

Synopsis: SARASOTA 2022

Eight Frames: Postal History, 2.2A

Norway, Registered Mail to 1945

Background

The first organized postal delivery system in Norway started by private initiative in 1647 and continued until 1719 when the Danish government in Copenhagen took over. In 1814 Norway became independent and the postal administration moved to Christiania (Oslo).

Royal decree of 1694 required all letters to be entered individually on a list (way bill), assigned a number with senders and receivers name, value, and type of letter. All mail including regular and value letters were then traceable from sender to recipient and made the postal system reasonable safe. Therefore there are very few registered letters recorded before 1848, when a new Royal decree went into effect. Regular letters were then bundled and the number of letters in the bundle noted on a list (way bill) with the destination. Registered and money letters were still entered individually. The change of documentation caused an increase in registered mail after 1848.

Registration fees in the early years were paid direct to the postmaster and considered part of his salary and were not marked on the letters. It is unclear what the registration fee was before 1817 at which time 4 skilling was adopted and enforced to 1872 when the fee were collected by the Government and 4 skilling adhesive were affixed to the letter.

Purpose

The purpose is to illustrate the evolution of registered rates, markings and services of the Norwegian postal system from the earliest covers recorded dated 28 October 1793 to 1945.

Organization

1. The organization is primarily based on Norwegian Registered fees, numbered on the plan 1-5, marked upper left on the exhibit pages with black date on start of each new section, gray dates marked between each new section. Mails to both domestic and foreign destination are exhibited. Throughout the exhibit there unusual covers and documents recorded in limited numbers; *marked with red frame or description*. Special use such as telegrams, COD, express mail and A.R. mails are included as the date's progress. Postal documentation is also included. This exhibit ends 31 December 1945 after the end of WWII.

This exhibit is not necessarily arranged by usage, not always chronologically but for the most part within rate periods.

Challenges and difficulty of acquisition

Norway had a population in 1800 of 880,000 and 1,390,000 in 1850. Most were fishermen and farmers, poor people with limited ability to write. Not many registered letters are recorded prior to 1848. Registered mail was used for handling "important" matters mostly related to private and official business. This exhibit has been acquired over 40 years. Obtaining letters from the early years has been challenging, as has finding unusual handling, exotic destinations, and documents related to transactions of Registered mail.

Research

 The primary references and research has been through the GPO Circulars from 1856 to 1950. However, many books and articles have also been used some mentioned below:

Aune, E & K	Book	1997	Norwegian Domestic Postal Rates 1977 – 1995
Landgangen, Anders	Art	1986	French Registered Cancels Used on French-Norwegian Mail After 1854
	Art	1987	Registered Cancels used by Different Postal Conventions
	Art	1990	Norwegian Registered Handstamps to 1900
Arvid Lohre	Art	2007	Registered Parcels to US
		2005	The Philatelic Library II, Registered Labels
Norwegian Catalog Postal II			2014 Postal Rates and Recorded Letters
Schou, August	Book	1947	The History of Mail in Norway
Sundbo, Ivar	Book	1989	Norwegian Letters Before 1855
Wasenden, Wilfred	Book	2011	Recommanderte Norske Postforsendelser Gjennom 200 Aar

This exhibit was shown at SANDICAL 2017 a WSP show in California, and awarded Grand Price.

The exhibit has since been partly rewritten and new material included such as frame 1, page 2, 1793 cover,

page 3, 1805 cover, page 5, 1836 way bill, page 6, 1845 early red canceller, frame 4 page 6, cover to Barbados, frame 8 page 10, 1945 underpaid domestic cover.

Description of some rare and unusual materials:

Frame 1

- *Forerunners, two letters with notation Registered, and one Anbefalet mean registered in Danish, dated 1793, 1800 and 1805 mailed prior to Act of 1817 when letters could be "Treated as letters of importance and value" and to be paid registration fee of 4 skilling cash to the postmaster.*
- *Letter 1829 marked "NB" dated 19 January.*
- *Early use of 2/6/1845 red Christiania hand canceller to Sweden.*
- *Letter with enclosed cash to Uddevalla, Sweden before the adhesive period.*
- *Letter to France before the adhesive period, 1854.*
- *Domestic cover with the first adhesive, triple rate, 1855.*
- *Letter with annotation "Mod Attest", sender required receipt, two letters recorded, 1856.*
- *Cover with first Norwegian Registered hand stamp, 1857.*
- *Early mailed telegram, 1858.*
- *Official letter suspected to carry private message, to be opened at addressee's post office, 1873.*

Frame 2

- *Early covers with adhesive paid for by registration fee' 1872.*
- *Rapper with manuscript dates on adhesives, Post office had not yet received hand-stamp, 1884.*

Frame 3

- *Envelope requesting receipt, letter with original time correct receipt, not related to letter, 1878-85.*
- *Request to return tele-check, (Form 193), sent to Finland, only form recorded used?, 1914.*
- *Telegram sent registered mail to Berlin, 1905.*
- *Local registered letter, delivered to PO, 2 ore postage paid, no notice sent to recipient for collection.*

Frame 4

1895 Letter Porsgr. to Barbados, forwarded via New York to Mexico w/NYC and Mexico R labels.

- *Notice to sender, letter carried by "TITANIC", was lost, sender entitled to compensation, 1912.*
- *Letters with unusual postage and destinations; Australia 1887, Sumatra 1888 only recorded but missing 3x10ore stamps, Sierra Leone 1891, Natal 1902, returned letter from Mexico 1903.*

Frame 5

- *Letter to Denmark containing cash, returned, cash not allowed without note on the cover, 1920.*
- *Radio letter sent from Swedish ship "SS Fredrik III" via Norwegian ship "Stavangerfjord" via Bergen Radio and forwarded to Malmo Sweden, very unusual transmission, 1919.*
- *Russian Princess Dolgorukova on the run from the war sent letter to Petrograd with check to pay for lease of seven gold mines, letter returned with handstamp "service suspended", 1918.*

Frame 6

- *Letter sent to Canada and returned to sender requesting AR, Avis de Reception, 1930.*
- *Registered Airmail Express sent with ship across the Atlantic, 1933.*
- *Arctic mail from Spitsbergen, 1925 & 1933.*

Frame 7

World War II, April 9 1940, cover sent from near Tromso, the day of German Occupation, Returned.

- *World War II, 1943 cover sent to undercover address in Lisbon and by currier via FAM 18 to Washington.*
- *Two covers, 1943 & 1945 sent by Norwegian armed forces in exile, Little Norway, Canada and Callander, Scotland, from Post offices operated on the bases by Norwegian personnel.*

Frame 8

- *After the Occupation, 1945, Cover from Bodo with "Norwegian Army/Field Post Office".*
- *Three covers 1945 with improvised markings from northern Norway were the Germans burned many villages.*
- *Ration cards, 1845 sent registered mail.*