

Anglo-Swedish Commercial Connections and Diplomatic Relations  
in the Seventeenth Century

# The Northern World

NORTH EUROPE AND THE BALTIC c.400– 1700 AD  
PEOPLES, ECONOMIES AND CULTURES

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# Anglo-Swedish Commercial Connections and Diplomatic Relations in the Seventeenth Century

*By*

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Cover illustration: A colourised map of Northern Europe with Sweden in full focus. The map was originally created by Swedish cartographer Anders Bure (Andreas Bureus). This version was later colourised and published in Amsterdam by Willem Janzsoon Blaeu in 1635. ©Reproduced courtesy of The National Library of Sweden (Kungliga Biblioteket).

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*For Joseph,  
the greatest inspiration*





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# Abbreviations

APC	<i>Acts of the Privy Council of England</i> (45 vols., London, 1890–1964)
BL	British Library (London)
CC	Court of Chancery
CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series:</i> First Series, 1547–1625, (13 vols., London, 1856–1892) Second Series, 1625–1649, (23 vols., London, 1858–1897) Third Series, 1649–1660, (13 vols., London, 1875–1886) Fourth Series, 1660–1685, (29 vols., London, 1860–1939) Fifth Series, 1685–1689, (3 vols., London, 1960–1972) Sixth Series, 1689–1702, (11 vols., London, 1895–1937)
DA	Diplomatica Anglica
DRA	Danmarks Rigsarkiv (Copenhagen) [The National Archives of Denmark]
DSP	Danish ship pounds
EEIC	English East India Company
GCA	Göteborg stadsräkenskaper / Gothenburg customs accounts
GLA	Göteborg Landsarkiv (Gothenburg) [The Provincial Archives of Gothenburg]
HCA	High Court of Admiralty
KRA	Krigsarkivet i Stockholm (Stockholm) [The Military Archives of Sweden]
LTA	Lokala tullräkenskaper / Local town accounts
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
PC	Privy Council Registers
SAK	Svenska Afrikacompaniet / The Swedish Africa Company
SBL	<i>Svenskt biografiskt lexikon / Swedish Dictionary of National Biography</i>
SCA	Stockholm stadskamrerarens arkiv räkenskaper / Stockholm customs accounts
SH	Svea Hovrätt / Svea Court of Appeal
SP	State Papers
SRA	Svenska Riksarkivet (Stockholm) [The National Archives of Sweden]
SRP	<i>Svenska Riksrådets Protokoll / Minutes of the Swedish Council of the Realm</i>
SSA	Stockholm Stadsarkiv (Stockholm) [The City Archives of Stockholm]
SSP	Swedish ship pounds
SSNE	<i>The Scotland, Scandinavia and Northern European Biographical Database</i>
STRO	Sound Toll Registers Online Database
SWB	Stockholms vågböcker / Stockholm weighbooks
TNA	The National Archives of England and Wales (London)
UUB	Uppsala universitetsbibliotek (Uppsala) [The University Library of Uppsala]

## Stylistic Conventions

The names of Swedish monarchs and members of state have been rendered in their Swedish versions. The Swedish spelling of place names has also been used, unless a common and accepted English equivalent exists. For example, 'Gothenburg' is used instead of 'Göteborg'. The only exception is 'Skåne'. British names in Swedish sources have been spelt in their English equivalent, and when it is not absolutely clear what contemporary English spelling would have been used, an educated guess has been taken. Swedish and other nationalities that appear in Swedish sources where there is more than one variant of a person's name have been standardised into modern Swedish. Names with one consistent spelling and no variants where there is no commonly accepted modern equivalent have been retained in their contemporary spelling. Swedish names in English sources have been rendered into a modern Swedish equivalent. Swedish Baltic ports and non-Swedish Baltic ports have been spelt in their original Germanic forms in order to avoid confusion. For example, 'Danzig', 'Königsberg' and 'Reval' have retained their contemporary spellings instead of using the modern day 'Gdansk' 'Kaliningrad' and 'Tallinn'. This has also been applied to ports such as Viborg and Nyen which are now in modern day Russia.

Dating of archival and printed primary sources has been left as they were found in the original. The one exception is that January has been counted as the beginning of the new year. Therefore, where a date might have originally stated 16 February 1695/96, this has been rendered as 16 February 1696.

As England and Sweden's relationship overwhelmingly focused on the Swedish trade area, and given that the main body of commercial sources consulted in this study are from Sweden, in this study the use of "exports" refers to the export of goods leaving Sweden or the Baltic. Similarly, here the use of "imports" signifies goods being imported *into* Sweden or the Baltic.

# Weights, Measures and Money

Original weights and values have been retained in this study. Where an English source quotes in Pounds Sterling (£) or refers to weight in pounds (cwt.), tons, or lasts etc. this has not been altered. A similar method has been used for Swedish commercial statistics and other sources. Original weights and values have been converted where it has been deemed necessary to clarify for the benefit of the reader.

A variety of weights and measures were used for different commodities in the Baltic and these could differ from port to port. The Swedish ship pound or *skeppund* (ssp) varied in weight depending on where in Sweden you were. The export *skeppund* or *skeppund stapelstadsvikt* is what was used in contemporary commercial sources and the statistics of this study reflect that measurement. A *skeppund* was equivalent to 299–300 English pounds (cwt.) and 136 kilograms.<sup>1</sup>

In the seventeenth century Sweden had a complex monetary system based on the riksdaler with both copper and silver mints operating concurrently (*daler kopparmynt* and *daler silvermynt*), as well as other systems based on gold.<sup>2</sup> The Swedish commercial sources that form the backbone of this study frequently recorded value in *daler silvermynt* or silver riksdaler, here simply noted as “riksdaler” for ease unless stated otherwise. The English used Pounds Sterling, with each pound consisting of 20 shillings or 240 pence. Although exchange rates fluctuated widely between English and Swedish markets, a ratio of 4:1 in favour of the Swedish riksdaler on the Pound Sterling has been used. This is based on Alexia Grosjean’s calculation used in her study.<sup>3</sup> It is also possible to discern the use of specific exchange rates through mercantile correspondence and contemporary court cases. Unfortunately, due to the impossibility of consisting all sources across the period, a standard ratio has been adopted. Where precise exchange rates have been quoted in sources utilised by this study, their reckoning has been used.

- 
- 1 The weights and measurements used in this study are based upon those found in Carlsson, Albert W., *Med, mätt, mått: svenska och utländska mått genom tiderna*, LT, Stockholm, 1989. The Sound Toll Registers Online Database weights and measures guide “Measurements in STR” has also been utilised. Available from: <http://soundtoll.nl/>. Accessed March 2020.
  - 2 For an in-depth study see Edvinsson, Rodney, ‘Early Modern Copper Money: Multiple currencies and trimetallism in Sweden, 1624–1776’, in *European Review of Economic History*, Vol. 16, 2012, pp. 408–429.
  - 3 Grosjean, Alexia, *An Unofficial Alliance: Scotland and Sweden, 1569–1654*, Leiden, 2003, XI–XII.

### Common Weights and Measures Found in This Study and Their Modern Equivalents

*Aln*: 1 Aln = 0.59 centimetre (cm)

- Used to measure textile goods. Textile goods could also be measured in pieces or dozens (12 pieces)

*Danish ship pounds*: 1 DSP = 159 kg

- Slightly heavier than the Swedish export ship pound (136 kg)

*Decker/däcker*: 1 decker = 10 pieces

*Dusin* (dozen): 1 dozen = 12 pieces

- Not to be confused with the English textile “dozens” imported into Sweden en masse

*Groß/gros/gross* = 144 pieces

*Kanna/kannor*: 1 kanna = 2.617 litres

- Used to measure liquids, usually smaller amounts of wine. Defined in 1665 as the above measurement

*Kista* (chest) – Undeterminable measurement found in contemporary sources

*Last/läst*: 1 last = 12 barrels for tar and pitch unless otherwise stated

- Other amounts were used for different commodities and have been specified accordingly

*Oxhuvud*: 1 oxhuvud = 90 kannor or 236 litres

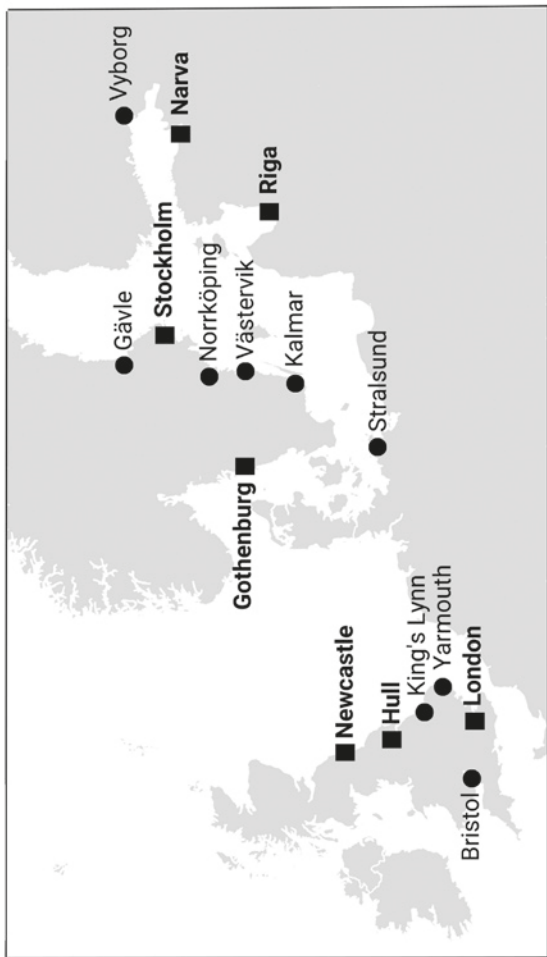
- Used to measure larger amounts of wine or other liquids such as spirits imported on a large scale

*Skeppund* (ship pound/SSP): 1 SSP = 136 kilograms (kg)

- Commonly used for bulk goods such as iron and copper

*Tolfter/Tolffter* (twelfth) = A dozen or twelve pieces

*Tunna/tunnor* (barrel): 1 tunna = 125.62 litres



■ Primary port in Anglo-Swedish trade      ● Secondary port in Anglo-Swedish trade

MAP 1 Main centres of Anglo-Swedish trade



FIGURE 0.1 A view of Gothenburg, 1709  
REPRODUCED COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN  
(KUNGLIGA BIBLIOTEKET). ©THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN



FIGURE 0.2 A view of Stockholm, 1693  
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