



Royal Confessions to a Lifelong Friend



Background

This exhibit displays the story of the so-called «Queens letters»; the correspondence between Queen Louise of Sweden and Norway, and her former governess Victoire Wauthier in The Hague. It outlines the postal history of the correspondence in combination with the Queen's own writings and related, contemporary illustrations and objects, and covers the period from Louise's arrival in Sweden in 1850 as Crown Prince Carl's fiancée, until her death in 1871.

The correspondence first became known through two public auctions in 1967, and a selection of covers and letters was shown at a special exhibition at Postmuseum Stockholm in 1968. The correspondence has since been spread on many hands. The following exhibit is therefore believed to represent the most comprehensive display of the Queen's correspondence since Postmuseum in 1968.

Purpose

The exhibit intends to give a broad and representative view of the postal history of the correspondence, as well as an unfiltered insight into the daily life of a Queen, as described in her own words. It examines the various postal routes, postage rates and methods of conveyance used at the time, and outlines the role played by steamships and railroad networks in the development of mail routes between Scandinavia and the Netherlands; all seasoned with the Queen's own thoughts on daily life, gossip, grief and joy.

Choice and display of material

Altogether, the correspondence includes some 200+ recorded letters, all unique in their own right. Not all letters are preserved with contents. From a postal history perspective, many items are duplicated. The selection presented here has therefore been chosen with consideration given to their relative importance for conveying the story of the correspondence as broad and representative as possible.

Catalogue/census references are given as per Facit (F) and Bjäringer/Ryen (BR). Expertized items are marked 'e'. Some objects of particular importance or scarcity included in this selection have been highlighted in blue. A few items unique in an even wider philatelic context are highlighted in red.

Plan

The exhibit is organized thematically, but largely chronologically, as follows:

1. Introduction
2. The Queen's Letters – At a glance
3. Bäckaskog (1852)
4. An heir is born (1852)
5. Long live the Duke of Dalecarlia! (1853)
6. All roads lead to Hamburg (1857)
7. Chronique scandaleuse (1857)
8. In sorrow and grief (1857-60)
9. In the best of families (1861)
10. War breaks out I (1864)
11. War breaks out II (1864)
12. Temporary arrangements (1864-65)
13. Formal dinner - again? (1867)
14. Copenhagen bound (1869)
15. Depuis le mort de la Reine (1871)

Principal sources and literature

- Bjäringer, T. and Ryen, K.: «Royal confessions to a lifelong friend – Swedish & Norwegian Queen Louise's correspondence 1850-1871»
- Dutch, German, Danish, Swedish and Norwegian circulars and postal conventions
- Digital newspaper archives
- Hughmark, G.: «A history of Scandinavian pre-postage stamp foreign mail before 1868»

On right:
The Queen's letters had started to gain fame by the time of Stanley Gibbons' April 1968 auction; a special exhibition at Postmuseum Stockholm in March had been staged to promote the objects.

SCANDINAVIA

19 April 1968



275



160



17



288



257

From the Queen Louise Correspondence
(see also inside front cover)

Stanley Gibbons Auctions
London





214 letters - 214 stories

Each Queen's Letter tells its own story, not just in content but also from a postal history perspective. Louise used just about every postal route, postage rate and method of conveyance available. Although there seems to be few other consistent patterns, Louise would usually synchronize her letter writing with steamship departures (to ensure the very latest of news were shared), and she would normally seek the cheapest way of conveyance possible – she was Dutch, after all! In the end, a letter's fate would probably depend on whichever member of her staff was entrusted the task of delivering the mail for her on any given day – and the choices of a busy postal clerk.



24 enclosures

Victoire Wauthier shared address with Louise's family at Kerplein 32. It was therefore not uncommon for Louise to bundle several letters into one shipment, or to send letters as enclosures to larger parcels. BR: SL44



114 prepaid, franked letters

16 Skilling Banco covers, and 98 Vapen covers. Several covers have multi-weight postage; some are unique in a wider philatelic context. BR: S3, Provenance: Gustaf Douglas, AnnaLisa/Sven Eric Beckeman. 'e'



26 prepaid, stampless letters

Using stamps on prepaid mail first became mandatory in Sweden from 1866. Until then, letters could also be prepaid at the post office, and struck with a «Franco» cancel, in lieu of affixing stamps. BR: SL67



5 partly prepaid letters (Franco Hamburg/Stettin)

Sending letters prepaid to Hamburg was an option. For a few shorter periods of time, it could even be the cheapest overall option, depending on which postal conventions were applicable and how quickly the official rate tables were updated. BR: SL6

27 free letters (Fribrev/Fribrev Cabinet/Par la Légation)

One regular Fribrev (postage post-Hamburg paid by recipient), 22 Fribrev Cabinet (postage post-Hamburg paid by the Swedish Post office in Hamburg), and four Par la Légation (variety of free letter; postage post-Hamburg paid by recipient). BR: SL60

9 unpaid letters

Louise would only rarely send mail unpaid, although this was not uncommon at the time. Most of her unpaid letters are from Norway; the reason probably being that her letters from Christiania were delivered directly to the steamships just before departure. BR: SL51



Bäckaskog – a favorite retreat in Scania

1852

Preparing for Victoire's summer visit

Royal Palace, Stockholm, 18.05.1852

Louise is in happy circumstances! «Oh les plaisirs!»

C. 18 mai 1852

Deux mots cheritje pour vous
remercier de votre lettre
venue hier, avec deux merveilleux
grand plaisir, et je me réjouis
d'avoir tout les détails que possible
mis à votre disposition. Ce sera depuis hier
depuis la que j'aurai à vous
donner les détails!!! je suis déjà
très impatient de les voir, mais
j'attends à ce que cela ait lieu
bientôt, afin de ne pas attendre
longtemps. Je suis sûr que vous
allez avoir avec vous un petit
souvenir! Maintenant tous mes projets sont
faits, les deux voyages, Cassette de voyage, et les
les bagages dans la cassette de voyage, en plus
et je suis sûr de les plaisir!!!



S.D. R.R. N. 71. Remboursement des Américains
Ankündigung der S.R. (Ankündigung der S.R.) 1852

“Two words cheritje to thank you for your letter of the 8th which I received yesterday, the two last ones gave me great pleasure, I am rejoicing myself over being able to give you all possible details during the month of June. That will be from Bäckaskog, the first letter sent from there which I will write to Maman over the possibility that it really is so. I am already in the third month, how time flies,...

Now all our luggage is ready, travelling sac, jewellery box... and at 9 o'clock we steam away! Oh what pleasure!”

Louise is ready and packed for Bäckaskog, and leaves aboard a naval vessel the following day. Her arrival in Scania two days later, on 21.05.1852, was depicted in a contemporary drawing by Fritz von Dardel (insert)

Bäckaskog Castle, 07.06.1852

Prepaid, unfranked - 48 Sk Banco- via Ystad/Stralsund



Prepaid letter sent from Christianstad 07.06.1852, departing the same day from Ystad with postal steamer «Svenska Lejonet» for Stralsund. Total Swedish postage 8 silbergroschen/24 skilling banco, noted in blue and black and crossed out, the latter in favor of a «frco» annotation. Prussian and Dutch postage of 4 sgr each («fr4»), for a total of 16 Sgr or 48 skilling. The black «8» and «9» annotations are letter bill numbers. Wax seal containing Louise's double coat of arms as Princess of Orange/Crown Princess of Sweden and Norway.

The letter was sent in open transit, and therefore has an extensive journey documentation in the form of cancels. This is the only recorded prepaid letter to The Netherlands sent according to the 1847 Swedish-Prussian convention. BR: SL15



Ministry of the Church and Education, Christiania, 18.12.1852
Announcing the birth of an heir to the throne

Royal Palace, Stockholm, 24.12.1852
«J'ai un fils!»

Circulære.

Fra

**Den Kongelige Norske Regjerings
Departement for Kirke- og Underviisnings-Væsenet.**

Efter modtagen Meddelelse om Hendes Kongelige Höihed Kronprindsessens lykkelige Forløsning den 14de d. M. med en Prinds, som i den paafølgende hellige Daab skal gives Navnet Carl Oscar Wilhelm Frederik, har Interims-Regjeringen under samme Dato besluttet:

At vedlagte Taksigelsesbön skal oplæses i Kirkerne paa første Söndag da Gudstjeneste afholdes, efterat Efterretningen om denne lykkelige Begivenhed paa ethvert Sted maatte være ankommen. Efterat Menighedens Andagt og Tanker ere blevne henledede paa dette Forsynets fornyede Bevis paa dets vedvarende Miskundhed og Godhed, skal ved Gudstjenestens Slutning en for Tilfældet passende og af vedkommende Departement bestemt Psalme afsynges.

Fra alle Fæstninger skal, medens denne Psalme i Stedets Hovedkirke synges, gives Salut af 96 Skud.

Fra den Dag at regne, da Taksigelsesbönnen i enhver Kirke bliver oplæst, og siden fremdeles bliver den nyfödde Prinds at indtage i Kirkebönnen for Hans Majestæt og det Kongelige Huus næstefter Hendes Kongelige Höihed Kronprindsessen med de Ord: "Hans Kongelige Höihed Prinds Carl Oscar Wilhelm Frederik".

Ved at meddele Foranförte til Iagttagelse, skulde man hoslagt lade föolge 2 Exemplarer af den ovennævnte Taksigelsesbön, hvorhos til at afsynges overeensstemmende med Resolutionen bestemmes Psalmen: "O store Gud! vi love Dig!"

Christiania den 18de December 1852.

Riddervold.

Free-letter («Portofri Sag») dated Christiania 20.12.1852, addressed to the chaplain of Trondheim parish, giving instructions related to the recognition and celebration of the new heir apparent, including necessary modifications to the Church's liturgy.

Norwegian free-letters required the authorization of a public official, whose signature on the front cover confirmed the letter's official nature.



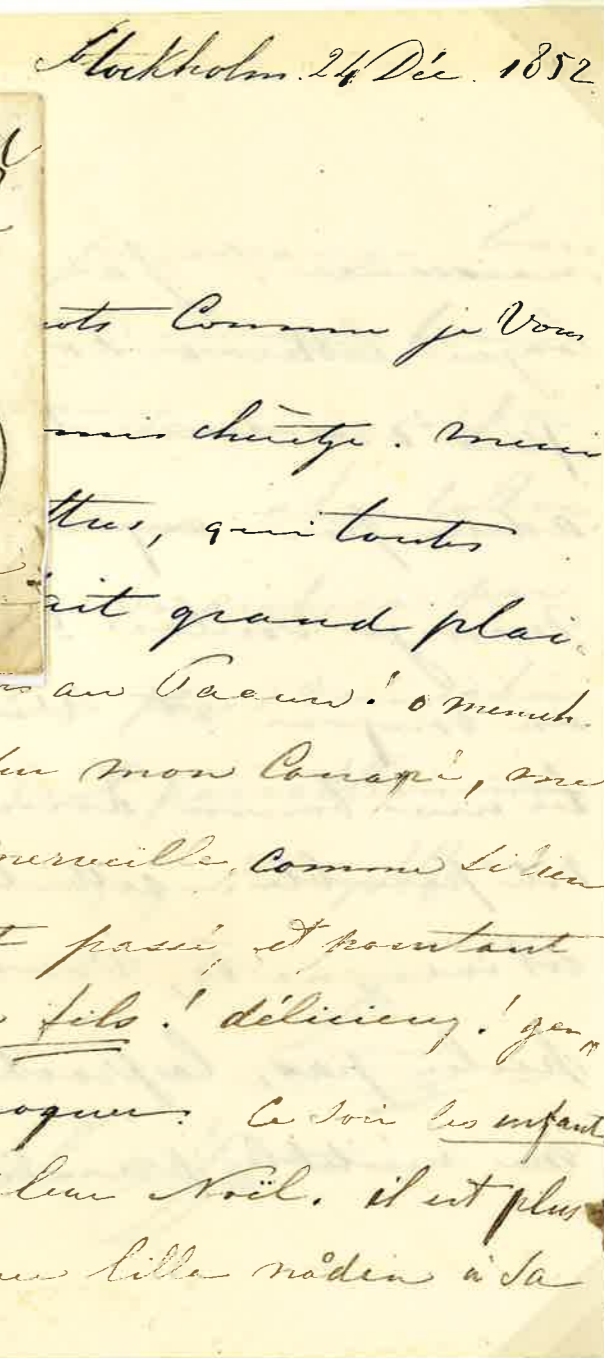
Stockholm, 26.12.1852
Prepaid - 30 Sk Bco - via Denmark overland



Prepaid letter dated 26.12.1852. The new rate of 30 Sk Bco to Holland (annotation in black, lower left corner) was a result of a new Swedish-Danish postal convention, effective 01.07.1852. This corresponded to 10 silbergroschen.
BR: SL23

Carl Oscar Wilhelm Frederik was born on 14 December 1852, and baptized at the Royal Palace in Stockholm on 23 December. Louise's primary task as Queen-to-be; that to produce an heir to the throne, was thereby accomplished. Louise shares the good news with Victoire on Christmas Eve, but wants the letter to be «incognito»; an «official», first letter will follow shortly.

The entire double monarchy joins in the celebrations of the new Prince, but the happiness and joy would not last. Louise's complications after birth, which render her unable to bear any more children, are perhaps a first, ominous sign of what was to follow...



"...I am on my canopy, I feel fantastic, like nothing has happened, and yet I have a son! Delicious! Nice to savour. This evening the children will have their Christmas. He is bigger than lilla näden when she was born!"



...but what's with the mail these days?

Lefna Heltiga Dalarna.

I

1. Charles. Eugénie.
2. Cedestien. Mathilda Bernstr.
3. Hjildebarn. Emma Leijonhufv.
4. Apselia. Augusta & Josephine.

II

Klimkorsningen (Hedra) / Lundby & Liljewalch.

III

Poetjes avsnitt. / Eva & lilla nåden. / Knorrning. / La Noce. / Knorrning & fiammi. / Lundby & fiammi. / Auguste. / Hjildebarn & / Chamb. del. / Leijonhufv. / fiam d' / Platen. / Leijonhufv.

For one night, and one night only...

Acting and playmaking was an important and cherished pastime at the Court of King Oscar and Queen Josefina, and Carl XV and Louise continued the tradition. Family birthdays were often celebrated with staged performances written especially for the occasion. Prince August's birthday on 22 August 1853 was no exception; a special performance titled «Long live the Duke of Dalecarlia!» was prepared and performed, with everyone from stablemaster von Platen to Royal physician Liljewalch participating – in addition to the Royal family themselves, of course. Louise shares the details:

«The third scene was a scene from Dalécarlie (Dalarna), a woman («Poetje», as Louise would call herself) at her spinning wheel, the servant (Eva Leijonhufvud) sitting on a chair with a child (Princess Lovisa, or «lilla nåden») on her lap and holding a hand over the shoulder of the old woman who is spinning and a man (Knorrning) behind them with an axe on his shoulder coming back from work. Enclosed the names of the actors!»

A Royal performance: «The Prince of Arcadia». Louise's nephew Gustaf (later Gustaf V) at bottom left. Water color painting by Princess Eugénie, 1862

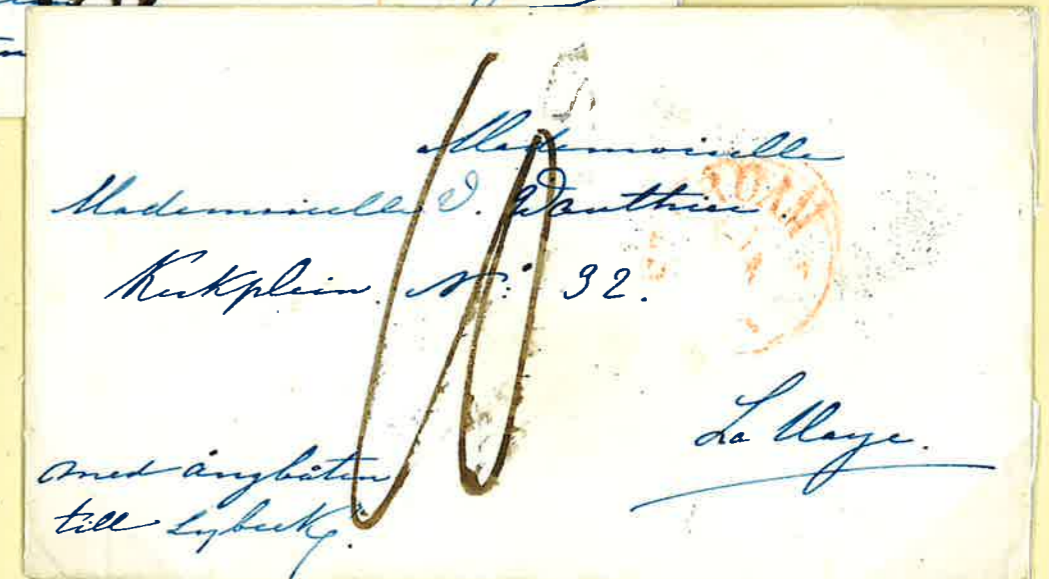


Mail from Sweden to The Netherlands did generally not travel by sea to Amsterdam. However, in summer of 1853, Northern Europe was plagued by a cholera epidemic which disrupted normal mail service. A couple of Queen's letters from this period bear signs of conveyance via Amsterdam. These have likely been sent via the Hamburg-Amsterdam line.

The owner of the steamship line, Paul van Vlissingen, was a close business partner of G.F. Egidius; the Swedish-Norwegian Consul General in Amsterdam, who probably assisted in forwarding the letters from there. «Willem de Eerste» arrived in Amsterdam in regular service from Hamburg on 6 September, corresponding with the date of the Amsterdam cancellations. No other potentially matching ship arrival to Amsterdam on or before this date has been recorded.

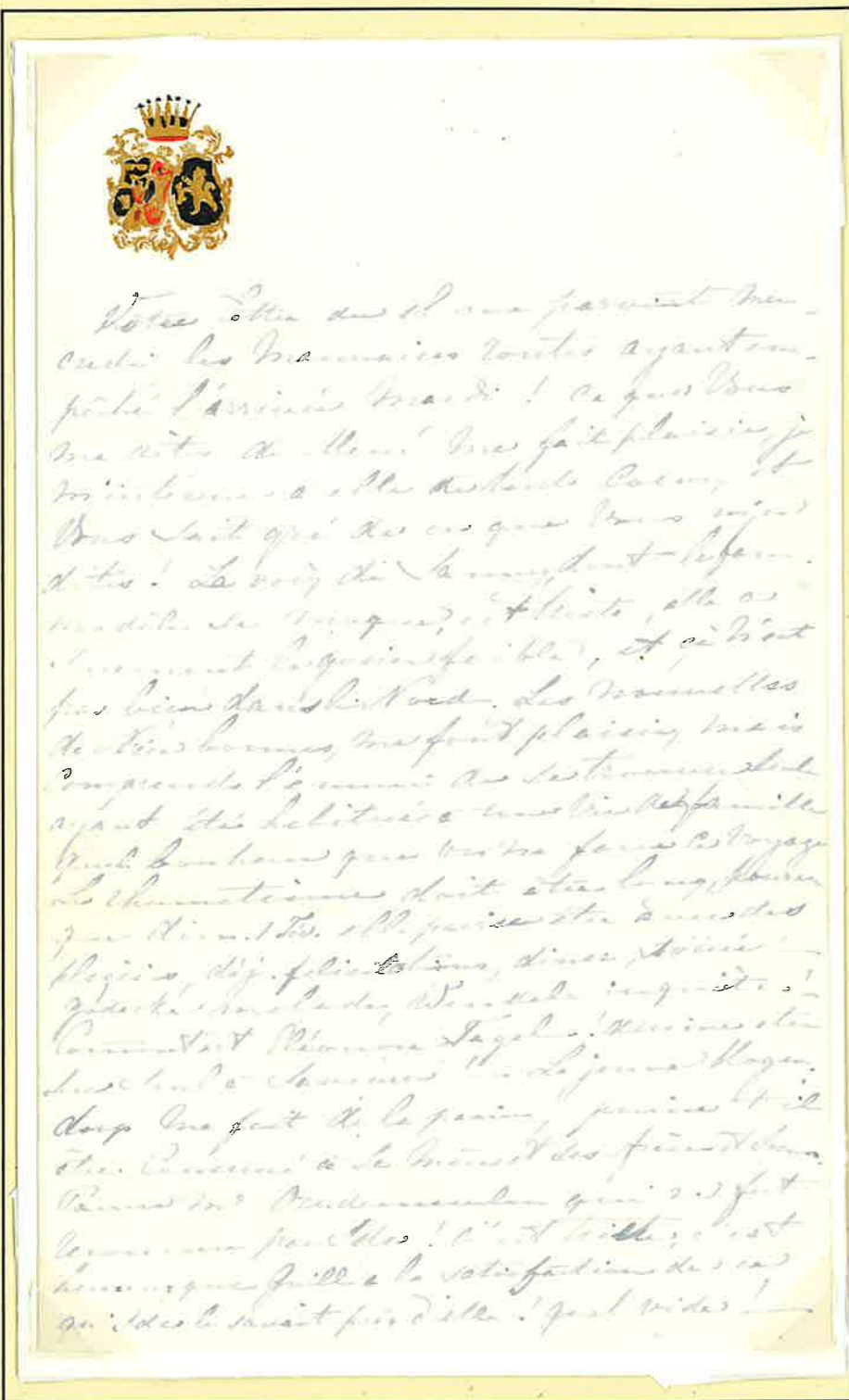


G.F. Egidius



«G.F. Egidius» cancel on envelopes' reverse

Letter 1 dated Tullgarn 27-29.08.1853 with annotations for double letter Dutch postage due of 20 cents and conveyance via Stettin, likely with «Nordstjernen» on 30 Aug, arriving Stettin 31 Aug. Letter 2 dated Tullgarn 31.08.1853 with 10 cents postage due annotation and conveyance via Lübeck, likely with «Gauthiod» on 1 Sep, arriving 4 Sep. Both letters with Amsterdam cancel 6 Sep, 's-Gravehage arrival cancel 6 Sep and «G.F. Egidius» cancel on reverse. BR: SL34 & SL35.



1 The winter route via Sweden
Outside of the steamship season, an overland route via Svinesund and Uddevalla to Helsingborg, and from there via Korsør-Kiel or Nyborg and Haderslev, was used.
Christiania, 27.01.1857. Letter sent as enclosure to parcel via the winter route through Sweden. BR: SL43



Louise did not visit her second realm Norway as often as her husband, Carl XV. However, due to King Oscar's illness, the couple represented the King as viceroys in the nation's capital Christiania for five months in 1857. A handfull of letters from the vice regency period are preserved.

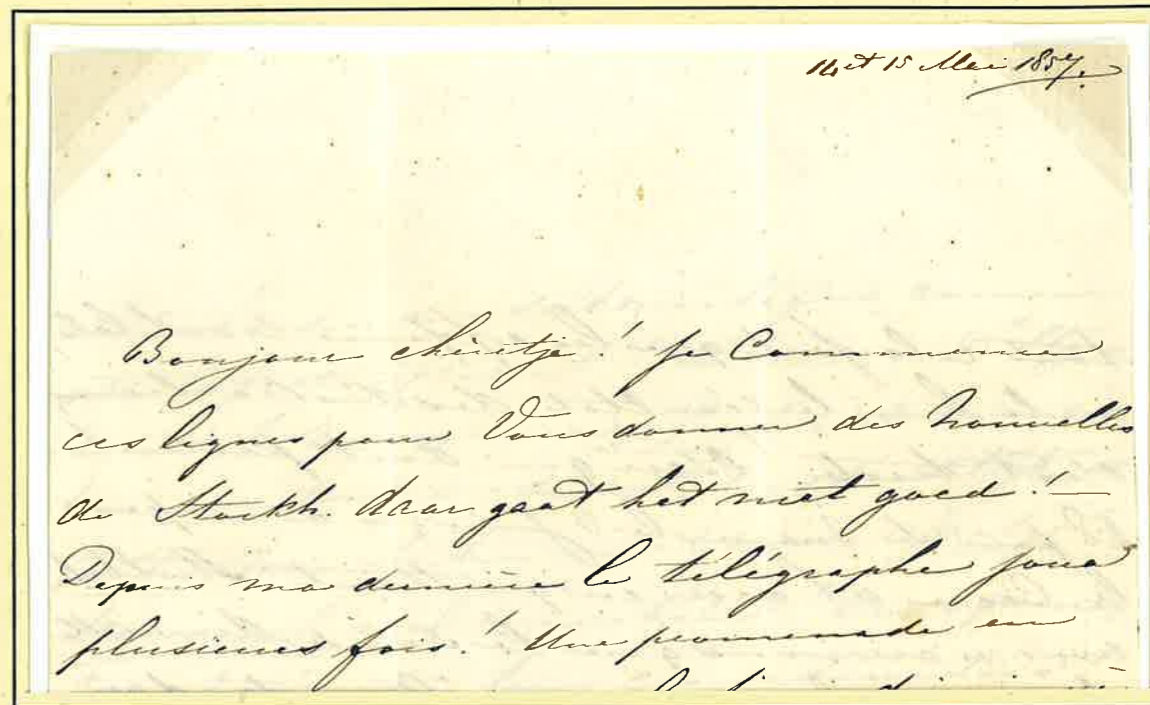
There were principally four main postal routes to the continent from Christiania at this time; one overland winter route over Sweden and Denmark, and three summer steamship routes – all via Hamburg. In order to keep up with the latest news, Louise used them all for her twice-weekly correspondence with Victoire.

Summer postage rates from Norway to the continent were cheaper than winter rates, since Swedish transit postage could then be avoided. Only from 1865 were the rates synchronized.

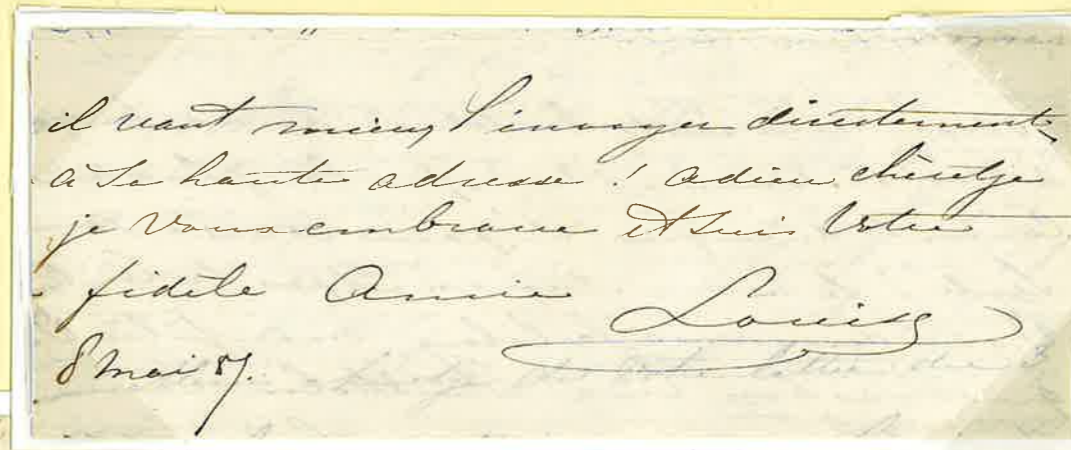


2 Summer route via Copenhagen
Weekly postal steamer service, departing every Saturday morning.
Christiania, 08.05.1857. Letter sent as enclosure to parcel with postal steamer «Kronprindsesse Louise» to Copenhagen. BR: SL50

3 Summer route via Kiel
Weekly postal steamer service, departing every Tuesday at noon.
Christiania, 19.05.1857. Unpaid letter delivered directly to postal steamer «Christiania» prior to departure. Recipient charged 65 Dutch cents upon arrival; «6» corresponds to total Norwegian, Danish and Sea postage of 2 silbergroschen each. BR: SL53



4 Summer route via Hamburg direct
Private steamship service operated biweekly, departing every other Saturday.
Christiania, 16.05.1857. Letter sent as enclosure to parcel with Søndenfjeldske's «St. Olaf» to Hamburg direct via Christianssand. BR: SL52





An illegitimate Prince in the Royal family?

Franco Hamburg
16 Sk (summer rate)+30 cents due - via Kiel per «Christiania»



Partly prepaid letter from Norway dated 21.4.1857, with Sandöund steamship travelling post office cancel used on the Christiania-Kiel route. Prepaid postage to Hamburg was 16 skilling or 6 silbergroschen; the remaining 5 Sgr or 30 cents were payable by recipient. This part of postage was split with 3 Sgr/20 cents to Hamburg and 2 Sgr/10 cents to Dutch post. BR: SL47

«Cette terrible Comtesse (Taube)»

Louise lashes out against promiscuous and indecent behavior at Court, beginning with Hedda Ridderstolpe (Countess Taube), whose 7th child has just been born, illegitimately. It extends to Mistress of the Robes Elisabeth Piper, who is also «famous», but the Queen takes her under her wings due to her high rank. The problem begins at the very top; is there even an illegitimate Prince in the family?

«Brûlez cette lettre»

The double meaning of «Auguste» («noble» in French) and the reference to 26 years (Prince August's age at the time) seem to suggest something about her brother-in-law and his mother Queen Josephine which is of such a delicate nature that Louise requests Victoire to keep the chronicle of scandals to herself, and to burn the letter, so that no one will know what Louise has written about him.

Mademoiselle
Mademoiselle V. Dautherive
Kielplein N. 32.
Kiel.

HAMBURG
24 APR 1857
Le Hays

Mademoiselle, enik achter na
vinn! maar dat het in
zal gaan in t land, als
komt, daarover ben ik jk. Vans, bruly
dij van jagen dans ma
en 'm lacht que le printemps
atte lanti. Je vous teindien
t de ce que nous apprendons
je suis etonné ou pement
op denken moet! a pré
sont je vois vous dire des enfants de cette horrible
Comtesse T. qui a eu un enfant en dernier lieu
1 un fille, malheureux de la conduite de la Reine
2 un fils, officier, mauvais sujet
3 un
4 un d'age de 14 ans } tous né du vivant de
5 une fille âgé de 10 ans } Comtesse Taube, et après
6 un
un enfant dont je vous ai écrit dans ma précédente
de l'un qui est si bien parfois, ne l'est pas dans
ces circonstances! C'est triste, au lieu de tourner
le dos, elle fait l'aimable! Elisabeth Piper, die
is ook fameus, maar son lang fait qu'on
n'a pas le mot à dire Comtesse, en dat men
tussen de vingers fijn moet! affeur!
il y a la belle Saum des Comtesse Adelm et
d'Auguste (Fitta) qui est aussi bien vu au cha
teau, et qui s'amuse avec un simple
soldat de l'artillerie, dat moet iedereen van
goed, mais le nom Leventhaupt egeuse
tout! je trouve qu'on devrait faire sentir
de haut lieu, ou mit men aan t hofte
komen, mais je crois qu'alors il y aurait peu qui

viendrait! Pensez que, Auguste "est fils de
la Reine, mais pas du Roi; is dat mit te zeggen?! De graven
gardy toute cette chronique scandaleuse pour
vous, bruly cette lettre, afin qu'on ne sache
enqu j'ai écrit des Auguste; o heijzen ateligen
dingen, en j'ist die charmant zijn of willen
zijn van t interlyk, die zijn Comme la D. aviti
il y a 26 ans! son exemple est suivi naturel
ment par d'autres, die daar luit in hebben,
en joo gaan de zaken! La belle Knidenn,
dont la famille se trouve a Berlin en Prusse
famille modile! est également charmant
a tous les yeux ici, en Daarin is mit, dat
mit goed is! Mary a écrit a l'abbeine pour
condoler sur la C. Thieldelinde, et annoncer
son mariage alors! on a jamais écrit la
dessus, dites moi si je touche à cette corde
en racontant que Mary a écrit cela, dan zal
ik mogelijk weten de waarheid, si c'est ve
Comme ou non! Ripondy. moi ici dessus le
26 alors je lancerai cette phrase au plus vite,
en is het tyd om er op te passen, et je vous di
en qu'on ripond, anders komt het voort
te voorschijn. - Adieu je vous embrasse
de Coeur, bruly cette lettre et croyez que je
suis toujours la même
Louise
21 April 1857.

Ik zou lust hebben dat de Menschen
hier bij Dornumt zouden geland hebben
hoe of zij als Christenen moeten wandelen!
dat is een bedroevende zaak hier, dat zij dat
niet begripen!



Court mourning

The passing of members of the Royal family was recognized by a period of official mourning, which length would vary in each specific case, depending on the rank and status of the deceased, as well as closeness in family line. Court mourning would usually involve the application of a specific dress code and modifications to the Royal family's official program. It was also observed by using special mourning covers for correspondence, framed in black, and with black wax instead of the usual red for the personal seal.

Carl Oscar, Duke of Södermanland

Stockholm, 14.12.1860: «Today the 14th, 8 years since the birth of my boy!! O Mensch!»

Louise's second child and heir to the throne, Carl Oscar, was not mentioned in Louise's letters after his death at the age of only 15 months in 1852, and according to biographers, she never spoke about him again. In a letter to Victoire written on what would have been the young Prince's 8th birthday, she made a rare exception; «the emptiness is huge after this beloved child! But why murmur? He is happy! That's what's essential!» BR: SL55

Théodolinde de Beauharnais

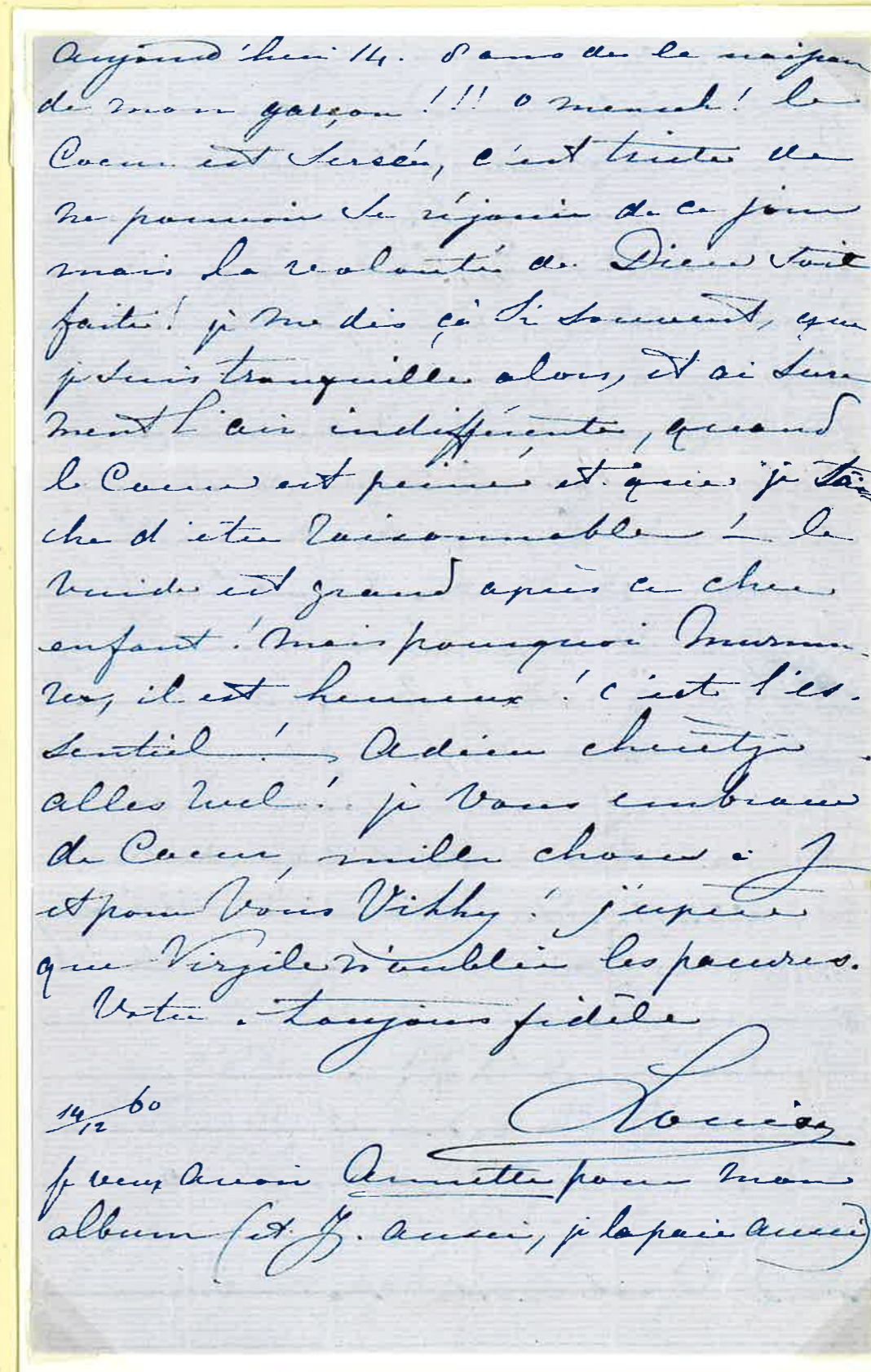
The Countess of Württemberg was Queen Josefina's sister, and her death on 1 April 1857 was observed by Crown Princess Louise, Crown Prince Carl (in Christiania, acting as Viceroys in Norway at the time) and the Swedish and Norwegian Courts with a six week Court mourning.

Unpaid letter sent from Christiania 28.04.1857 with postal steamer «Christiania» to Kiel, with annotation for 65 cents (30 skilling) postage due to be paid by recipient (the erroneous «55» has been crossed out). BR: SL48

King Oscar I

Carl XV and Louise acceded to the throne upon the death of the late monarch of Sweden and Norway on 8 July, 1859. Three months of Grand mourning plus three months of Petit mourning were communicated, and for the first and only time in Swedish history, wearing mourning dress was made mandatory for all citizens.

Free letter (Fribrev Cabinett) from Stockholm 29.08.1859 via Stettin. The letter appeared in a bundle of Queen's letters acquired by Rolf Gummesson in 1970, and has for many years been considered part of the Queen's letter correspondence, although it was actually written by Queen Louise's sister-in-law Princess Eugénie and sent to Louise's mother, Princess Louise of Prussia, with whom Victoire Wauthier shared dwelling until her death. As Victoire herself did not have any heirs, the most likely theory is that her correspondence from Louise – along with this and other letters – followed Louise's sister Princess Marie to Newwied in Germany, between Cologne and Frankfurt, where the letters resurfaced at auctions in 1967-70. BR: X2





Inheritance rows at the Royal Palace



Royal fighting over Queen Desideria's estate

«Enkis», the old dowager Queen Desideria, died on 17 December 1860. Carl XV made little attempt to hide his satisfaction that his almost immortal grandmother had finally given in at the age of 83; he could very well make use of the considerable inheritance that would follow.

Less was his satisfaction over the fact that his mother, dowager Queen Josefina, had already taken matters into her own hands, starting handing out the late Queen's possessions to the chambermaids before having them appraised. Carl XV put his foot down, upon Louise's request, and left his mother furious; «you will understand Queen Josefina was not happy about it!», Louise lets us know.

On right: «Enkis» – dowager Queen Desideria. Charicature drawing by Fritz von Dardel.

By ice boat over Great Belt

Cold weather and icy conditions in the Great Belt remained an obstacle for marine traffic in winter time. During the most adverse weather periods, special ice boats would be used to cross the sound between Korsør and Nyborg. From there, mail would continue the overland route to Hamburg.

For a few days in early February 1861, ice boats were in operation. It would take Louise's letter eight days to get to The Hague from Stockholm instead of the normal five (via Kiel) or six (overland).



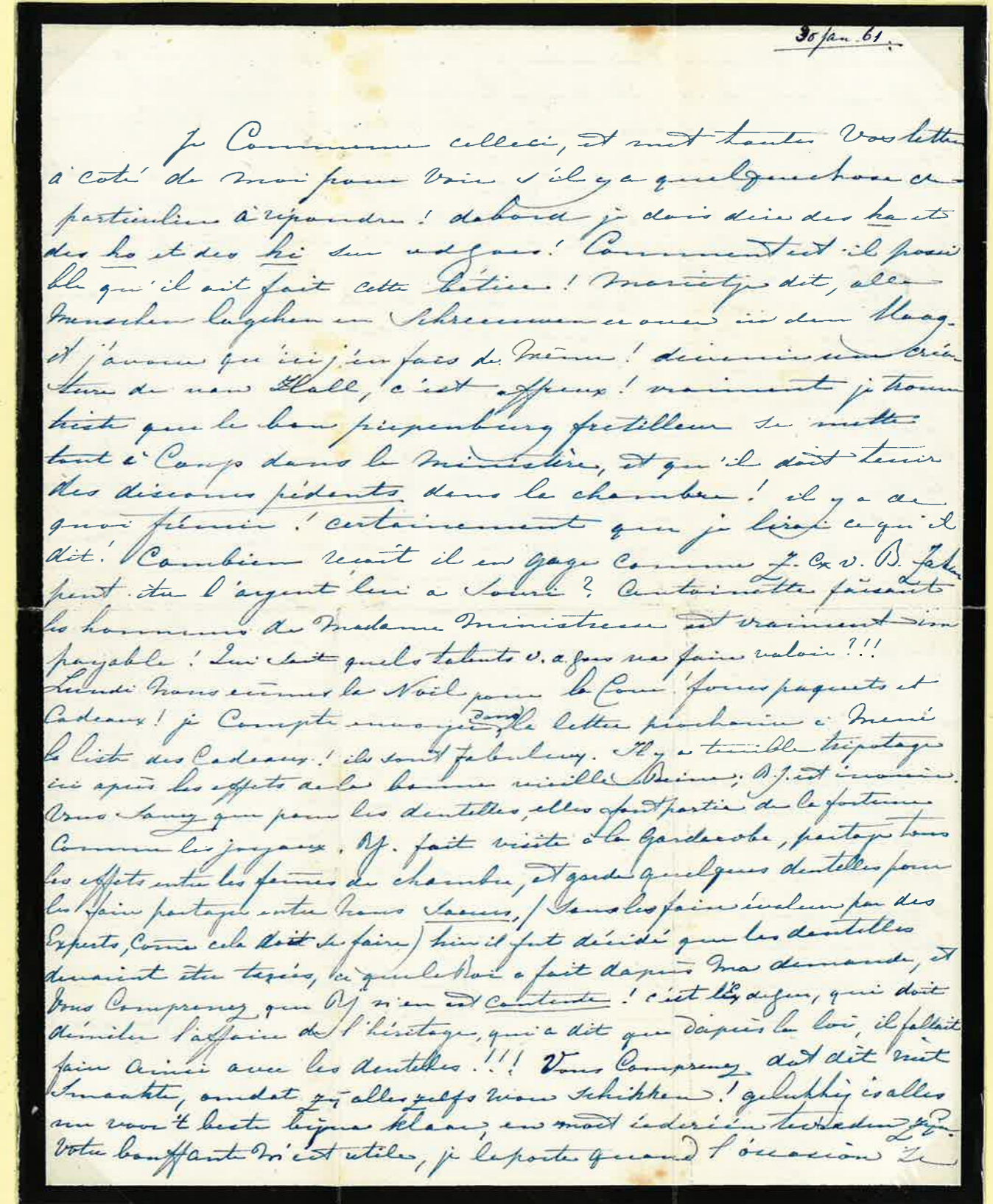
Ice boats had to be dragged by raw manpower across the Great Belt during the icy winter of 1861

Royal Palace, Stockholm, 30.01.1861
Prepaid – 90 öre - via Denmark overland by ice boat



Single weight letter franked with 3xF11, sent from Stockholm 30.01.1861 via Denmark. The oval transit cancel from Hamburg Stadtpost dated 7.2.61 replaced the old «butterfly» cancel from the beginning of that year. Annotation «5» in red for Hamburg (3) and Dutch (2) share of postage of 5 silbergroschen, equal to 45 öre. The cover's black frame is for double court mourning over dowager Queen Desideria, died on 17 December, and Queen Louise's uncle, King Frederick William IV of Prussia, died on 2 January. BR: V13. 'e'

Royal Palace, Stockholm, 30.01.1861: «Il y a terrible tripotage ici...»





The postal route via Warnemünde and Hamburg in closed transit

The Danish-Prussian war, which broke out on 1 February 1864, disrupted winter postal routes over Denmark. An agreement was reached between authorities of Sweden and Mecklenburg-Schwerin for a temporary mail route from Ystad over Warnemünde. Postal steamer «Drottning Lovisa» entered service on 3 Feb, and «Polhem» followed on the 5th. Postal tariffs to the Netherlands would come to depend on method of conveyance; letters in *closed letter packets* to KSPA in Hamburg (*closed transit*) were handed over to Hamburg Stadtpost for further transport, and were therefore subject to the rates of the Hamburg-Netherlands convention of 1857.

KONGL. GENERAL-POST-STYRELSENS
1864. CIRKULÄR. N° 1

Till samtliga Postförvaltare i Riket,
angående ändring i vissa posttaxor.

På grund af en emellan Preussen och Nederländerna nyligen afslutad postkonvention, som med innevarande års början trädte i verkställighet, komma de uti utrikes portotaxan under nr 5 och 46 utsatta bestämmelser att blifva sålunda förändrade, nemligen:

Ov- sag- num- i tolln.	Länder och orter.	Post- skatt för frank- ade och ob- frank- ade brev.	Växelpost.	Postkon- v. nr.	Bestämmelser till fraktning af kartafrankobrev, telegrammer och telegrams- brev, se nr 11.
5	Nederländerna	72	Enligt konv. af 1857. För brev till Nederl. är skatt 3 öre. För brev från Nederl. är skatt 2 öre.	Fraktkonv. nr 5.	Kartafrankobrev 15 öre för brev till 3 öre. Kartafrankobrev till Nederl. är skatt 15 öre. Kartafrankobrev till Nederl. är skatt 15 öre. Kartafrankobrev till Nederl. är skatt 15 öre. Kartafrankobrev till Nederl. är skatt 15 öre.

M
Christine!
Plus vite la poste arrive
par Rostock, plus vite je fais depuis que
le nouvel arrangement postal est
arrangi, mais pas de lettre de Vicky!
une de Mlle de S., une de S. Anne de I.
peut-être attentive, j'espère que les autres
les m'arriveront successivement et que
Vous recevrez de mes anecdotes photo-
graphiques. Je crois que Marie aime de lire
avec Mlle et Anne, qu'en pensez Vous?
Je crois que ces Coquines ne peuvent
laisser la leçon de lecture et que Marie
est Cause qu' Elisabeth se sent souff.
il y a de quoi. Elle se tient encore
tranquille, je croyais qu'elle essayait
de faire visite à Sigrid, mais c'est pour
une autre fois; j'espère que Elisabeth
alors avec le bonheur de rester at home
avec ses chats et que ce sera à l'été
qu' Elle et Sigrid se rencontreront. Les
vieux me semblent agréables pour
cette expédition, pourvu que les pièces
ouf' ouf' mesin milent, dans tout aller
langsam. Je n'ose pas et tout s'arran-
gera. Juste que doit être présente et
ne pas faire de bêtises, afin de bien sup-
porter les choses qui pourraient faire des

Sedan post-fördringen öfver de Danska Hertigdömena blifvit afbruten, kommer till vidare sjöpostförbindelse att hvarannan dag, fram och åter, underhållas emellan Ystad och Warnemünde.
Denna postförelse begynner i morgon den 3 denne månad Ystad, samt följt från och med den 5, hvarannan dag, eller under innevarande månad, hvarje sjunde dag, till på morgnarna från hvardera ändpunkter, Ystad och Warnemünde.
För utländska postens skyndsamma förskaffande emellan Södra Stambanan och Ystad äro särskilda poster anordnade emellan nämnda Stad och Malmö.
Brev, hvilka exempelvis från Stockholm afgå med jernbanan den 5, kl. 6.35 f. m., och hvilka följaktligen skola antingen föregående afton hafva blifvit försäkrade i någon af brevlådorna eller lösa kl. 9 i alla postkontoren eller och såligen en timma före banfärdens afgång bort nedlagda uti den särskilda för järnvägsfart i postbrevets part anbragta brevlåda.
afgå från Ystad den 7. de följt på morgonen, antages samma afton vara i Warnemünde, samt den 8. de strax på e. m. anlända till Hamburg.
Post brev, som den 3 afgåt från Warnemünde, här i regeln den 8. de på e. m. hafva anländt till Stockholm Stockholm den 2. Februari 1864.
G. W. Stael von Holstein.
C. E. Löfgren.



Left: Aftonbladet, 03.02.1864
Right: A new, single letter rate of 72 öre over Prussia was introduced from January 1864, but had limited applicability

Mail sent in *closed transit* was received by KSPA from Prussian post, and received the circular KSPA cancel reserved for such mail before being handed over to Hamburg Stadtpost, which added its oval transit cancel. Hence, the old rate of 90 öre was still valid, and replaced the new 72 öre rate for mail over Prussia which had been communicated in Swedish circular no. 1 of 1864. One franked 72 öre Queen's letter sent in closed transit exists, which has been marked in for insufficient postage; the stampless cover here has been treated as if the full 90 öre rate has been prepaid.



The only recorded stampless cover to The Netherlands sent via Warnemünde. Contents dated 09.02.1864 and including a confirmation of first receipt of mail via the new route. Circular KSPA cancel on the back and oval transit cancel from Hamburg Stadtpost, both dated 15.02.64. Arrival cancel 's-Gravenhage 17.02 and delivery cancel «B2», indicating the 2nd mail delivery round. Blue annotation «10» for Dutch share of postage in cents. Wax seal containing Queen's crowned monogram. On front: Annotation «5» in blue for the sum of Hamburg (3) and Dutch (2) part of postage of 5 silbergroschen and two «franco» cancels. Origin: Unknown, BR: SL84.
Route: 10 Feb - Delivered and paid. 11 Feb - Stockholm - Falköping - Jönköping - Alvesta. 12 Feb - Alvesta - Malmö - Ystad. 13 Feb - Postal steamer «Polhem» was scheduled to depart Ystad early in the morning, but due to storm, departure was delayed until the evening. As a result, the mail bag missed the connecting train from Rostock to Hagenow, and arrived Hamburg on the 15th, one day after schedule. The letter contents confirms receipt of the first mail via Rostock the previous night.



The postal route via Warnemünde and Prussia in open transit



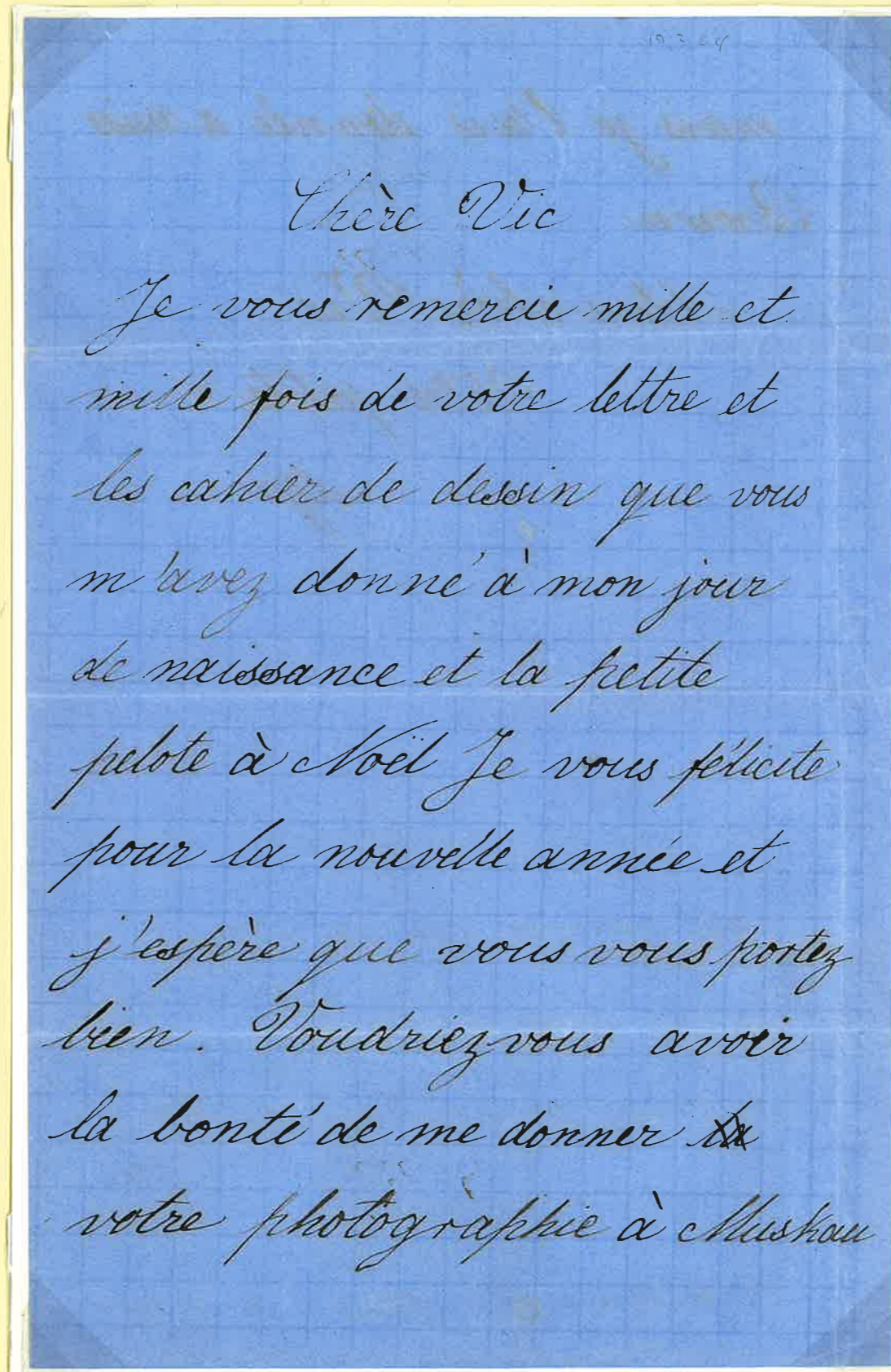
Postal steamer «Polhem» served the Warnemünde route



As a result of a new Dutch-Prussian convention, rates from Sweden to the Netherlands were reduced with effect from 1.1.1864 for mail over Prussia. Through agreement with Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the rate also became applicable for mail via Warnemünde, but only for mail sent in open transit, as handling by Hamburg Stadtpost could then be avoided. Letters sent via Warnemünde in open transit only display a Rostock transit cancel on the back. Unlike mail sent in letter packets to KSPA (closed transit), they do not include KSPA or Hamburg Stadtpost cancellations, as they were handled by Prussian post directly. Only three such covers exist, as proof of a postage rate which in effect was only in use for 53 days.



Letter sent from Stockholm 22.02.1864 via Ystad, departing in the early morning on 25.02 with «Polhem» for Warnemünde. Total rate 72 öre/8 silbergroschen. In line with the 1863 Dutch-Prussian convention, the Prussian share had been reduced from 3 to 2 sgr, and the Dutch share from 2 to 1 sgr. Rostock transit cancel on back; blue annotation «w(eiter)franco)1», for 1 silbergroschen reimbursable to Dutch post. BR: V23. Provenance: Klaus Michtner



Lilla Näden/Ltje; portrait photo by Eurenus & Quist, Stockholm, 1864.

Louise's letters would sometimes include enclosures and letters from others, including from her own daughter; little Princess Louise, or «Ltje», as she would call herself:

"I thank you a thousand and thousand times for your letter and the drawing book which you gave me for my birthday and the little ball for Christmas. I wish you a happy new year and hope that you are doing well. Would you be so kind to give me your photograph to Muskau, mine I have given to miss Brown. Goodbye dear Vic, your little Ltje"

-Letter from Princess Lovisa to Victoire Wauthier, 19.03.1864. The letter was sent as an enclosure to other mail by the new postal route via Warnemünde, departing from Ystad with postal steamer "Drottning Lovisa" on 22 March, arriving in The Hague three days later.



New postal routes via Lübeck and Stralsund

A new and confusing postage rate....

Mail via Lübeck and Hamburg fell under the 1857 Hamburg-Netherlands convention, meaning the new 72 öre rate over Prussia fell short of covering the Dutch share of postage according to this convention. Letters were therefore treated as paid up to the Dutch border only, and struck with a «Franco Grenze» cancel. Remaining Dutch postage of 10 cents (18 öre) was paid by the recipient. The delay in communication of changes through Dutch circulars initially caused some confusion for Dutch postal officials.



...and a new, main postal route



A new Malmö - Lübeck route replaced Ystad-Warnemünde as the main postal route from Sweden from April until November 1864. This route, too, would have a short life; it was replaced already the following year.

Mail from Sweden and Norway over Lübeck was received by the Danish post office (KDOPA) in Lübeck, which operated a monopoly on mail to and from Scandinavia. From 1860, letters were struck with a rectangular KSPA (D) cancel when received by the Swedish post office KSPA in Hamburg, thereby differentiating it from that received from Prussian postal services.



Royal Palace, Stockholm, 15.04.1864

Prepaid - 72 öre to Dutch border - via Malmö/Lübeck



Letter franked with 3x F10, sent 15.6.1864, arriving Malmö in the afternoon on the 17th for the 3 pm departure for Lübeck with postal steamer «Drottning Lovisa». The postage rate of 72 öre/8 silbergroschen was only valid until the Dutch border, hence the annotation «3» in red for Prussian share of postage of 3 Sgr and the «Fr(anco) Grenze» cancel. Dutch postage of 10 cents was payable upon receipt. Oval transit cancel from Hamburg Stadtpost, rectangular KSPA (D) cancel and Dutch arrival cancel (The Hague) on reverse. BR: V36. e'

Bäckaskog Castle, 01.08.1865

Prepaid - 63 öre - via Malmö/Stralsund



Letter franked with 2x F11+F14, sent from Christianstad 1.8.1865. Total postage of 63 öre/7 silbergroschen including Dutch postage. Swedish share was 1,75 Sgr plus half of the sea postage of 2 Sgr, leaving 4,25 Sgr to be shared between Prussian post (1+2,25 Sgr) and Dutch post (1 Sgr), which is noted in red. «Aus Schweden» origin cancel from Stralsund, 3 Aug Stralsund-Berlin railway cancel on reverse indicated the letter departed «Pommerania» from Malmö on the 2nd This is the only recorded 63 öre cover sent to The Netherlands. BR: V42. e'

Railway expansion cuts travel time

By 1865, the Swedish railway network had expanded to include a direct connection between Stockholm and Malmö. The network expansion is indeed also why the letter is sent from Christianstad; the Royal couple combined a trip to their summer retreat at Bäckaskog with official opening ceremonial for the Christianstad-Hässleholm railway on 29 July.



On the German side, Stralsund had been added to the railway network in 1863. That opened up for a revival of the old seaway connection between Scania and Stralsund.

An even more short-lived postage rate

The 63 öre postage rate lasted only for five months; from 1.5 - 30.9.1865, and coincided with a temporary steamship service between Malmö and Stralsund for the 1865 steamship season. Both were a result of a new postal convention of 31.7.1864 between Sweden and Prussia, which in practise first came into use with the opening of the 1865 steamship season. The route was served by Swedish steamers «Oskar» (summer) and «Sofia» (winter), and from the Prussian side by postal steamer «Pommerania».

On right: Prussian steamer «Pommerania» departing from Stralsund.





...with a heart for the less privileged

Stockholms Slott.

Copie impayée vendue

Contenant

*1 paire de manchettes / si Downend peut
acheter les vendre (modem
je serai ravie)*

*4 Coupes dentelles que j'ai
acheté d'une pauvre femme
j'aimerais les vendre.
C'est un ouvrage du Nord
norvégien au fond*

*31 Annees pour lesquelles j'ai
payé 40 florins*

Si vous pouvez parler avec

High season for Louise's charitable engagements

Louise was as frugal as any Dutch person can be, and had an almost ascetic approach to her own, personal finances. That did not stop her from going out of her way to support friends and others in financial need, but many times under the condition that her name and involvement should not be made known. She engaged lively in trade, often in benefit of poor craftsmen and -women, and was patron of many charities, including some founded by herself.

The period from Christmas until Easter was high season for Louise's charitable engagements and fundraising, which her letters will sometimes reflect.

New tariff reduction

The 49 öre rate was the result of both a Swedish and a Prussian rate reduction; the Swedish rate was lowered from 1,75 to 1 silbergroschen, and the Prussian rate from 2,25 to 1,50 from 1.10.1865. Dutch and sea postage remained unchanged at 2 and 1 silbergroschen, respectively, for a total of 5,5 Sgr vs. previously 7,0.

Mail from Stockholm to the continent would now travel via rail either to Malmö or Ystad for transit via Denmark or Stralsund, and only exceptionally via Lübeck with the private steamers which still operated this direct route.



Letter sent from Stockholm via Denmark 06.02.1867, franked with 2x F7, F8 & F11. This is the most common franking for the 49 öre rate; 29 out of 50 recorded 49 öre Queen's letters are franked this way. Arrived The Hague 10.2 (arrival cancel in red and delivery cancel «D2»). Annotation «3 1/2» in red for the total postage reimbursable to Prussian post in silbergroschen, of which 1 Sgr for Dutch post. Blue annotation «1w(eiter)ff(ranco)». Red wax seal containing the Queen's crowned monogram.



The Swedish post office in Hamburg was still in operation at this time, and would receive mail over Korsør-Kiel via Preussische Eisenbahn-postbureau No 3; the Kiel-Hamburg line. Prepaid mail was from 1865 cancelled with an oval «FRANCO.» cancel at the Swedish post office in Hamburg as well as at other Swedish border post offices. BR: V68. e'

Stockholm, 17.12.1866: Louise has been shopping for handicrafts, apparently lace of Norwegian origin for 40 florins or 60 kroner, from a «poor lady» at the Christmas market. She is asking Victoire to check with (Benjamin) Downend, one of her trading contacts in The Hague, if he is interested in buying it, and perhaps he can help clean Louise's rug as well?

Right: Louise, Queen Josefina, Lilla näden, Princess Eugénie and their Ladies-in-waiting shopping at Stockholm's Christmas market, 1861. Water color painting by Princess Eugénie.



The party King and the home-loving Queen

Being a Queen came with many representative responsibilities and required above average social skills. Unlike her husband, who never said no to a party, Louise did not enjoy it; she preferred a *stil, huiselijk leven*, as she would put it. One such responsibility was hosting members of the Riksdagen (Parliament) for dinner. Louise had opposed the parliamentary reform in 1865-66, and was conservative in her view of how a monarch should wield his power. Her letter makes it clear that the dinner with the politicians will not be an amusement, but sometimes, even a Queen has to give in...

Fribrev Cabinet and the Free Letter privilege

Members of the Royal family had enjoyed free-letter privileges since the erection of the Swedish postal service in 1636. By Royal decree of 22 April 1830, it was instructed that a specific Stockholm free-letter cancel was to be used, and that records of all free-letters sent were to be kept for accounting purposes.

Royal free-letters sent abroad were under the responsibility of the Cabinet for International Mail Exchange; an entity under the Chancellery of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hence the term «Fribrev Cabinett». Postage due to foreign postal services was paid by KSPA in Hamburg.

Queen Louise and other members of the Royal family would irregularly make use of their free-letter privileges. Free-letters were normally subject to inspection. It can be established that this was not the case for Fribrev Cabinett, and most of Queen Louise's letters sent this way are sealed with her personal wax seal.



The party King; Carl XV. Portrait photo by Mathias Hansen, Stockholm, 1866

*C'était très amusant! c'était un
petit plaisir de 20 minutes je pense -
Mais qui était agréable, j'avais cher
Lottbryggel avec moi qui montait
par l'escalier! Comme parfois le
devoir des Rois doit aller au-delà
les sentiments de la cour, les devoirs
au-delà de demain deux comités au-delà
à dîner, ce n'est pas un amusement,
Mais une vraie corvée! Si l'ital
d'Auguste ne dev
S'il est moins bien
ces messieurs ont
N'était pas oublié
bonne volonté,
tis furent expédiés
21 et 24 finis - 24 mars, après
Comité chose facile
meur dat gast hos.
je vous embrasse
Votre fidèle
Louise*



*J'avais fermé ma lettre
Mais j'ai vu par la réception de l'après-midi 23 -
Vos lettres successivement lettres télégrammes et ites au fait de
tout. Les a été j'espère et de mon cœur avec le genre de
Wider des se passant le soir de l'année. Merci de votre
fidèle participation à nos inquiétudes! - Adieu, sur votre*

Above: Louise has to host a dinner for members of Parliament, and is not happy about it. Insert: Formal dinner at Ulriksdal 1867. Louise in the middle with monocles. Contemporary drawing by Fritz von Dardel.



Free-letter (Fribrev Cabinet) from Stockholm 28.04.1867 via Kiel and Hamburg. Oval «FRANCO» cancel used by KSPA in Hamburg and other Swedish border post offices. Total tariff 49 öre/5,5 Sgr; annotation «3 1/2» in red for Dutch (1) and Prussian (2,5) share of postage in Sgr. On reverse: Kiel-Hamburg railway cancel, Dutch delivery and arrival cancels. Red wax seal with Queen's greater coat of arms. 22 out of 100 stampless Queen's letters recorded are sent as Fribrev Cabinett; most of them during 1861-62. BR: SL98.



Lilla nåden leaves the nest

Crown Princess Louise of Denmark

Princess Lovisa - Lilla nåden - was engaged to Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark at Bäckaskog Castle in July 1868, at the age of 17. A year later, the couple married in Stockholm, and her inevitable move to Copenhagen was soon a fact; the Royal couple entered the Danish capital in August 1869. A few weeks later, having overseen her daughter's move, Queen Louise returns to an empty nest in Stockholm. She retrieves her plume and paper, and commences to write what will ultimately be the last recorded Queen's Letters. In only a short time, both the King and Queen Louise herself would also leave Stockholm Royal Palace for good - but for much different reasons.



The 30 öre rate was a result of a new Swedish-Dutch postal convention of 1868, with subsequent amendments and rate adjustments valid from 1.1.1869 for letters sent in closed transit through Denmark and directly to the Netherlands. The rate was equally divided between Sweden and The Netherlands, each country bearing the expenses for transit postage.

The normal route of conveyance from Stockholm was via the Södra Stambanan railway line to Malmö, and via Korsør to Kiel by steamship, from where transport was done by railway to The Hague. The full distance could now be covered in as 2-3 days. As mail was sent in closed mail bags for the entire journey from the Swedish border post office, letters do not bear any Danish or German transit cancels.



Letter franked with F11, sent 29.09.1869 from Stockholm in closed transit through Denmark and directly to the Netherlands. The letter was first sent by train to Malmö via Södra Stambanan, as can be seen from the Pkxp Nr 2 cancel. Dutch arrival cancel of 02.10.1869 and delivery cancel «D22», indicating the letter was delivered on the fourth delivery tour of the day. The Stockholm Tur cancel is an anomaly. Like the Dutch delivery cancel, it was primarily used to state the delivery round on which a letter was delivered. It was also used for cancelling local mail, and as such it should not be expected on a Queen's letter sent abroad. This is the only Queen's letter recorded with this cancel. All in all, six Queen's letters exist with the 30 öre franking, including the very last Queen's letter recorded, sent 10.10.1869. BR: V95.



LE PRINCE ROYAL FRÉDÉRIC DE DANEMARK ET SA FIANCÉE LA PRINCESSE LOUISE DE SUEDE, d'après des photographies. — Voir le Bulletin.

Princess Lovisa of Norway and Sweden becomes Crown Princess Louise of Denmark. Like today, Royal engagements received much international attention from the European press; this one was no exception. From «L'univers Illustré», Paris, 19.09.1868.



376

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

APRIL 15, 1871

672

THE LATE QUEEN OF SWEDEN.

The late Queen, Wilhelmina Frederica Alexandrina Anna Louisa, Princess of Orange, and Queen Consort to King Charles XV. of Sweden and Norway, was a daughter of Prince William Frederick of the Netherlands, who is uncle to the King of Holland. She was born Aug. 5, 1828, and married in June, 1850. Her Majesty was much esteemed and beloved in Sweden, as a good wife and mother and a gracious Queen. Her health and strength had lately declined, and when she was seized with illness she could not throw it off. In December her mother, Princess William Frederick of Holland, died. At that inclement season the Queen had gone to be with her mother in her illness, when her voyage and journey having been attended with much fatigue, the seeds of her last disease were doubtless sown. No sooner had she returned home than the King became seriously ill, when she attended on him night and day, and this performance of duty has proved too much for her, the husband and family having now to lament the loss of one for whom, it may be truly said, three nations mourn with them. The King was in a very feeble state; but he insisted on being carried to see the Queen before her death, when her daughter, Princess Louise, and her husband, the Crown Prince of Denmark, who had arrived from Copenhagen two days before, were also present. The Crown Princess of Denmark is her Majesty's only surviving child; the only other—a son—having died in early infancy. On the death of that son the King gave



THE LATE QUEEN OF SWEDEN.

vent to his grief in a poem, which appears in his published writings. It may also be remarked that the Queen was an author of some repute, having, under the *nom de plume* of "Jane Voncome," published in Swedish a translation of an English work called "The Labourers in the Vineyard," of which the profits were devoted to charitable purposes.

SIR J. BENEDICT.

Jules Benedict was born at Stuttgart on Dec. 24, 1804. The favourable social position held by his family ensured for him a deliberate and thorough art-training, and a liberal education, that have sometimes been denied to musicians less fortunate in their early surroundings. After completing his preliminary studies, the young artist was sent, in 1819, to Weimar, where he had the advantage of the instruction of Hummel in pianoforte-playing, in which accomplishment he earned great distinction at an early age. The good effects of his studies in this direction have continued to be manifested, both in solo performances and in that excellence as an accompanist which has long been one of the many distinguishing merits of the subject of this notice. The most important epoch, however, in his art-career was his visit to Dresden in 1820, and the commencement of that double relation of pupil and friend to the immortal composer of "Der Freischütz," Carl Maria von Weber, which had so powerful an influence on the progress of the former as a dramatic composer. Various journeys were made by master and disciple—among other places to Berlin and Vienna, at which latter city, in 1823, the younger composer first entered on active theatrical occupation as



Memorial coin in pewter, issued to commemorate the death of Queen Louise on 30 March, 1871 (Lea Ahlborn, Stockholm 1871)

When Victoire Wauthier turned 72 on 4 April, 1871, there was no birthday letter from Stockholm, for the first time in many years. Another, combined birthday/condolance letter from that day bears Victoire's inscription; «depuis le mort de la Reine». Louise's death at the age of only 42 five days earlier came as a shock to many, not least to her husband, Carl XV, who in despair burned most of her personal diaries and archives. Louise's correspondence is therefore not just unique in a postal historic and philatelic context; it also remains the single, most important primary information source about her personal life. Thanks to Victoire Wauthier, and perhaps with a little help from Louise's sister Marie, her legacy lives on – through *The Queen's Letters*.

Kristianslands Stiftsavis og Adresselouters-Efterretninger. Et Særtryk af det kongelige Brev, som den Kongelige Højhednede Dronning Louise... Hendes Majestæt Dronning Louise... Et Særtryk af det kongelige Brev, som den Kongelige Højhednede Dronning Louise...