

## Aalesund pre-adhesive letters 1848-1854.

**Introduction:** Aalesund's progress, in terms of its economy and its population, led to the small seaport in the West of Norway being granted town status (kjøbstad) on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1848. The "Spanish period" made a significant contribution to Aalesund's growth in the middle of the century, and stockfish (" Klippfisk" ) gradually became Aalesund's most important export. Aalesund was also the main post office of the postal district of Sunnmøre, and was of significant importance to the printers at Egseth in Volden ; these were in need of a regular conveyance and connections to the different mail services over land and sea. The very first postal handstamp used in Aalesund was a single circle date-stamp, delivered by the engraver in Christiania to postmaster Jens Lemvig Bull at the class 1 post office in Aalesund on April 19th 1848.

**The exhibit** intends to provide information on *mail routes and postage rates* according to the postal regulations of the pre-adhesive period 1848-1854; it includes mail to and from the postal area of Aalesund. **Some examples:** partly prepaid private letters sent abroad, money letters, official free-letters, letters not accepted to be free of charge, prepaid letters and letters to be paid on delivery. **Different manuscript markings** on the exhibited letters will be explained. From the beginning, most postmarks were struck in **black** ink; **blue** ink was introduced later. **Green or green-blue** cancels are sometimes found, and are most usual in the year 1850 on covers cancelled in Aalesund. The influence of light and chemicals, certain types of transparent envelopes and printing ink prepared by hand, are probably some of the reasons why there are a variety of shades of the impressions.

**The frame:** Private letters sent abroad: (**page 1-3**) Domestic covers included money letters: (**page 4-9**) Letters conveyed by different ship mail services: (**page 10-11**) Letters with manuscript markings from dispatching class 3 post offices in the local postal area, and some others manuscript markings on the covers: (**page 12-16**)

**Main bibliographies:** Schou, A. 1947. Postens Historie i Norge. Germeten, K.& Mathiesen, K. 1983. Norske prefrimstempler. Brecke, L. A. 1984. Norsk kilderegister til sirkulærer, lover, anordninger og Departementstidende. Sundsbø, I. 1989. Norske brev før 1855. Oxley, G.F. 1992. British postal rates to Europe, 1836-1876. Snarvold, H. 1999. Norske brevportotakster til utlandet 1743-1855. Snarvold, H. 2003. Carrying Norwegian mail abroad up to UPU. Gjelsvik, T. 2005. The Nordland post office at land and at sea. Oslo Filatelistklubb. 2011. Norgeskatalogen Postal.

From Aalesund by  
different over-land  
services "via  
Romsdalen" to  
Christiania , and  
with "S/S Constit-  
utionen" to  
Helsingør in the  
Copenhagen-line.



Colour: Green-blue.

Bill nr.3.

**Prepaid(" Franco")** letter dated August 3, 1850, from Aalesund to Helsingør (Denmark), cancelled with a green-blue strike of the single circle date- stamp "AALESUND 3/8-1850." Postage paid '23' ( Sk) and weight '3/4' ( lod ) noted on front of cover ; bill nr. '3' endorsed on reverse. **Postage paid:** 23 Sk. for single-weight letter not exceeding 3/4 lod; comprised of 6 Sk Norwegian domestic rate for letters sent abroad, 8 Sk sea rate between Norway and Denmark and 13 ½ Rbs in Danish domestic rate, equals 9 Sk.Sp = **23Sk** in total. (Rates according to the Postal regulation of August 1848 and Danish circular of February 24, 1849).

This is the earliest recorded strike with the Aalesund single circle date-stamp in blue colour on covers sent abroad; and the only registered cover to Danmark in the pre-adhesive period 1848-1854 sent from Aalesund.