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Handwriting example 11

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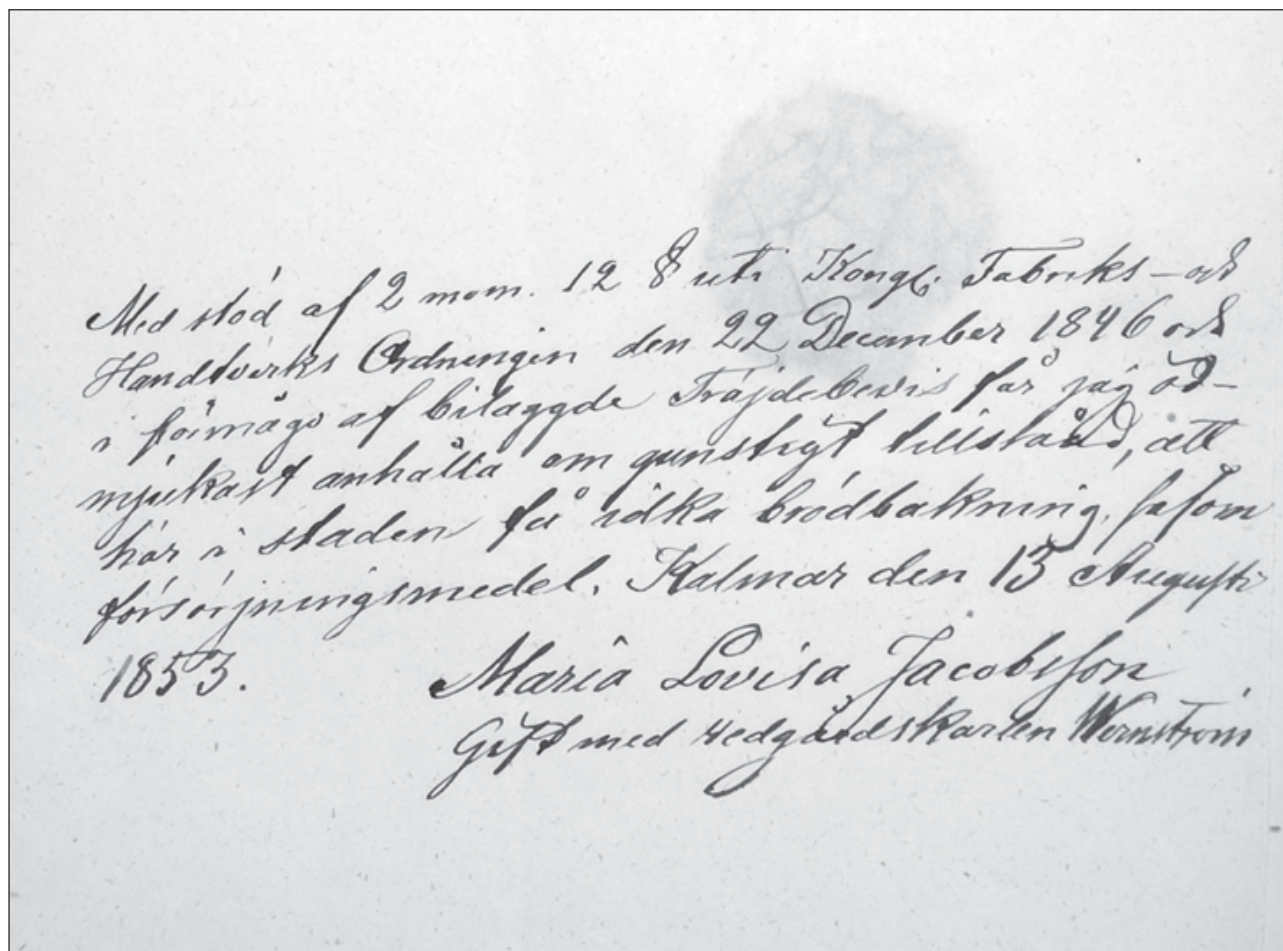
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A Handwriting Example XI



This document was found in the loose papers of the Kalmar magistrate. It is an application from a married woman to open her own bakery shop.

Before 1846 there were many restrictions that kept women from opening their own businesses. Partly that was because they were considered to be legally incapable (*omyndiga*), and partly because to do business in a town you had to become a burgher, and you had to be a man to attain this status. But there was nothing to hinder women from working in the mines, on farms, on building sites carrying bricks, or other heavy jobs.

Widows of craftsmen, however, were allowed to carry on his business

and his workshop in their own name, until they remarried. Women were not allowed to become members of the guilds (*skrå*), except that there seems to have existed a midwife guild in Stockholm in the early 1800s.

As the population grew during the early 1800s the number of unwed women also grew, and it was a big problem for them to find jobs. Thus the government in 1846 came with the *Fabriks- och Handelsordning* (Resolution on factories and trade), which stated that every man or woman was free to start their own enterprise, and it was for instance now possible to open grocery shops in the countryside, provided that

they were more than 30 kilometers from the nearest town. The guilds lived on but no longer had the right to hinder new craftsmen from opening new workshops in the cities. The guilds ceased to exist after a new law in 1864.

The handwriting examples

We have now published eleven different handwriting examples, and I would like to hear from the SAG readers if you find them too easy, too difficult, or just plain dull? Please, e-mail me at <sag@etgenealogy.se> and tell me what you think about them!

Elisabeth Thorsell