

XIII. The regional ship mail services

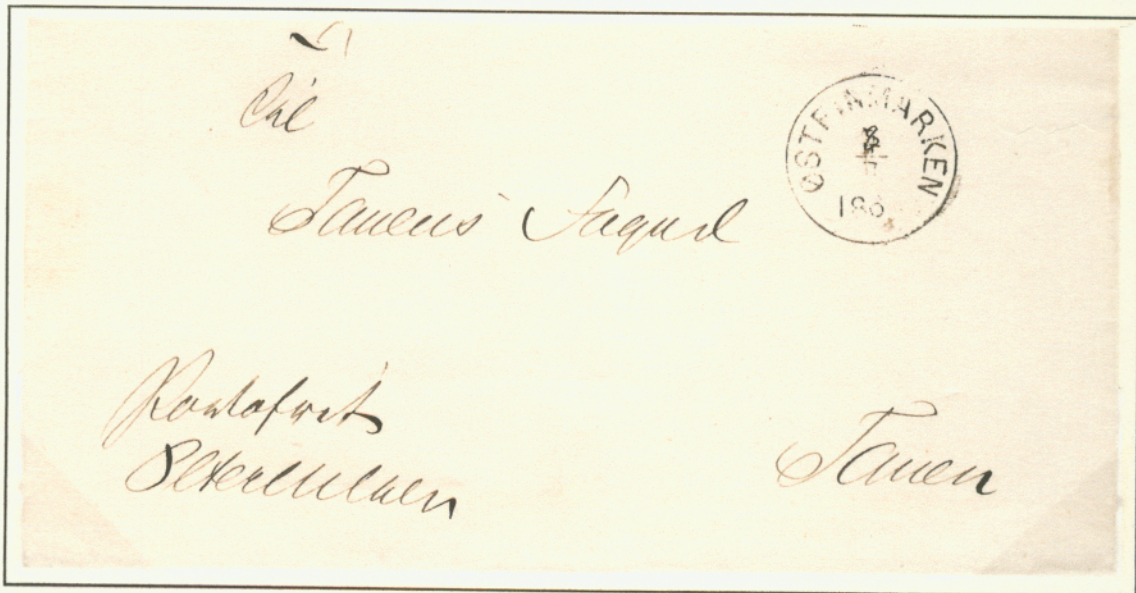
The Eastern Finmarken service Hammerfest - Vadsø 1869 - 1896

In 1869 the Eastern Finmarken route was passed over to the private steamship companies Det Bergenske Dampskibsselskab (BDS) and Det Nordenfjeldske Dampskibsselskab (NFDS). In the first years S/S Nidelven and S/S Nordstjernen alternated in the route. A circular dated handstamp with text "ØSTFINMARKEN" was used on board from the very first sailing in January 1869



"ØSTFINMARKEN 7-1-1869" 4 Sk Coat of Arms II stripe of four postmarked on board "Nidelven" on 1st westbound trip in 1869

This is the earliest recorded use of this ship postmark



Official free-letter (cover) of May 8, 1869; from Hammerfest to Tanen, posted on board "Nordstjernen" and supplied with "ØSTFINMARKEN" ship postmark on the 9th westbound trip in the Eastern Finmarken route



Domestic single-weight letter (10 øre) of December 24, 1887, from Vardø in Finmark to Søndfjord in Western Norway, with origin ship postmark "ØSTFINMARKEN", transit postmarked "FLORØ" on Dec. 24