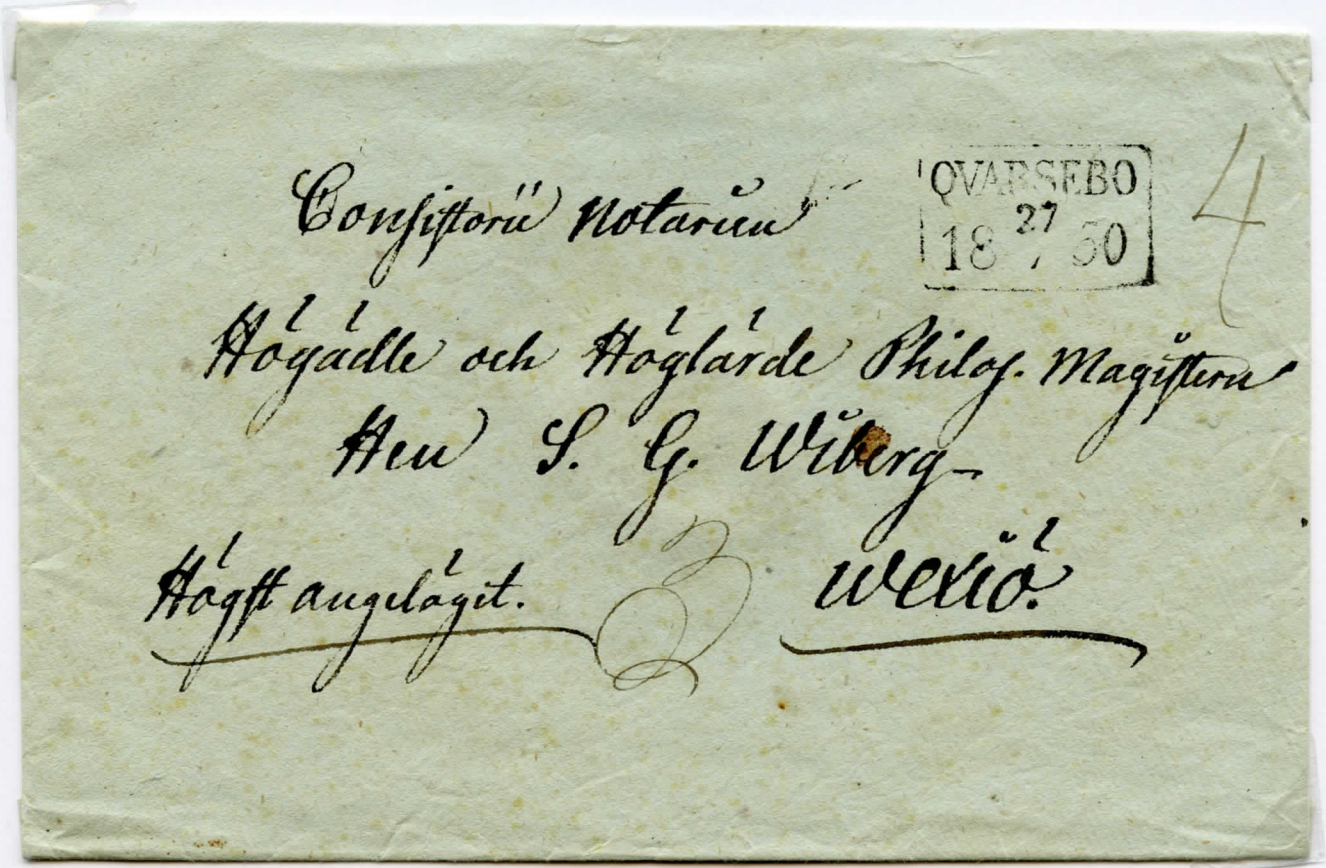


Above, (1851-55)

Below, (1855-59) last year of use, to Finland with manuscript Franco marking. Stockholm transit on reverse. Finnish markings FRANCO in oval and arrival marking ANK.

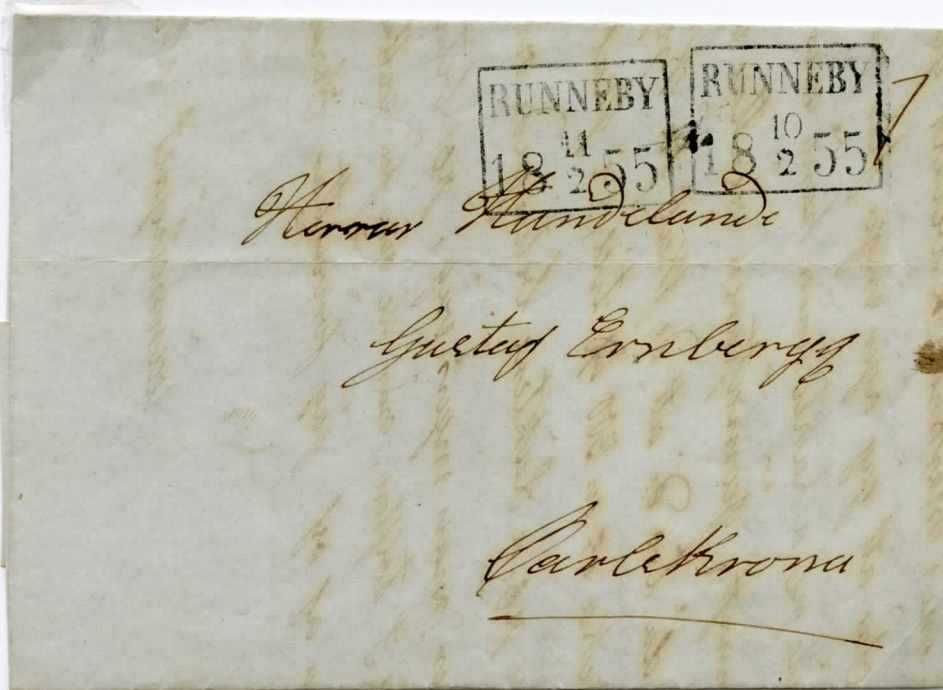


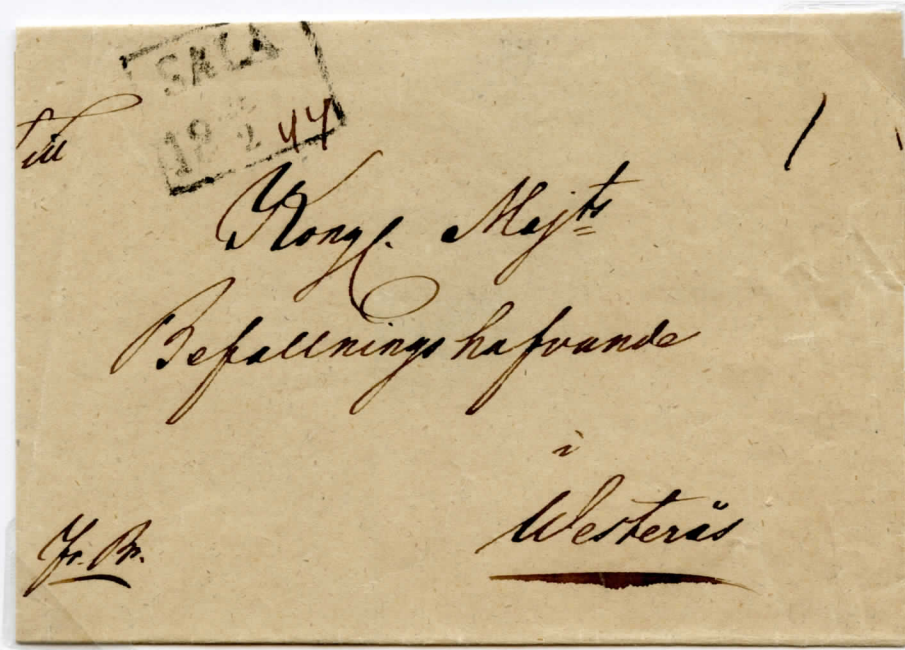




Above, (1838-51) with ms. "Högst angeläget" or "Highest urgency"

Below, (1838-55) letter dated February 9, struck twice, possibly to correct the cancel date



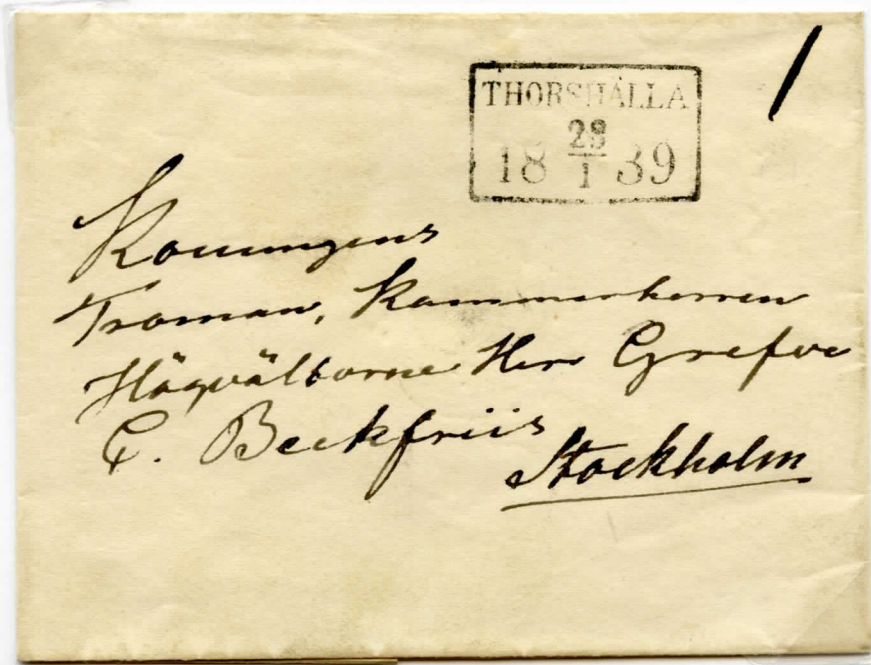


Above, (1838-46), year date digits handwritten

Below, (1847-52)







Above, (1838-54)

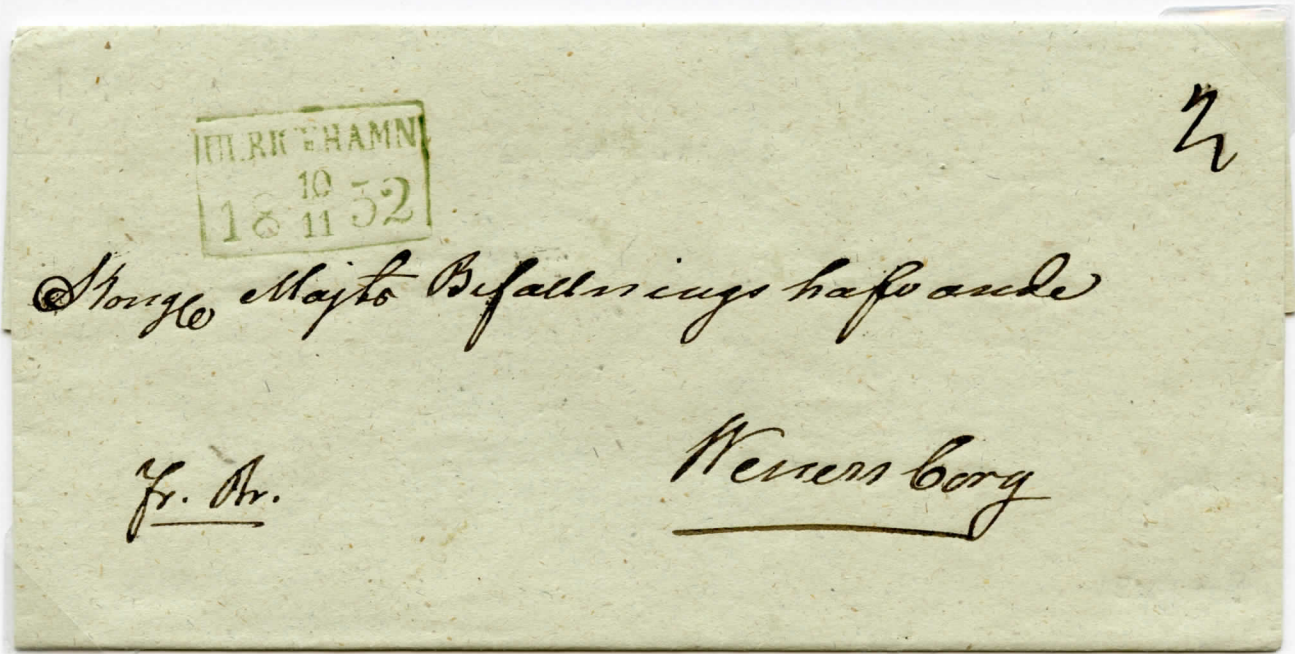
Below, (1845-55), ms. "Franco"



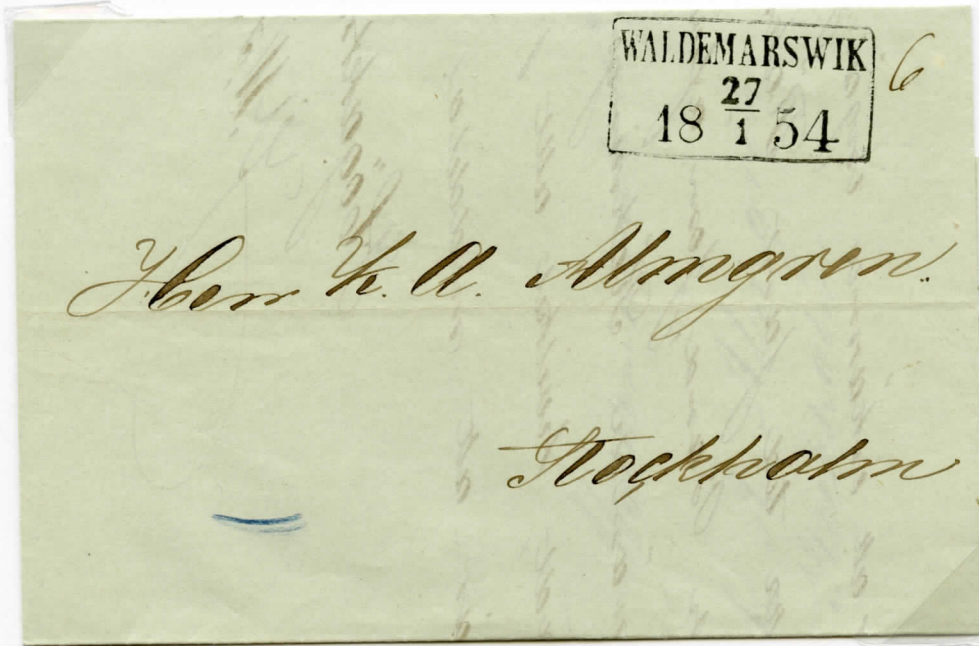


Above, (1838-50)

Below, (1852-55), in green







Above, (1850-57)

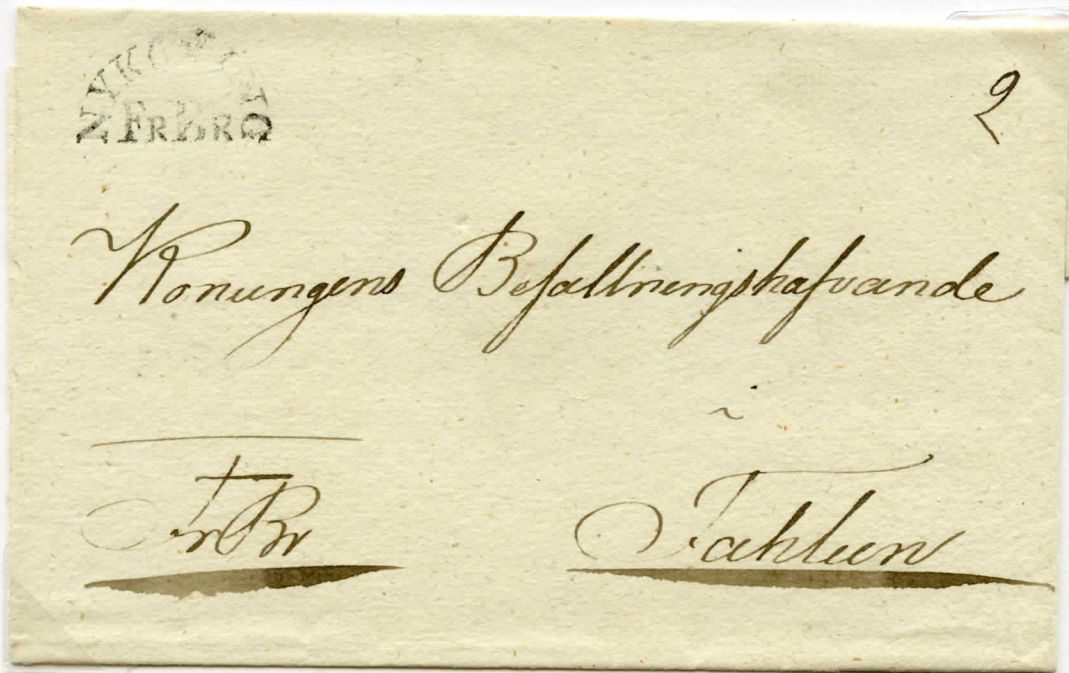
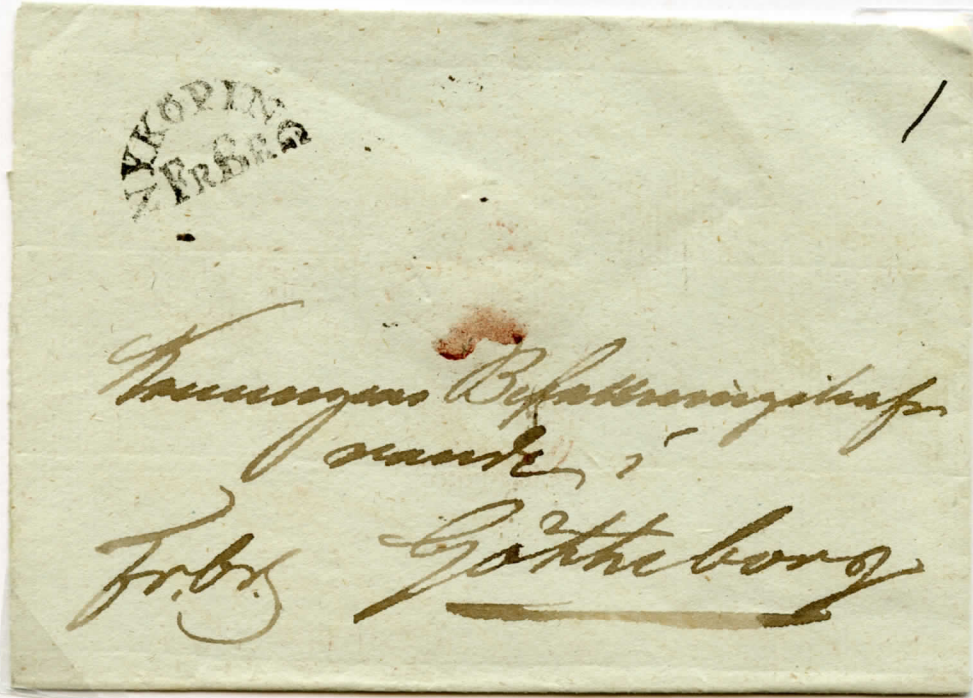
Below, (1838-50)



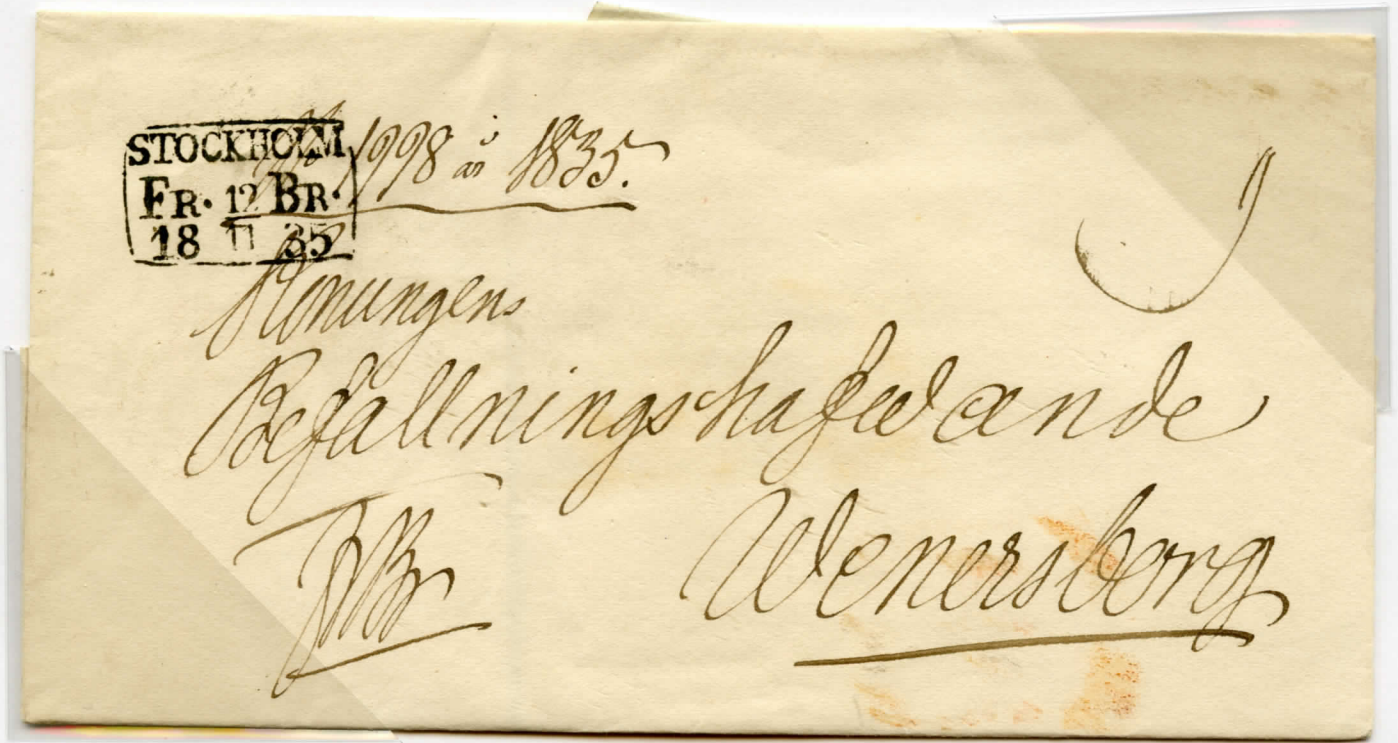
## Free Letter Cancels

## Semicircular Nyköping

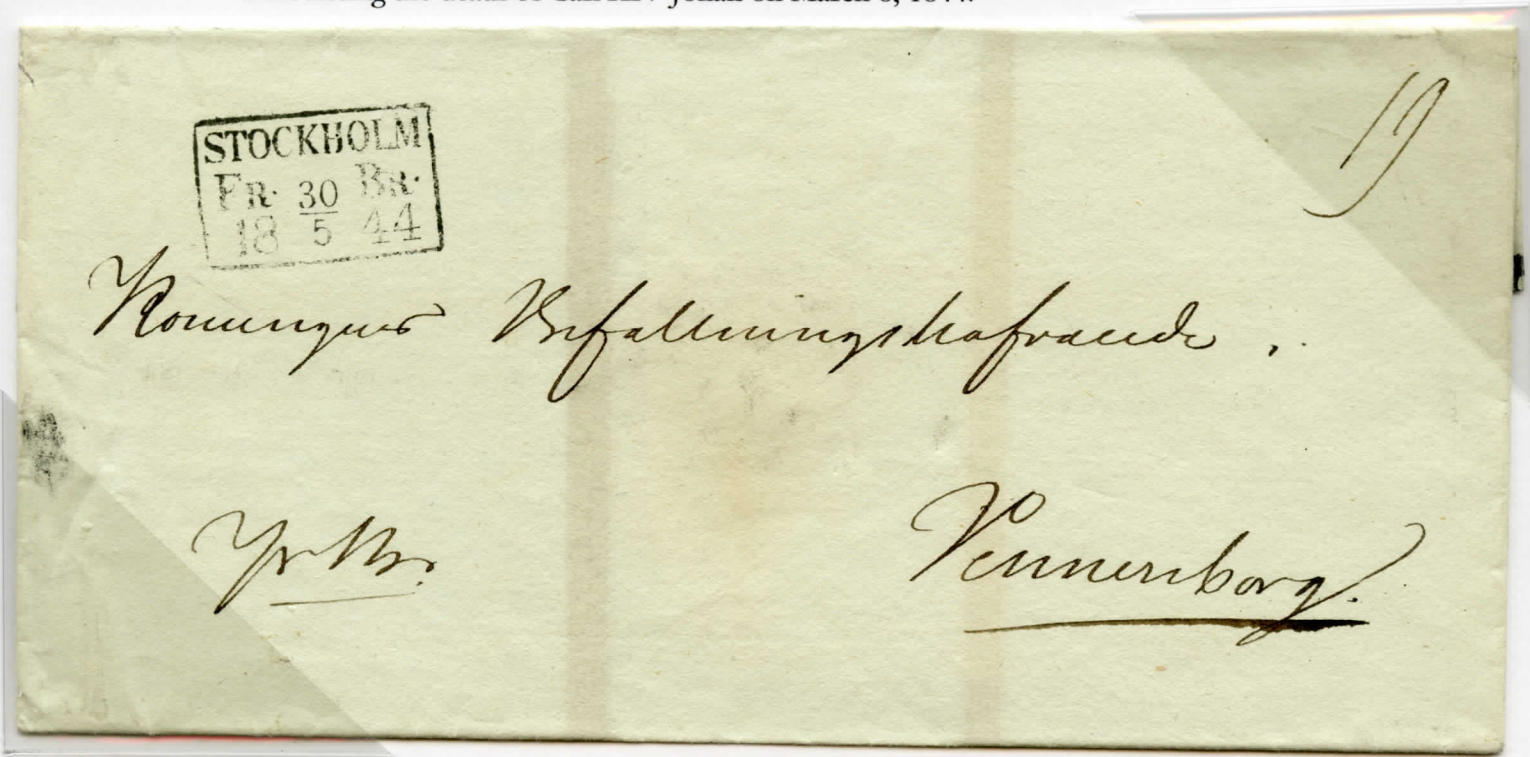
Many free letters were simply marked in the lower left Fr Br for Fri Brev or Free Letter. However, several special cancels with the FR BR abbreviations were used during the 1850s and 1860s. This one in semicircular design was used at Nyköping from 1823 to 1833. Two undated letters to Göteborg and Fahlun.



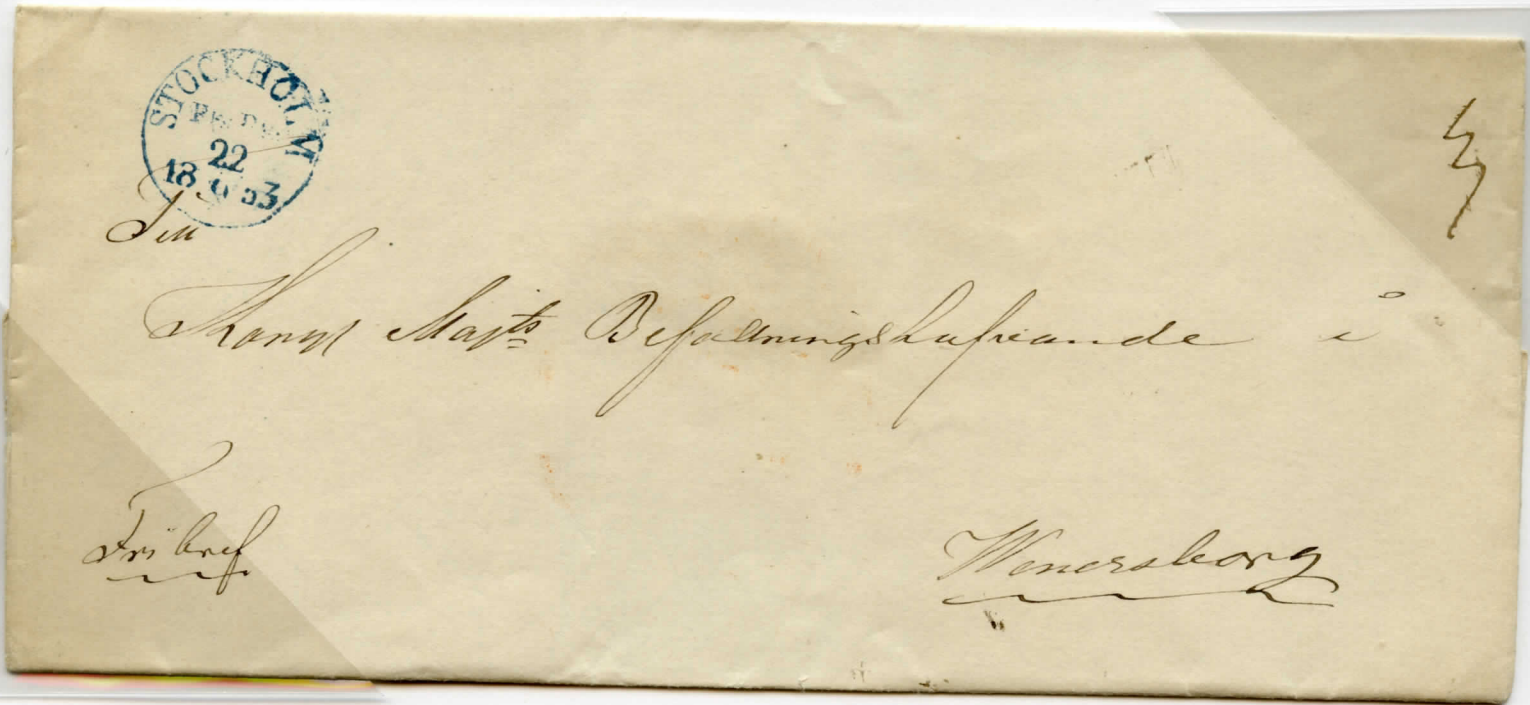




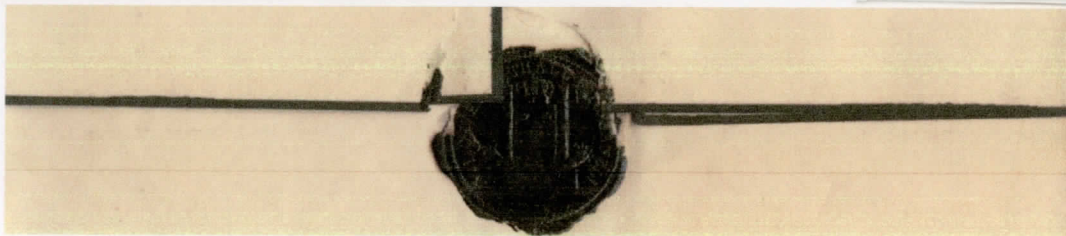
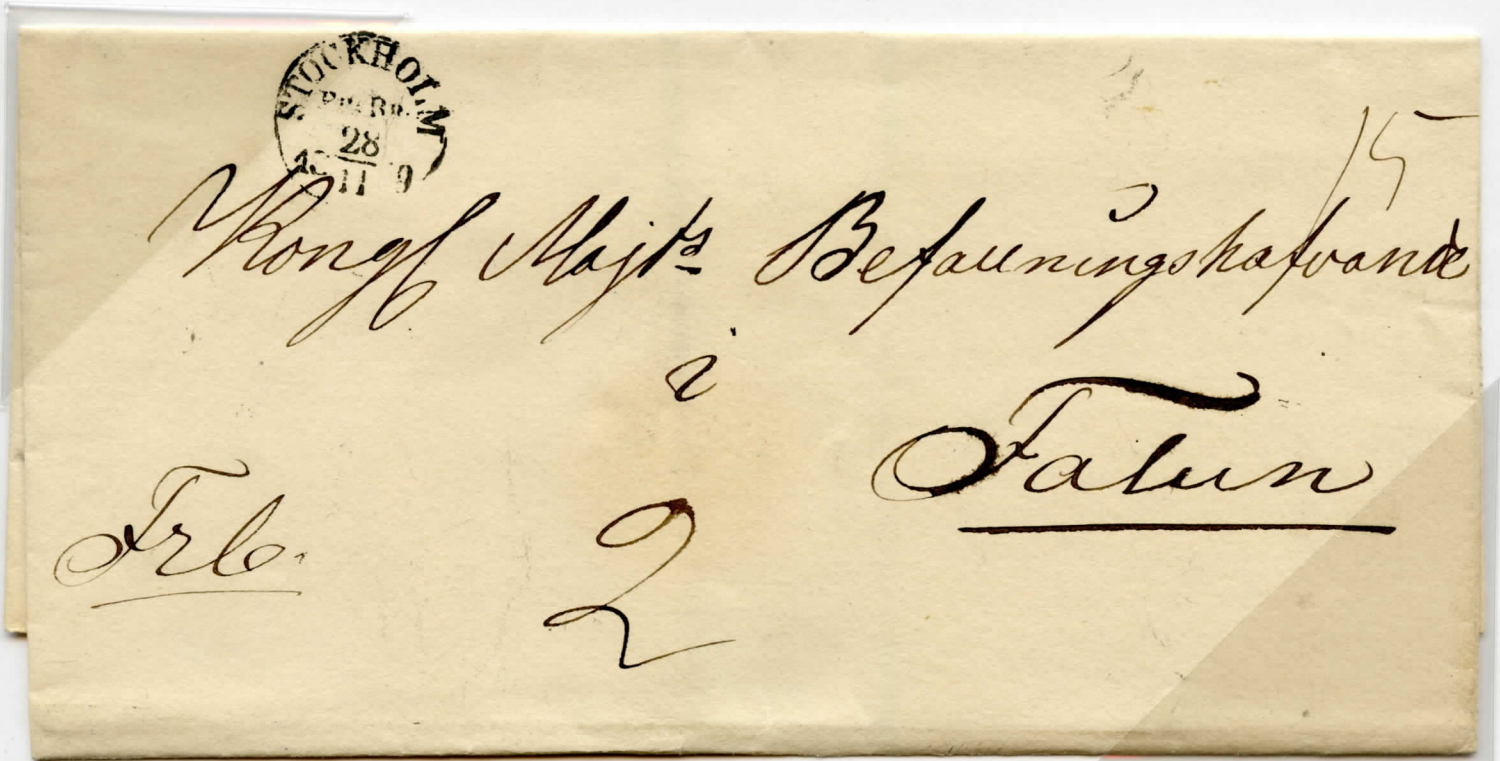
Above, 1835 box Stockholm Free Letter cancel used 1834-1837. Below, 1844 box Stockholm marking used from 1838 to 1851, in this case on a mourning cover announcing the death of Carl XIV Johan on March 8, 1844.







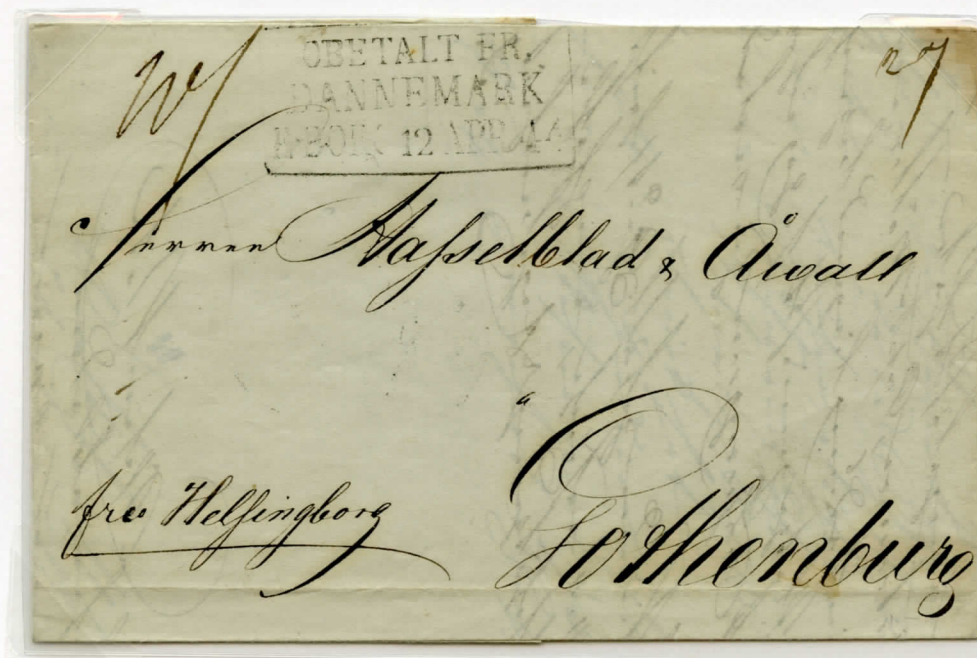
Above, 1853 with blue circle Stockholm Free Letter cancel used 1852-1858. Below, 1859 circle Stockholm marking used from 1859 to 1860, in this case on a mourning cover announcing the death of King Oscar I on July 8, 1859.



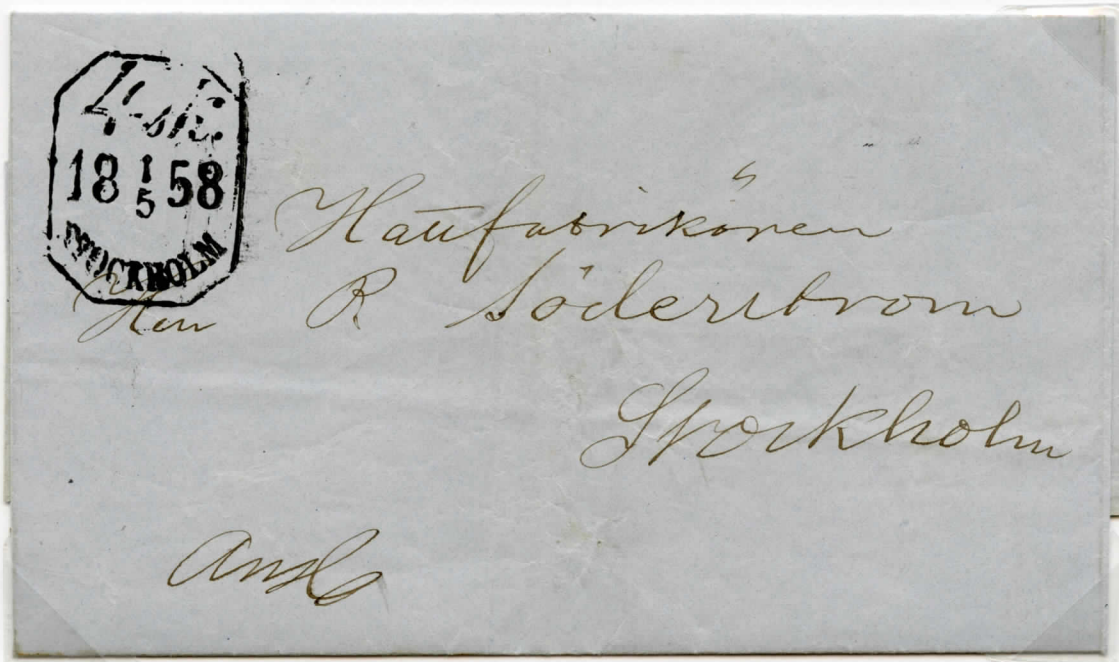


## Postage Due Handstamp Markings

Postage due handstamp markings in Sweden began in the 1850s except for the Obetalt (Unpaid) marking applied at Helsingborg for mail coming in from abroad that was paid only to Denmark. In the 1850s and beyond, handstamp due markings were used locally in Stockholm, for steamship mail at Uddevalla, and in various denominations of skilling, riksdaler and öre, primarily on unpaid mail arriving from abroad.



Letter dated April 9, 1844 sent from Hamburg to Göteborg via K.S. & N. P.A. (Royal Swedish and Norwegian Post Office in Hamburg) and paid to Helsingborg (manuscript "frco. Helsingborg"). At Helsingborg the letter received the boxed OBETALT FR. / DANNEMARK / H:BORG 12 APR. 44 marking.



Above, 4 skilling octagonal mark (used 1856-1858) on letter from Upsala to Stockholm, with manuscript "Angel." or "Urgent." Below circular 12 öre mark (used 1858-1860) on letter from Karlshamn to Stockholm.

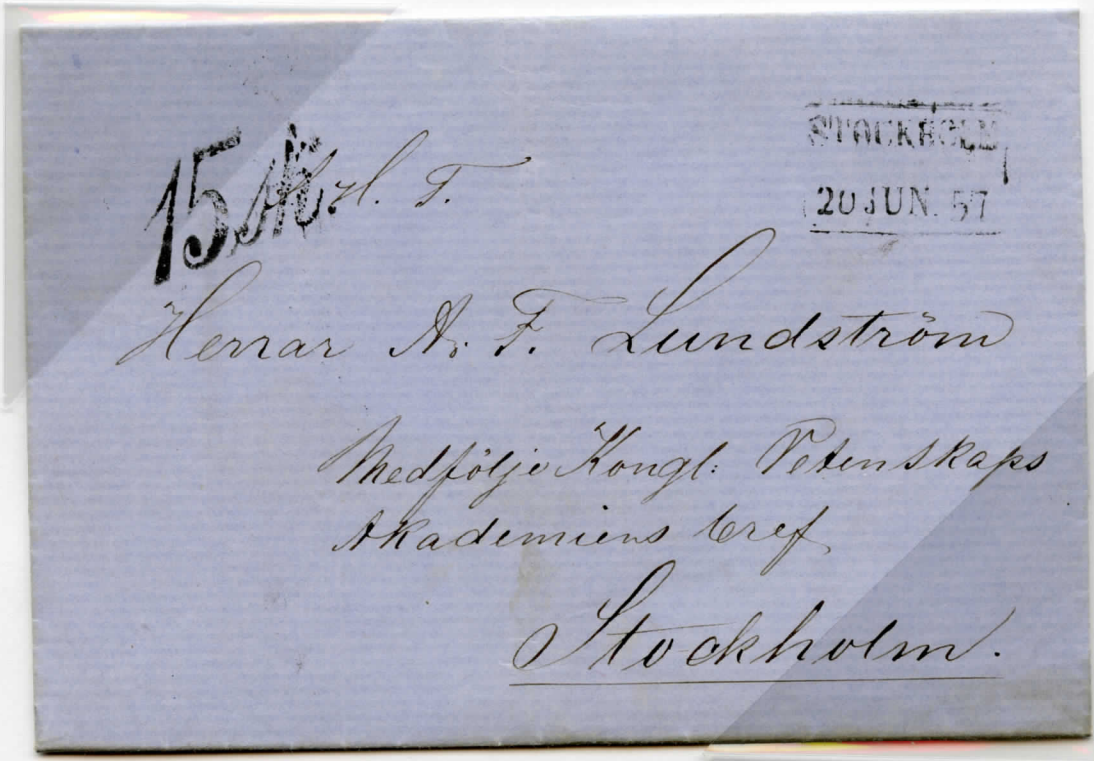






Above, August 28, 1857 letter from Marstrand to Uddevalla handstamped with "by steamship" 4 skilling due mark (used 1857-1858), and below, May 28, 1859 letter from Göteborg to Uddevalla with steamship due skilling marking, (used 1858-1859.)





Above, 1857 letter from Lübeck to Stockholm with 15 skilling due (1856-1858) and below, 1855 letter from Barcelona via Paris and Ystad to Stockholm with 24 skilling mark (1855-1858).





Postage Due

Helsingborg



←  
 18 öre due (1858-1865),  
 Copenhagen to Landskrona  
 with oval steamship from  
 Denmark marking

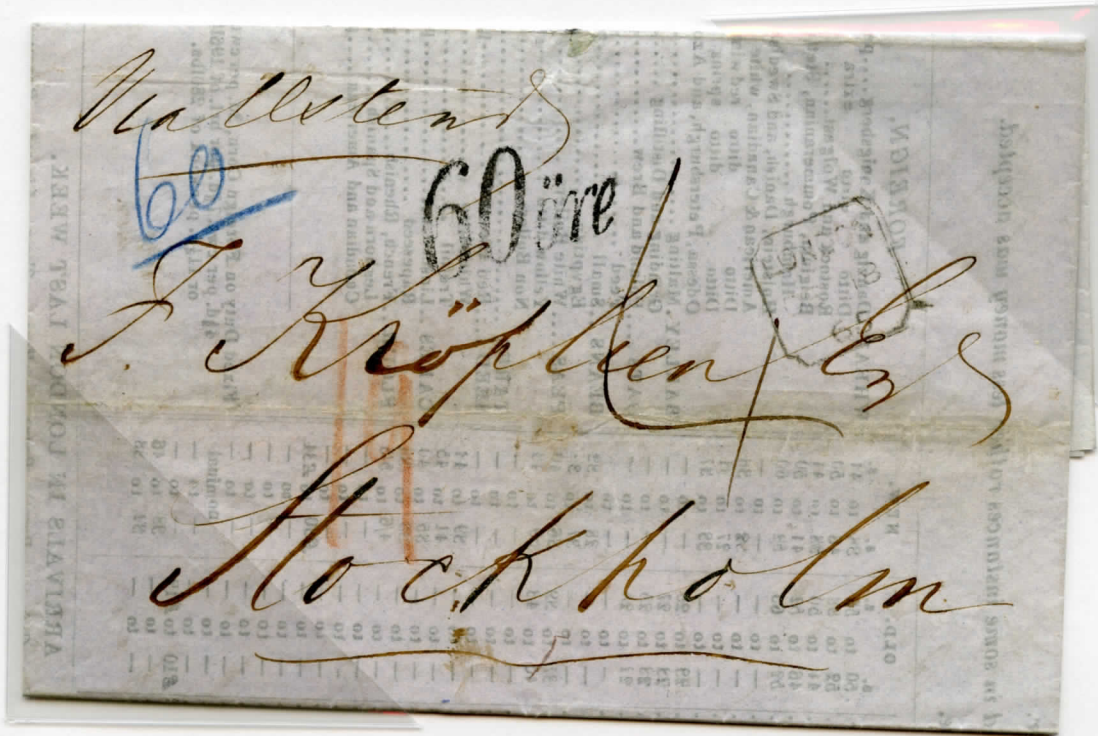


→  
 25 öre due (1866-1872),  
 Helsingør to Finland

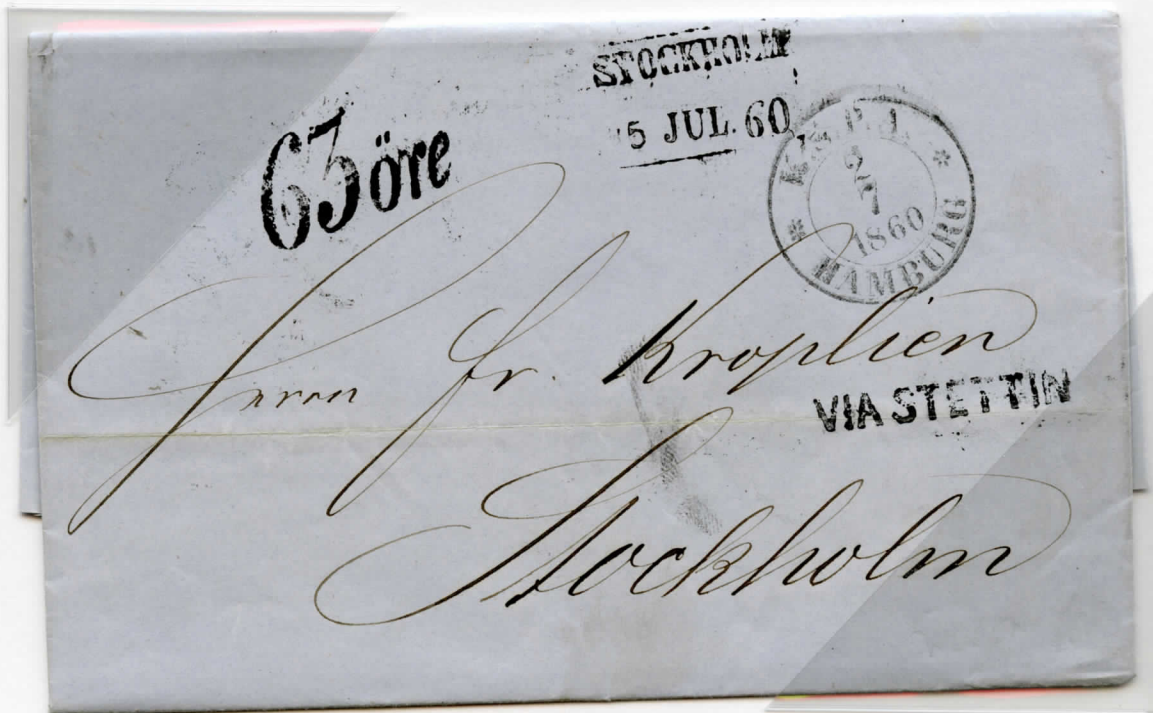


←  
 36 öre due (1858-1865)  
 Copenhagen to Göteborg





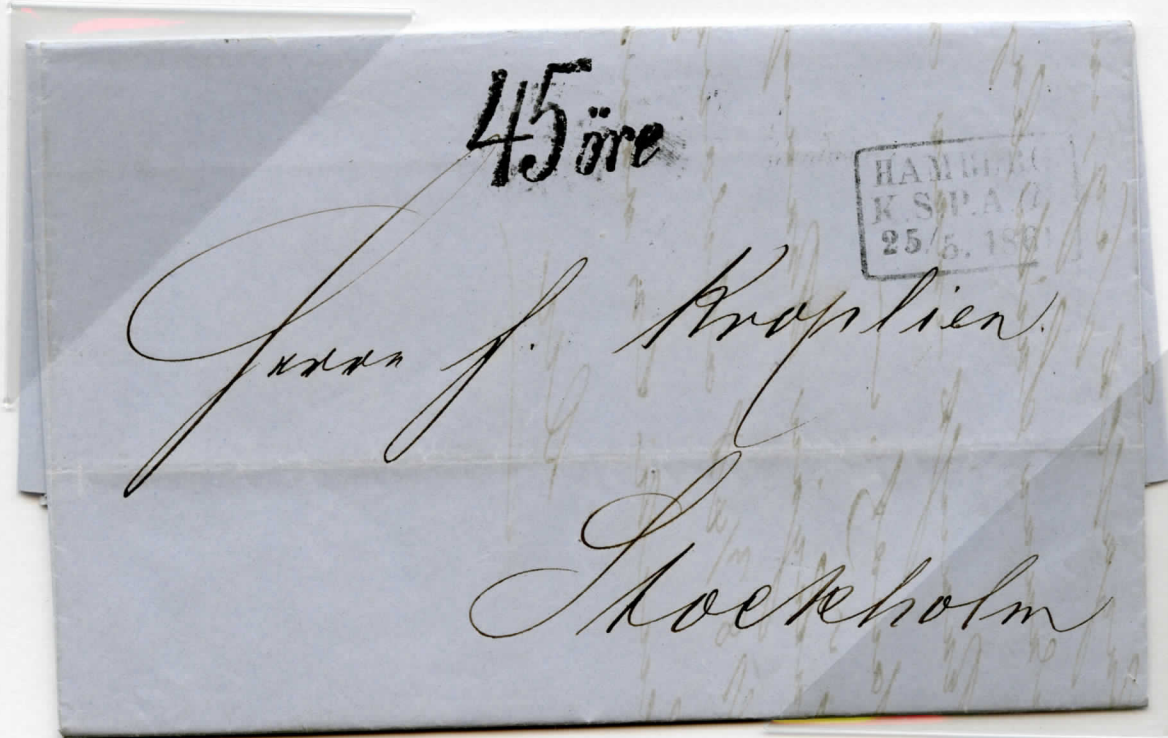
Due markings applied in Stockholm. 60 öre (1859-1870) on 1865 letter and “prices current” from London, sent “via Ostend.” 63 öre (1858-1866) on letter from Hamburg with double-ring KSPA mark used for mail sent via Stettin. Boxed Stockholm arrival with worn frame.





Postage Due

Stockholm

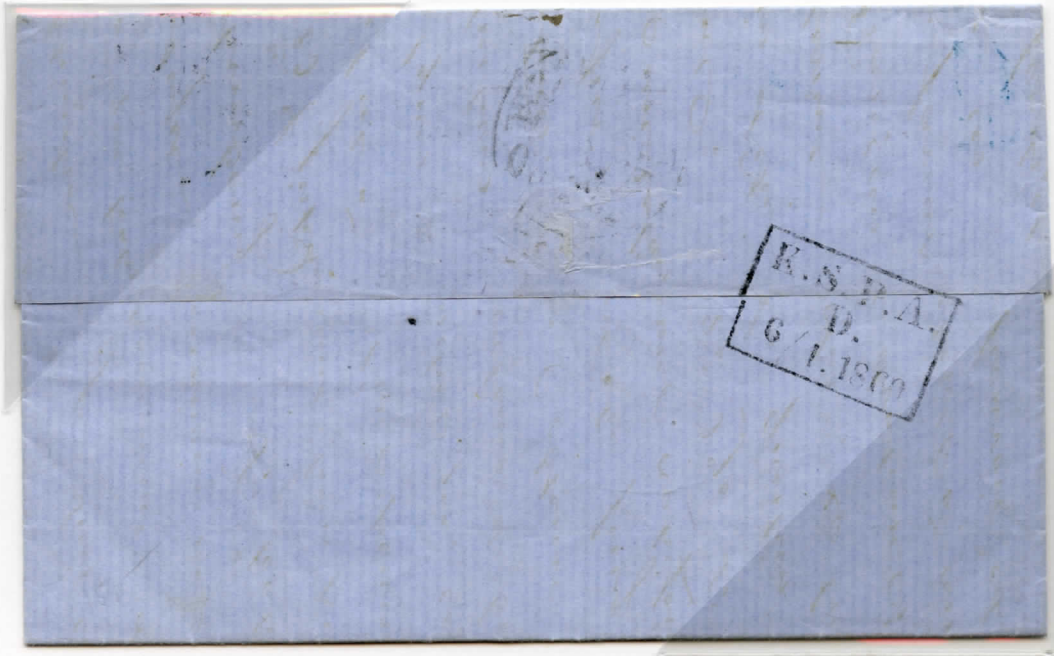


Due markings applied in Stockholm. 45 öre on 1861 letter from Hamburg with boxed K.S.P.A. (D) (1860-1865) for mail sent via Denmark, and 54 öre non-denominated marking (1865-1870) on 1867 cover from Merseburg, Germany, with OBETALDT (unpaid) mark used from 1866 on.

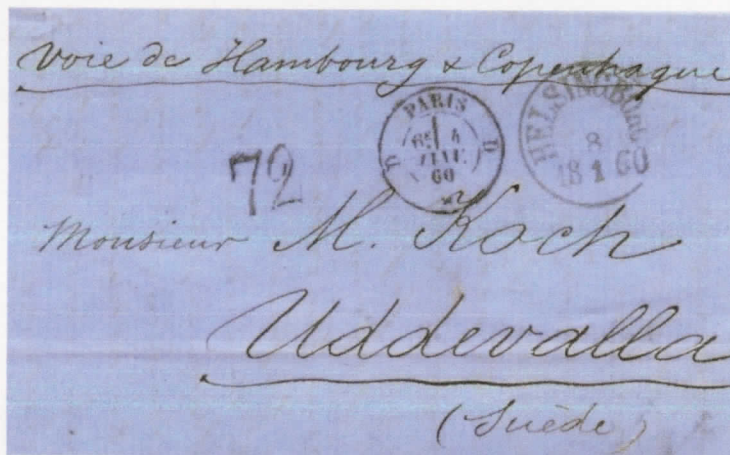


Postage Due

From France  
Scarce Hamburg marking



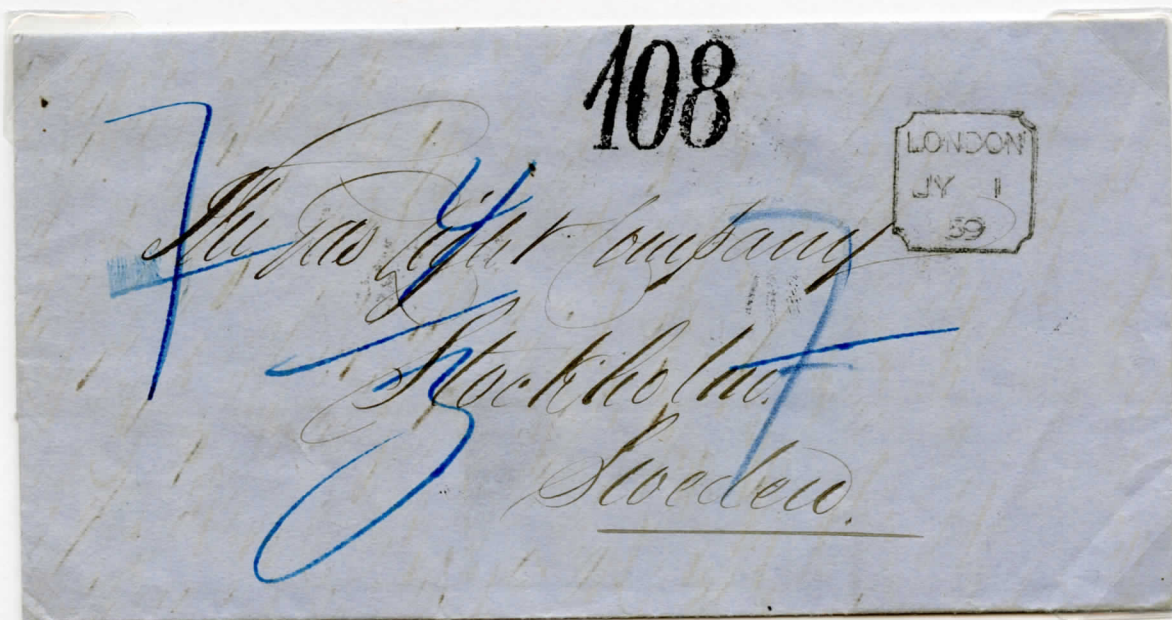
72 (non-denominated) öre marking (1859-1868) applied on letters from France. Routed via Hamburg and Copenhagen to Uddevalla in January 1860. The boxed K.S.P.A. / D. without HAMBURG mark was used only during January 1860.







Postage due markings applied in Stockholm. 90 öre (1859-1865) on January 28, 1862 letter from Amsterdam with faint red Amsterdam CDS of same date. Oval and boxed Hamburg transit on reverse



108 non-denominated öre (1858-1865) on 1859 letter from London via Hamburg with St. P.A. (Stadt Post Amt) transit mark.

Postage Due

From France

Non-denominated 144 öre marking, both manuscript and handstamp (1859-1868) on  
1860 letter from Paris via Hamburg to Göteborg.





## Foreign Mails

## Transit Markings

This section shows examples of the treatment of foreign mails to and from Sweden with emphasis on transit markings and some arrival marks. The transit marks include Swedish ones as well as several that denote Swedish mails. The presentation is chronological.



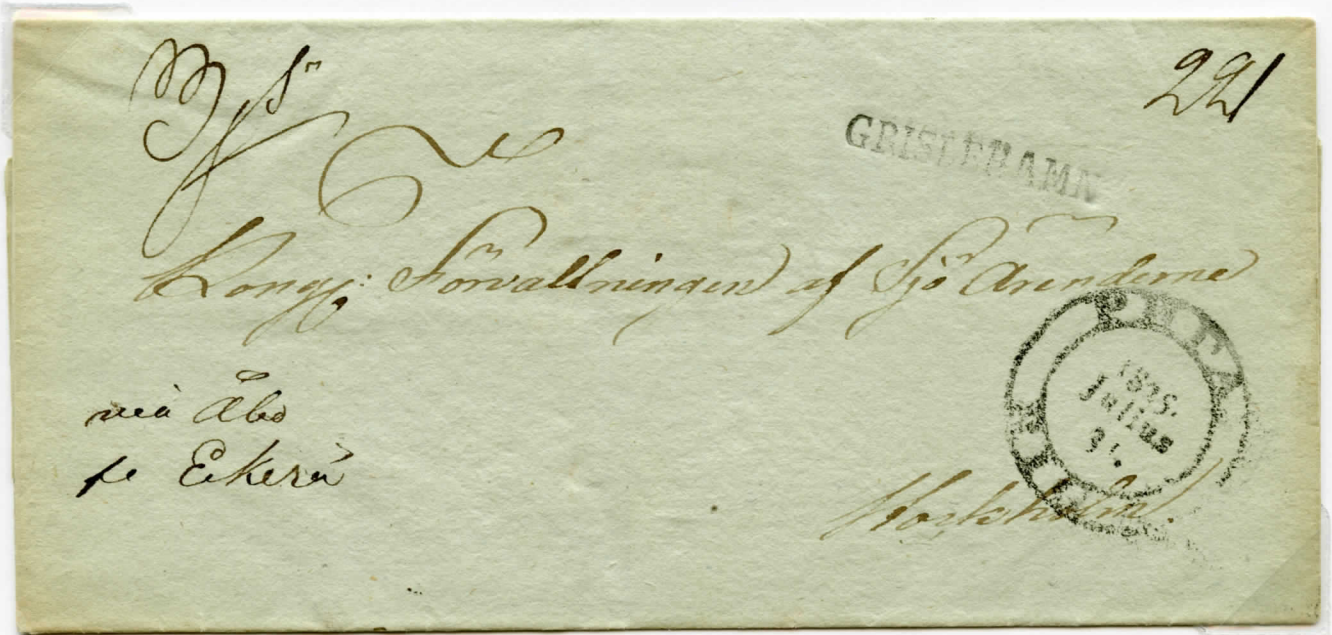
1824 letter from Stockholm to Paris. Stralsund was a port in northern Germany that had a Swedish postal agent. Endorsements include ms. "via Ystad" and handstamped "fco. Stralsund" (paid to Stralsund). Stralsund handstamp transit, red CPR 5 for Correspondence Prussienne Rayon 5 (district).



1834 letter from Liverpool to Pernau in what was then Russia. Liverpool 206 mileage dispatch date stamp. Straight line Götheburg transit stamp.



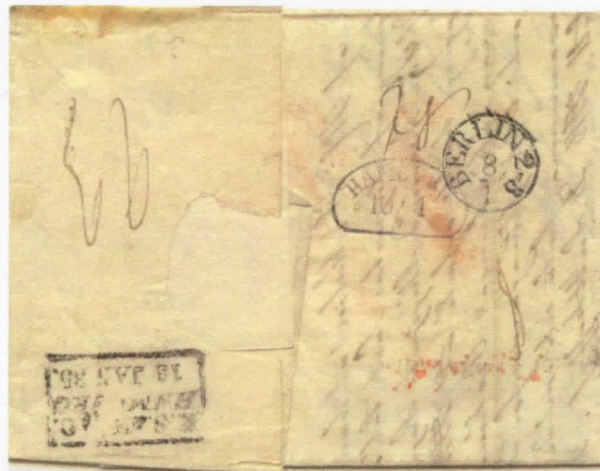




1825 from Riga to Sweden, ms. routing via Åbo, the Finnish port on the southwest coast of Finland and Eckerö in what is now Åland. Transit or arrival hand stamp at Grislehamn.



1834 Genoa, Italy to Jacobstad, Finland. Endorsed "via Hamburg & Stockholm." Straight line GENOVA in red, backstamped Berlin and Hamburg. K.S. & N. P. C. Hamburg (Royal Swedish & Norwegian Post Office in Hamburg). Grislemann arc cancel transit.







1836 Liverpool to Jacobstad, Finland, via Hamburg. Boxed "Paid at Liverpool." On reverse St. P. A. (Hamburg City Post Office), and boxed K.S. & N.P.C. Hamburg. Handstamp at Greifswald, port in northern Germany where Sweden had a postal agent. Grisslehamn arc transit mark.

Foreign Mails

Transit Marking

1836 letter Bergen, Norway to Nice, France with Strömstad arc cancel transit. Ms. "Marittime" and "fr. Hamburg." Hamburg way mark and red oval LT (Letter Transit). On reverse, boxed K.S. & N. P.C. 24 June.



1838 Bergen, Norway to Copenhagen. Boxed Strömstad transit and ms. "betalt til Helsingør" (paid to Helsingør).



# Foreign Mails

# Transit Marking

1845 Finland to Stockholm with straight line Cyrillic Helsingfors (Helsinki) and red Grisslehamn arc transit mark.



1858 from Franzensbad in German Bohemia to Linköping. Leipzig and Hamburg way marks on reverse, ms. "via Stralsund" and arc Helsingborg transit.





1848 from Isle Of Man to Sundsvall via Hamburg with boxed Helsingborg transit.







1848 Cette, France to Helsinki, Finland via Hamburg and Sweden, with boxed Stockholm transit, differentiated from Stockholm box cancel by narrow box and month in letters rather than numerals.





1848 letter from Lübeck, Germany (internal dateline) to Stockholm, endorsed "per Steamship *Gauthiod*," with red boxed Stockholm arrival. The arrival marking is distinguished from the transit mark by the larger box.





1858 letter from Brussels to Linköping via Hamburg with Helsingborg arc transit.



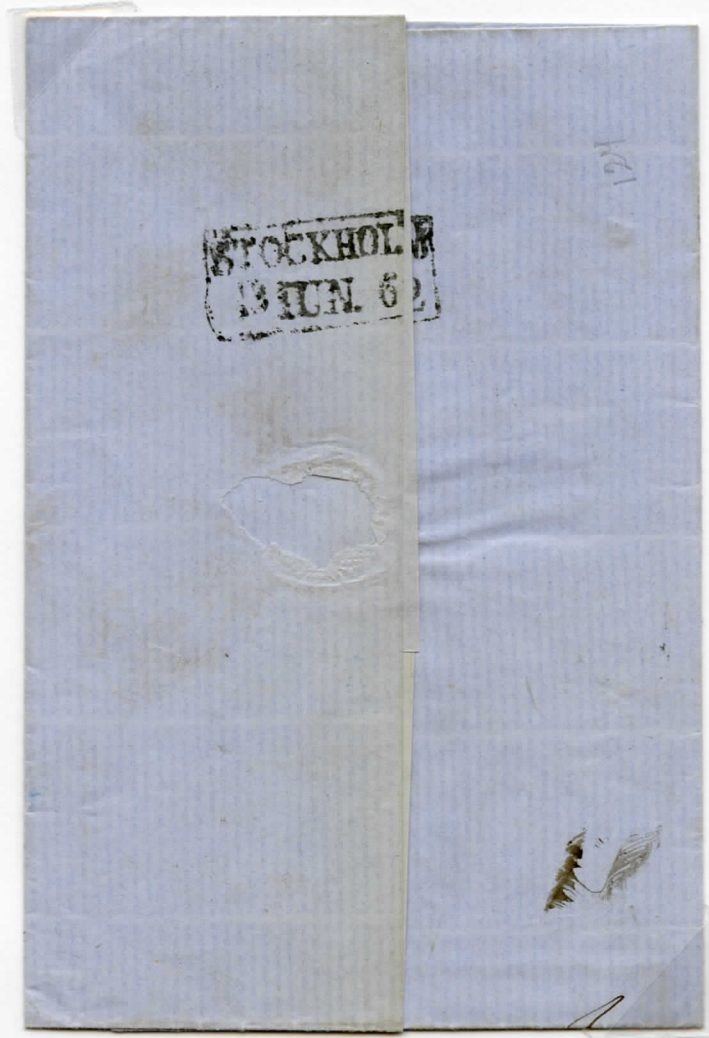


1858 letter from Stockholm (internal dateline) to Bordeaux endorsed for ship *Svea* via Lübeck. The boxed "K.B. aus Schweden" (Kasten Brief) was a Prussian marking to indicate the mail was received from the Swedish ship where it had been placed in a letter box prior to departure.



Foreign Mails

Transit Marking

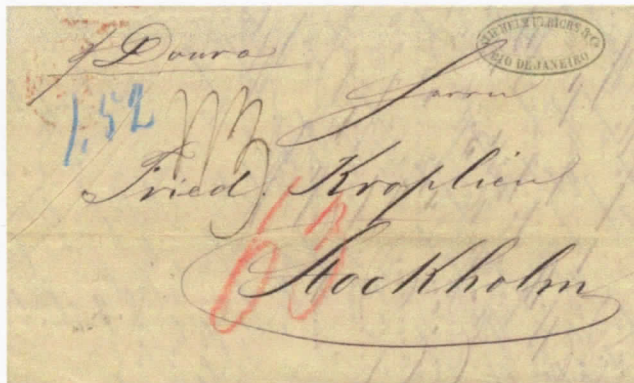


1862 from Lübeck to Åbo, Finland with Helsingborg and Stockholm transit.

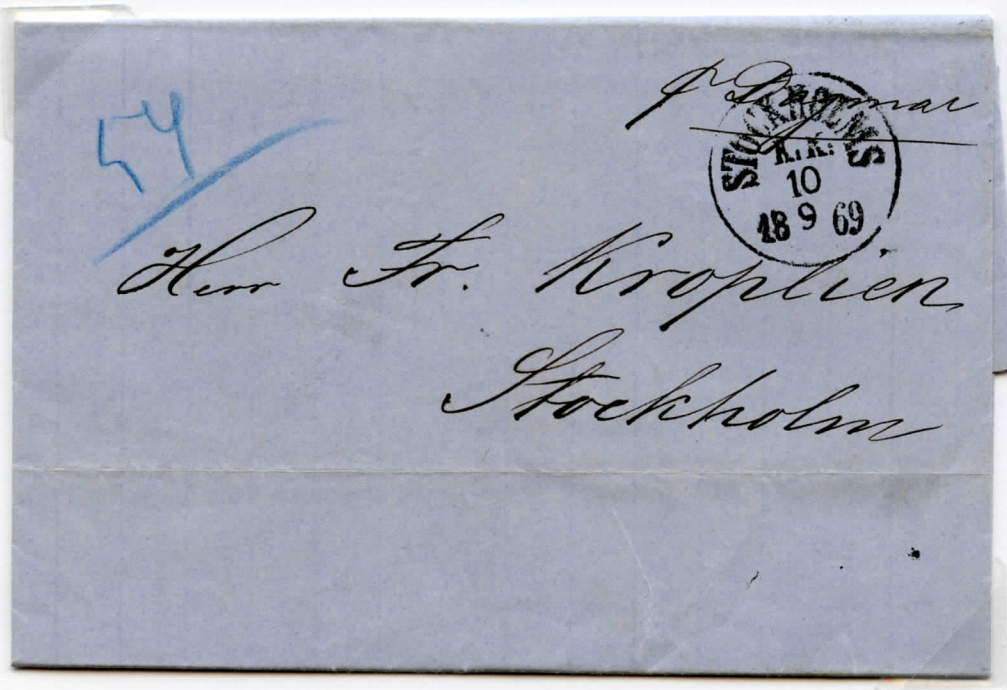




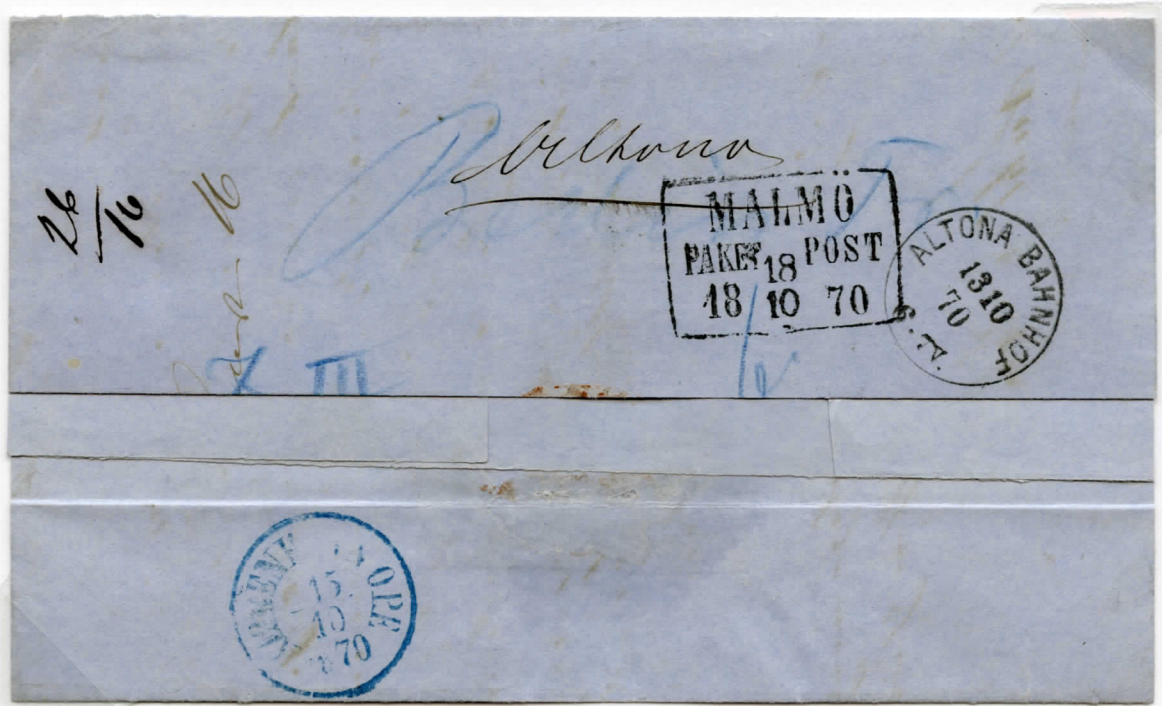
1866 from Rio de Janeiro to Stockholm via London and Lübeck. The Stockholm TUR "cancel" (3 mm letters) is actually a delivery marking designating first delivery of the day.







1869 letter from St. Petersburg, Russia to Stockhom via ship *Dagmar*.  
Stockholm Kontroll Kontoret (Control Office) arrival.



1870 parcel letter from Cassel (present day Kassel, Germany) via Denmark to Stockholm with boxed Malmö parcel transit mark. Endorsed "Herewith 1 parcel."

