

**New Sweden Records**  
**1650-1655 (1820)**  
**Mss.974.8.Sw2**

American Philosophical Society  
3/2003  
105 South Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA, 19106  
215-440-3400  
[manuscripts@amphilsoc.org](mailto:manuscripts@amphilsoc.org)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Background note .....	5
Scope & content .....	6
Arrangement .....	6
Administrative Information .....	7
Indexing Terms .....	7
Other Descriptive Information .....	8
Collection Inventory .....	9
Material on provenance of collection.....	9
French translations.....	10
Swedish and German transcriptions.....	14
<i>Description de la Nouvelle Suède et des Indes Occidentales ou Géographie de l'Amérique, dédiée au Prince Royal depuis le roi Charles XII, Chapter Five</i> .....	15

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Title</b>	New Sweden Records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1650-1655 (1820)
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.974.8.Sw2
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Volume(s)
<b>Location</b>	LH-MV-E-13
<b>Language</b>	Multiple languages
<b>Container</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The New Sweden Company was founded as a joint stock enterprise in 1637 including Swedish, Dutch, and German investors seeking to trade in American furs and tobacco. Centered at Fort Christina, near present day Wilmington, Delaware, the colony expanded up both sides of Delaware Bay and the Delaware Reiver to present day Philadelphia, but capitulated to the Dutch in 1655.</p> <p>This volume contains selected transcripts in Swedish and German of documents in Swedish archives relating to the settling and governance of the colony of New Sweden in Delaware and Pennsylvania, made at the expense of Jonathan Russel, United States minister to Sweden, 1820. The documents have all been translated into French, and were printed in <i>Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania</i>, vol. 4 (1829), 177-8,200, 314-315, 373-374, 398-400; vol. 5, 14-15, 219-221. No. 27 was not printed. Bound in at the end of the volume is Ch. 5 of Per Lindeström, "Description de la nouvelle Suède et des Indes Occidentales, 1691."</p>

**Preferred Citation**

Cite as: New Sweden Records, American Philosophical Society.

## Background note

---

The New Sweden Company was founded as a joint stock enterprise in 1637 including Swedish, Dutch, and German investors seeking to trade in American furs and tobacco. Under the command of Peter Minuit, former governor of the New Netherlands colony in New York, the company sent two ships to America that arrived in Delaware Bay in March 1638. On the site of present day Wilmington, Delaware, the traders established Fort Christina, named in honor of the young Swedish Queen, and over the next 17 years, they settled over 600 colonists on farms and villages along both sides of the Delaware River, reaching north to present day Philadelphia and inland as far as Darby Creek. Old Swede's Church in Philadelphia was established by Swedish colonists in 1643.

Internal dissensions within the colony, however, plagued New Sweden under the ten year rule of Gov. Johan Printz, who was followed in 1654 by Johan Rising, who made the blundered by attempting to expel Dutch colonists from Fort Casimir (present-day New Castle, Delaware). The response of the Dutch governor of New York Peter Stuyvesant was swift and decisive. The arrival of 317 Dutch troops at the gates of Fort Christina forced the Swedes to capitulate and the colony came to a quick end.

## Scope & content

---

The Records of the New Sweden Colony were selected and transcribed in 1820 from originals in Stockholm by the American minister to Sweden, Jonathan Russell. Among these are copies of the original charter of the New Sweden Company, instructions from the Queen to Governors Johan Printz and Johan Rising, and selected correspondence from the governors to the crown. Some are direct transcriptions in the original Swedish or German; most are also translated into French.

The transcriptions that comprise this collection appear to have been the result of a request by James Mease to the American consul in Sweden, William Shaler. When Shaler left office, he was succeeded by Jonathan Russell, who had them transcribed and translated into French. The translations are placed in document order at the beginning of the volume, followed by the Swedish and German transcriptions. Bound in at the end of the volume is an extract from Per Lindestrom's *Déscription de la Nouvelle Suède*, 1691.

## Arrangement

---

Page numbers refer to the length of the French translations, which are usually approximately the same length as the Swedish or German transcript on which they were based.

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

American Philosophical Society 3/2003

## **Provenance**

---

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Jonathan Russell, 1820, and Williams Jones, 1822 (Lindestrom extract).

### **Processing Information**

Recatalogued 2003.

## **Indexing Terms**

---

### **Genre(s)**

- General Correspondence
- Official Government Documents and Records

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- New Sweden--History
- Sweden--Colonies

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689
- Du Ponceau , Peter Stephen, 1760-1844
- Mease, James, 1771-1846
- Printz, Johan, 1592-1663
- Rising, Johan, 1617-1672
- Russell, Jonathan, 1771-1832
- Vaughan, John, 1756-1841

### **Subject(s)**

- Colonial Politics
- Pennsylvania History
- Philadelphia History
- Swedes--United States

### **Other Descriptive Information**

---

This bound volume contains a host of information on the early history of European settlement on the Delaware River. Translated from records in Stockholm in the early-nineteenth century, the correspondence provides a window into the governance of the colony of New Sweden. The translations are almost all in French and consist of correspondence from the Swedish government to the colony, and from colonial officials, such as Joseph Printz, to the Crown.



**Material on provenance of collection**

---

**Collection Inventory**


---

<b>Material on provenance of collection</b>	<b>May 16, 1840</b>	<b>3p.</b>
---	---------------------	------------

---

<b>Du Ponceau , Peter Stephen, 1760-1844</b>	n.d.	2p.
--	------	-----

Letter to the American Philosophical  
Society

Concerning provenance of the transcripts of Swedish records. Includes 1p. postscript from John Vaughan and James Mease regarding same (May 16, 1840).

---

## French translations

<b>French translations</b>	<b>1640-1655 (1820)</b>	<b>29 items</b>
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 1 Passport for the vessel that Mr. de Horst and his fellow investors wish to send to New Sweden	January 24, 1640	2p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 2 To the Commandant, Commissioners, and Inhabitants of Fort Christina in New Sweden concerning various things	January 24, 1640	2p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 3 Letter regarding the treatment of Mr. Jost de Bogardt concerning Fort Christina	January 30, 1640	2p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 4 Obligation (reverse) given by Mr. Jost Bogardt	January 30, 1640	2p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 5 Octroi and privilege accorded to Sir Henri Hochhammer and Co. for the establishment of a new colony in the country of New Sweden	January 24, 1640	8p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 6 To resident Peter Spiring regarding privileges accorded to the people from Utrecht	February 1, 1640	2p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b> 7 Powers granted to the governor of New Sweden, Johan Printz	August 15, 1642	3p.
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	August 15, 1642	2p.

## French translations

8 Treatment of Governor of new Sweden,  
Johna Printz shown to the 1,200 Risdalers

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** August 15, 1642 21p.

9 Instructions for the Governor of New  
Sween, John Printz

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** August 30, 1642 3p.

10 To the Royal Counsellors and Ministers  
regarding the budget for the governor of  
New Sweden

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** November 2, 1643 1p.

11 Letter of recommendation for Johan  
Pepgoye to the Governor of New Sweden,  
Johan Printz

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** November 6, 1643 2p.

12 Grant to Governor Johan Printz of  
Teneko, or New Gothenburg, in New  
Sweden, as a heritage in perpetuity for him  
and his heirs

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** September 16, 1647 2p.

13 Response to Johan Printz, Commandant  
of New Sweden

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** January 20, 1648 3p.

14 Letter patent for New Sweden

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** 2p.

15 Grant to Johan Amundson Besk of a  
portion of New Sweden

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** August 20, 1653 2p.

16 Grant to Lieut. Sven Schute of lands in  
New Sweden

---

## French translations

<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	August 11, 1653	1p.
17 Resolution and declaration of Her Majesty of the affair tried before the Superior Court of Åbo regarding three persons condemned by edict for killing an elk on the Island of Åland		
	December 1653	2p.
18 Regarding the lands possessed by the Company of the South possesses in America		
	November 1653	2p.
19 The College of General Commerce makes known by these presents...		
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	December 12, 1653	2p.
20 Grant in favor of the Commissioner of the College of Commerce, Johan Rising of lands in New Sweden suitable for cultivation by 20 to 30 peasants		
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	December 12, 1653	2p.
21 Letter patent appointing Johan Rising Commissioner and Assistant Counsellor in New Sweden		
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	December 12, 1653	1p.
22 To the Minsitry of Finance concerning money neede by Commissioner Johan Rising for his passage to New Sweden		
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	December 12, 1653	1p.
23 To the Commandant of New Sweden Johan Printz regarding the Company of the South		
<b>Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689</b>	December 12, 1653	7p.

## French translations

24 Memorial to Commissioner Johan  
Rising upon his departure for New Sweden

---

**Karl Gustaf** December 23, 1654 2p.

25 Privileges granted to the American  
Company

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** March 16, 1654 2p.

26 Concerning commerce and navigation in  
New Sweden

---

**Rising, Johan, 1617-1672** July 11, 1654 4p.

27 Letter to the Count, regarding Fort  
Christina in New Sweden

---

**Christina, Queen of Sweden, 1626-1689** December 12, 1653 2p.

28 Resolution for Johan Printz,  
Cammandant of New Sweden concerning  
his return

---

29 Account of the employees of the  
Company in New Sweden 1655 2p.

---

**Swedish and German transcriptions**

---

---

**Swedish and German transcriptions**

**1640-1655 (1820)**

**29 items**

See inventory above.

---

Déscription de la Nouvelle Suède et des Indes Occ...

---

---

<b>Lindeström, Per</b>	<b>1691</b>	<b>18p.</b>
------------------------	-------------	-------------

*Déscription de la Nouvelle Suède et des Indes Occidentales ou Géographie de l'Amérique, dédiée au Prince Royal depuis le roi Charles XII, Chapter Five*

**Acquisition Information**

Gift of Williams Jones, 1822.

---