

FULLY PREPAID DOMESTIC LETTERS BEFORE 1855

Because the smaller post offices had to record each letter separately until 29. September 1858, we do not find many registered letters from such post offices. The sender knew that his letter was separately recorded and would be treated as a regular letter. He therefore did not need to pay another 4 skillings to get a receipt for registration. If the letter did not arrive at the destination, the postmaster could always trace back in the lists to find when and where the letter was sent. However, if the content of the letter was of great importance, it was recommended to get a receipt to prove that the letter was delivered.

At the larger post offices, where the letters, from 1848, were to be "*summarisk kartert*" (i.e. only the number of letters sent that day to the same destination was recorded on the list), it became even more necessary to pay the extra 4 skillings to get a receipt from the postmaster that the letter had been handed in to be sent as registered. The few registered letters recorded in the period from 1848 to 1855 are sent from Drammen, Christiania, Bergen, Moss, Laurvig and Oster Riisoer. Those letters probably had contents of great importance.



This letter is fully prepaid, see the handwritten notation in lower left corner *fr.* The letter was sent from Drammen 8 October 1852 to Christiania. The postage for the letter was 4 skillings and 4 more skillings was to be paid for the registration, i.e. 8 skillings. See the handwritten **8** in upper right corner. The registration remarks *NB* and *R* was written by the sender. On the reverse the letter has the figure **20** which means that the letter got number 20 on the list. The letter was closed with a black lacquer seal belonging to *Bankadministrasjonen i Drammen*.

Only few such letters are recorded.