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Handwriting example #51

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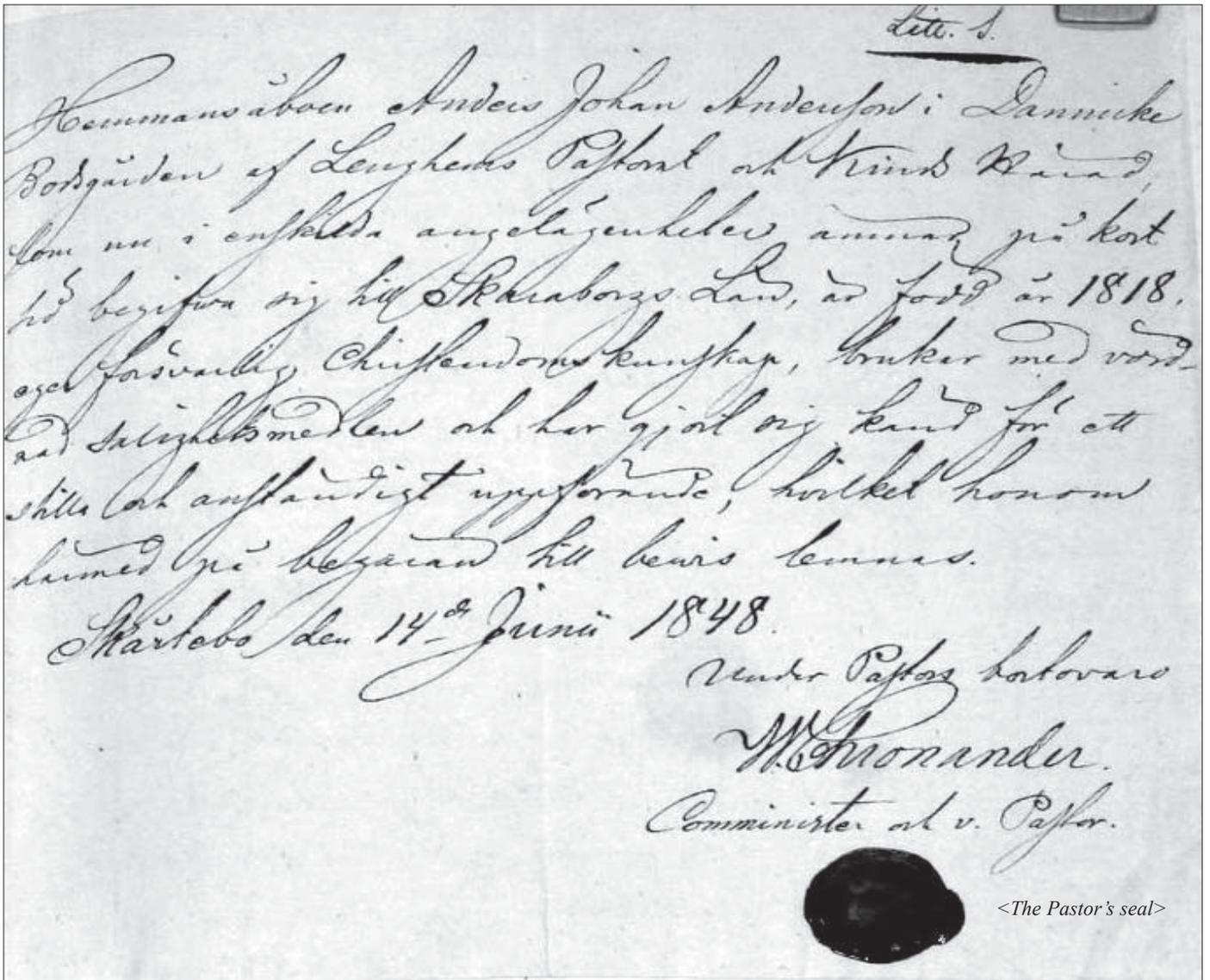
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Handwriting Example #51



Kåkinds häradsrätt (R) A1a:214 (1848-1848) Image 490 (AID: v474153.b490, NAD: SE/GLA/11029)

This document is an internal passport. It was necessary to obtain if you wanted to travel outside your own parish. It was a way for the authorities to keep order in the country by knowing who was travelling, and why.

If you were not an ordinary orderly person, but could be suspected of being a vagrant, a beggar, or not having a steady job, you could be interrogated by the local constable. If answers were not satisfactory you could be sentenced to be put in the state forced workforce (*Kronoarbeitskåren*), until someone in your home parish would give you work.

King Gustaf I in the middle 1500s de-

creed that all people should have a document that showed that the bearer was on his regular business when travelling in the country. He/she might be going to a distant market to sell goods, or on his way to buy some oxen, for instance.

The passports were usually obtained from various county offices (*landskansli*) or the magistrates of the cities, but as seen above it was also possible for a local pastor to make them. The passport had also to include which way the person should travel, and for how long the passport was valid.

Due to a new law in 1812 copies of all passport had to be sent in to the central

office of the Attorney General. They have been preserved in the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*). Copies can also be found in the local county and city archives (now in the regional archives, *landsarkiven*).

The passport laws were abolished in 1860, for both in- and outside Sweden.

The *Swedish Genealogical Society* has a huge project of scanning and indexing these passports. Today the database is just a tiny part of all the available documents.

However, the database is only open to members. But questions can be sent to this address: <inrikespass@genealogi.net>

Transcription and translation on p. 20.