

United States, Parcel (4th class) mail to Sweden 1906-1961

Purpose of Exhibit

The purpose of the exhibit is to show the rates for parcel mail to Sweden 1906 to 1961. Parcel wrappers and tags with adhesive stamps are used to document the rates. As a sideline the Swedish custom handling fees on the items are also explained.

Exhibit plan

1. Surface parcels without additional services
2. Air mail parcels without additional services
3. Additional services
 - 3.1 Registration
 - 3.2 Insurance
 - 3.3 Return receipt
 - 3.4 Special delivery
 - 3.5 Certificate of mailing

1. Surface mail without additional services

On 1 Feb 1906 United States Post Office (USPO) started to offer Parcel (4th class) mail service to Sweden. The rate was originally 12c/lb. Over the years studied in this exhibit the rate changed as showed in Table 1

Table 1. Surface parcel rate to Sweden 1906-1961

	1 Feb 1906	15 Jun 1925	1 Aug 1953	Ca 1 Dec 1953*	1 Jul 1961
First lb	12c	14c	45c	47c	90c
Add. lb	12c	14c	22c	24c	35c

* There is no exact date for this change. Postmasters should use it the new rate as soon as Postal Guide 1953 part 2 arrived



0-1 lb parcel: 12c
1 Feb 1906-14 Jun 1925



4-5lb parcel: 60c
1 Feb 1906-14 Jun 1925



1. Surface mail without additional services (cont)

<--0-1 lb parcel 14c,

The green label= Parcel from USA. The label was used to avoid that the parcel was sorted in the letter mail



16-17 lb parcel 17x14=238c, 15 Jun 1925-31 Jul 1953

The yellow sticker, Form 2922, was introduced in Dec 1933

**19-20 lb parcel 20x14=280c,
5 Jun 1925-31 Jul 1953**



1. Surface mail without additional services (cont)

Now and then Swedish stamps paying Customs Handling Fees can be found on parcel mail from USA. The rate structure for these fees is quite complicated as it is normally a combination of a fee to the Post Office and a fee to the Custom House Porter. The porter fee was not published by the Post Office as it was set locally by the Custom Board after negotiations. Normally incoming parcel mail was cleared by the custom in Gothenburg or Stockholm. But if the item was addressed to a place with a custom house it passed Stockholm and Göteborg without custom clearance. So far only items cleared in Stockholm and Göteborg are known with stamps paying the fee., so I will only show rate for these two cities.

Table 2. Custom handling fees in Stockholm 1941-1961

	1 Jul 1930	1 Mar 1941	1 Mar 1942	1 Jan 1946	1 Jan 1947	1 Nov 1947	1 Jul 1948	1 Aug 1951	23 May 1952	25 Aug 1955	20 Sep 1956	19 May 1958	1 April 1959
Postal custom handling fee	10 öre	10 öre	10 öre	10 öre	10 öre	10 öre	30 öre	30 öre	30 öre	30 öre	30 öre	30 öre	50 öre
Custom house porter fee		39 öre	42 öre	46 öre	45 öre	50 öre	50 öre	55 öre	65 öre	70 öre	75 öre	80 öre	80 öre
Total fee		49 öre	52 öre	56 öre	55 öre	60 öre	80 öre	85 öre	95 öre	100 öre	105 öre	110 öre	130 öre



2-3 lb parcel, 47+2x24=95c
1 Dec 1953- 30 Jun 1961

Custom handling fees 130öre
1 Apr 1959-30 Sep 1962

2. Air mail parcels without additional fees.

Table 3. Air mail parcel rates to Sweden

	15 mar 1948	1 Jul 1961
First 4 oz	85c	135 c
Add. 4 oz	49c	45 c



Air mail parcel 12-16 oz 85+3x49=232c,
15 Mar 1948-30 Jun 1961
Postmarked Sebastopol Cal 10 Apr 1951



Air mail parcel 3lb 4oz - 3lb 8oz, 85+13x49=722c ,
15 Mar 1948-20 Jun 1961
Total custom handling fee in Stockholm 95öre, 23 Mar 1952-24 Aug 1955
Postmarked Portland ME 15 Dec 1962

2 Air mail parcels without additional services(cont.)



Air mail parcel 1lb – 1lb 4oz, 85+4x49=281c 15 Mar 1948-30 Jun 1961

3.1 Registration

Parcel mail could be registered from the start 1 Feb 1906 until 30 Jun 1932, when registration was replaced by insurance service. The registration fee was the same as for letter mail; 8c 1 Feb 1906-31 Oct 1909, 10c 1 Nov 1909-30 Nov 1925 and 15c 1 Dec 1925 to 30 Jun 1932

Parcel fee 1lb 12c 1 Feb 1906-14 Jun 1925 -->

Registration fee 10c 1 Nov 1909-30 Nov 1925

Total fee 22c, 1 Nov 1909-14 Jun 1925

Label Oförtullat=Not customs cleared. As Hudiksvall had a Custom House the item was not custom cleared at the office of exchange

At down right

Parcel fee 1-2lb 2x14=28c 15 Jun 1925-30 Jul 1953

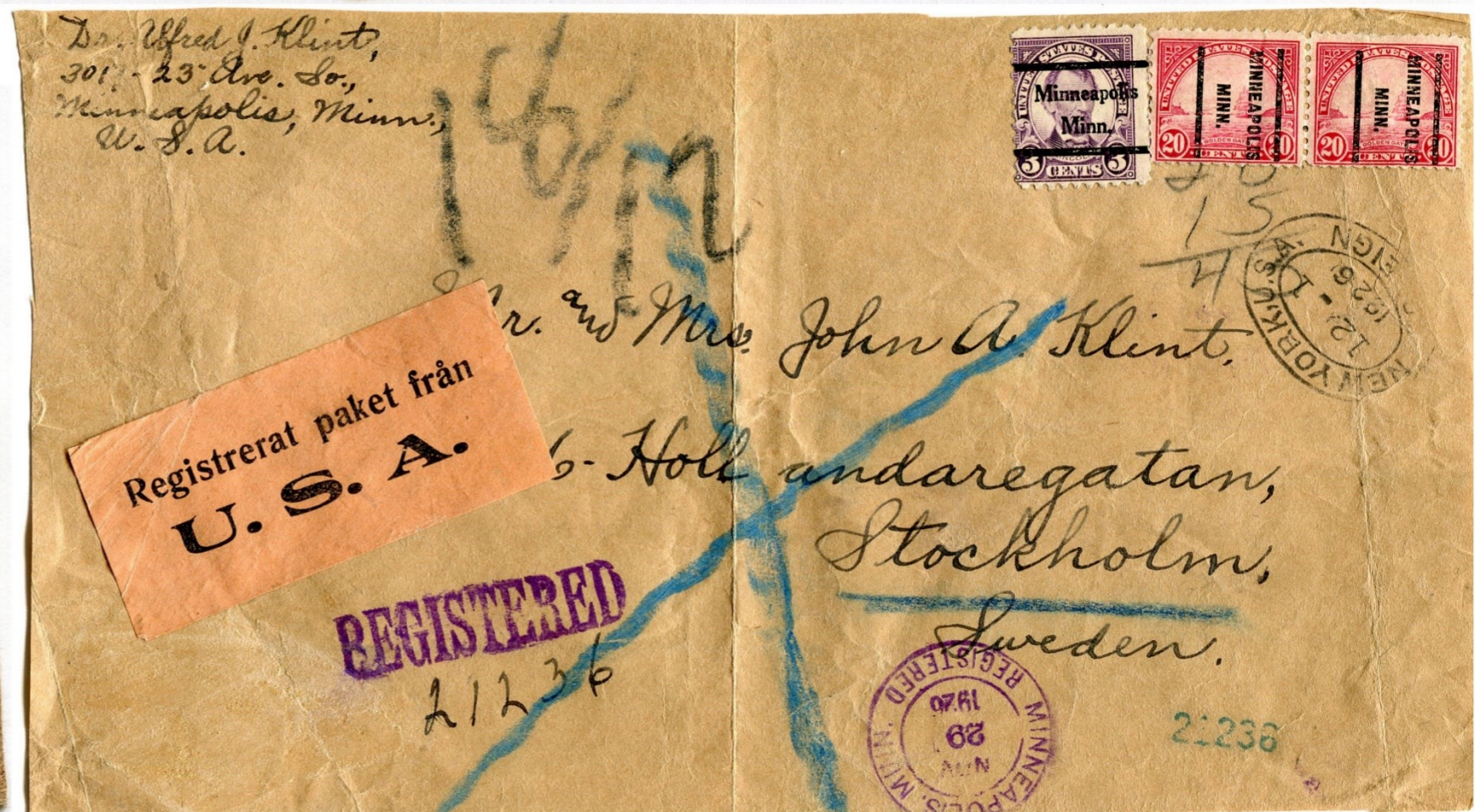
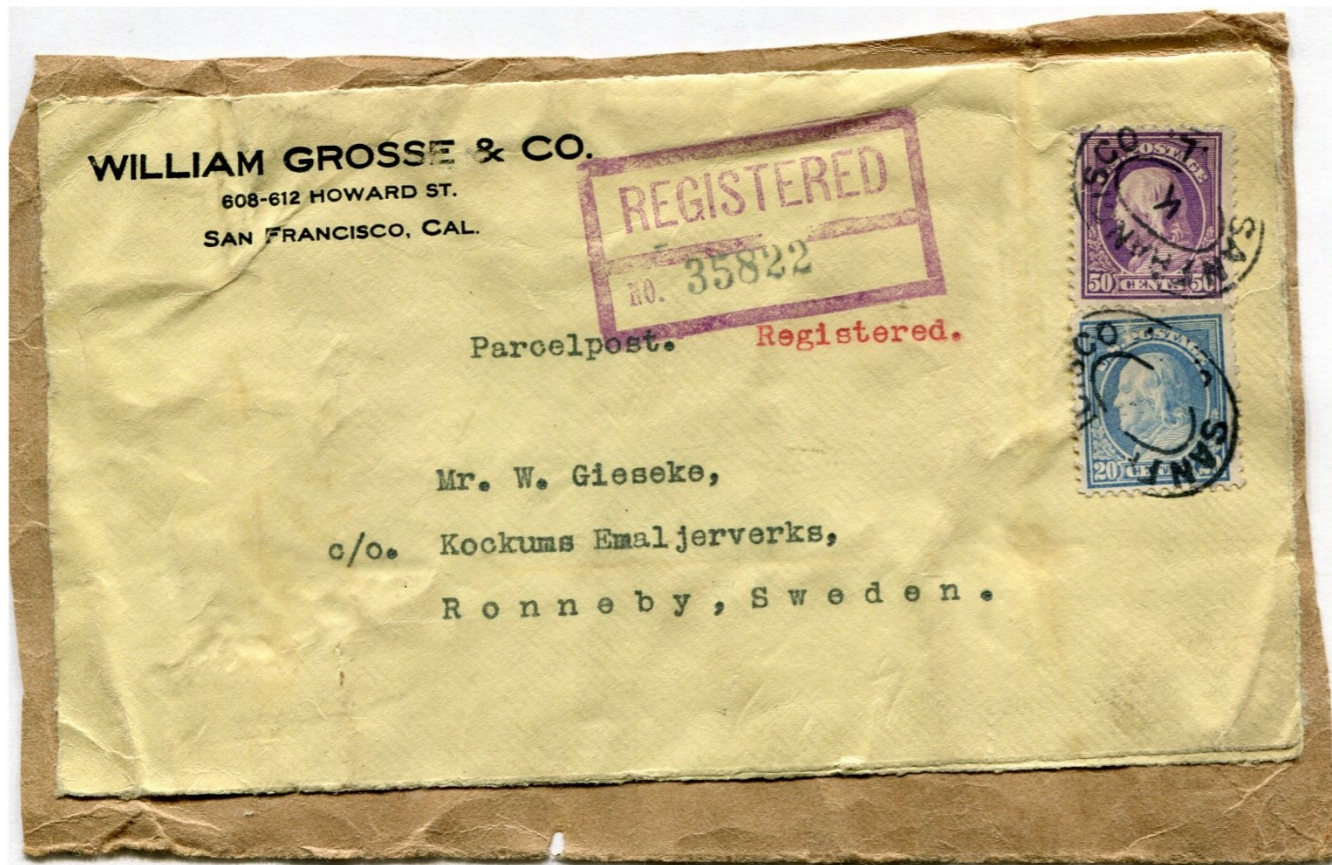
Registration fee 15c 1 Dec 1925-30 Jun 1932

Total fee 43c, 1 Dec 1925-30 Jun 1932

Parcel fee 4-5 lb 5x12=60c 1 Feb 1906-14 Jun 1925

Registration fee 10c 1 Nov 1909-30 Nov 1925

Total fee 70c 1 Nov 1909-14 Jun 1925



3.2 Insurance

The United States did not sign the UPU parcel post convention. Instead they made bilateral agreements with several countries during the 1920s and 1930s. Sweden and USA signed a convention effective 1 July 1932. An important part of the agreement was a regulation of insured parcel mail, with the fees shown in the table below. After 1 July 1932 parcels to Sweden could no longer be registered. Swedish incoming mail statistics in table 5 shows the effect.

Parcel rate 12-13 lb 13x14=182c
 Insurance fee \$50-\$100, 55c
 Total fee 237c
 1 Jul 1932-31 Jul 1953

Table 4. Insurance rates to Sweden

Indemnity	1 Jul 1932	1 Mar 1952	End date
\$0-\$10	20c	20c	25 Mar 1966
\$10-\$25	25c	25c	25 Mar 1966
\$25-\$50	35c	35c	25 Mar 1966
\$50-\$100	55c	55c	17 Apr 1971
\$100-\$200	--	60c	25 Mar 1966
\$200-\$300	--	65c	25 Mar 1966
\$300-\$330	--	70c	25 Mar 1966

Table 5. Number of Incoming registered and parcels from USA to Sweden 1931-33

Year	Registered	Insured
1931	13252	2
1932	5653	4035
1933	0	6997

Air mail parcel rate 8-12oz: 85+2x49=183c
 Insurance fee \$0-\$10: 20c
 Total fee 203c
 15 Mar 1948-30 Jun 1961



3.3 Return receipt

Surface parcel 0-1 lb, 47c
 Insurance fee \$0-\$10, 20c
 Return receipt fee 10c
 Total fee 77c; 1 dec 1953-31 Mar 1959

Customs handling fee in Gothenburg
 Postal customs handling fee 30öre
 Custom house porter fee 75öre
 Total fee 105 öre 1 Oct 1957-31 Mar 1959

3.4. Special delivery



Parcel rate 0-1 lb 14c
 Special delivery fee 20c
 Total fee 34c, 1 Oct 1926-30 Jul 1953

International Parcel Post could normally not be sent Special Delivery, but in Europe inland parcel advice card could be sent Express. The word express is written at right on the third line

3.5 Certificate of mailing

Same rate as for inland mail, 1c/parcel, 26 May 1926-31 Jan 1954

