

Ship Mail to and from Denmark

Introduction to the exhibit

This exhibit deals with ship mail to and from Denmark from the beginning of the 19th century and until the beginning of the 20th century mostly from the middle of the 19th century.

The exhibit does also include ship mail sent to or from Denmark via European ports, e.g. Hamburg, Lübeck and Stettin. Also letters passing Denmark in transit on their conveyance to and from other countries will be shown.

The exhibit does not include ship mail to and from Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands as these areas have been considered to be a part of Denmark.

The basis for building up this exhibit has been studies of the philatelic literature, postal circulars and agreements etceteras well as personal studies in the Royal Library in Copenhagen and of the postal archives in the Danish Record Office in Copenhagen. For my studies I have also for many years recorded letters to and from Denmark conveyed by ships which I have seen in other exhibits, books and catalogues from auctions and exhibitions.

The results of the research have been published in my book "Skibspost til og fra Danmark i midten af 1800-tallet" and in articles in philatelic magazines.

Most of the letters shown in the exhibit have passed the Post Office in the country of origin as well as the Post Office in the country of destination but there will also be shown letters which have only passed the Post Office in the country of destination. Furthermore there will be shown letters which have not passed any Post Office at all but have been conveyed by private means.

Many of the letters will have an inscription or a stamp of which can be seen that conveyance has taken place by ship or the stamp can be cancelled in the port of destination.

In the exhibit will also be included letters where it in the contents is said that the conveyance has taken place by ship as well as letters where the senders or the recipients and the departure stamps or the missing departure stamps make it mainly possible that the conveyance has taken place by ship. It is the purpose of this exhibit

to show the routes of ship mail to and from Denmark

to show how the taxation of the ship mail has been calculated

and to show the typical Danish as well as foreign stamps used in connection with conveyance by ship.

In the exhibit covers to and from Denmark will be shown in the following order: England, Sweden, Germany, Norway and other European countries and overseas countries. If possible letters to a certain country will be shown in chronological order as well as letters sent by a certain route will be shown closed to each other.

In the exhibit can be seen some rare as well as some unique letters and postal stamps and markings. These will be marked with bold-faced letters.



Letter sent 15 July 1826 from Copenhagen via Hamburg and Cuxhaven per packet to London and from there by mail coach to Aberdeen. Inscribed 19 RBS equal to 6 sch. cour. as postage to Hamburg Stadtpostamt and 33 RBS in paper currency equal to 29 RBS in silver as postage from Copenhagen to Hamburg for a single cover. British packet postage 1 sh 8 d and British inland postage from London to Aberdeen via Edinburgh, 528 miles 1 sh 1 d making a total British postage of 2 sh 9 d (inscribed) to be paid by the recipient. Stamp ½ d in frame is mail coach tax in Scotland.



From the back

Letter sent 28 August 1832 from Elsinore via Hamburg and from there by private ship to London. Postmarked on the front "SCHIFFS BRIEF - POST HAMBURG" and on the back "HELSINGØR" and "SHIP LETTER LONDON". The cover has had a weight between ¾ and 1 lod (the inscription 1½). The sender has paid the postage from Elsinore to Hamburg as well as the Elb postage in Hamburg. The recipient has paid the packet postage as well as the British postage 1 sh 4 d.



Letter sent 18 November 1829 from London via Hamburg to Copenhagen. Half combined postage as follows: Packet rate 1 sh 8 d divided by 2 making 10 d which is paid by the British sender Elb postage in Hamburg 6 sch. cour equal to 19 RBS and postage from Hamburg to Copenhagen 30 RBS in paper currency making the total postage 49 RBS to be paid by the recipient. Postmarked on the front "POST PAID SHIP LR. LONDON" and on the back "SCHIFFS BRIEF POST - HAMBURG"



From the back



From the back

Letter sent 14 July 1831 from Leeds via London and Hamburg to Stege. Half combined postage as follows: Packet rate 1 sh 8 d + inland rate 11 d making 2 sh 7 d less discount 2 d making 2 sh 5 d divided by 2 making 1 sh 2 1/2 d. Inscribed and paid by the British sender. Elb postage in Hamburg 6 sch. cour. equal to 19 RBS and postage from Hamburg to Stege 33 RBS in paper currency making the total postage 52 RBS to be paid by the recipient. Postmarked on the front "POST PAID SHIP LR. LONDON" and on the back "SCHIFFS BRIEF - POST HAMBURG".



Letter sent 23 April 1840 from Hull via Hamburg to Stege. The letter has not passed the British Post Office but has been delivered directly to the ship as no British postage has been paid. Elb postage in Hamburg 4 sch. Cour. equal to 13 RBS and postage from Hamburg to Stege 32 RBS (both inscribed on the back) and delivery fee 2 RBS marking the total postage 47 (inscribed on the front) to be paid by the recipient. Post marked "SCHIFFS BRIEF-POST HAMBURG" on the back.



Letter sent 26 May 1842 from Newcastle via Gateshead, Hull and Altona to Copenhagen. Inscription 8 d is British packet rate. Elb postage in Altona 4 sch. cour. equal to 13 RBS and postage from Altona to Copenhagen 29 RBS is both inscribed on the back as well as the list number 46. Postmarked "HULL SHIP LETTER" and "ALTONA SCHIFFS BRIEF" in oval frame on the back.

Ja så er der ikke mere her, men deltagerne på Djurslands Filatelistiske Højskole så alle 80 plancher og hørte Kurt Hansens foredrag.

De fik også tilbudt hele samlingen på en Cd-rom.

Som du kan se er der mange fordele ved at deltage på Djurslands Filatelistiske Højskole.