

**thomas@familiezimmermann.de**

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**Von:** thomas@familiezimmermann.de  
**Gesendet:** Tuesday, 5 October 2021 22:03  
**An:** geocache.wizard@gmail.com  
**Betreff:** WG: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook  
**Anlagen:** F7C2-34.pdf

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**Von:** Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet <anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se>

**Gesendet:** Tuesday, 5 October 2021 13:30

**An:** thomas@familiezimmermann.de

**Cc:** 'Erika Tanhua-Piironen (TAU)' <erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi>

**Betreff:** Sv: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi Thomas, hi Erika,

Since our book skanner unit is easy to handle, once you'd got along with it, I scanned the entire codebook from 1808. Enclosed.

The code book is from 1808, that's some years after 1795. The short(?) explanation is that in 1795 Edelcrantz made his "Afhandling om telegrapher och försök til en ny inrättning därpå" (Dissertation on telegraphs and attempts at a new establishment thereof) where he described the Chappe's semaphore system and a simplified version of his own as well as the 10-shutter system he preferred. This system was accepted and about to be built all over Sweden (planned to connect Stockholm, Gothenburg and Karlskrona) and bring surveillance messages from the archipelagos.

However, the building of the national lines were put on hold and the first lines were from Stockholm to Gävle, Åland, Sandhamn, Dalarö and Landsort. Each line had approximately 10 km between the stations and a rather simple wooden telescope to read the signs. The expansion of the lines were urged by the Finnish war between 1808-1809. The time in which this codebook was used.

As Sweden lost the war and had to give up the eastern part of the kingdom, (mainly Finland, today) the optical telegraph was seen as a strategic system that Russia wanted Sweden to dismantle. The codebook have many pages that are not filled out, there were no further development to do.

The Optical telegraph eventually rebuilt in the 1830's and was in use from 1837 until 1881, in some places parallel with and as extension to electrical telegraph. Then there were more codebooks and many more words since this system was the first (known) where ordinary people could go and pay to send messages.

Best Regards

Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet  
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Vinnare av Silverhjulet 2019, S:t Julianpriset 2018, Children in Museums Award 2017, Årets samtidsdokumentation 2017, Swedish Arts and Business Awards 2017 och Årets museum 2016.

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**Från:** [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de) <[thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de)>  
**Skickat:** den 22 september 2021 22:35  
**Till:** 'Erika Tanhua-Piironen (TAU)' <[erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi](mailto:erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi)>; Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet <[anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se](mailto:anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se)>  
**Ämne:** AW: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi Erika, hi Anders,

I had a closer look yesterday and I am still excited. But because of the hand written pages I saw in the PDF-File Erika provided to me – I do not think that is necessary to scan the whole code book. I believe these hand written pages are meant for further improvements or adaptations of the code.

Anders, I would be glad if you could scan the printed pages like the first or third page of the PDF-File.

The attached Images are screenshots from the app I am developing at the moment. Currently the app uses the codebook from 1795 which I got from Gerard Holzmann in the meantime. But this codebook seems to be different from the 1808 version. Especially the chiffré table with the top shutter – the A-codepoints – is missing.  
Thus the complete 1808 chiffré table would be a big step for me.

Kind regards  
Thomas

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**Von:** Erika Tanhua-Piironen (TAU) <[erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi](mailto:erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi)>  
**Gesendet:** Tuesday, 21 September 2021 15:48  
**An:** Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet <[anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se](mailto:anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se)>; [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de)  
**Betreff:** RE: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi Anders and Thomas,

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yes, I was really excited about this topic and it is so cool that such a clever communication system is “still alive” somehow! Thomas may ask you, Anders, more scans and information, but I can now send this one I found in my cloud, anyway. I actually think this is from the real codebook, not from a book about optical telegraphs, as there are more than one page and the cover too?

Br,  
Erika  
Tampere university, Finland

**From:** Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet <[anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se](mailto:anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se)>  
**Sent:** tiistai 21. syyskuuta 2021 14.50  
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**Subject:** Sv: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi,

I love to hear that Edelcrantz's telegraph system is still useful! We were celebrating the 200:d anniversary of the optical telegraph at Telemuseum in 1995 and had contact with Björn Pehrson and K.V. Tahvanainen at the time. Telemuseum was discontinued in 2002 and all of the collections are now to be found at Tekniska museet.

In order to get a whole page, we have to make a new scan from the codebook. Easy since it is in our collections and archives. We will not claim any copyright on scans, only if there's a copyright on the original. The codebooks are at least 150 years old and have no holders of property rights today.

Best Regards

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Vinnare av Silverhjulet 2019, S:t Julianpriset 2018, Children in Museums Award 2017, Årets samtidsdokumentation 2017, Swedish Arts and Business Awards 2017 och Årets museum 2016.

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**Från:** Erika Tanhua-Piironen (TAU) <[erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi](mailto:erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi)>  
**Skickat:** den 21 september 2021 13:02

**Till:** Jaakko Hakulinen (TAU) <[jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi](mailto:jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi)>; Markku Turunen (TAU) <[markku.turunen@tuni.fi](mailto:markku.turunen@tuni.fi)>; [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de)  
**Kopia:** Anders Lindeberg-Lindvet <[anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se](mailto:anders.lindeberg@tekniskamuseet.se)>  
**Ämne:** RE: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi,

we had some scans from the code books, as Jaakko remembered. Those scans were from a book: Karl V. Tahvanainen, Ord i sikte - Den optiska telegrafens i Sverige 1794 - 1881. Stockholm: Nordstedts tryckeri AB, 1994. Our partner in Vapriikki museum (during the project 2015) told me that Anders Lindeberg-Lindvetin from Tekniska museet in Stockholm could be very good contact person.

If it is OK for Anders, I can send one of those scans. But I hope Anders will confirm this as we think that he has the copyright for the scans, though not for the code books 😊

Best regards,  
Erika

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**From:** Jaakko Hakulinen (TAU) <[jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi](mailto:jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi)>  
**Sent:** tiistai 21. syyskuuta 2021 12.20  
**To:** Markku Turunen (TAU) <[markku.turunen@tuni.fi](mailto:markku.turunen@tuni.fi)>; [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de); Erika Tanhua-Piironen (TAU) <[erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi](mailto:erika.tanhua-piironen@tuni.fi)>  
**Subject:** Re: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi

We did not use a real codebook in the installation, so I don't think I have ever had an actual codebook, or perhaps I saw some scans. The person from our side who did most research on Edelcrantz was Erika Tanhua-Piironen (cc:d) so she may remember something. There were also a couple of people from Vapriikki museum who participated in the ideation, at least Outi Penninkangas.

Jaakko

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**From:** Markku Turunen (TAU) <[markku.turunen@tuni.fi](mailto:markku.turunen@tuni.fi)>  
**Sent:** 21 September 2021 11:21  
**To:** [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de) <[thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de)>; Jaakko Hakulinen (TAU) <[jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi](mailto:jaakko.hakulinen@tuni.fi)>  
**Subject:** RE: Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Hi,

Jaakko, do you have more information on this one?

Best,

Markku.

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**From:** [thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de) <[thomas@familiezimmermann.de](mailto:thomas@familiezimmermann.de)>

**Sent:** Saturday, 11 September 2021 13.55

**To:** Markku Turunen (TAU) <[markku.turunen@tuni.fi](mailto:markku.turunen@tuni.fi)>

**Subject:** Edelcrantz optical Telegraph - Codebook

Good morning Sir

I have a somehow strange problem where you could me probably help.

I am part of an open source project for geo cachers, providing an app called GC Wizard to support solving puzzles. One topic is encoding and decoding e.g. Telegraphs.

Currently I work on a feature to encode and decode text messages like the Swedish Edelcrantz optical Telegraph. Hence I am looking for the codebook for this telegraph. During my researches in the internet I found a M.Sc. thesis from Silvia Rubio Hernandez, written in 2017 at your University, Faculty of Natural Sciences Software Development, which was supervised by you: [1513599679.pdf \(tuni.fi\)](#)  
On page 23 there was an excerpt from an original codebook shown.

Could you help me to get in contact with Miss Hernandez or even could you provide me with further information how to get the whole page of this codebook.

I have already found on Internet Archive a scan of [Holzmann and Pehrson, 1994] Gerard J. Holzmann and Björn Pehrson, The Early History of Data Networks (1 edition.) which includes in chapter 4 a translation of Edelcrantz' booklet about telegraphs, written in 1796. However, the codebook depicted there is not really readable.

Kind regards  
Thomas Zimmermann

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