

# The Posthorn

Sponsored by the  
**Scandinavian Collectors Club**  
of NEW YORK, N. Y.

Editor, Carl E. Pelander, 505 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

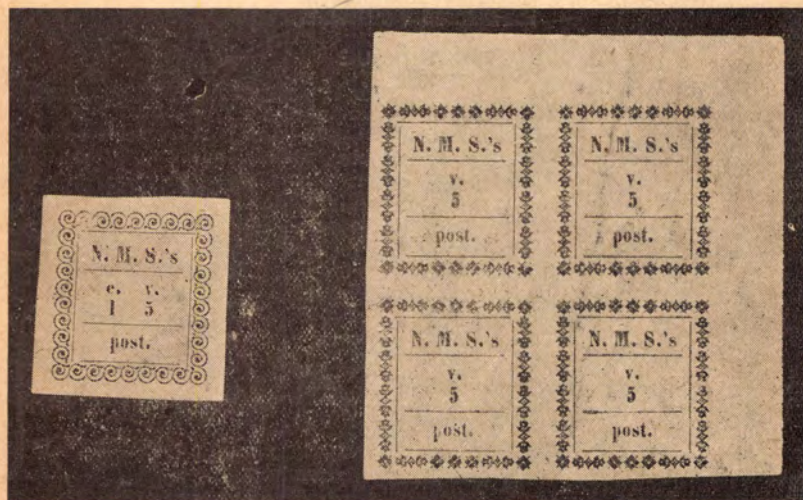
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## The Norwegian Missionary Post in Madagascar 1888-95

by Carl E. Pelander



Second Issue

First Issue—Block of 5v. value

To associate the cold Northern country of Norway with the tropical island of Madagascar is hard indeed, but in Philately almost anything is possible.

Madagascar, an island off the South East coast of Africa, from which it is separated by the Mozambique Canal, has an area of 24,094 square miles (nearly the size of Texas) and a population (1941) of 3,797,936, with Antananarivo the capital city. In spite of the mountainous nature of the island, agriculture forms one of the chief occupations, although mining of gold, graphite, copper, etc., also form important parts in its industrial life.

During the early part of the 19th Century, Norwegian Missionary Societies began to play an important part in Madagascar, and established their headquarters at Antananarivo with posts scattered over a radius of 100 miles from this city. At the time of our story the society was headed by Rev. Borchgre-

vink, and it was under his supervision that the Missionary Post was established.

Contrary to the efficient Postal Systems throughout the World, that of Madagascar had been sadly neglected, and only with the introduction of the British Consular Mail in 1884, was some sort of order established. This service continued for a period of three years, during which the famous British Consular stamps were issued, and at the termination of this service, a private Parcel Post was established, late in 1888, by the Norwegian Missionary Society, between their various stations. Due to the efficiency and popularity of this service, it was soon extended to include mail by the Government as well as the Public.

In order to expediate the ever growing mail service, stamps of  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 era denominations were issued (one era being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ c), all Government mail, however, had free franking privileges, with the stamps used to frank public mail only. Unlike the British Consular stamps that were valid for foreign as well as domestic mail, the Norwegian Missionary stamps were strictly for Inland use, and hence come under the heading of local stamps.



FIRST ISSUE  
1888

Printed by the Norwegian Press in Antananarivo. The plates being made up of individual clichets into 9 subjects (3x3). The top row consisting of three 1 era stamps the other six being of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  era value. The stamps are printed in black on white wove, unwatermarked paper, imperforate and with white gum.

These stamps being type set, it is readily understood that varieties will exist, hence reconstruction of the plate is comparatively simple.

- Position 1. 1 era Period after "N" and "M" only.  
2. 1 era Period after "M" only and Apostrophe after "S".  
3. 1 era Period after "N" only.  
4.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era Periods after "N. M. S."  
5.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era No periods. Apostrophe after "S".  
6.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era Periods after "M" and "N."  
7.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era Periods after "N. M. S."  
8.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era Periods after "N. M. S." and Apostrophe after "S".  
9.  $\frac{1}{2}$  era No periods except Apostrophe after "S."

The stamps of the first issue measure  $22\frac{1}{2}$ x17 mm., and the clichets are spaced  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 mm. horizontally and 6 mm. vertically.

SECOND ISSUE  
1895

Due to change in postal rates, two new stamps were issued, similarly printed to the first issue, in panes of nine, with this difference, however, that each value was printed from a separate plate. The stamps are black or grayish black in color, imperforate, and on white wove paper, with or without gum.

- 5 vari. ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  era) black  
1 era 5 vari, black

These stamps show much better workmanship and there are no major plate varieties as in preceding issue. Each value shows a well defined period as well as apostrophe after "N. M. S.'s."

Due to the establishment of a new British Inland Mail Service in Madagascar in 1894, the Norwegian Missionary Post found it difficult to continue its services, and when the Island was declared a French Colony in September 1896,

this as well as the British Local Posts were discontinued.

It will be noted that during the period of 1889-96, while Madagascar was under French Protectorate, there was also a French Postal System which handled all foreign mail from the Island, and in conclusion we may call the readers attention to the fact that for a period of one year (1888-89), the Norwegian Missionary Post was the only Postal System in Madagascar.

• • •

Harry M. Konwiser reports these additional interesting facts regarding the N. M. S.

A history of the Norwegian Missionary Press in Madagascar was published in Copenhagen in 1938. This booklet states that the first Mission Station was opened in 1867 at Betafe. At the time of the printing of the stamps, in 1888, The Missionary Press was under the direction of Pastor Lars Meling, who was succeeded by Pastor Josef Nilsen in 1893.

The early references to the first issue of the Missionary stamps, claimed them to be "lettered in white on black, as if stencilled"—but Mr. E. F. Hurt of England, one of the worlds foremost students on local stamps, dispels this, and agrees with the description in this article, claiming that the illustration must have been "a negative print obtained on photographic printing paper."

The author is indebted to Mr. Konwiser for the illustration of the first issue and to Mr. Paul Weiss for those of the second.

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## Sweden for the Specialist

by Roland D. Morse

Sweden, like the other Scandinavian nations, is quite popular among collectors in the United States. A fine representation of this country's stamps may be easily obtained by a person of average means. Completion of the major varieties, listed by Scott, also is possible for the individual who can afford to purchase a half dozen or so stamps in the price range of \$25 to \$100. The Swedish Royal Postal Administration has followed a conservative policy in the emissions and quantity of its postal issues and it can hardly be said that there is any taint of commercialism. The issues are attractive and for the most part are plentiful enough and obtainable in fine condition.

Ours is "The Hobby of Kings and Kids." Likewise we can term the field of specialism and philatelic study in regard to the stamps of Sweden. For the collector of unlimited means there are numerous items, some of them gems. The price of various copies of the first issue precludes any chance of specialism except by the wealthy. Each of the five values have no less than three distinct shades. There are numerous printing and plate varieties some of them constant; as the Apes Head on #1, the varieties of "Pyra" on #2, "double eight" on #4, and varieties of "TJUGU" on #5. The price and scarcity of this issue on cover makes it difficult to obtain more than a mere representation. The piece de resistance is, of course, the 3 skilling color error, which is just as unique as the most famous stamp in the world—the one cent British Guiana. True it has not commanded an equal price nor is it as romantic. (Editors note: The last known price obtained for this stamp by Theodore Champion, was reputed to be \$37,500.00.) However, it does hold a position equivalent to its more famous cousin.

The "TRETIO ORE" error is one of the outstanding Swedish gems and probably the best known. Every so often something of this nature provides us with a philatelic thrill. Not long ago I had such a thrill when I saw a copy of this error in a pair of stamps—the other member a normal copy. The error itself is a rarity, but such a pair is extremely scarce as only a few are known to exist. This pair was from the Rothschild collection, lightly cancelled and well centered, an item which would be an outstanding show piece in any collection. Forgeries of this stamp exist and a prospective purchaser should satisfy himself as to the genuineness of the copy.

The imperforate varieties of the Numeral and King Oscar issues are a group of worthwhile rarities, together with the 55 and 80 ore stamps issued in 1918. There are also two stamps, watermark varieties, which are outstanding



rarities. The first is the 20 ore King Gustav—1921—Scott No. 144. The catalogue does not reflect the true scarcity of this stamp consequently few collectors are aware that there are supposedly only eight copies known to exist. The second stamp is the 20 ore Air Mail of the first issue with crown watermark instead of the usual wavy lines. Forgeries exist of both stamps and a study of the various papers and of the surcharge will help to identify the genuine stamp.

Such are the unusual items for the specialist to acquire in a collection of Sweden. The amount of money required is an obstacle to most collectors attempting completion. On the other hand, for the individual who desires to delve into an almost complete mystery, there are numerous inexpensive fields which issue a challenge to the philatelic student. I say mystery, as there has been very little written in English, at least in the United States. If you are fortunate enough to read Swedish or German, the mystery may not be quite so dark.

First let us consider a specialized collection of the rotary press printings between the years 1920 and 1940. In this group are 47 stamps that differ basically as to value, color and design excluding paper and perforation varieties as listed in Scott. Of the 47 stamps all except 2 are penny stamps in used condition. The other two cost no more than 10 or 15 cents a piece, and actually do not seriously enter into this study as there is ostentiously only the single major variety of each. Eleven of the stamps are found in two types either from Ottawa and Stockholm or reengraved plates. Twenty eight of these stamps have at least two or more major paper varieties. Thirty stamps have a total of 105 varieties including type, paper and perforation. There are 34 such varieties on four of the 47 stamps alone, namely the two 5 ore lion stamps, green and brown and the two 10 ore lion stamps, green and violet. Add many minor paper varieties and numerous shades, the collection grows like Topsy. Best of all a great majority of the varieties are inexpensive and many may be found in bundles of stamps, selling for less than \$1.00 per hundred. (The various compilations used were derived from the list by Rydquist "Postage Stamps of Sweden 1920-1942" a handbook of the American Philatelic Society.)

Practically any of the issues preceeding the above will also provide for the student an opportunity that is really worthwhile. There has been almost no material published in the American philatelic press, a fact which will serve to enliven the chase and make the results of any findings all the more welcome.

The second issue, much more plentiful than the first, abounds with interesting varieties. The six values were on sale at post offices for a period of 14 years. Consequently there are numerous plate varieties, cracked and worn plates and abundant shades. Cancellations on these stamps are also very interesting as many copies can often be found with an almost complete impression of the cancel upon a single stamp. Covers are just scarce enough to enliven the hunt for them and are generally worth upwards from catalogue, depending upon individual interest. One should not forget the reprints of this issue, easily distinguished as they are perforated 13, although the printing consisted of only 2,000 of each value, they are not expensive.

The Gustave V portrait stamps used from 1910 to 1920 should also provide a grand opportunity for study. There are various shades of each value. The paper used for this issue has the "KUNGL POSTVERKET" watermark which may be found in four different positions. There are three different types of marginal plate markings. Some of the values have also been overprinted for provisional use.

Another field for the specialist is that of booklets. This becomes of unusual interest with the advent of the Rotary Press used for printing all Swedish stamps after 1920, as the normal form of stamp offered to the public at that

time became the coil stamp. The stamps perforated on three or four sides were then used only to make up booklets. Thus, with regard to the format of its stamps, Sweden is placed in a singular position among the stamp issuing countries of the world.

For the student of history rather than printing, perforation, paper and the like varieties, a collection of Swedish Commemoratives would not be amiss. There are sufficient of them to provide a fair historical outline of the country. With most of the issues there is at least one value found in booklet form. First day covers are interesting to many people. A collection of this type sufficiently notated is probably much better entertainment for the layman. We shouldn't forget that in this way future collectors are interested, and some may even become specialists.

Such is the invitation to the prospective Swedish Specialist. It is frankly a challenge, demanding in many ways, either of time spent in search and in study, or of money spent in the acquisition of rarities. In either case there is satisfaction awaiting the collector as a reward for his efforts whether he has modest or unlimited means.

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## This and That

by Christian Zoylner

A few wise sayings from the rash:

A man without a smiling face should not open a shop.

In beating a dog, first find out who his owner is.

Even the Emperor has poor relatives.

Last August—one of our members, who owns a beautiful summer home on Long Island, was telling a fellow member after dinner—and cocktails galore—"I have got a little cabin in the Adirondacks—I have got this lovely summer home—I have got a fine stamp collection—I have got a wonderful wife and three of the best children—Say, what have you got?"

Fellow member: "I have got to go to the bathroom."

Editors note: And so Chris' grows poetical!

There was a young girl from St. Paul,

Who went dressed as "THE TIMES" to the ball,

When her dress did catch fire

and burned her entire

front page, stamp section and all.

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by Agent No. 42  
Staff of the Old Sleuth

Anna and Eddie Elkins seem to monopolize the philatelic speakers field \* \* Chris Zoylner's other limericks were censored—we cannot compete with Esquire \* \* \* Trygve Larsen had folded up his tepee and the last we heard from him was from Alaska—thank God he is not our treasurer \* \* \* and speaking of treasurers, George Hendrickson is rolling in wealth, with all the new members coming in, lucky we have a bank president like Frank Maybury to keep an eye on him \* \* \* Ferrars Tows is seen around town a lot of late, hunting for new "Hen Tracks" on the bi-colored D. W. I.'s, goes to prove what a little imagination will do \* \* \* Harry Konwiser still hopes his book on Denmark will be published—that is if Paul Bluss will get the plates ready \* \* \* and the ladies—believe it

or not, but they are back again. Mrs. Kauppi gives no excuse, but we are afraid she had to convince hubby the club was necessary \* \* \* Miss Isola claims to have been in sunny California the past year \* \* \* and we almost saw the "Purple Passions" (Fay Jordan's) collection \* \* \* Capt. Carl Pihl, somewhere in England, reports a most wonderful stamp find, only he could not get his hands on it \* \* \* rumors—Bill Foulk is cornering the market in Scandinavian stamps: \* \* \* Bob Stone, after commuting between New York and Washington for a long time, has finally settled in the last place, last time we saw him he was completely disoriented—goes to show what the war can do, even to a College Professor \* \* \* our scout in Philadelphia reports—dire results for our members, now that the "Egyptian Queen" Margaret Pierce has joined up, hubby feels she ought to be able to speak at least Swedish by the end of this year \* \* he thinks; Frank Maybury should leave telephone booths alone, when telephone poles are more plentiful \* \* \* and Carl Pelander cannot be classed as a beauty \* \* \* that Vinc Domanski is mostly unconscious? \* \* \* and Gus von Gross claims no one knows the difference between a Swiss and a Swede anyhow \* \* \* Carl Wereskjold has invited the members for a free look at the stars in his back-yard observatory \* \* \* and the chemists in our club ought to form a fine chapter of their own, what with such highlights as Drs. Linz, Senior, Stericker, Werenskjold, et al. \* \* \* Christine Husebeck nee Stericker deserves credit roping papa and mamma in to join the club \* \* \* Harry and Marion Lindquist are basking in sunny Tucson,—two bucks saved as H. M. sure goes far \* \* \* and Bro. Bartleson has given up his Drug Store in Seattle in order to enlist news members for the S. C. C. \* \* \* Joe Jaeger mixes the best cocktail in New York—invites all members of the club for free drinks—swell of Joe—wonder if it will work. And with that, so long until next issue. I was really easy on you now.

## New and Recent Issues



### Sharpshooter Issue July 22, 1943

Issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization of Sweden's Sharpshooter Society.

Interest in the formation of an active organization of this kind goes back to about 1860, but agitation for its formation did not begin until September 1889. Royal sanction was granted the Society on June 9th 1893, and the first meeting held on Oct. 20th, 1893. The organization now number over 270,000 active members.

Engraved	Coil Stamps, Perf. 12½ vertically.	Unwatermarked.
	10 ore violet	
	60 ore slate blue	
Booklet Pane of 20 stamps, perf. 12½ on three sides.		
	10 ore violet	

### Montelius Issue September 9, 1943

Oscar Montelius born in Stockholm on Sept. 9, 1843, became one of Europe's greatest Archaeologists and Ancient Historians. He was appointed to the post of State Antiquarian, which he held from 1907-13, his many discoveries in the Archaeological field revolutionized the ancient history of Sweden and other parts of Europe. Montelius died on November 4th 1921.

Coil Stamps, Perf. 12½ vertically.

Engraved

Unwatermarked.

5 ore green

120 ore lilac rose

Booklet pane of 20 stamps, perf. 12½ on three sides.

5 ore green

## Club News

### December Meeting

During the business session the President Mr. Elkins, appointed a committee to revise the present Bi-Laws of the Club. Mr. William Foulk was appointed chairman with Messrs Maybury, Tows and Stone in advisory capacity.

After the business session a short members competition followed, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to Questions and Answers, some of which appear in the Question Box.

### January 12th Meeting

Mr. Elkins informed the members present of the untimely death of Elias Johanson, and requested the members to rise in silent prayer for their departed friend.

After the business session Mr. Frank Maybury showed two volumes of selected pages from his collection of the Regular Issues of Denmark, a truly magnificent showing with numerous rare blocks and multiple pieces, as well as several fine covers of the early issues.

### February 9th Meeting

At this meeting 56 new members were admitted to the club, ranging from fifteen resident to the far distant Port of Spain, Trinidad, B. W. I.

It was announced that an invitation has been extended the Club, by the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club of New York, to become a Chapter of that organization. This invitation was favorably accepted, as the S. C. C. would retain its identity and continue to function independently, the future meetings to be held at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St.

Mr. Hugh M. Clark requested that the president appoint a committee to revise the present catalogue listings of the Scandinavian Countries. The following members were appointed to serve with Mr. Clark:

Denmark—Hans Rose, Carl-Emil Buyer.

Norway—Harry L. Lindquist, Carl H. Werenskjoeld.

Sweden—Eric Hallar, Roland D. Morse

Finland—Carl E. Pelander, Arthur Linz.

Iceland—Joseph Jaeger.

Danish West Indies—Ferrars H. Tows, Michael Miller.

After business session Mr. Elkins turned over the meeting to our guests of the evening, Dr. George Camnitzer and members of the Masonic Stamp Club. Mr. Pelander introduced the guest speakers, who showed the following collections; Mr. Jacob Glaser, Columbian Republic Air Post stamps, including two covers of No. 1. Scadta and Regular issues mint, used and on cover. Mr. Chas. Brooks displayed a nice selection of 19th Century U. S., followed by Mr. Sam Brooks who delivered a lecture on "Philately in Free Masonry" and showed a splendid lot of U. S. stamps depicting Masons and Masonic events. Mr. Brooks presented the Clubs Library a specially prepared folder, made up of several pages with stamps and history of Scandinavian Free Masonry. Mr. Arthur Heim followed with a selection of 20th Century Congo and Belgian East Africa, which included all of the rare errors, etc., Mr. Chas. Carpenter showed a selection of Queen Victoria "Heads" followed by Mr. William Stecker's fine display of "superb" U. S. Commemoratives, 1893-1917 in blocks of fours. Last but not least Dr. George Camnitzer showed some selected pages from his outstanding collection of German Colonies.

In spite of the lengthy meeting, none of the capacity crowd that attended left, and it was generally agreed that the Masonic Stamp Club did a splendid job of entertaining.

### March Meeting.

The following announcement was sent out by our Secretary: "The March Meeting has been cancelled in reverence to the memory of Mr. Pelander's daughter, Carla, who died on February 25th, 1944.—G. Guilsher, Secretary.

**WANTED:** ICELAND, used in well centered condition: Scotts Nos. 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14, 49, 52, 53, 58, 60, 141, 143, 146, 147, 148, B1-4, C4, 5, 6, 7, 8.—R. Bartleson.

## New Members

### Resident

- 59 Carl H. Werenskjold .....Ozone Park, L. I., N. Y.  
62 Harry M. Konwiser .....New York, N. Y.  
63 Albert W. Sievers .....Hyde Park, N. Y.  
64 Sidney S. Jalkut .....New York, N. Y.  
66 Hans P. Nielsen .....Brooklyn, N. Y.  
67 Hugh M. Clark .....New York, N. Y.  
73 Harry M. Halsband .....New York, N. Y.  
74 Theodore Foulk .....Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.  
77 Louis Kreiger .....New York, N. Y.  
80 Capt. Carl H. Pihl .....U. S. Army  
82 Walter Hoffman .....Ozone Park, L. I., N. Y.  
83 Mrs. A. E. Kaplan .....New York, N. Y.  
84 Miss Elsie Soderstrom .....New York, N. Y.  
90 Miss Elin V. Friberg .....New York, N. Y.  
93 Sidney F. Barrett .....New York, N. Y.  
94 Bert Lagerstedt .....East Orange, N. J.

### Non-Resident

- 58 Roland D. Morse .....Holyoke, Mass.  
60 James E. Hughes .....Linwood, N. J.  
61 Ernst M. Cohn .....Pittsburgh, Pa.  
65 C. M. Dutcher .....Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
68 Mrs. Margaret L. Pierce .....Haddonfield, N. J.  
69 Danford H. Munsell .....Pleasant Valley, N. Y.  
70 W. Shipper .....Schenectady, N. Y.  
71 Judge Wm. R. Horney .....Centerville, Md.  
72 Judge A. Carson Simpson .....Philadelphia, Pa.  
75 W. W. Lana .....Poughkeepsie, N. Y.  
76 Mrs. Marie Kirk .....West Cornwall, Conn.  
78 Alfred Lunden .....Reading, Pa.  
79 Dr. James K. Senior .....Chicago, Ill.  
81 Olof J. Olson .....St. Paul, Minn.  
85 Francis J. Schoendorf .....Mohawk, N. Y.  
86 Capt. Fred A. Stimpson .....Green Bay, Wis.  
87 Anne Haug .....Port of Spain, Trinidad, B. W. I.  
88 Rev. H. B. Roepe .....New Orleans, La.  
89 Ivar J. Gahne .....Harbert, Mich.  
91 Douglas Watson .....New Orleans, La.  
92 Michael Miller .....Baltimore, Md.  
95 Chas F. Orgel .....Cleveland, Ohio.  
96 Edwin A. Davis .....Baton Rouge, La.  
97 Andrew Thorson .....Holton, No. Dak.  
98 John Hoyer .....Philadelphia, Pa.  
99 Lt. (jg) Wm. A. Brown .....Auburndale, Mass.  
100 E. Youngstrom .....Standard, Cal.  
101 Malcolm Lewis .....Marietta, Ga.  
102 Rasmus Bartleson .....Seattle, Wash.  
103 Lt. Robert W. Scherer .....U. S. Army  
104 Milton I. Lundsten .....Duluth, Mich.  
105 Alfred A. Childs .....Melo Park, Calif.  
106 Charles H. Power, Jr. ....Jacksonville, Fla.  
107 H. C. Schulz .....Pasadena, Calif.  
108 Mrs. Doris T. Stericker .....Swarthmore, Pa.  
109 Dr. William Stericker .....Swarthmore, Pa.  
110 Dr. Ronald H. Osborne .....Los Angeles, Calif.  
111 Nels Freeberg .....Chicago, Ill.  
112 Gunnar C. E. Danielson .....Celoron, N. Y.  
113 Olaf A. Olson .....Green Bay, Wis.  
114 R. J. Ridgway .....Cleveland, Ohio  
115 Henry S. Redfield .....Hartford, Conn.  
116 Stanley Pollard .....New Westminster, B. C., Canada  
117 E. M. G. Schroder .....Atlanta, Ga.

At the time of publishing this issue, there are before the membership committee 40 additional applications for membership.