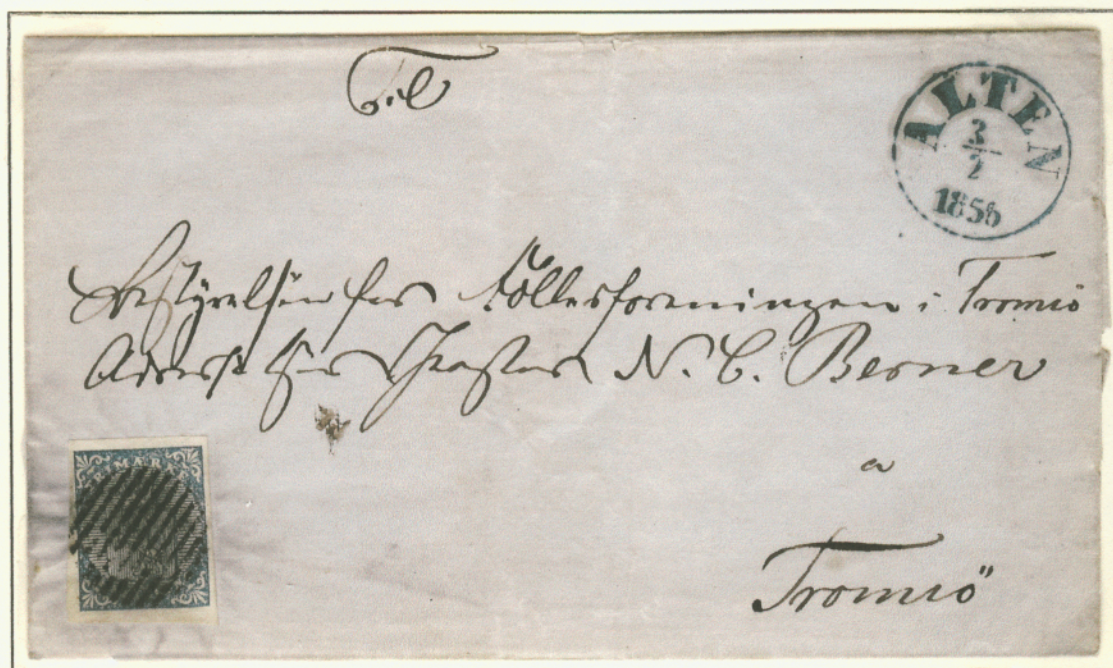


Gridiron handstamp on 4 Sk Coat of Arms I:

In a Circular letter of September 29th 1854 the Norwegian postmasters got instructions on how to cancel the first postage stamp - 4 Sk Coat of Arms I - to be issued in Norway on January 1st 1855 next year. The postage stamp should be cancelled with a gridiron handstamp at the dispatching post office, using black inking composition, and the cover side-marked with a date-stamp in blue at the superior re-transmitting Class 2 or Class 1 post office. By January 1st 1855, Alten post office was the re-transmitting post office for altogether 18 Class 3 post offices in Finmark



Single-weight local letter of December 29, 1855, from Komagfjord (inside) to Talvig in Finmark, franked with 4 Sk Coat of Arms I cancelled with a **11 bar gridiron** handstamp at the Class 3 post office in Komagfjord; letter correctly date-stamped "ALTEN" in blue ink at the superior re-transmitting Class 2 post office in Alten on January 2, 1856 on its route to Talvig 'e'



Local letter from Karasjok to Tromsø; cover with postal manuscript "Karasjok den 28 januar 1856" and franked with 4 Sk Coat of Arms I at the despatching post office. Karasjok Class 3 post office had no gridiron handstamp; the postage stamp is cancelled with a **12 bar gridiron** handstamp at the superior re-transmitting Class 2 post office in Alten and cover side-marked with "ALTEN" cds in blue ink on February 3