

A **black** inking composition was to be used for the gridiron postmark and a **blue** inking composition for the date-stamp (side-mark) on the cover (Circular letter of December 12th 1854). However, since it was not explicitly mentioned that the black inking composition should be reserved for the new gridiron handstamp, some postmasters, e.g. Mr. Christian Fredrik Brøgger in Tromsø, started to use the black inking composition for the side-mark as well. This malpractice was stopped by an announcement from the General post administration (Circular letter of April 25th 1855)



Prepaid local letter of March 13, 1855, from Tromsø to Talvig in Alten, franked with 4 Sk Coat of Arms I, cancelled with **12 bar gridiron** handstamp in **black ink** and cover side-marked with date-stamp "TROMSØ" on March 13 in **black ink** as well 'e'



Prepaid local letter of May 13, 1855, from Tromsø to Talvig in Alten, franked with 4 Sk Coat of Arms I cancelled with **11 bar gridiron** handstamp in **black ink** and cover side-marked with date-stamp "TROMSØ" on May 13 in **blue ink**, now following the instructions in Circular letter of April 25th 1855