

## II. The Torneå post ("Den finnmarkske vinterpost")

A Royal Resolution of June 20th, 1798 declared that in the forthcoming winter, a new winter post service was to be established in the twin monarchy of Denmark-Norway, between Copenhagen in Denmark and Finmark in Northern Norway. The post was transferred to the Swedish post expresse in Helsingør at the Danish - Swedish border and went via Stockholm to Torneå in northern Sweden, from Torneå to Lappajärvi in Finland, and from Lappajärvi conveyed by reindeers to Kautokeino and Alten in Finmark. In the first season of 1798-1799 the post went altogether 12 times between Copenhagen and Alten (every fortnight), and in the subsequent years once a month, *i. e.* 6 times during the winter seasons.

The first northbound post went from Copenhagen on November 4th 1798, and the first southbound post from Alten on November 15th. The postage rate for a single-weight letter from Copenhagen to Alten, and from Alten to places in South Norway via Copenhagen, was set to 28 Lübske Skilling (L. Sk.), and from Alten to Torneå to 12 L. Sk. The postage rate was increased in July 1803.

The Torneå post came to a stop in February 1808, when Denmark-Norway and Sweden declared war. The last southbound post expresse went from Alten on February 20th 1808 (according to a preserved 1808 protocol in Norwegian National Archive, Oslo)



Reverse ▲

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Letter of March 3, 1806, from Neustadt (in Holstein) to Hammerfest in Finmark, inscribed "*fr(anco) Copenhagen*" (prepaid to Copenhagen) on front; postal markings "*Neustadt*" in pen manuscript and "9" (= 9 L. Sk. prepaid from Neustadt to Copenhagen) from origin post office on reverse; in Copenhagen listed "3 (no) — 32 (L. Sk. to pay)"; sent via Torneå in Sweden (addressed "*West-Finmarchen über Torneå*") to Alten, from Alten to the recipient in Hammerfest

Postage due from Copenhagen to Alten and Hammerfest: 32 L. Sk. [new postage rate of July 12th 1803]

**This is the only registered foreign letter sent with the Torneå post to Finmark**