

SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB □ COLORADO CHAPTER 27
NOTIFICATION OF THE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020 MEETING AT 10:00 AM
AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIC LIBRARY (RMPL)

Please read this paragraph carefully to be aware of RMPL's COVID-19 meeting requirements and restrictions. Jerry Eggleston will give the feature presentation on Snorre Sturlason, an Icelandic historian, poet, and politician whose lifetime spanned the years 1179-1241. We will also have a **"Show-and-Tell"** session, so be sure to bring at least one item to talk about. Jerry will bring 21 Mart Books, the only books that SCC Chapter 27 has not seen before. Jerry wants to bring to our attention that Mart Book manager Viggo Wormboe has not been receiving new books, so it does not look promising for new Mart Books at our future meetings. **RMPL's COVID-19 Considerations:** The meeting room is disinfected before and after all meetings. No food or drink is allowed in the meeting room. Masks are required to be worn at all times, and if you do not bring one, RMPL will have masks as well as sanitizer available. Social distancing will be in effect and the room tables will be arranged to seat 14 people with safe separation at our meeting. For the "Show-and-Tell" session, you can show and discuss your items, but they cannot be passed around as any items touched by others than the owner must be disinfected.

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Tentative SCC Chapter 27 Meeting Presentation Schedule for 2020

October 3: TBD (David Petersen's "Slavery in the Danish West Indies" postponed until 2021)

November 7: Semi-annual members' auction

December: No meeting scheduled – Instead, COVID-19 permitting, Chapter 27's holiday pot-luck get-together at Jeff & Leslie Modesitt's home with time and date to be determined

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S.C.C. Chapter 27 Treasurer's Report

\$1131.19 Previous Treasury Balance (8/1/20)

-\$3.80 printing costs for special summer newsletter

\$1127.39 Current Treasury Balance (8/25/20)

\$295.27 Cash on Hand (8/25/20)

\$832.12 12-month Certificate of Deposit at Elevations Credit Union, Boulder, CO (ECUBC)

Prepared by Roger Cichorz, 8/25/20

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Chapter 27 Members' Classified Advertisements

As a no-cost service to all Chapter 27 members, your "buy, sell, or trade" classified ads can appear in future Meeting Notifications. Submit your copy to or contact Roger at 303-494-8361 or rcichorz@comcast.net. Also look at Chapter members' collecting interests as you may have unwanted items others may be interested in!

For Sale: Roger Cichorz conducts regular quarterly auctions for the SCC Library, and all Chapter 27 members are on his distribution list. If you have not participated in past auctions, why not consider submitting bids when the text and stamp lot scans arrive via e-mail? A phenomenal group of literature, ephemera, and stamp and postal history lots will be offered in Auction #58 scheduled for a September 30, 2020 closing date.

Wanted: Socked-on-the-nose Ålborg (Aalborg) and Denmark numeral "4" cancellations on stamps and stamps on piece, incoming and outgoing Ålborg covers/postal history, and other Ålborg-related items. Eugene Brink, 390 Quail Road, Branson, MO 65616, 417-336-1296, or geno4huskers@suddenlink.net.

Wanted: Contributions to include in future Chapter 27 Meeting Announcement/Newsletters so that I can continue to incorporate additional pages of items of interest each issue. Anything welcome: brief articles, collection and exhibit pages, scans or color photocopies of your favorite stamps or covers (preferably with brief explanatory captions), Scandinavian humor, items for a "Questions and Answers" feature, etc. Submissions to Roger Cichorz, rcichorz@comcast.net.

Wanted: Some "New Blood"! Do you have any friends interested in Nordic philately who might enjoy our meetings and potentially become a member of SCC Chapter 27? Invite them to one of our meetings so they can experience the fun and camaraderie! As an inducement, if you can "sign up" a new member or members, I'll waive your \$10 annual membership dues for each new dues-paying member you bring into the Chapter! Roger Cichorz, 303-494-8361 or rcichorz@comcast.net.

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Chapter 27 Members' Philatelic-Related Collecting Interests

List your collecting interests (all, not just Scandinavian) here for other members to be aware of what you collect and possibly help with or bring attention to items of interest! Contact Roger to amend your listing.

- **Paul Albright:** Greenland, and runs of worldwide correspondence to use as historical research material
- **Peter Bergh:** Denmark (in particular the bi-colors and 1882-1905 coat-of-arms series), Malmö and Lund locals, Ireland, and Great Britain QE2 predecimals and KGV Silver Jubilee
- **Geno Brink:** worldwide postally used up to 1970, Denmark used errors and varieties, and Aalborg (cancels on stamps, covers, by post, Christmas seals, and other items related to Aalborg)
- **Eric Carlson:** United States, certain Great Britain (Wildings, Machins, and earlier sets of British Royalty), Sweden, Finland mint Wasa/Vasa issue (*Scott #111-18*), various sets of Denmark, Finland, and Norway, and lighthouses, golf, and baseball as topicals/thematics
- **Roger Cichorz:** Åland and Faroes postal history and revenue stamps, Iceland stamps and revenues, Denmark and Danish West Indies stamps, Lundy and Herm Island (stamps, postal history, and postcards), Abbott Pentothal "Dear Doctor" ad postcards, *HMS Montagu* postcards, and bonsai and puffin items as topicals/thematics
- **Jerry Eggleston:** primary interests = used Denmark, Danish West Indies, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway; secondary interests = Sweden, Finland, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, and Great Britain; postal history interests = Jo Daviess County, Illinois, and Summit County, Colorado
- **Greg Frantz:** QSL postcards, Spitzbergen postal history, Scandinavian/Nordic locals and steam-ship mail, United States banknotes postal history, worldwide classic stamp issues, and cinderellas
- **Jim Fredlund:** early Finland used stamps and 1980 to present, 1985 to present used Scandinavian stamps, and worldwide stamps
- **Bill Gunderson:** Scandinavia
- **Jim Kilbane:** Iowa and Colorado postal history, registered package envelopes, United States Post Office Department envelopes, revenues, cinderellas, and other miscellaneous
- **Severt Kvamme:** post-2002 used stamps of Åland, Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway
- **Gary Liggett:** worldwide cinderellas, worldwide revenues (especially on whole documents), early stampless covers and folded letters, and United States definitive stamp proofs
- **Clark Lyda:** Norway and Europa
- **Steve McGill:** Great Britain Machins and GB postal mechanization (specialist level) and Canada, Antarctic, Iceland, Faroes, and United States (fun-to-collect level)
- **Jeff Modesitt:** Denmark (general, postal stationery, and booklets, primary), Åland, Danish West Indies, Faroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden (secondary), Great Britain (general, postal stationery), New Zealand (general, penny universals, QEII, 1960 and 1980 definitives), and United States postal stationery
- **Steve Nadler:** all Scandinavian postal history (covers and postmarks), Colorado postal history, United States (streetcar postmarks and covers, flag machine cancels, and advertising covers), worldwide (airmails, perfins on and off cover, pneumatic mail, and military mail), Afghanistan, France, Monaco, Israel, and Palestine
- **Randy Nilson:** WWII German SS and police mail, Finnish military mail, Colorado POW/internment camps, and WWII censored airmail/suspended service covers
- **Harry Pedersen:** United States (including revenues), U.S. Possessions, and 1840-1940 worldwide (including Scandinavia)
- **David Petersen:** Danish West Indies and Hawaii
- **Gary Shaver:** worldwide with specialties in United States, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden
- **Tonny van Loij:** Colorado postal history, Kansas Territory and Colorado Territory postal history, classical music (Bach, Beethoven, Mozart), opera buildings (stamps and postcards), European Union, NATO, European Security Council (KSZE), Thurn and Taxis European postal service from 1499 to 1864 (specializing in foreign destinations), and Scandinavian destinations handled by Thurn and Taxis during 1854-1867

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Roger Cichorz

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Source: Reproduced by kind permission of the author, Jay Smith of Jay Smith & Associates, from his July 16, 2020 *Philatelic E-News* email newsletter. Jay's e-mail publication is free to all interested collectors who supply their name, email address, and full postal address. Contact js@JaySmith.com.

ICELAND COILS

A client recently asked an intriguing question: Are there any Tollur (customs duty, revenue, tax) cancellations on the Icelandic coil stamps? His question was mostly in reference to the Gullfoss (Golden Waterfalls) stamp issue because the Fish stamps mostly came after the end of the use of Tollur cancellations. As usual, that question started a thought process.

My immediate answer to that question was "I don't know for sure, but I don't remember ever having seen any." The Icelandic coil stamps were machine-vended; thus, I can't imagine a customs agent going to the location of a machine, buying some stamps, and using them on a mail recipient's customs documents. However, I suppose that a postal patron might obtain their own stamps from a machine and give them to the customs agent to use. A more likely scenario, if coils were used at all, is that toward the end of the life of the stamp issue, remainders may have been supplied to the customs agents to use up; this was in fact done with other types of (mostly overprinted) stamp issues.

If you have any Icelandic coil stamps bearing Tollur cancellations, I would like to see them!

Did you know that Iceland had coil stamps back in the 1930s-1940s? Some of the Gullfoss (Golden Waterfalls) 5, 20, and 35 aur stamps, and Fish 5 aur, 25 aur red, and 25 aur red-brown stamps, were made (by the post office, for sale in postal vending machines) into coils by gluing sheets together and then slicing them into strips. Those that I know about, and which started to appear in the specialized catalogs only in the last 20-30 years, were issued in the 1930s and 1940s.

The stamps were machine-sliced into strips and thus have straight-cut perforations on two sides. (Straight-cuts on all four sides indicates that the stamp was vended one at a time and cut by the vending machine as it was dispensed.) Many of these stamps were discarded by collectors and dealers over the years because they were thought to be damaged (the straight-cut perforations). However, they are NOT damaged – they are scarce stamps!

According to the *Facit Catalog*, the Gullfoss stamps (Scott 170-5) offer five different coil stamps, even though the coils were only of three denominations. Many people are not aware that the Gullfoss stamps have a total of four different perforation types / measurements, though not all types were used for all the stamps (see *Facit*). In the case of the coils, two of the 5 aur perforations were coiled, two of the 20 aur, but only one of the 35 aur.

Facit's listings for the Fish issues are not as well developed (I will talk to them about that). However, the coils exist for all perforation types (again, see *Facit* – there is much more than is listed by *Scott*) of the 5 aur, the 25 aur red, and the 25 aur red-brown. That is 4, 3, and 2 different types, respectively.

Interestingly, *Facit's* catalog values for the Gullfoss stamps are much higher than their values for the Fish stamps... BUT in my experience, the Fish stamps are MUCH scarcer! I am only guessing, but I attribute the scarcity of the (used) Fish stamps to them being discarded by collectors and dealers back when they were issued. The Fish stamps were much more common ("penny" stamps) and thus anything that "looked defective" (straight-cut perforations) would be thrown out. Collectors back then simply did not know that coil stamps were in use by Iceland!

Of the Gullfoss stamps, mint and used examples can be found of all three values, though the 5 and 20 aur mint stamps are a lot scarcer than the 35 aur. I believe that at least one partial roll of the 35 aur stamps survived to modern times, making them more available. One finds mint 35 aur coils in collections that were assembled as far back as the early 1960s, thus at least one dealer was feeding them into the market as a cheap alternative (so people thought at the time) to a more neatly perforated sheet stamp. Little did they know that they were selling and buying a scarce variety. Used examples are available of all three values. I am sure that there is a scarcity difference between the coils of the two different perforation types of the 5 and 20 aur stamps, but I have not recorded enough detail to be sure of the relative scarcity. *Facit* does have value differences for the two 5 aur coil stamps.

There is one oddity to the Gullfoss coils. All of the 5 and 35 aur coils that I have seen have the straight-cuts on the top and bottom. However, on the 20 aur, every example I have seen has the straight-cuts on the sides. This has been consistent over the years and with stamps coming from dozens of different sources. Though they are few and far between, I have seen used pairs and strips of three of Gullfoss coils, thus apparently not all were chopped individually when they were dispensed (or else they were manually removed from the coil roll).

For the 20 aur Gullfoss, my theory is that when the coils were made (at least some, those that I have seen), the strips were TORN apart (top and bottom of the stamp) instead of being sliced apart like all the other (that I have seen, but some others may have been torn as well). Then when they were dispensed (endwise), the dispenser chopped them off stamp by stamp, across the narrow measurement (i.e., the left and right sides of this horizontal format stamp). The cut marks on the side of examples coming from many different sources all show the same slight angle of cutting on the sides.

It is a lot more difficult for me to discuss the Fish coils as I have seen only a small fraction of them. I do recall years ago having a cover bearing several 5 aur Fish stamps which were all individually chopped when they were dispensed. Perhaps by that time they were dispensed only as individual stamps, not in strips?

(Article text continues on the following page.)

Lastly, I strongly urge Iceland collectors to take a close look at their collections of these stamps. You may find you actually have some coils! Watch for mint stamps with a "tab" on the backside, which would be half the sheet join (narrow bit of margin from the next sheet). If you are really lucky, you will find a pair or larger unit with a sheet join – that is a special item! It is unlikely that you will find loose used stamps with sheet join "tabs" still affixed; they would have floated off when the stamps were soaked.

Especially look at stamps on covers; you may want to use a magnifying glass to better check for the straight-cut perforations. PRO TIP: If a cover has several singles on it, that may be a clue that they were individually dispensed coils; so be sure to check them! Another PRO TIP: Spliced multiples (sheet joins) are almost impossible to find used (and they are scarce mint), but your best chance to find them is hiding in plain sight on a cover – look for that little bit of extra stamp paper thickness (joining tab) on one or the other side of each join in a multiple.

I welcome pointers to any articles about the Fish coils (or Gullfoss coils). I am always interested in buying just about any examples of these coils, mint, used, paste-ups (sheet joins), uses on covers, etc.

I have in stock Gullfoss coils: 5 aur used, 20 aur mint and used, and 35 aur mint and used. The mint includes some NH. The website does not show any pictures of the 5 aur coils because in the last 25 years I apparently have not had any mint examples suitable for generic illustrations! However, there are generic pictures of the 20 and 35 aur coils. Note that the 20 aur (only) are side-cut while the 35 aur (and presumably all others) are top/bottom cut. Take a look here: <https://www.JaySmith.com/Lists/Iceland/Iceland-Stamps-Scott-0170-0175.html>

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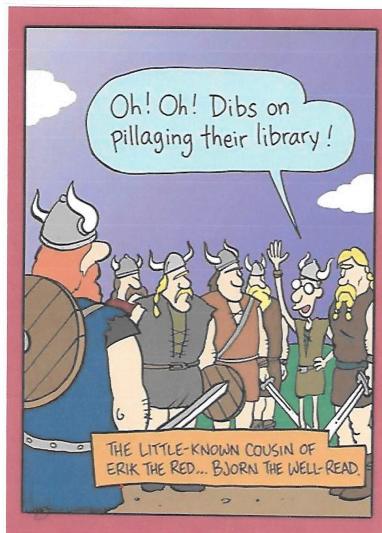
Diverse variola virus (smallpox) strains were widespread in Northern Europe in the Viking Age

Source: *Science Magazine*, July 24, 2020, page 376.

Viking smallpox diversity: Humans have a notable capacity to withstand the ravages of infectious diseases. Smallpox killed millions of people but drove Jenner's invention of vaccination, which eventually led to the annihilation of this virus, declared in 1980. To investigate the history of smallpox, Mühlemann et al. obtained high-throughput shotgun sequencing data from 1867 human remains ranging from >31,000 to 150 years ago. Thirteen positive samples emerged, 11 of which were Northern European Viking Age people (6th to 7th century CE). Although the sequences were patchy and incomplete, four could be used to infer a phylogenetic tree. This showed distinct Viking Age lineages with multiple gene inactivations. The analysis pushes back the date of the earliest variola infection in humans by ~1000 years and reveals the existence of a previously unknown virus clade (clade = related organisms descended from a common ancestor).

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VICTORIOUS VIKINGS



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Scandinavian Humor?

Ole was getting increasingly absent minded, and here are several examples. He walked up to a man at Sons of Norway who looked familiar to him, and asked, "Say... Vas dat YOU dat died... or vas it yur brudder?" On another occasion, Ole poured syrup down his back and scratched his pancake. The last time he walked into an antiques store, he asked the proprietor, "What's new?" One day Ole went to work with one black shoe and one brown shoe on. His co-worker, Sven, called his attention to it. "Oh yah, Sven," said Ole, "I got anudder pair yust like it at home."

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