



## GOTHENBURG CITY POST (Göteborgs Stadspost)

20 February 1888 – 23 March 1889

On 20 February, 1888, the station bookkeeper Nils Fredrik Wiberg reported to the city's commercial register that his wife Ellen Maria Wiberg intended to operate under the name Göteborgs Stadspost. Ellen Maria, who was barely 24 at the time, was probably just a front for her husband Nils Fredrik.

Since the earliest known postmarks are from Friday, 13 April, I believe this is the actual start date of Gothenburg City Post.



Gothenburg City Post had a number of yellow-painted mail-boxes installed.

The most common rates were: postcards and freight notes: 2 öre, letters: 3 öre (later on 2 öre), printed matter and open letters: 2 à 4 öre.

Towards the end of the business, in early 1889, Wiberg tried to increase profitability by charging 2 öre even for single letters. It is possible that Stadsposten sold its 3 öre stamps at a discount.

The profitability of the City Post Office became in due course increasingly poor and after negotiations about merging with Gothenburg Private Local Post failed, the company was closed down on 23 March, 1889.

*The purpose of this exhibit is to show the development of Gothenburg City Post, through the stamps, envelopes and stationeries that were produced for use. The exhibit also shows the production of stamps by showing proofs, misprints, paper and the gumming and perforation of stamps. The exhibit also shows the use of stamps on real items, and which cancellations have been used by Gothenburg City Post.*

*Plan: Chap. 1: Introduction.  
Chap. 2: Production.  
Chap. 3: The Use.  
Chap. 4: The Stationery.  
Chap. 5: Cancellations.*

### Bibliography:

1. Falk, Hilding, *Den svenska lokalposten*, Stockholm 1967.
2. Olsson, Bo, *Göteborgs Stadspost 1888-1889*, Bältespännaren 1986:2, pp 21-27, 1986.
3. Anders, Sigge: *Lokalpostens makuleringsstämp-  
lar 1887-1947*, SFT Filatelisten, nr. 4-9, 2006.
4. Hederstierna, Claes: *När startade Göteborgs  
Stadspost?*, SFT Filatelisten, nr. 6, 2009.
5. Hederstierna, Claes: *Göteborgs Stadspost*,  
64 sid; Falkenberg, 2021.



*Towards Brunnsparken. Contemporary photography.*

*I document my studies and research on this City Post by showing different forms of production and use in the exhibit, also with an eye towards Context Philately. This has then resulted in my publishing the results in the booklet Göteborgs Stadspost.*



1888, 13 April  
1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre



The City Post office issued only three denominations: 1 öre, 2 öre and 3 öre. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10) stamps with selvages all around.

Ten (5x2) transfertypes were used. All of them show small differences, which make it possible to distinguish between the ten different types, I-X, in each block of 10 and which are then included ten times in a full sheet. The stamps are printed in lithography and line-perforated 11½.

The editions for the three stamps are unknown, but must have been considerable as they are still easy to obtain today.

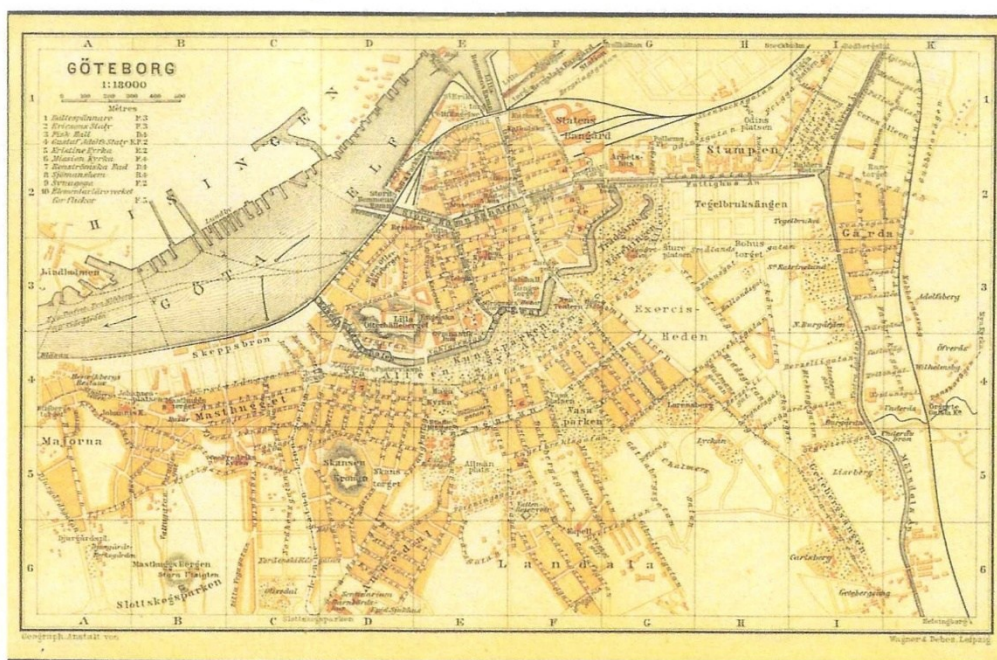
According to information, the stamps were printed during the week before the start of operations. All stamps were in use throughout the entire period of operation. The remaining editions were sold to traders and collectors at a discount. Order cancellation also occurred, which can be seen when several postmarks are found on one and the same stamp.



1888, 13 April  
1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre



On Thursday, 12 April, Gothenburgers could read about its launch in an advertisement on the front page of Göteborgs-Posten.



Townmap from 1890

In connection with the start, a circular was sent out which added: "...delivered within the city of Gothenburg, but for the time being not outside Stigbergsliden and Nya Kyrkogården." Stigbergsliden can be seen in the middle of the left edge, just south of the riverbank, and Nya Kyrkogården is located just outside the upper right corner of the map.



1888, 27 April

3 öre



27.4.1888

In a circular dated 12 April, 1888, as previously mentioned, the company had announced that mail was not delivered "... outside Stigbergsliden". However, here, just two weeks later, this letter was actually delivered beyond Stigbergsliden to Karl Johansgatan 11.

The picture was taken in June 1888, only two months after Teresea received her letter. On the left is Majornas Girls' School. On the right is the first house with the address Karl Johansgatan 7. The second house, with balconies, is number 9. The third house is number 11 and that is where Teresea Andersson lives on the second floor. It is a so-called County governor's house. In the background is Karl Johans Church.

In a classic Gothenburg joke, this part of the street is called "The Hammock" because of its curved appearance.





1888, 13 April  
1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre

### Proofs



type I



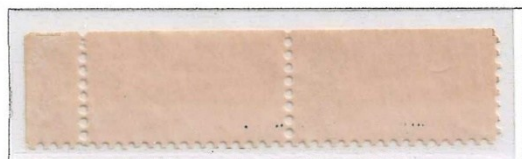
type x



types II, III and VII, VIII

Types I-X refer to respective transference type. See next page.

### Paper and Gum



The paper is thin and relatively soft, but not porous, and slightly tinted. The average thickness of the paper is 0.075 mm.



Gumming was done by applying a simple gum arabic solution. The nature of the solution meant that it gave a brownish tone. It is not uncommon for the front side to have stains from the gum and parts of the edges of the sheet margins to have been gummed..





1888, 13 April

1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre

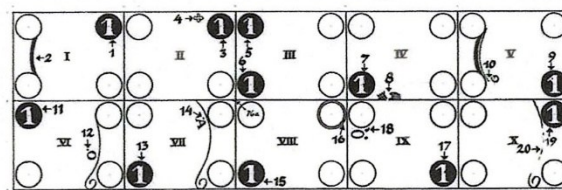
Transfertypes



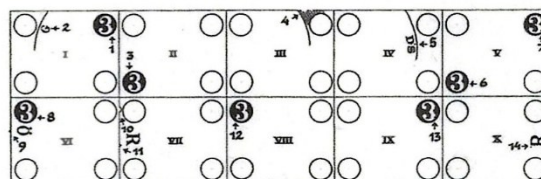
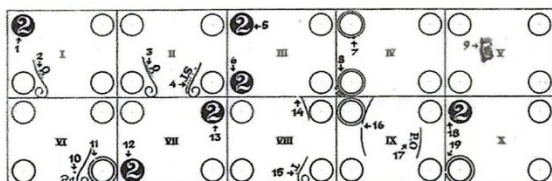
pos. in the sheet: 21-25, 31-35.

As mentioned, ten (5x2) transfertypes were used. All of them show small differences, which make it possible to distinguish the ten different types in each block of 10, which are then included ten times in a full sheet.

The different types are marked I-X for each value.



pos. in the sheet: 21-25, 31-35.



pos. in the sheet: 66-70, 76-80.



1888, 13 April

1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre

*Embossing print and perforation*



Note: The embossing print is inverted and in the selvage, perpendicular to the mark.



Embossing printing is a printing method that results in an image that is partially raised from the paper surface. Here, GÖTEBORGS has been embossed in an arc at the top, and STADSPOST in a straight line below it in the selvage. Parts of the embossing usually hit the upper right corner mark in the map.

On the 1-öre sheets the embossing were usually done in the right part of the upper selvage and facing right. Regarding the 2 and 3-öre sheets the location of the embossing varies and it can be reversed, i.e. made from the back.

The perforation was in the form of line perforation 11½. The sheet selvage show the characteristics of line perforation with perforated selvage and all perforation corners are different.



1888, 13 April  
1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre  
Variants

Double perforation



Rough perforation



Right side imperforated



Line perforation can give rise to a few different variations. Here are those known within the City Post. All are rare and only known in a few.

Double perforation can occur when the sheet is offset. Rough perforation occurs when the perforation tool becomes worn. Deficiencies in the perforation operation can result in untoothed marks vertically or horizontally.

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1889, 1 February

3 öre

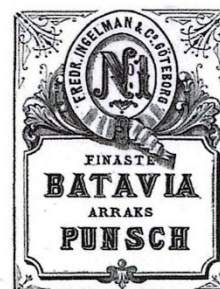
Envelope



1.2.1889

Fred. Ingelman & Co. was a company in the wine and spirits trade in Gothenburg. It operated in both wholesale and retail trade. Batavia Punsch was a brand of its own production.

The main warehouse was located "below Högre Latinläroverket", while the retail trade was located at Kungsgatan 19.



From Göteborgs Adress- och Industrikalender, 1889

Only 2 envelopes are known with this stamp combination (3x1öre).



1888, 20 September

3 öre

"Mixed mail"



ex. Bo Olsson

This letter was mistakenly placed in the Royal Swedish Post Office mailbox on Sep 20, 1888 and sent by train northeast along the Västra Stambanan. This is evident from the cancellation on the back "PKXP. NR 8A. UPP", which was used for Gothenburg – Laxå. Here the mistake was discovered and the letter was returned via Ranten's station (today Falköping). On return, the letter was cancelled "GÖTEBORG, 1. TUR, 21.9" in Nordstan and marked "return" with aniline, for return to the sender. Finally, the letter was forwarded to the addressee.



kopia av del av baksidan

**One of only 2 known mixed mail letters with the Royal Swedish Post Office.**



1888, 18 June

3 öre

Freight- and Customsnote



1.6.1889

The public limited company Aug. Leffler och Son is Sweden's oldest shipbroker and ship clearance company. At the end of the 19th century, the company was located at Södra Hamngatan 33 in Gothenburg and was owned at the time by Peter Leffler, who was also the Belgian consul.

The screw steamship Norden was built in 1885 at the Boulds, Sharer & Co Shipyard in Sunderland, England for the shipping company Svenska Lloyd, home port Gothenburg. The ship was built in steel and had a displacement of 471 net tons. According to the Swedish Ship List in 1887 and Lloyd's Register of Shipping in 1888, the master was H. V. P. Vetterström.

**August Leffler & Son,**  
**GÖTEBORG.**  
**Skeppsklarerare & Ångbåts-**  
**Kommissionärer.**

Regulier Ångbåtsförbindelse mellan:  
 Göteborg—Amsterdam, hvar 14 dag.  
 — — Bremen, " 14 "  
 — — Bordeaux, " 3 vecka.  
 — — Hamburg, " 8 dag.  
 — — Nantes, " månad.

From Göteborgs Adress- och Industrikalender, 1889

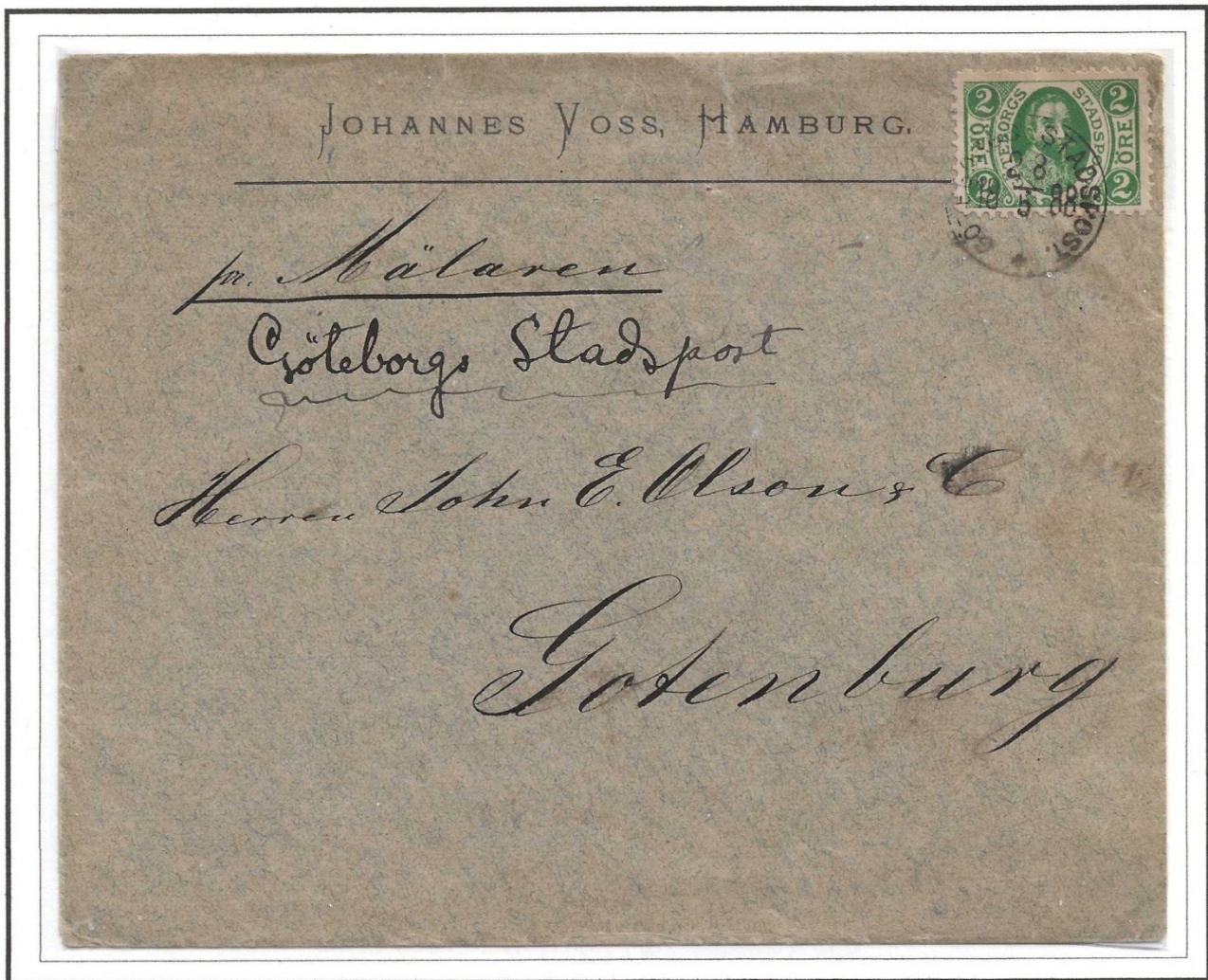
Only 3 Freight- and Customsnotes are known.



1888, 28 May

3 öre

"Ship's Letter "



28.5.1888

ex. Bo Olsson

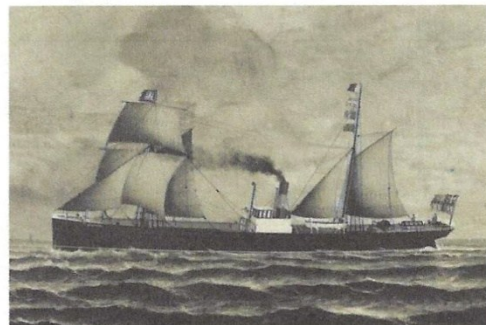
A so-called Ship's Letter, was handed over to the steamer "Mälaren" by the company Johannes Voss in Hamburg, to be posted upon arrival in Gothenburg. The letter bears the note "pr. Mälaren" made by the sender and later signed "Göteborgs Stadspost". According to Göteborgs Handels- och Sjöfartstidning, the ship had been sighted at Vinga on the morning of 27 May, which is why the date of 28 May is correct.

Why the letter is only stamped with a 2-öre stamp is unknown. Perhaps just a coincidence.

Other documents show that the ship "Mälaren" ran regular traffic on the same day of the week every week between Hamburg and Gothenburg.

The contents of the letter probably consisted of a printed matter, perhaps for "yellow metal" which was a large commodity for the letter recipient.

The screw steamship Mälaren was built in Glasgow in 1872 with a displacement of 279 tons. The ship was domiciled in Gothenburg and belonged to Svenska Lloyd.



Note: Hamburg's city coat of arms on the front masthead.

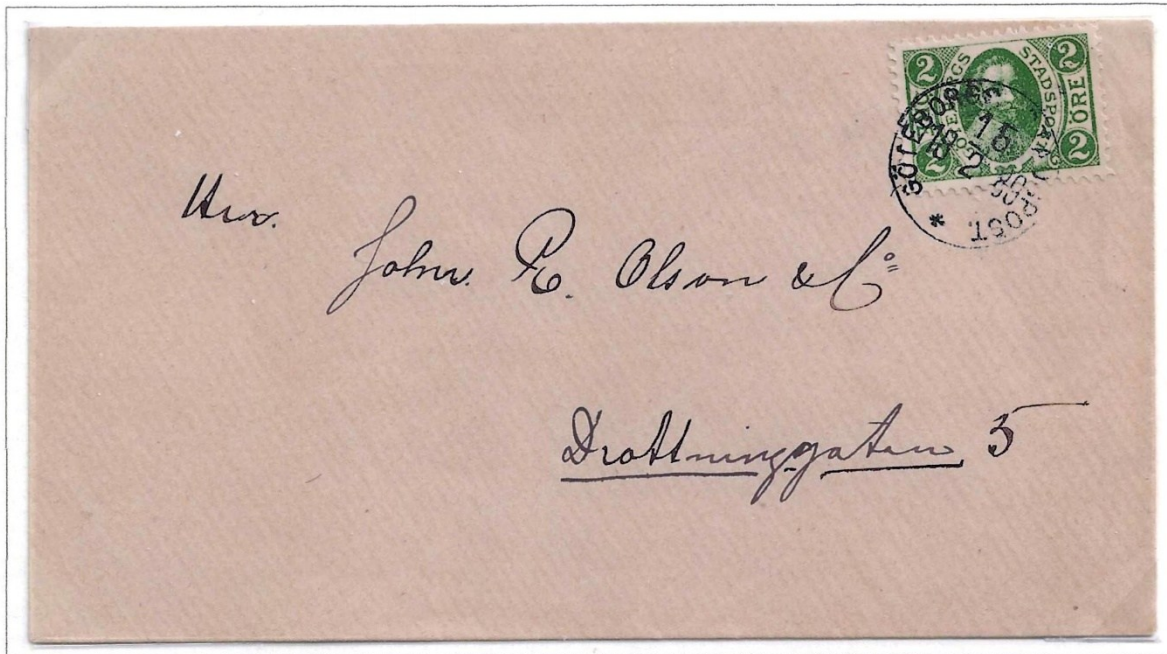
**Only known Ship's Letter with Gothenburg City Post.**



1889, 15 February

2 öre

Reduced postage



15.2.1889

At the beginning of 1889, The City Post lowered the postage for letters from 3 öre to 2 öre. This was probably due to competition with R.W. Lindhé's Private Localpost. But it also led to increasingly poor profitability and on 23 March 1889 the company was closed down

However, the majority of known cancelled stamps from the period January-March 1889 are still 3-öre stamps. It is likely that The City Post sold the 3-öre stamps at a discount, as its competitor had previously done.

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1888 - 1889

Stationeries



type 1a

type 1b  
This edition  
is rare

type 1c

Gothenburg City Post issued just one single stationery, a so called "Brefkort" (postcard with contemporary vocabulary), which was to be franked with a 2-öre stamp. The cards were probably sold pre-franked by the City Post, since unused cards are almost always provided with a stamp.

There are three different editions of this postal item. The different types are most easily distinguished by studying the position of the letter L in Lägges compared to the letter p in the City Post.

The date of publication and size for the three editions is unknown. **NB. Edition 1b is rare.**



1888 - 1889  
Cancellations

Cancel type 1, deformed circle



1.10.1888

Cancel type 2, whole circle



23.3.1889

Two circular date cancels, in grotesque style, were used. One was gradually torn down at the top of the circle, so that it is deformed over R and between the two words. Stamp colours in black, blue, greenish blue and shades are known. The black paint has probably run out a few times and other available paints have been used while waiting for new black paint.

Period of use 13.4.1888 - 23.3.1889.

Blue cancelcolour



22.12.1888



4.1.1889

Cancelled last day 23 March 1889.



23.3.1889

Variant: Date upside down



19.5.1888



23.3.1889



1888 - 1889  
1 öre, 2 öre, 3 öre



Cancelled the very first  
day, 13 April 1888



19 April 1888



2 May 1888



6 June 1888



10 July 1888



20 August 1888



7 September 1888



31 October 1888



5 November 1888



1 December 1888



10 January 1889



18 February 1889



16 March 1889

Cancelled the last day,  
23 March 1889



That the business was carried out continuously is shown by the fact that stamps are cancelled throughout the entire period, from the first day, 13 April, 1888, to the last day, 23 March, 1889.