

XIII. The regional ship mail services

The Krohn line

Trondheim - Hammerfest - Vardø 1875 - 1886

In 1875 a board of directors of the steamships "Michael Krohn" (built in 1870), "Præsident Christie" (1874) and "Jonas Lie" (1875) from Bergen, and "John Schøning" (1871) from Grøtø in Nordland started a collaborative steamship service from Christiania to Tromsø and further north to Vardø in the summer months. The route got the name of the "Krohn line" (Krohn-linjen). The ships were equipped with letter boxes so that the public and passengers could hand in letters at the calling places or on board. According to the regulations, the letters should be taken out of the boxes and brought to the receiving post office and postmarked before delivery to the recipient

S/S **Michael Krohn** sailed in the route from 1875 to 1883



Domestic letter franked with 3 Sk post horn (NK 18), dated Hammerfest April 16th 1875 (inside), inscribed "Pr Michael Krohn" (S/S Michael Krohn) and deposited in the ship's letter box in Hammerfest; sent to Tromsø and postage stamp post-marked "TROMSØ xx-3-1875" (wrong month in date-stamp) on place of arrival

S/S **John Schøning** sailed in the route from 1875 to 1886. The ship used a 3-ring numeral canceller "62" from May 1883 until December 1886



"62"
(NK 25II)



"62"
(NK 27) + (NK 25 III) on letter piece



"62"
(NK 43) on letter piece