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Handwriting example 23

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Handwriting Example XXIII



This unusual piece of Swedish folk art belongs to *Dee Kleinow*, 3204 Barbara Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337, <deeswede@comcast.net>.

This is a pen painting, done in black ink, and it was sent to America when a child, born in Sweden, died in America, and her godparents in Sweden wanted to show their sympathy with the parents.

During the 1800s it was usual that similar paintings were made to celebrate the birth of a child, or a couple of newlyweds or as a congratulation on a nameday (*namnsdag*). The nameday was important and people could look them up in the almanac, which we still can do, and it was often the occasion for a small party.

Birthdays were not celebrated in the same way, and often people were not certain on when they were born.

The paintings for happy occasions can have lots of gaudy colors, but for funerals and as memorials they are mostly in black and are decorated with coffins and other symbols of death.

Dee writes: "The little girl who had died, Christina Andersson, was born 28 Oct 1855 at Rönås # 3, Östra Kärrstorp, Skåne. She was a sister to my great-grandfather John Andersson.

"In April 1869 Anders Jonsson born 12 Oct 1820 at Kärrstorp # 6, Östra Kärrstorp, Skåne, and his wife Kerstin Andersdotter, born 4 Jul

1828 at Rönås # 4, Östra Kärrstorp, Skåne, with their three children, John, Anna & Christina traveled from Denmark to Quebec, Canada, and down to Mankato, MN, where they spent the winter.

"The next spring they traveled to Sveadahl in southern Minnesota. Daughter Christina died from appendicitis en route to Sveadahl and was first buried on the family farm, (where my father was born), and later moved to the Sveadahl cemetery. The memorial was from her godparents (Anders's brother Nils's family who stayed in Sweden)."

Solution to the handwriting will be found on page 22.