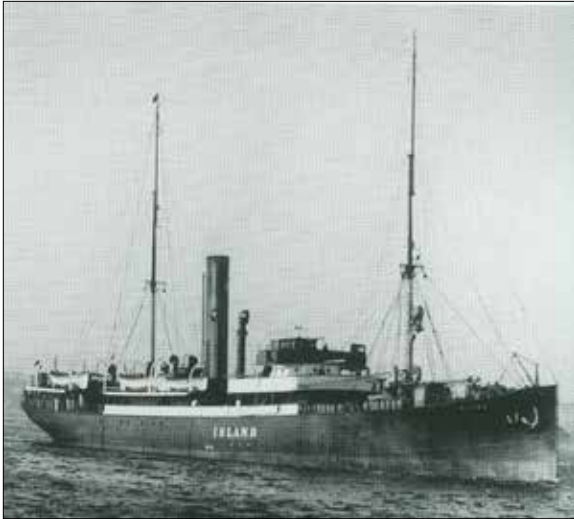


Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

In 1919 the British Parliament passed "The 1919 Wireless Act" forbidding all ships above 1600 BRT to enter British harbours without a radio. In Denmark as a consequence of this, the leading shipping companies formed Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (Danish Radio Inc.) (DRA) in 1920, and in 1921 they started educating radio operators and making agreements with shipping companies and installing radios. From 1921 all telegraph operators in ships with Marconi radios were transferred to DRA. In 1924 DRA even bought the radio firm Elektromekano, made their own radios, logo, and from 1924 an ocean letter service opened especially from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (DFDS), who became the leading shipping company in experiments with radios and ocean letters.



S/S Island. Notice how they have extended the masts to 35 meters above sea level for the antenna.

coast of Darkhead, and the *S/S Island* rescued all the participants in that expedition. The experiment was mainly to show that wireless telegraphy from Greenland to Denmark was possible, as there was no cable to Greenland and sailing was not possible for 3-4 winter months, so how do you rule a country you often cannot get in contact with? Sailing in those waters were dangerous, cf. the *Titanic*. Wireless communication and ocean letters would come in very handy. This resulted in speeding up building 4 radio station in Greenland and installing radios in ships. Contracts could now be made.

Figure 2 shows an agreement between DRA and the steamship company *Oceana*. According to § 5 DRA commits itself to run the radios just like Marconi's radios, supplying the ships with the necessary

Their experiments started in 1921. The Danish King Christian X and Queen Alexandrine visited Greenland. This was the 200-years anniversary of the arrival of the Danish missionary Hans Egede. His arrival in 1721 marked the beginning of Danish claim to Greenland, as there had been no contact since the Scandinavians vanished mysteriously from Greenland in the 15th century. After a stop in Iceland – also Danish land in those days – the royal voyage continued aboard *S/S Island* – a ship owned by Det Forenede Dampskibs-Selskab (DFDS).

As a gift to the royal family, DFDS had had a radio installed of the Marconi type, the first radio on a Danish merchant ship, so they could be in contact with the outside world on their voyage. This also gave DFDS a chance to experiment with radios and test how far they were able to transmit. They lengthen-ed the mast of *S/S Island* so that the aerial was 35 meters above sea level. (Figure 1). In fact, they were able to telegraph at a distance of 1700 km. from the most northerly point (73° N). They had not planned to go that far north, but a Swedish expedition ship, *BELE*, had shipwrecked off the



Agreement between DRA and the shipping company *Oceana* stating how DRA will provide radios and stationary.

At first you only see ordinary envelopes with the company address in the top right corner (no logo), probably intended for normal business correspondence, but might have been used for ocean letters before the real stationary was ready. It was not until 1924 that DRA introduced its ocean letters and message forms. This was more or less a copy of the way DEBEG and Marconi in Britain did it.

If in need in the early days of ocean letters, a normal envelope might also be used with manuscript note: Radio. The letter was sent from *S/S Fredensborg* belonging to the shipping company *Dannebrog*.

DFDS had radio facilities to receive DRA ocean letters on their boats on the North Sea to and from England and especially on their boats between Aarhus-Copenhagen and Aalborg-Copenhagen. Especially the ships sailing across the Kattegat were sailing telegraph stations and the ones receiving and posting the largest number of Danish ocean letters. Ocean letters from the Esbjerg-Harwich ships are rarer.

The first 4 years DRA and DFDS used envelopes and a message ocean letter stationary was printed. form, but from 1928 they diversified, using a folded message form which was sealed and franked. This coincides with the installing of the short wave radio, which made it cheap and possible for the companies to send position ocean letters on a regular basis, so the company could keep tracks of all its ships wherever they were in the world. Quite a lot of posi-



When in need of proper envelopes, an ordinary one is used, posted in Kiel and sender address is *S/S Fredenborg*, and the address of the company *Danebrog*.

tion telegrams sent as ocean letters exist. They are never franked but received on the ships crossing the Kattegat and handed in by courier at the DFDS office on arrival in the morning in Copenhagen.

On the back of one of the early message forms, the conditions for sending ocean letters are written. This is almost a word for word translation of the conditions found on Marconi's/DEBEG's forms. So conditions were the same.

Position telegram - not an ocean letter - even though it says *RADIOBREV* in the caption. They were never posted, but handed in at the office by courier/sailor. DFDS used them for keeping track of their ships.

BETINGELSER, PAA HVILKE RADIO BREVE MODTAGES TIL EKSPEDITION.

Radio Breve modtages kun til Afteleggrfering til andet Skib.

Radio Breve kan ikke befordres med mere end een radiotelegrafisk Ekspedition, det er saaledes ikke tilladt at benytte Transistation.

Radio Breve vil blive videresendt til Bestemmelsesstedet pr. rekommanderet Brev fra det modtagende Skibs første Anløbshavn.

For et Radio Brev paa indtil 30 Ord, heri indbefattet Adresse og Underskrift, er Taksten Frances. For hvert Ord udover 30 erlægges Centimes pr. Ord. Det maximale Ordantal i et Radio Brev, Adresse og Underskrift medregnet, er 100 Ord.

Indregistrerede eller forkortede Adresser er ikke tilladt.

Teksten skal skrives i klart Sprog.




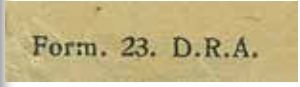
Ved klart Sprog forstaaes Sprog, der straks ved Gennemlæsning giver en klar og forstaaelig Mening. Teksten maa saaledes ikke indeholde en fortsat Række af Tal, Navne eller Ord uden Sammenhang.

Dansk Radio Aktieselskab eller de dermed associerede Selskaber eller en hvilken som helst Stats Administration, af hvem Radio Brevet er eller under dets almindelige Forløb vil blive befordret telegrafisk eller postalt, kan nægte at befordre Radio Brevet, skønt det er blevet modtaget i dette Øjemed. I et saadant Tilfælde kan de erlagte Gebyrer tilbagebetales Afsenderen paa dennes Anmodning til Dansk Radio Aktieselskab.

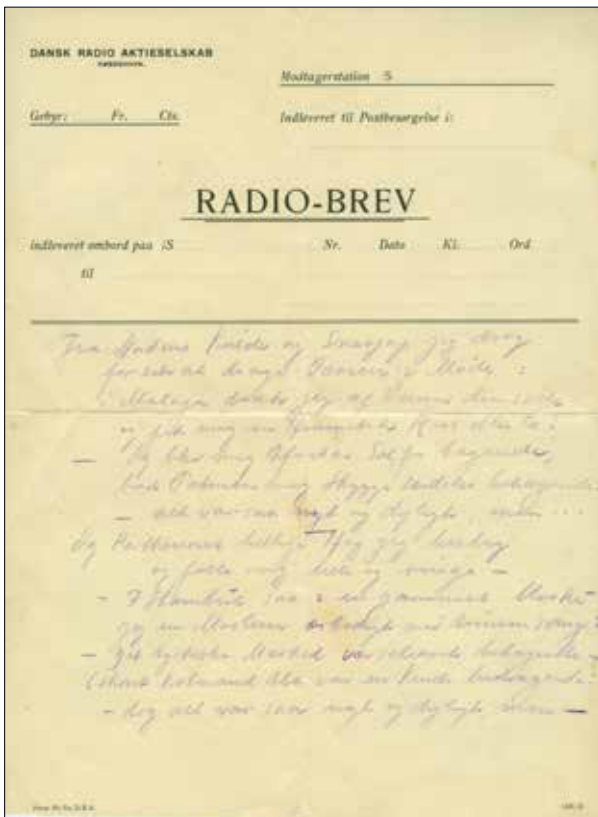
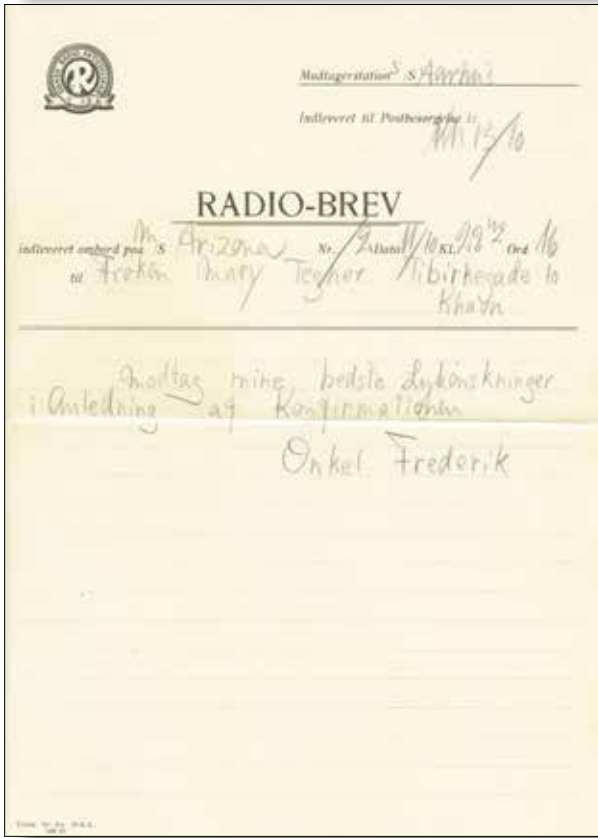
Hverken Dansk Radio Aktieselskab eller de dermed associerede Selskaber eller en hvilken som helst Stats Administration, af hvem Radio Brevet er eller vil blive befordret telegrafisk eller postalt, er pligtig til at yde Erstatning for Tab, Forurettelse, Odelæggelse hidførende fra Ikke-Teleggrfering eller Ikke-Udlevering af Radio Brevet eller Forsinkelse eller indløbne Fejl eller Udehdelser ved Afsendelsen eller Udleveringen, ligegyldig hvad Aarsagen i det enkelte Tilfælde har været.

DANSK RADIO AKTIESELSKAB.
KØBENHAVN.

Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Envelopes	Description of characteristics	Print Year
1		<p>White/grey envelope. No printer's imprint</p> <p>Logo on the back.</p> 	1924
2		<p>Buff coloured envelope.</p> <p>Form. 23 D.R.A in bottom left corner.</p> 	1926-27

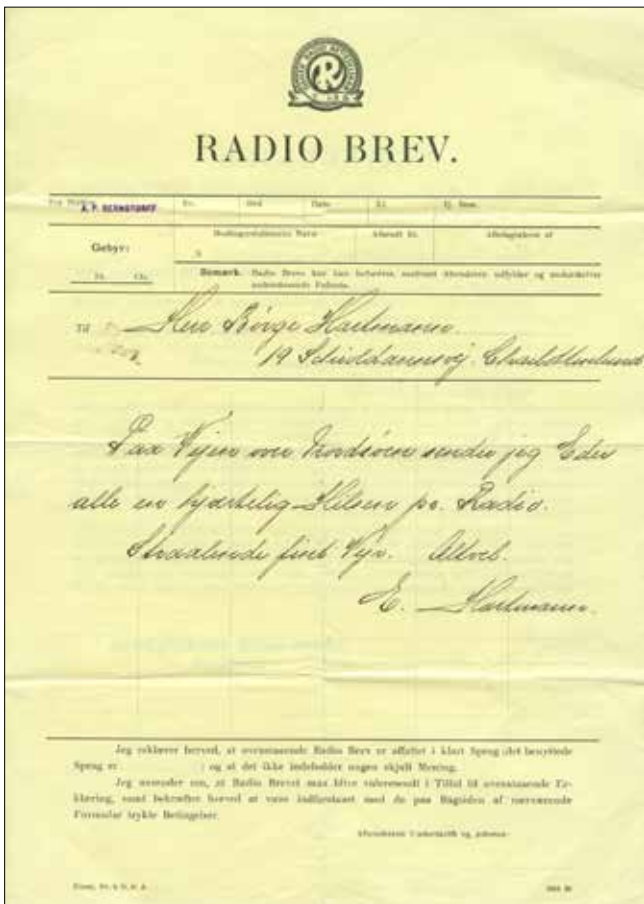
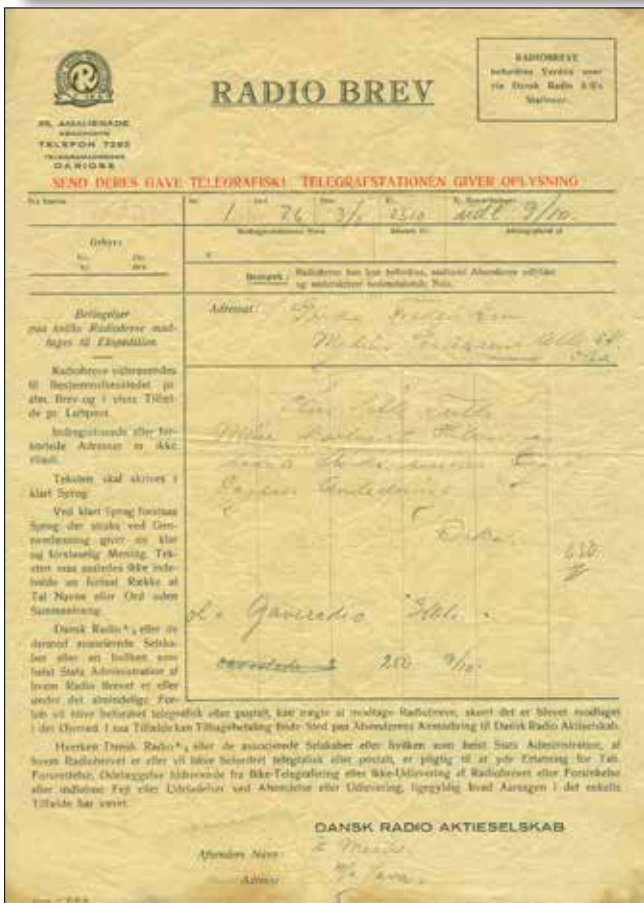
Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
1		<p>First message form made by DRA. Used as an ordinary piece of paper and so far no ocean letters found before 1924.</p> <p>Printers imprint: Nr. 9a. D.R.A. 1224 22 in bottom left and right corners.</p> <p>Colour: Buff</p> <p>Size: 28,3 x 21,7 cm</p>	1922
2		<p>Printers imprint: Nr. 9a. D.R.A. 500 24' in bottom left corner.</p> <p>Colour: Buff</p> <p>Size: 28,3x21,7 cm</p>	1924

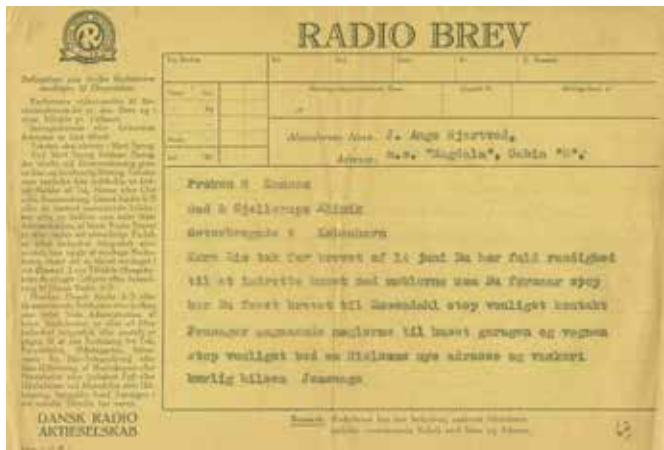
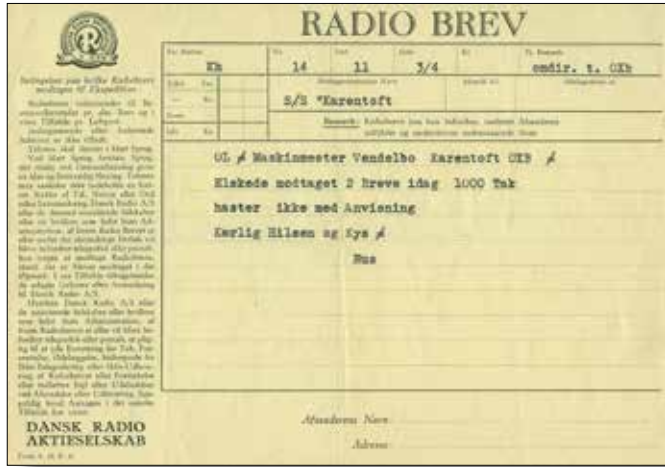
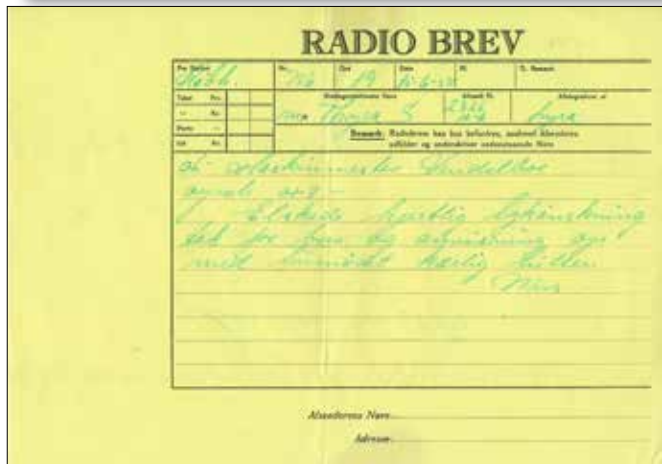
Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

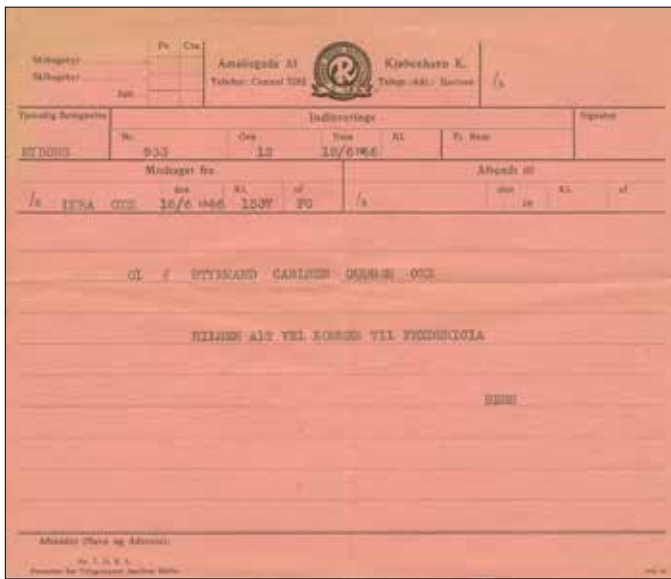
Type	Message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
3		<p>Printer's imprint: Form. 9A. D.R.A. 3765 25 Colour: Buff Size: 28,3x21,7 cm.</p>	1925
4		<p>Printer's imprint: Form. 9A. D.R.A. 2288 26 Colour: Buff Size: 28,3x21,7 cm.</p>	1926

Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
5		<p>Logo moved to the middle of the message form + several square boxes to be filled out. The rule for ocean letters printed on the back.</p> <p>Printer's imprint at the bottom both left and right. Form. Nr. 9. D.R.A. 3601 26.</p> <p>Colour: Buff</p>	1926
6		<p>New design with address below the logo and conditions and rules for ocean letters on the front. Red print at top informing about gift ocean letters.</p> <p>Printer's imprint: Form. 9 D.R.A. in bottom left corner.</p> <p>Colour: Buff</p> <p>Size: A4</p>	After 1932 as gift ocean letters started in 1932.

Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
7		<p>New design in about half size type 5. Colour: Buff Size: 15,5 x 22,6 cm Printer's imprint: Form. 9. D.R.A.</p>	Late 30ies
8		<p>Space at the bottom for sender's name and address. Colour: Buff in a lighter shade than type 3 Size: 15,5 x 22,3 cm. Printer's imprint: Form. 9. D.R.A.</p>	After WW II
9		<p>New design without conditions and rules for ocean letters. Colour: Yellow Size: 16,1 x 22,7 cm. No printer's imprint:</p>	1945-1950

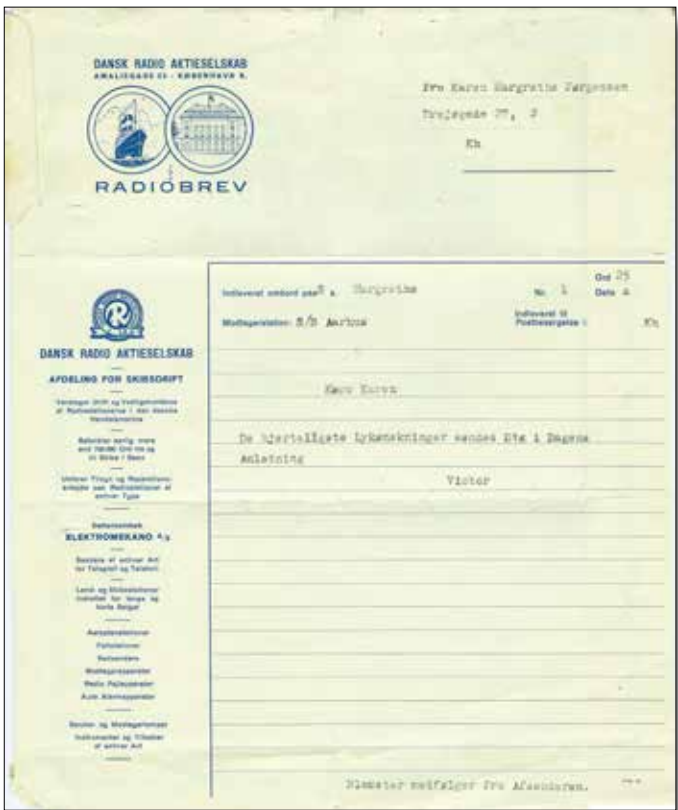
Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)			
Type	Message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
10		<p>Message form used for communication between two ships printed in bottom left corner.</p> <p>Colour: Pink</p> <p>Size: 18,1 x 21,1 cm.</p> <p>Printer's imprint: Nr. 7. D.R.A. 3486 36 in bottom left and right corners</p>	1936

Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
1		<p>Printer's Imprint: D.R.A. 8.1928 100 Bl. a 100 Blade.</p> <p>Printed for DRA even though it looks just like DFDS message forms. See next paragraph. Used by DRA telegraph operators that worked for DFDS.</p>	1928
2		<p>New folded message form was inspired by DFDS. The reason for the new form was change of address. Printer's imprint 94166. Does not reveal printing year but on the back the <i>Dana</i> expedition is mentioned and this happened in 1928.</p> <p>Colour: Off-white and red</p> <p>Size: 28,1 x 23,2</p>	1931



Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
3		<p>New design in white and blue. on the back map showing the Dana expedition. Printer's imprint 2743 31. Colour: Off-white and blue Size: 28,1 x 23,5</p>	1931



Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (DFDS)

Already in 1920 Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (DFDS), (the United Steamship Company), established a separate radio division to keep track of the most modern development in the radio business. They became the leading company when it comes to Danish ocean letters. Especially with the introduction of short wave radios in 1927, they became the leaders, because they had the routes Esbjerg- Harwich, and in the Kattegat the Aarhus-Copenhagen and Aalborg-Copenhagen routes. On their daily tours they functioned as sailing radio stations and received ocean letters and especially position telegrams sent as radio letters from the DFDS fleet from all over the world. The DFDS ships also received ocean letters from other shipping companies, e.g. Maersk and East Indian Company, being the major companies.

The ocean letters were posted on arrival mainly in the morning after the night voyage to Copenhagen, but also in rarer cases in Aarhus, Aalborg, and most rarely in Esbjerg. Position telegrams sent as ocean letters were delivered by courier at the main office in Copenhagen, and never sent through the ordinary mail.

Ocean letters were usually sent as ordinary first class mail but also sent as Sunday or express mail at an additional fee. Sometimes the ocean letters are marked **udlv.** or **udleveres** plus a date, which means that they were delivered on a special date and held back for delivery on that specific day – usually a birthday greeting or for Mother's Day.

From early 1928 DFDS had their own message forms printed. They were used both for ocean letters and positions telegrams sent as ocean letters. When sent as a position telegram, the message form was not sealed or closed with the special "perforation machine" which they used to close on the right side of the letter when folded. The special perforation made it easier to tear open the ocean letter. Position telegrams sent as ocean letters have no postage stamps because of the direct delivery to the office in Copenhagen.

At first there are no printer's imprint, but from June 1928 they have the printer's imprint in the bottom left corner, starting with a K. There is one type from August 1928 (type 3) which says D.R.A. + type number. Either it shows how tightly knit DRA and DFDS are, or the printer was printing the new message forms for DRA, which also happened in 1928, and forgot to change the

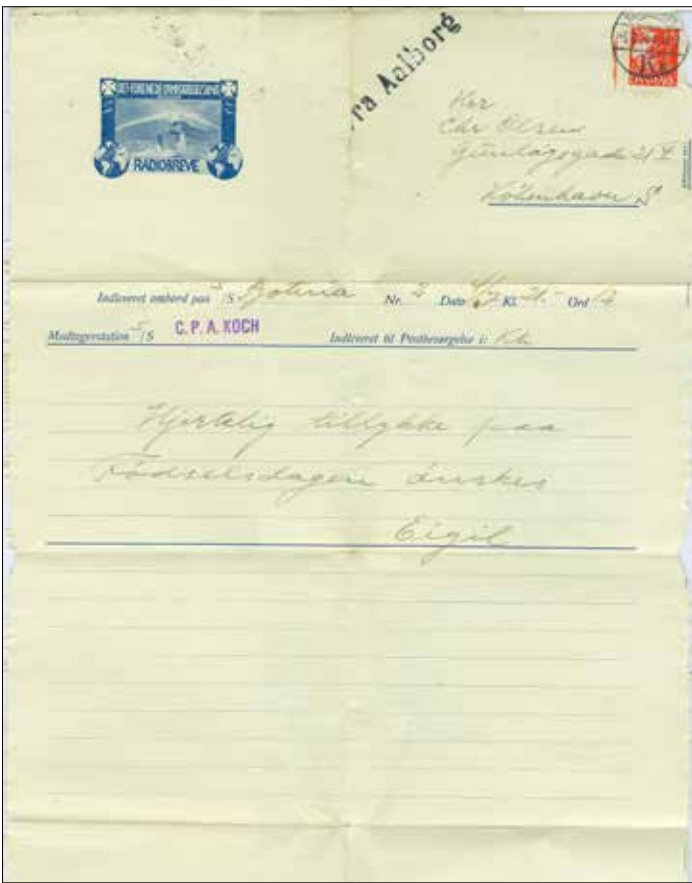
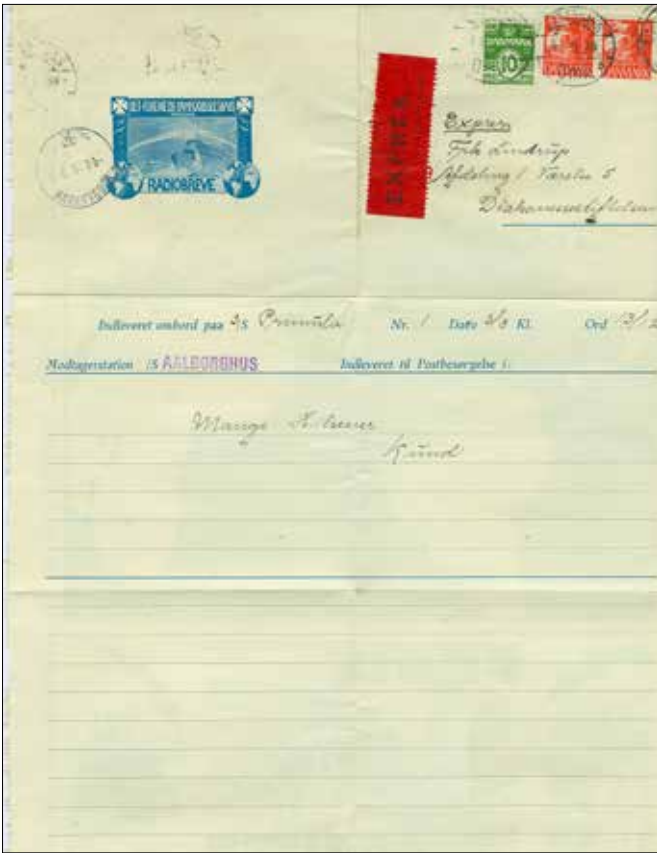
imprint even though the message form has the DFDS logo in blue in the top left corner.

All subsequent message forms start with a K until the format is changed in 1932, and they now start with F.E.B. The letters must refer to the printer. From 1932 they are in an A4 format and only sealed with a paper label and no more the perforator.

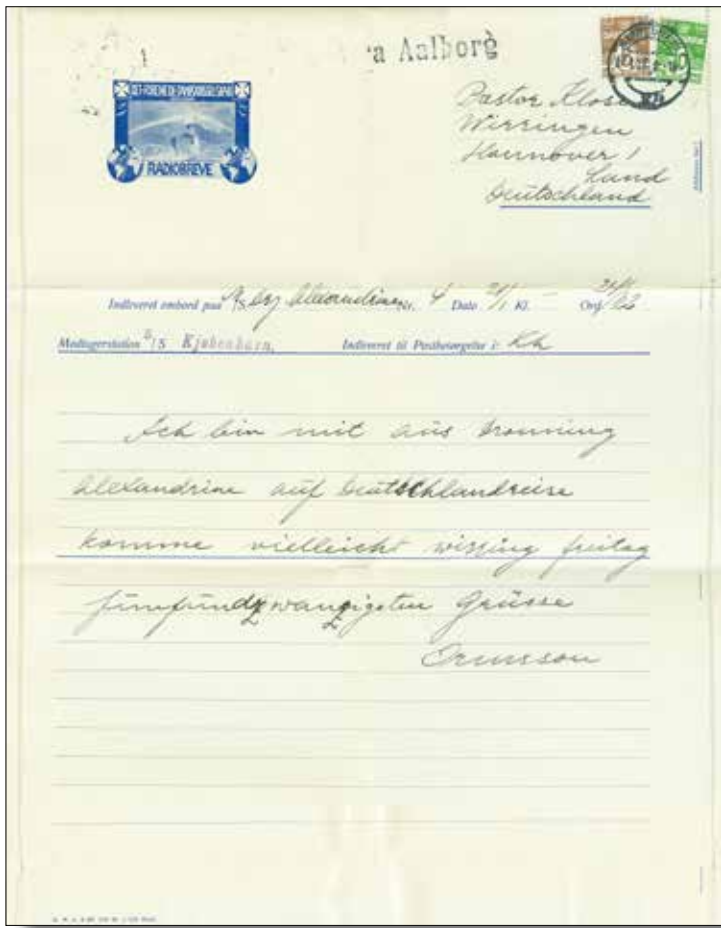
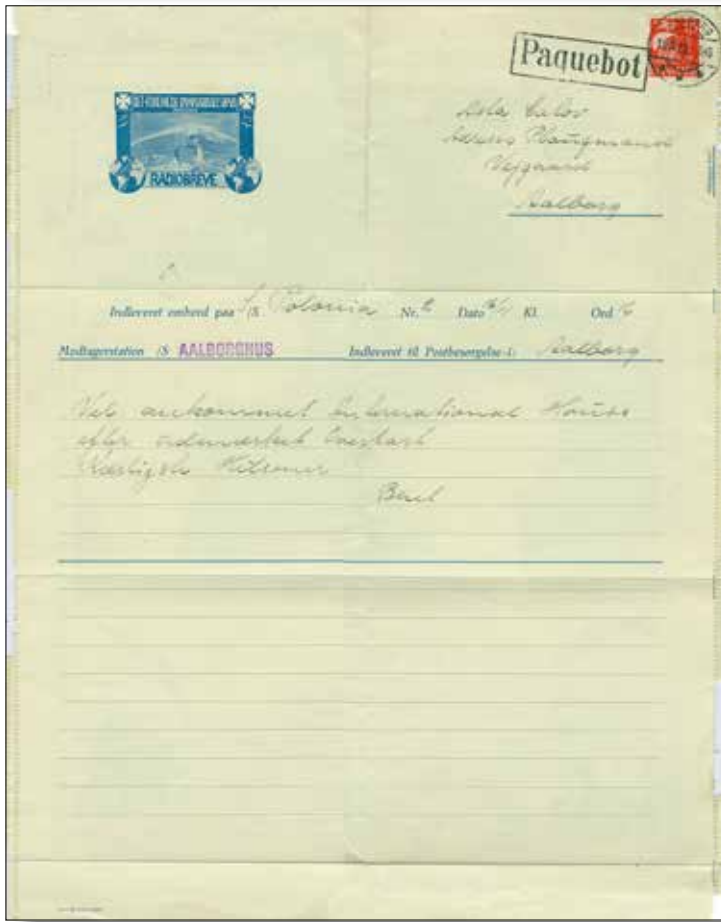
The ocean letters were handed in to the post offices together with the ordinary mail from the ship and therefore most often have paquebot stamps plus a date stamp.

The first position telegrams sent as radio letters were like the ocean letters as seen on type 1 on the next page. This one is a position telegram from 1931, when they had reduced them to half size. Several later ones were printed in different designs and colours.

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
1	 <p>A folded message form with a blue 'RADIOBREV' stamp in the top left corner. The top right corner has a red circular postmark. The form is addressed to 'Hr. Ede. Olsen, Gammelgade 47, København S'. The bottom section contains the text: 'Indleveret ombord paa ... Nr. ... Dato ... Kl. ... Ord ...', 'Modtagerstation / S C. P. A. KOCH', and 'Indleveret til Postbureauget i: Kh.'. The main body of the message is written in cursive: 'Hjertelig tillykke paa Farselsdagen dinde', followed by a horizontal line and the word 'Ejgil'.</p>	<p>No printer's imprint. Blank page on the back. Colour: Off-white - cream Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p>	<p>1928 Earliest date is 29/2-1928.</p>
2	 <p>A folded message form with a blue 'RADIOBREV' stamp in the top left corner. The top right corner has a red rectangular stamp and a green circular postmark. The form is addressed to 'Express, Fik landings, Afsending i Torsdag 8, Diakonmødet/Holsten'. The bottom section contains the text: 'Indleveret ombord paa ... Nr. 1 Dato 8/2 Kl. ... Ord ...', 'Modtagerstation / S AALDORFhus', and 'Indleveret til Postbureauget i:'. The main body of the message is written in cursive: 'Martha A. Jensen', followed by a horizontal line and the word 'Kærlig'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K.1782.6.28.100Bl. in bottom left corner Advertisement for their holiday trips on the back. Colour: Off-white - cream Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p> <p>Rated and sent as an express delivery.</p>	<p>1928</p> <div data-bbox="1027 1624 1265 1964" data-label="Image"> <p>The advertisement features a world map with blue oceans and white landmasses. Below the map, the word 'FERIE' is written in large, bold, capital letters. Underneath 'FERIE', the word 'REISER' is written in smaller, bold, capital letters. The background of the advertisement is a light blue and white pattern.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1027 1986 1230 2060" data-label="Text"> <p>K.1782.6.28.100Bl.</p> </div>

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
3		<p>Printer's imprint: D.R.A. 8-28 100 Bl. à 100 Blade Blank page on the back. Colour: Off-white - cream Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p> <p>Ocean letter sent abroad.</p>	1928
4		<p>Printer's imprint: K.1108.4.29.100 Bl. Advertisement for their routes on the back Colour: Off-white - cream Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p>	1929

D. R. A. 8-28. 100 Bl. à 100 Blade.

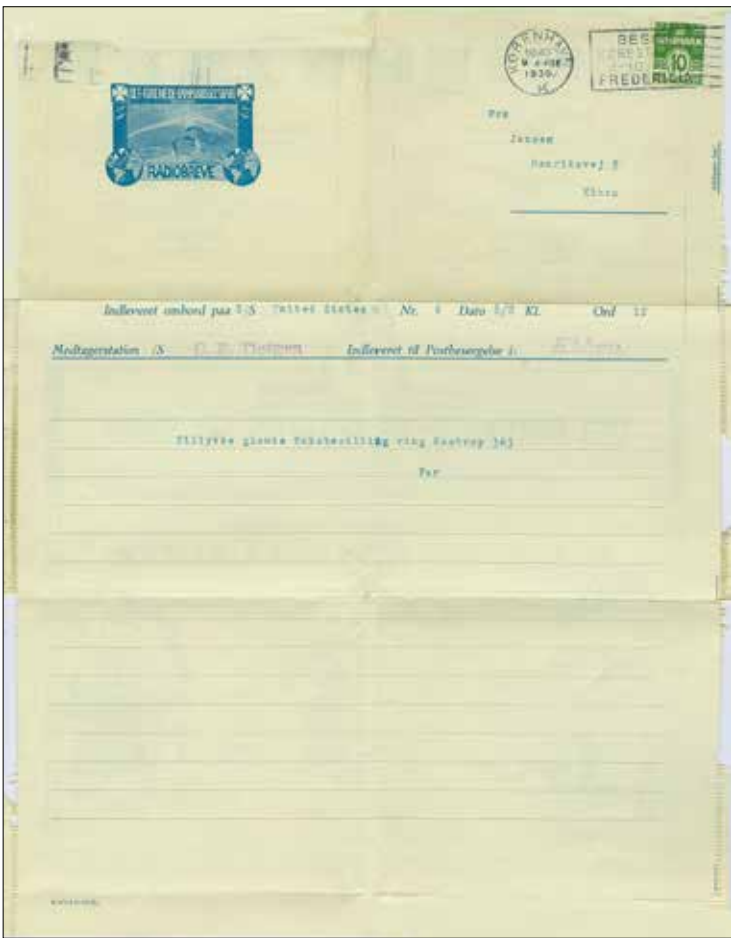



K.1108.4.29.100Bl.

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
5		<p>Printer's imprint: K.374.2.30.30 Bl. Re-print of type 4.</p> <p>Advertisement for their routes on the back</p> <p>Colour: Off-white - cream</p> <p>Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p>	1930
6		<p>Printer's imprint: K.1182.4.30.30 Bl. Re-print of type 4-5.</p> <p>Advertisement for their routes on the back</p> <p>Colour: Off-white - cream</p> <p>Size: 31,5 x 25,5</p>	1930

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
7		<p>Printer's imprint: K.1879.6.30.100.BI.</p> <p>Advertisement for their routes and holiday passages on the back</p> <p>Colour: Off-white - cream</p> <p>Size: 32,5 x 25,5</p> <p>Local rate for delivery inside the postal district of Copenhagen.</p>	1930
7a	 <p>When correctly folded, the red print looks like this. It looks like it is a red rubber stamp.</p>	<p>The same message for as type 7, but with print added at the bottom of the sheet, so when folded it appears below the address, starting return address in case of non delivery.</p>	1930



Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
8		<p>Printer's imprint: K.3764.11.30.100Bl.</p> <p>Advertisement for their routes and holiday passages on the back and now with printed information in black about returned letters like the stamp on type 7.</p> <p>Colour: Off-white-cream</p> <p>Size: 32,5 x 25,5</p>	1930
9		<p>Printer's imprint: K.2032.7.31.100Bl.</p> <p>This is a reprint of type 8</p> <p>Colour: Off-white-cream</p> <p>Size: 32,5 x 25,5</p> <p>Red cross indicates a Sunday letter.</p>	1931


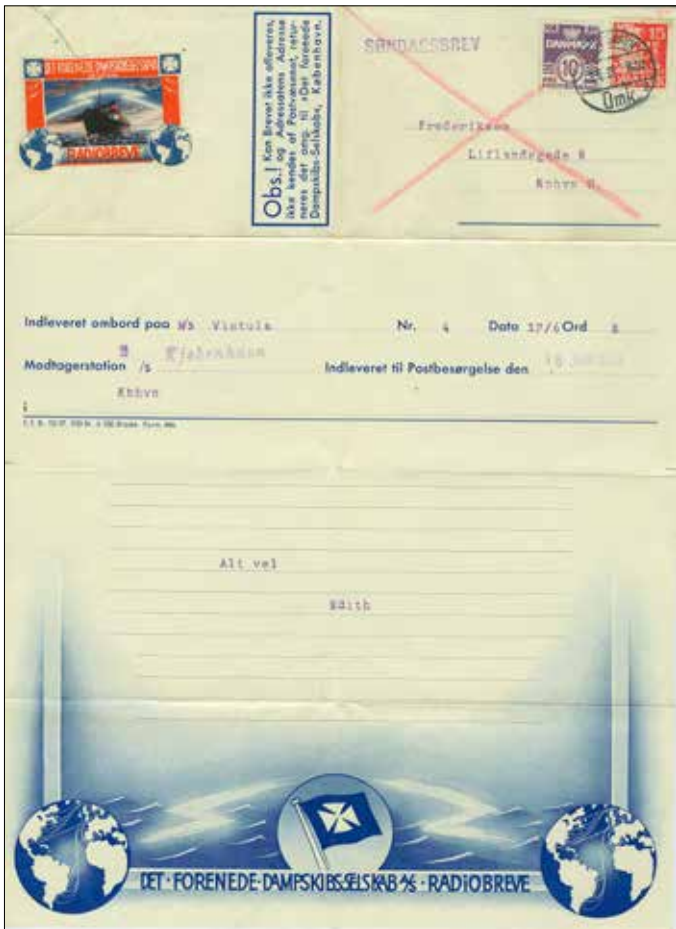
Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
10	 <p>A folded message form with a blue rectangular stamp on the left and a red circular postmark on the right. The text is in Danish. The top part of the form is addressed to 'Indleveret ombord paa ...'. The bottom part contains a table with columns for 'Dato' and 'Ordnr.'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K.2825.9.31.100Bl. This is a reprint of type 8-9 Colour: Off-white-cream Size: 32,5 x 25,5</p> <p>On the front is written: Udlev 6/11, which means that it was not to be delivered until 6 November. It was possible to request a delivery on a certain day, e.g. on a birthday.</p>  <p>K.2825.9.31.100Bl.</p>	1931
11	 <p>A folded message form with a blue rectangular stamp on the left and a red circular postmark on the right. The text is in Danish. The top part of the form is addressed to 'Indleveret ombord paa ...'. The bottom part contains a table with columns for 'Dato' and 'Ordnr.'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K.3572.11.31.100Bl. This is a reprint of type 8-9-10 Colour: Off-white-cream Size: 32,5 x 25,5</p> <p>Red cross and rubber stamp indicates it is a Sunday letter.</p>  <p>K.3572.11.31.100Bl.</p>	1931

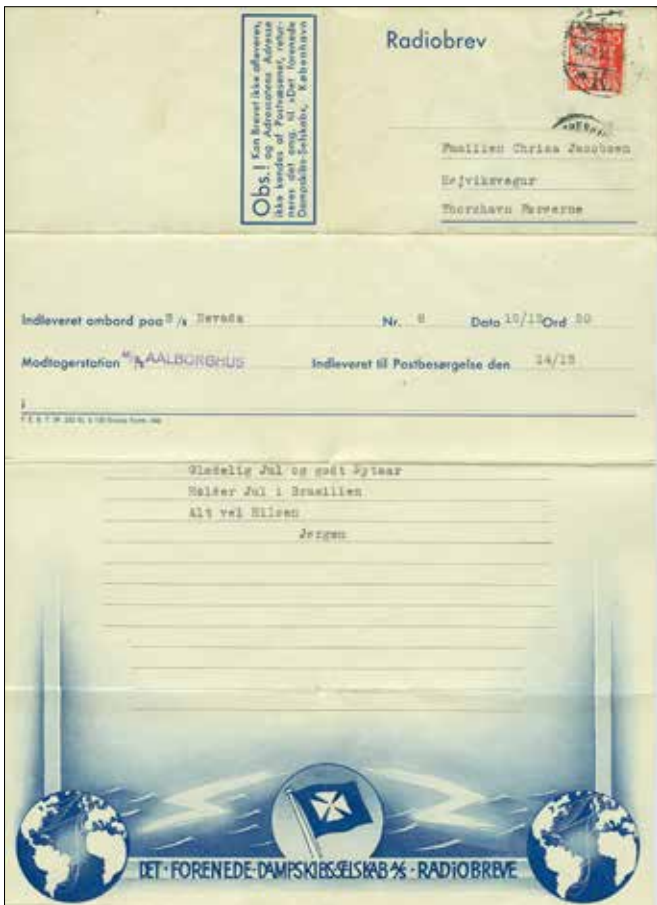
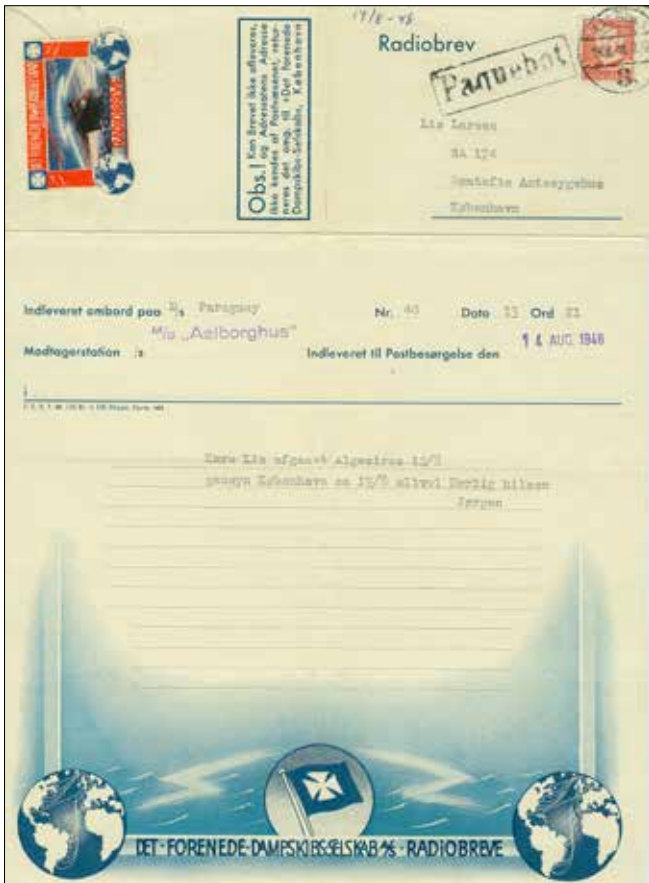
Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
12		<p>From this print from 1932 the sheets were now folded and had a flap at the top left that might be bent around and sealed with the square DFDS label.</p> <p>It was now a smaller seize (A4), a seize they kept until the service stopped.</p> <p>This type was used until 1934. There might be reprints, but so far no varieties have been detected.</p> <p>No printer's imprint Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p>	1932
13		<p>Printer's imprint: F.E.B. 6-34. 250 Bl.</p> <p>Printer's imprint is placed in the middle of the sheet on the left just below the address.</p> <p>Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p>	1934



Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
14		<p>Printer's imprint: F.E.B. 5-36. 250 BL. Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p>	1936
15		<p>Printer's imprint: F.E.B. 12-37. 250 BL., à 100 Blade. Form. 446 Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p> <p>Sunday ocean letter.</p>	1937


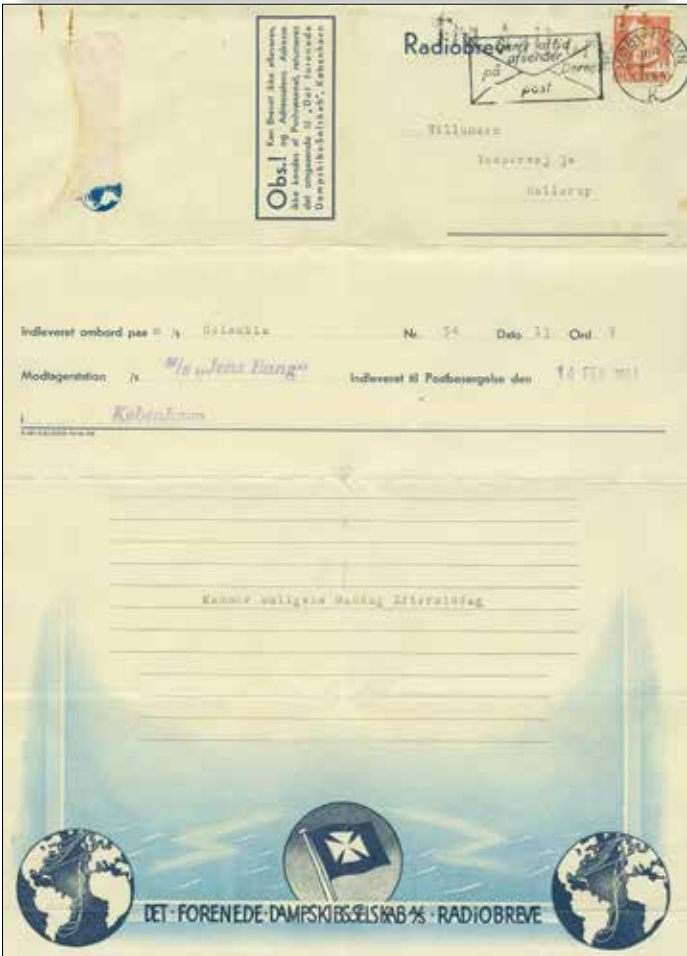
Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
16	 <p>This is a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). It features a red stamp in the top right corner and a blue stamp in the top left corner. The text 'Radiobrev' is printed at the top. The address is 'Familien Christa Jacobsen, Højvikvej, Thorshavn Havn'. The form includes fields for 'Indleveret ombord paa S/S. Dato', 'Nr.', 'Dato', and 'Ord'. The date is '10/10' and the order number is '20'. The station is 'AALBORGhus'. The form is dated '24/10'. The text 'Gladelig Jul og godt Nytår' is printed. The name 'Jørgen' is written. The bottom of the form features a blue border with a globe and the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREV'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: F.E.B. 7.39. 250 Bl., à 100 Blade. Form. 446 Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p>	1939
17	 <p>This is a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). It features a red stamp in the top right corner and a blue stamp in the top left corner. The text 'Radiobrev' is printed at the top. The address is 'Lis Larsen, 31 174, Gentofte Antennehus, København'. The form includes fields for 'Indleveret ombord paa S/S. Dato', 'Nr.', 'Dato', and 'Ord'. The date is '11' and the order number is '21'. The station is 'Aalborghus'. The form is dated '14 AUG. 1946'. The text 'Kære Lis og paa Algeries 12/8' is printed. The name 'Jørgen' is written. The bottom of the form features a blue border with a globe and the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREV'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: F.E.B. 1.48. 100 Bl., à 100 Blade. Form. 446. Colour: Off-white -cream Size: A4</p>	1948

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
18	 <p>This is a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). It features a red and blue logo at the top left, a central text box with instructions, and a red stamp that reads 'Radiobrev'. The form is addressed to 'Frederikshavn' and dated '24 JULI 1949'. It includes a section for 'Indleveret ombord paa' and 'Modtagestation'. The bottom of the form features a blue and white logo with the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS-SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREVE'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K 3219 12.48. 20000 Form. 446</p> <p>Colour: Off-white -cream</p> <p>Size: A4</p>	1948
19	 <p>This is a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). It features a red and blue logo at the top left, a central text box with instructions, and a red stamp that reads 'Radiobrev'. The form is addressed to 'Helsingør' and dated '26.6.2'. It includes a section for 'Indleveret ombord paa' and 'Modtagestation'. The bottom of the form features a blue and white logo with the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS-SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREVE'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K 3656 11.49. 5000 Form. 446a</p> <p>Colour: Off-white -cream</p> <p>Size: A4</p> <p>This type 446a seems to be a special print used for special occasions, in this case a Christmas greeting.</p>	1949

Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.)

Type	Folded message forms	Description of characteristics	Print Year
20	 <p>The image shows a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). The top section is a header with a red and blue logo on the left, a central box with text, and a red circular stamp on the right. The main body of the form is a light blue paper with a white border. It contains a header with 'Radiobrev' and 'Fra Aalborg'. Below this is a section for 'Indleveret ombord paa' (Delivered on board) with fields for 'Nr.' (No.), 'Dato' (Date), and 'Ond.' (On). The form is addressed to 'H. P. Prior' and dated '28/7'. The bottom section contains a message in Danish: 'Fra Vej til Cuba har været i Newyork een Dag har det godt hvad er borghilds kundes adresse i Newyork Hils Christen og Borghild. Erling.' The bottom of the form features a blue and white logo with the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREVE'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K 1345 4.50. 20000 Form. 446</p> <p>Colour: Off-white -cream</p> <p>Size: A4</p>	1950
21	 <p>The image shows a folded message form from Det Forenede Dampskibs Selskab (D.F.D.S.). The top section is a header with a red and blue logo on the left, a central box with text, and a red circular stamp on the right. The main body of the form is a light blue paper with a white border. It contains a header with 'Radiobrev' and 'Fra Aalborg'. Below this is a section for 'Indleveret ombord paa' (Delivered on board) with fields for 'Nr.' (No.), 'Dato' (Date), and 'Ond.' (On). The form is addressed to 'H. P. Prior' and dated '28/7'. The bottom section contains a message in Danish: 'Fra Vej til Cuba har været i Newyork een Dag har det godt hvad er borghilds kundes adresse i Newyork Hils Christen og Borghild. Erling.' The bottom of the form features a blue and white logo with the text 'DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS SÆLSKAB - RADIOBREVE'.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: K 481 2.53. 20000 Form. 446</p> <p>Colour: Off-white -cream</p> <p>Size: A4</p>	1953

DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

From about 1927 Marconi experimented with special Christmas ocean letters (see section on Marconi). DFDS took up this service in 1929, which is the earliest date for a Christmas ocean letter found so far. These Christmas and also New Year greeting ocean letters do not look especially 'Christmassy', but a couple of them rather gloomy.


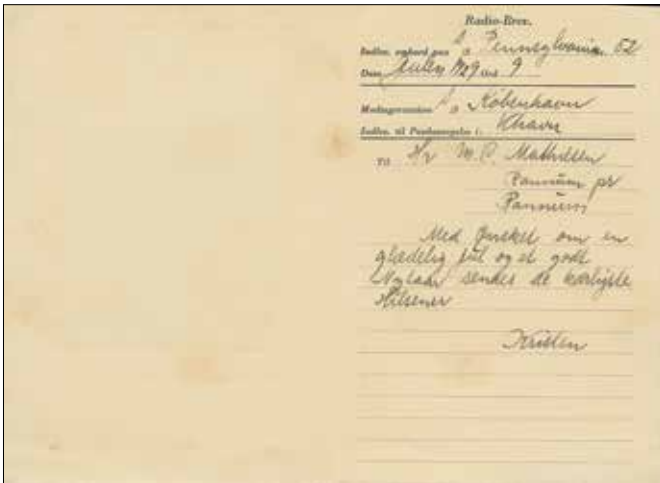
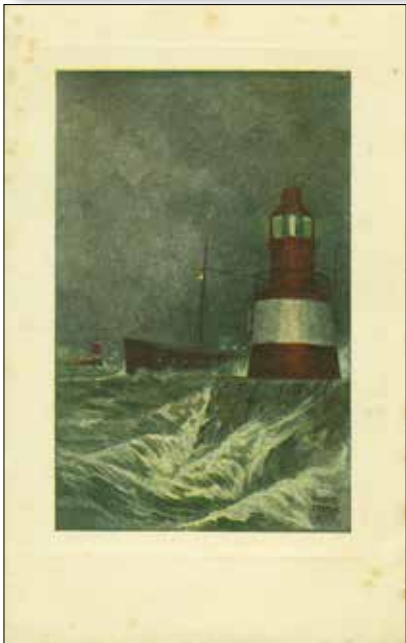
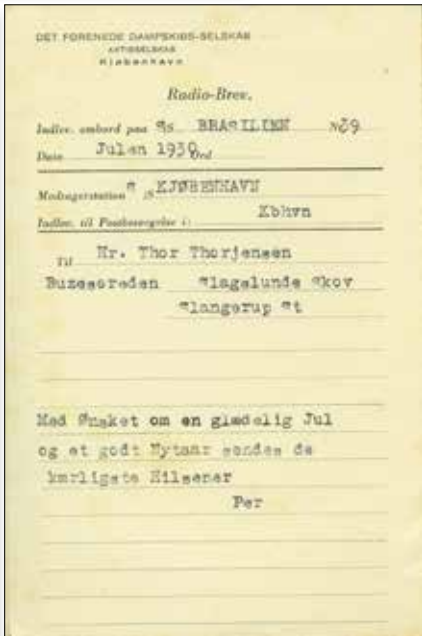
They were sent at the minimum rate as they had agreed on a number of standard greetings attached to a number. This can be seen for example from the official instruction from the state radio when they also took over sending Christmas letters sent directly to the land radio stations. In the instruction from 1935 there are the following greetings:

- 1) *Hermed Ønsket om en glædelig Jul og et godt Nytaar, Hilsen,*
- 2) *Mange gode Ønsker for Julen og det nye Aar, kærlig Hilsen,*
- 3) *Kærligste Julehilsner, mine Tanker er hjemme, Hilsen,*
- 4) *Lykke og Fred i Julen ønskes af*
- 5) *Med Ønsket om en glædelig Jul og et godt Nytaar sendes de venligste Hilsener,*
- 6) *De bedste Ønsker for det nye Aar med Tak for det gamle,*
- 7) *Haaber det nye Aar vil bringe Held og Lykke,*
- 8) *Med Ønsket om et godt og lykkebringende Nytaar, Hilsen.*


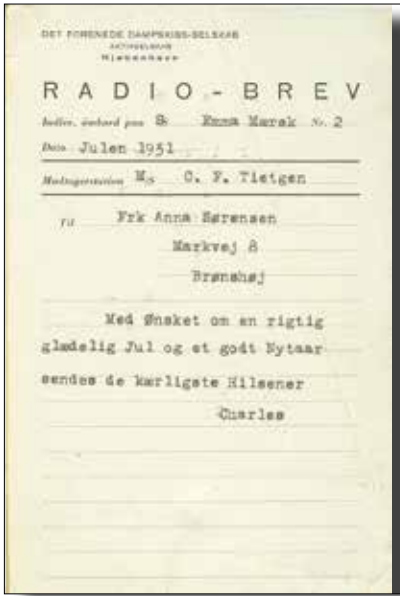
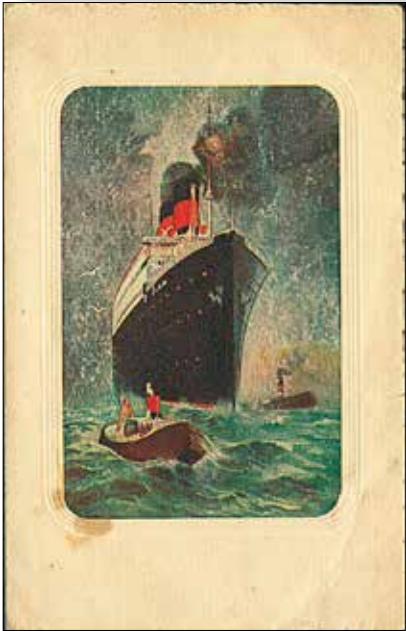
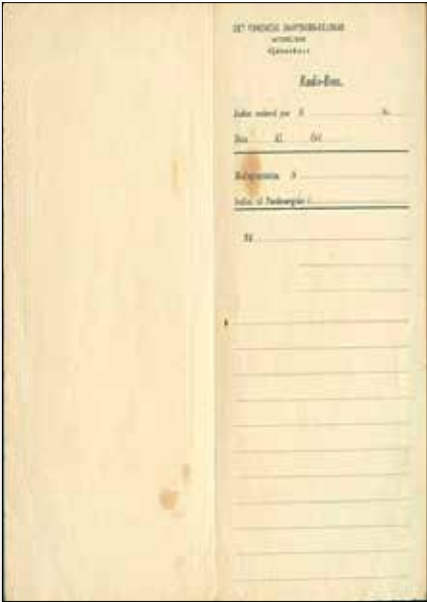

These are the same greetings found on the DFDS Christmas ocean letters found before 1934, when the Danish state took over and allowed ocean letters to be transmitted from ships to a land station on the same terms as ocean letters from ship to ship to shore. It is therefore likely that the Danish State Telegraph continued and imitated the service already established by DFDS. Christmas ocean letters were sent at a special cheap price, and what helped to make it cheap was that you only had to telegraph the digit, e.g. 5, and they would know which standard greeting to write on the card.

As earlier mentioned the first Christmas Ocean letter/postcard is from 1929, and so far 8 have been found from 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933 1937, and 1952. It is most likely that there are more from the missing years, but some might also be reused just like the Danish state radio did when they started their service in 1934. They used the same cards until they ran out of the printed postcards. So far only one envelope has been found, so it is hard to guess what they looked like, and if not sent in ordinary DFDS envelopes, there might exist special envelopes for these Christmas ocean greetings like the one shown with the printed JULERADIOBREV, type 8.


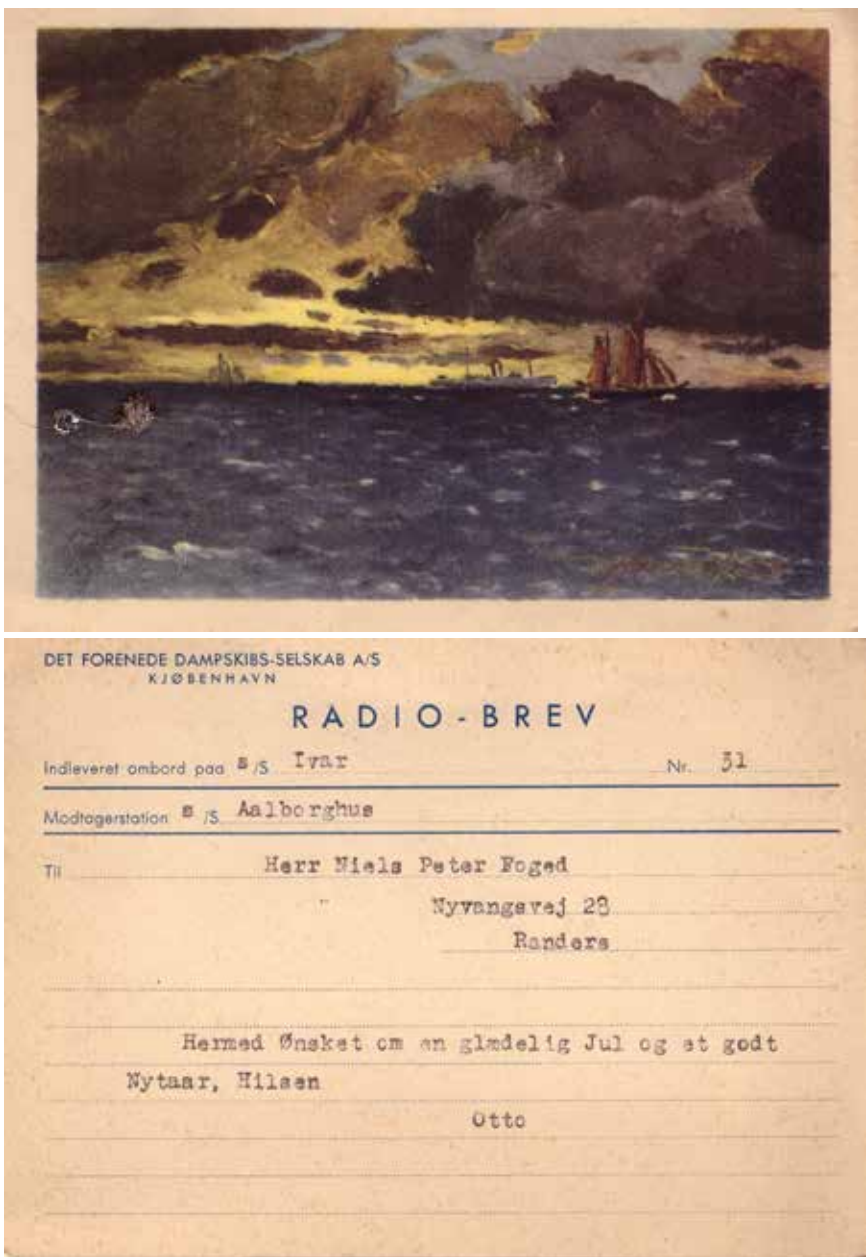
DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

Type	Message form	Description	Year
1	 	Folded card with illustration on the front and message on page 3.	1929
2	 	This type is a folded card like type 1 and like type 1 with two blank pages.	1930


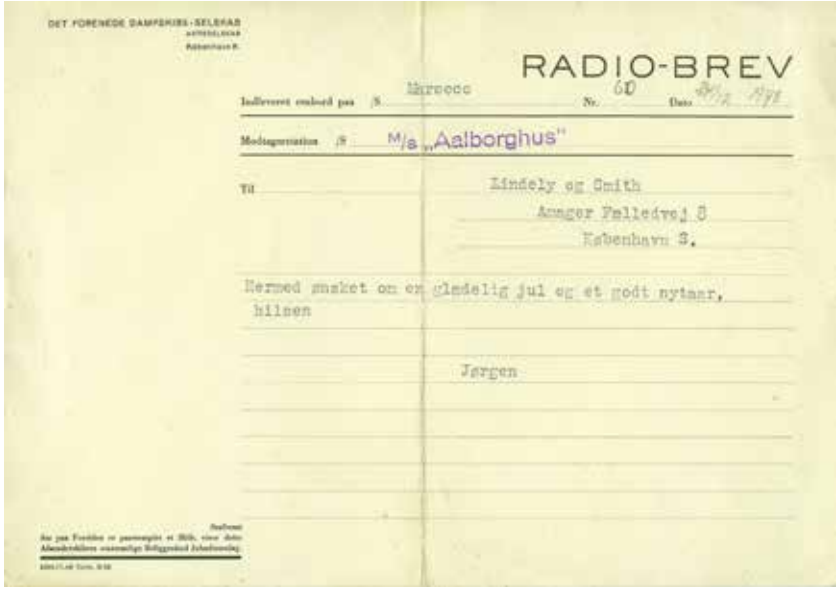
DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

Type	Message form	Description	Year
3	 	This type is a folded card like type 1 and 2 and like type 1 and 2 with two blank pages.	1931
4	 	Unused card and therefore impossible to date. 1932-33 is a good guess.	1932?
5		New type with map on front and message on both inside pages. Red map colour.	1933

DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

Type	Message form	Description	Year
	 <p>DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS-SKAB KJØBENHAVN</p> <p>RADIO-BREV</p> <p>Indleveret ombord paa <i>M Nordborg</i> Nr. <i>43</i> Dato <i>jul 1933</i></p> <p>Modtagerstation <i>Kjøbenhavn</i></p> <p>Til <i>Herr Niels Bloch</i> <i>Bjergvej pr. Boudrup</i> <i>Nordjylland</i></p> <p><i>Kærligste julehilsener,</i> <i>mine tanker og hygge</i> <i>Hilsen Christian</i></p> <p><small>Det kan findes en postboks til alle de i Havneudvalget anerkendte Skibsselskaber</small></p>		
6	 <p>DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS-SKAB A/S KJØBENHAVN</p> <p>RADIO-BREV</p> <p>Indleveret ombord paa <i>S/S Ivar</i> Nr. <i>31</i></p> <p>Modtagerstation <i>S/S Aalborghus</i></p> <p>Til <i>Herr Niels Peter Foged</i> <i>Nyvangvej 28</i> <i>Randers</i></p> <p><i>Hermed ønsket om en glædelig Jul og et godt</i> <i>Nytår, Hilsen</i> <i>Otto</i></p>	Folded card with blank back and blank page 2	1934

DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

Type	Message form	Description	Year
7	 	<p>Printer's imprint 5000.11.48</p> <p>Revival of type 5 with map on front and message on both inside pages.</p> <p>Map in yellow colour in contrast to type 5</p>	1948

DFDS Christmas/New Years Ocean Letters/Cards

Type	Message form	Description	Year
8	 <p>DET FORENEDE DAMPSKIBS-SELSKAB ARTISTISKE KØBENHAVN</p> <p>RADIO-BREV</p> <p>Indfærdigt sendt paa M/s Rhodos Nr. 93</p> <p>Modtageren: M/s "Aalborghus" Dato: 23 DEC 1952</p> <p>til Familien Thomsen Kongensgade 13 Fredericia</p> <p>Hermed ønsket om en glædelig jul og et godt nytår</p> <p>hilsen Leif</p>	Top folded card - blank on the back and envelope with printed <i>Juleradiobrev</i> (Christmas ocean letter) on the front	1952
	 <p><i>Juleradiobrev</i></p> <p>Skriv fuldstændig adresse gade, husnummer, etage og til København postdistrikt</p> <p>ALBORG 23 DEC 1952 DANMARK 30</p> <p><i>fr. R. Thomsen M/s "Rhodos" D.F.D.S. Sankt Anna Plads 30 København</i></p> <p>Familien Thomsen Kongensgade 13 Fredericia.</p>		

Gift Ocean Letters

Denmark was the first country to extend the ocean letter service to gift ocean letters. On 1 April 1933 one of the leading members in Dansk Radio Aktieselskab (DRA), chief engineer Chr. Gerald founded GAVE-TELEGRAM Inc. He had by then got permission from the Danish State Telegraph to operate a gift ocean letter service, which is ocean letters sent with a gift. DRA lent Chr. Gerald the money to start the firm, provided that he favoured DRA ships. Company address was the same as DRA and they even used their stationary with a rubber stamp in the beginning as seen in figure 1. The company made its own message forms almost from the beginning and the early material is scarce.

The arrangement was as follows: Ships were yearly supplied with a catalogue of the available gifts and these gifts were numbered in the catalogue (see figure 2). It was therefore only necessary to telegraph the number of the gift, fill out the message form and send it to GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S. They saw to it that the gift and the ocean letter were sent in a



Figure 1. Front and back of letter dated 8 April 1933, 7 days after the foundation of the company. Local Sunday letter 10 øre + 10 øre Sunday fee. *Gave-Telegram A/S* used a rubber stamp on DRA stationary the first days.

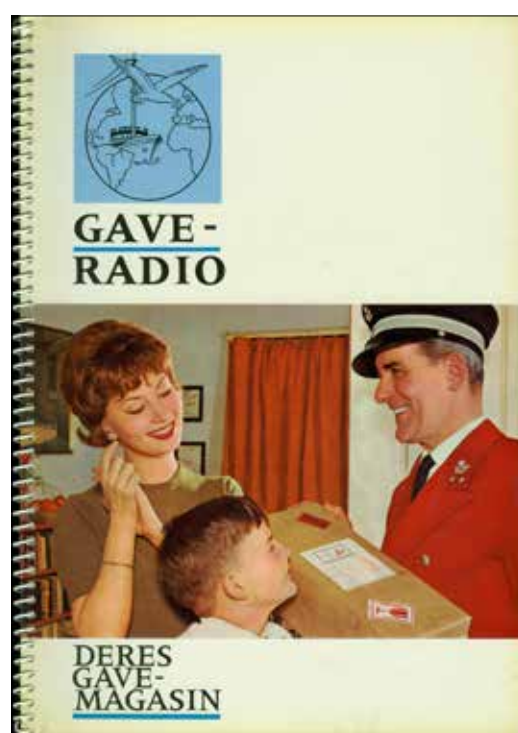


Figure 2. Catalogue and a page from Gave-Telegram A/S. The firm changed name in 1950 to Gave Radio.

letter by mail or by courier.

Figure 3 shows an envelope sent to GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S. It contained the gift ocean letters one of the DFDS ships had received on board the ship, and on arrival in Copenhagen, the letter was sent to GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S.

On 1 April 1934 the Danish State Telegraph opened up an ocean letter service so you could send ocean letters from ship to a telegraph station on land directly. The service was on exactly the same

terms as if it was an ocean letter sent from ship to ship and then posted in the port of arrival. Therefore, GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S was also included in the official regulations and instruction from the Danish Post and Telegraph.

Instruks for Bevægelige Radiostationer ombord i Skibe eller Luftfartøjer (fartøjsstationer), maj 1935

Radiobreve fra Skibe kan tillige sendes som Gave-Telegrammer, men Befordringen omfatter kun Radiobrevenes Modtagelse paa Kyststationen (eller den indenrigske Rutebaad), og deres Udsendelse pr. Post til Gave-Telegram A/S, medens selve Gavens Ekspedition besørges af Gave-Telegram A/S, og Afregningen af Gavebeløbet sker mellem dette Selskab og vedkommende Selskab eller Rederi, der har Driften af Radiostationen. Foran Adressen anføres den takstpligtige tjenstlige Angivelse =Gaveradiobrev=. Radiobrevet, for hvilket der beregnes et særligt Ekspeditionsgebyr af 50 Øre pr. Gave, der tilfalder Gave-Telegram A/S, adresseres »Gavetele-gram København«. Denne Ordning gælder ikke for Færøerne.

This instruction states how gift radio letters should be sent to Gave-Telegram A/S. This was in all subsequent official instructions until November 1955, the first instruction after Søgabe, a competing firm, had started their business.

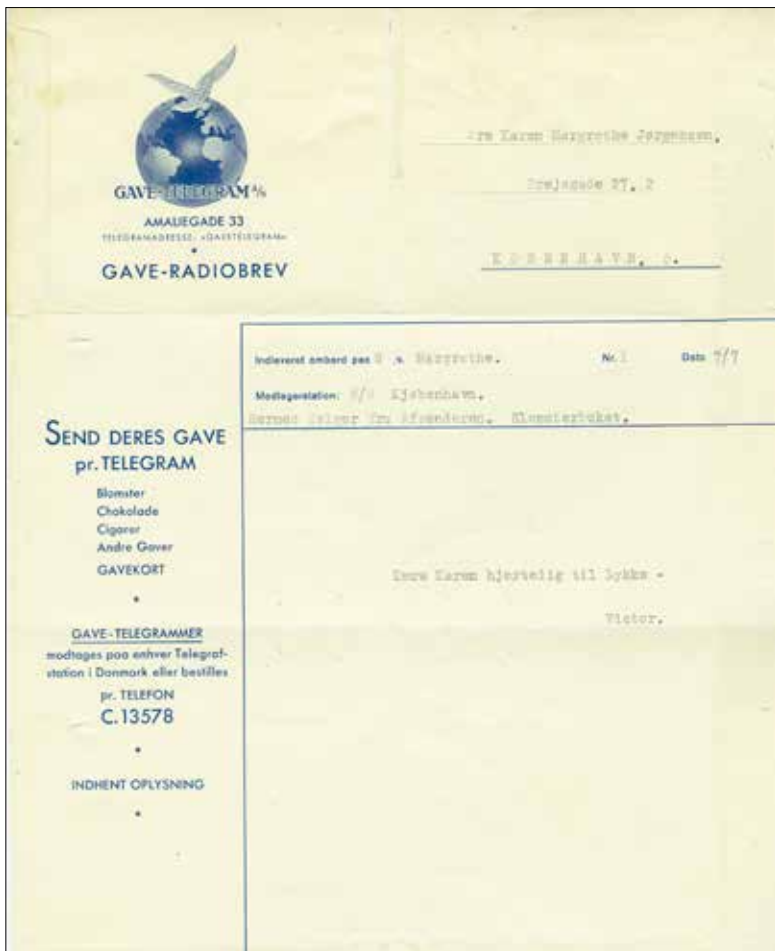

Although this being an official instruction it mentions that these ocean letters should be treated in the same way whether they originated from the DFDS ships in Danish waters or sent directly to the land radio station. It also says that the message form should be marked =Gaveradiobrev= (Gift ocean letter) and that the rate to be paid for this service was 50 øre that was to be paid to GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S. This is a quite unique way of having a private firm mentioned and incorporated in official state instructions. They remained in the official instructions until the instruction in 1955, because now a competing company SØGAVE A/S had been founded and provided the same service. Therefore, the state could no longer give preferential treatment to just the one firm and therefore none were mentioned in the following instructions.

On some of the ocean letters it is clearly seen whether they are sent ship to ship to shore or directly from ship to shore. If they are before 1 April 1934 they can only be sent ship to ship to shore, but afterwards it is difficult to distinguish, especially when they stopped mentioning the receiving ship/station on the message forms, but only mention the ship the ocean letter is sent from. Therefore all the types are catalogued here, as they all might be ship to ship to shore gift ocean letters. GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S changed name to *Gave Radio* in 1950 and ceased to exist 1 August 1958 when it was taken over by a flower company, so all later gift ocean letters can only be found sent from ship to shore directly.


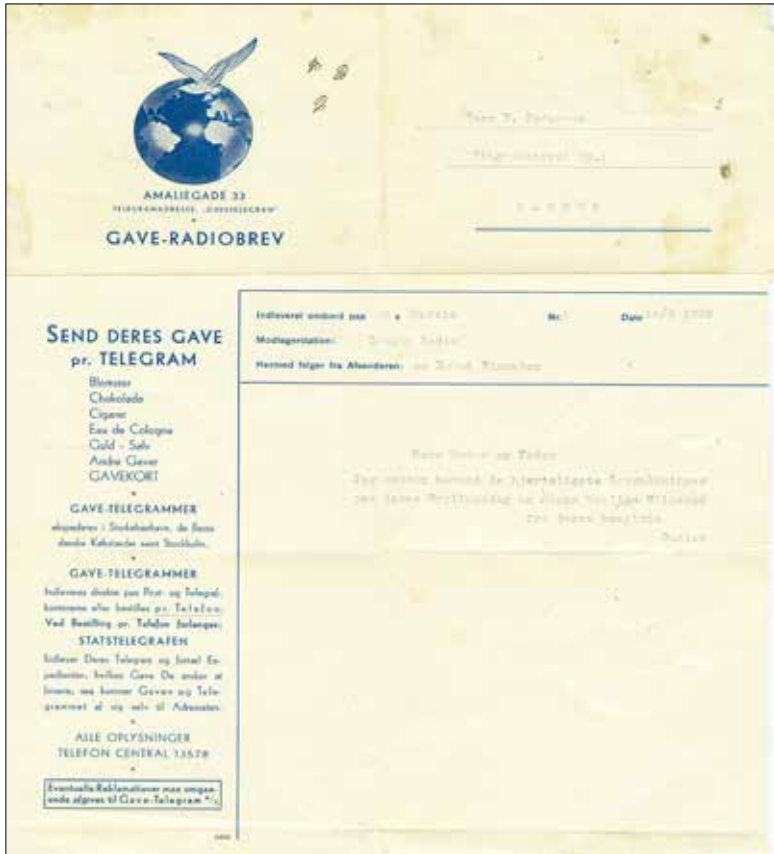


Figure 3. Letter which contained gift ocean letters sent to the Aalborg-Copenhagen ship posted on arrival in Copenhagen to Gavetelegram, which handled the rest of the service, sending the gift and the ocean letter.




Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
1		<p>Quite early <i>Gave-Telegram</i> had their own printed message forms. The message forms usually followed the gift, in this case flowers from <i>S/S Margrethe</i> to Copenhagen. The first message form had no printer's imprint and little text in the left column of the paper.</p> <p>Printer's imprint: none Colour: Creamy Size: 23,2x28,5</p>	1933
2		<p>Printer's imprint: 20527 in the bottom left corner Colour: Creamy Size: 23,2x28,5</p> <p>The second type has more text in the left column.</p>	1934

Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
3		<p>Printer's imprint: 26530 in the bottom right corner of the column</p> <p>Colour: Creamy</p> <p>Size: 23,2x28,5</p> <p>This type has a different text in the left column.</p>	1936
4		<p>Printer's imprint: 34646 in the bottom right corner of the column</p> <p>Colour: Creamy</p> <p>Size: 23,2x28,5</p>	1938

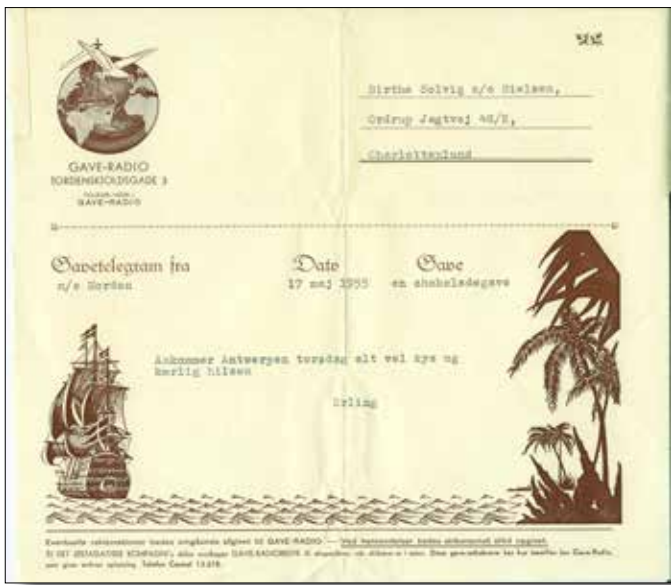
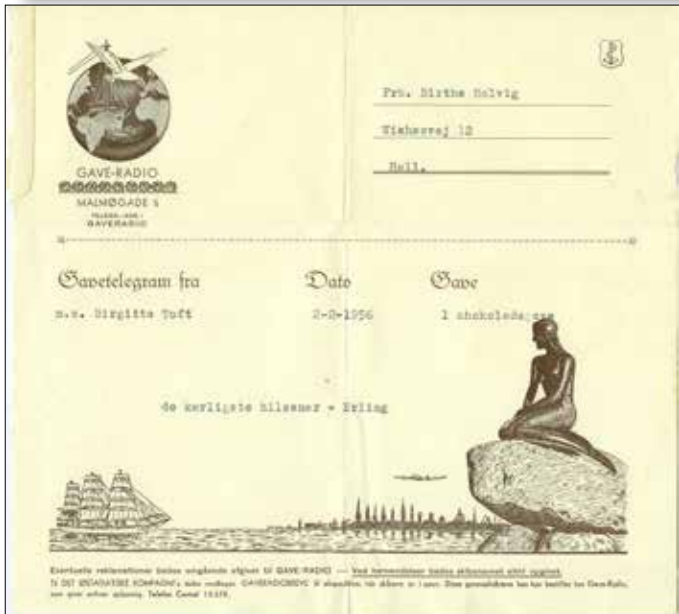
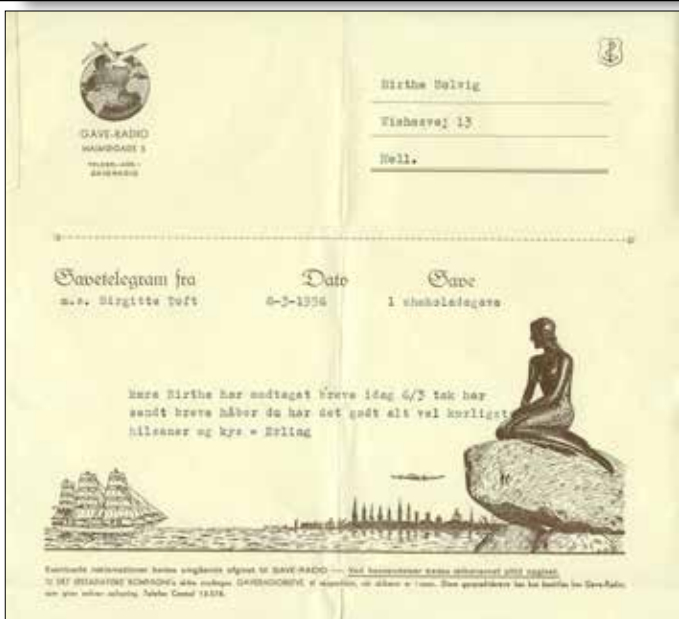
Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
5	 <p>This is a vintage message form from 1938. It features a header with a logo of a globe and a bird, and the text 'GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S'. The form is divided into sections for 'Omberd i', 'Gave-Telegram', and 'Telegram Code'. It includes a date field 'Dato 28 September 1938' and a location field 'St. Nikolai Hjemmet'. The main body contains a message in Danish: 'SÅSOM ILLIS HØJ VILDTYVE HED DAGEN OG TAT FOR ALT TALLEDE HILSEN DIT'. The bottom left corner has a printer's imprint: '36359'. The bottom right corner has a logo of a ship and palm trees.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: 36359 in the bottom left corner. Colour: Creamy and brown</p> <p>Size: 22,4x21 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>In 1938 Gave-Telegram A/S changed the design of their letters/message forms completely. They were downsized like the message forms from DFDS. They still shared the same address as DRA. The first of the new types - type 5 - has an anchor in the top right corner, rope, ship and palms.</p>	1938
6	 <p>This is a vintage message form from 1938. It features a header with a logo of a globe and a bird, and the text 'GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S'. The form is divided into sections for 'Mændt fra', 'Gave-telegram', and 'Telegram Code'. It includes a date field 'Dato 6 August 1938' and a location field 'St. Nikolai Hjemmet'. The main body contains a message in Danish: 'HJERTLIGT TIL LØSE OG KÆRLIG HILSEN TIL ALLE FOR HENRY'. The bottom left corner has a printer's imprint: '40110'. The bottom right corner has a logo of a ship and palm trees.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: 40110 in the bottom left corner. Colour: Creamy and brown</p> <p>Size: 22,4x21 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>Type 6 - has an anchor in the top right corner, rope, ship and palms, but differs from type 5 by having a new text under the rope.</p>	1938
7	 <p>This is a vintage message form from 1938-39. It features a header with a logo of a globe and a bird, and the text 'GAVE-TELEGRAM A/S'. The form is divided into sections for 'Gave-telegram fra', 'Dato', and 'Gave'. It includes a date field 'Dato 28. Dec. 1938' and a location field 'St. Nikolai Hjemmet'. The main body contains a message in Danish: 'Gjællede Jul ønske til alle der er'. The bottom left corner has a printer's imprint: '????62 0'. The bottom right corner has a logo of a ship and palm trees.</p>	<p>Printer's imprint: ???62 0 in the bottom left corner. Colour: Creamy and brown</p> <p>Size: 22,5x21 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>After the war in 1947 Gave-Telegram A/S had changed to a totally new design - still with the anchor and the same logo, but now with a picture of Kronborg Castle in Elsinore. Notice that they have now moved to a new address and no longer tied to DRA.</p>	1938-39

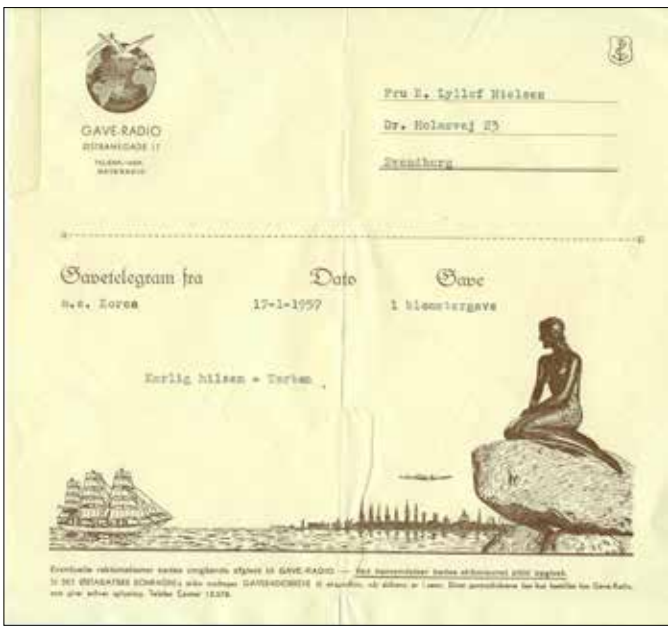


Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
8		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 22,5x21 cm. with a flap</p> <p>In 1950 the firm changed its name into Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) and changed their logo into a more light one, but with more or less the same elements as the previous one. The message form returned to the old one with ship and palms and the horizontal line is different from the old type 5. In the top right corner now a swallow with a white dot on its body.</p>	1950
9		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 22,4x21 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>Around 1952 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) had a new print made - type 9. The message form is the same as type 8. In the top right corner still a swallow with a white dot on its body, but text added at the bottom that at complaints the ship name should be given.</p>	1952
10		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 23x21,1 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>In 1954 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) had a new print made - type 10. The message form is the same as type 8 and 9. In the top right corner still a swallow but now no white dot on its body. The logo and the text below have been shifted to the left and the typography is slightly different.</p>	1954

Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
11		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 23x21,1 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>In 1955 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) had a new print made. The message form is the same as type 8, 9, and 10. In the top right corner there is now a floral ornament. The logo has again been changed into a more solid, dark one and the horizontal line is now dotted in a different way.</p>	1955
12		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 23x21,1 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>In December 1955 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) moved to a new address therefore had a new print made - type 12. The message form is a new design with the Little Mermaid, ship and Copenhagen skyline. In the top right corner there is now an anchor like types 5, 6, and 7. The old address was blotted out and the new one printed.</p>	1955
13		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 23x21,1 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>In December 1955 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) moved to a new address therefore had a new print made - type 13. The message form like type 12 design with the Little Mermaid, ship and Copenhagen skyline, an anchor like types 5, 6, and 7. The logo has been diminished and the correct address under it.</p>	1955-56

Gift Ocean Letters

Type	Message form	Description	Year
14		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: Creamy and brown Size: 23x21,1 cm. with a flap.</p> <p>Late 1956 Gave-Radio (Gift Radio) moved to a new address and therefore had a new print made. The message form is like type 13 with the Little Mermaid, ship and Copenhagen skyline, and an anchor like types 5, 6, and 7. The logo has been diminished and the correct address under it.</p>	1956
15		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: White Size: 19x21,3 cm.</p> <p>Because of financial problems Gave-Radio was sold and taken over by Interflora on 1 August 1958. They kept the name and continued the business from the same address, but made big changes to the envelopes and message forms. Being mainly flowers they delivered, they used their usual envelopes with their logo but different text, and kept the logo from the message form from Gave-Radio.</p>	1959
16		<p>No printer's imprint. Colour: White Size: 15x21,3 cm.</p> <p>In October 1969 Gave-Radio was liquidated but they tried to carry on for two years as a trial period, but results were not satisfactory, so the firm was finally closed in 1971.</p> <p>Gave-Radio and Gave Telegram items are scarce, so there might easily be a few more types than the ones catalogued here.</p>	60ies