

III. The Haparanda post ("Den finnmarkske vinterpost")



Single-weight domestic letter of January 10, 1859, from South (Christiania) to North (Hammerfest) Norway, sent with the Haparanda post in its very last season; franked with 4 Sk Oscar x 2 cancelled with origin "CHRISTIANIA" cds, received in Hammerfest on February 3 according to inscription on back of cover.

Postage rate: 8 Sk (after January 1, 1856) for prepaid domestic single-weight (< 15 g) letter sent via the Haparanda route [Circular of December 3, 1855]

This is the only registered single-weight letter with 8 Sk Oscar franking sent with the Haparanda post from South to North Norway

The Haparanda post was suspended in January 1859. A fortnightly year-round ship mail service had then been established between Trondheim and Northern Norway. However, the Haparanda post was not officially unrolled in a printed circular; the decision was taken in a letter from the Norwegian post administration to the governor of Finmark on October 1st 1859 (J. nr. 1170/59A; Department of internal affairs, Norwegian National Archive, Oslo)



Prepaid letter of January 25, 1859, from Hamburg to Tromsø, endorsement by sender "via Stockholm & Haparanda"; redirected to the Swedish-Norwegian border at Svinesund since the Haparanda mail route had been suspended; with "SVINESUND" cds (type 1) on January 31, sent overland to Trondheim; here entered the Nordland line (3rd trip northwards with S.S Nordcap), arriving in Tromsø on February 20, as inscribed on reverse