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Handwriting example 24

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The above text is taken from the minutes of criminal cases (Protokoll i brottmål) of the Svea Hovrätt (Svea Court of Appeal), volume AIA:1:117 (July-Dec. 1834).

Since the early middle ages there had been local court meetings in the various districts (härad). Anyone who was not satisfied with the rulings of the häradsrätten could appeal to the king, and maybe get it changed.

Around 1600 the king Karl IX found this to be not very effective and tried to find a better way to handle these court cases. It was his son Gustaf II Adolf who in 1614 founded the Svea Hovrätt as a court of appeal. In some cases it was possible to write to the king and ask for a change of verdict or to ask for a pardon.

In 1623 a hovrätt was founded in Åbo (Turku) in Finland, then a part of Sweden. In 1630 another one in Dorpat (Tartu) in Estonia, then a part of Sweden. The Göta Hovrätt was founded in 1634 in Jönköping, to handle cases from southern Sweden (including Värmland up to 1813, afterwards in Svea hovrätt). In 1820 there was founded the Hovrätten över Skåne. During the 1900s were also founded the Hovrätten för Västra Sverige in Göteborg (1936), then the Hovrätten för Nedre Norrland in Sundsvall (1948), and the Hovrätten för Övre Norrland in Umeå (1936).

The superior court for Sweden is called Högsta Domstolen and was founded in 1789 by Gustaf III. It is situated in Stockholm.

All cases with a verdict of execution, from the häradsrätt, were sent on to the hovrätt, and if they confirmed the verdict, the sentenced person could write to the king and ask for pardon or a lesser sentence.

The records of the Svea Hovrätt are kept at the Riksarkivet (National Archives) in Stockholm. Records from Göta Hovrätt are now kept in the Landsarkivet (Regional Archives) in Västena, and only a small part of the records are microfilmed.

Solution on page 22.