# Q <br>  <br> <br> Scandinavian Collectors Club 

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# Booklet Stamps of Sweden 

WITH CHECK LIST

Until quite recently the collecting of booklet stamps, either in complete books or in panes, has been a much neglected phase of philately. In a search for literature on such stamps, one will find practically no information at all, particularly in the case of foreign issues. However, with the advent of the recently organized Booklet Pane Society, and the prospect of a listing of such varieties in the standard catalogue, the collecting of booklet stamps promises to increase rapidly. It might be well to note that booklet stamps of the various postal departments are a form of emission which has not been influenced particularly by philatelic demand, but rather by consideration of public use.

Among the stamp issuing countries of the world, Sweden has stood alone for the past twenty odd years in regard to the peculiar form in which her stamps have been generally issued. In 1920 the Swedish government took over the manufacture of its postage stamps which had formerly been let out by contract to private concerns. At this time they purchased and put into use rotary presses and with the satisfactory accomplishment of this method of printing started to issue the great majority of their stamps in coil form. Thus the coil is the normal form and the sheet unusual; whereas, in all other postal entieties using these types, the situation is reversed. However, a small portion of Swedish stamps for this period have been made in sheets, generally for stamp booklets. In view of these conditions, the Booklet stamps of Sweden occupy a more important and most interesting part of a specialized collection of this country.

What is today a very large and important business, in the beginning was small and inauspicious. This is true of Swedish Booklet Stamps. The first issue was a very small fraction of what is reported to be the current output. At their first appearance they were received very poorly by the Swedish public, so much so that after ten years a stock of the original meager supply remained on hand and it was thought at that time that no further booklets would be manufactured. However, during 1918 and 1919 a second issue of booklets was made up from the then current King Gustav set which had already been in use for eight or nine years. Currently the sale of booklet stamps comprises more than twenty-five per cent of the total of the most popular values comparable with our one, two, and three cent stamps.

Sweden's first Booklet Stamps were announced in a post office circular dated April 12, 1904, and soon thereafter put on sale. There were two values - the 5 and 10 ore of the then current King Oscar series, each denomination in a booklet of 30 copies. They were arranged in 5 panes of 6 stamps, 2 stamps wide by 3
high. The entire appearance of the booklets greatly resembled those of the United States. The cover was of heavy stiff paper, almost card, and was colored to indicate the value of the stamp within. Each pane was separated by interleaving of coated waxed paper. At the top of the pane there was a margin through which the booklets were stapled. The size - $44 \times 80 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{m}$. - approximated that of the United States Booklets. The printing on the cover indicated only the price, together with the number and value of the contents. The book was stapled on the left edge of the outside cover and as the panes all had a margin on the top, this left edge is the top with respect to the arrangments of the stamps within the booklet.

In order to provide sheet margins for each booklet pane, it was necessary to use special plates. The normal plates of the King Oscar series contained 100 subjects. It is probable that the same die was used; the only change was in the arrangement of the layout. This was accomplished by the following: The first three rows of 10 cuts each were inserted in the normal position, the second three rows were inverted, the seventh row was omitted to allow for sheet margins for the middle and bottom sections, the last three rows were inserted in a normal position. The result was a plate of 90 subjects.

The paper used in this period contained a crown watermark. Ordinarily this watermark would appear inverted in the booklet panes from the middle section of the sheet. However, many of the regular values, together with booklet stamps appear with inverted watermarks, and likewise, booklet panes from the top section of the sheet are found with inverted watermarks.

The first issue of booklets was 125,128 of the 5 ore and 145,609 of the 10 ore. (Editor's Note: One complete booklet of each value, was sold at auction last November, and realized $\$ 62.50$ each.)

Eventually this stock of booklets was consumed, and although they were not very popular, there was probably a small demand for such items. A second group made their appearance in 1918 and 1919. They were less expensively manufactured. The booklets were the same size but the panes rearranged so that regular sheets of the various values were broken up and inserted in the covers. The out side stock was much lighter and cheaper and there was no interleaving

This issue consisted of 6 values; namely, the $5,7,10,12,15$, and 20 ore of the 1910 King Gustav series. For the first four values horizontal blocks of 10 stamps, 5 long and 2 deep, were broken out of the regular sheets. The 15 and 20 ore booklets employed the same general method of manufacture except that vertical blocks of 10,2 wide and 5 long, were broken from the sheets. The normal sheet margin provided a margin for stapling the booklets together. In all cases the sheet margin was stapled through the left edge of the booklet, with the result that half of the booklets have their contents inverted with respect to the outside. Each booklet contained 20 stamps, or two panes of 10 . As the outside dimensions of the booklet were only slightly longer than a block of 6 , the projecting block of 4 was folded back inside the cover.

All the sheets of these stamps have the "Kungl Postverket" watermark which appears once in a sheet. Only a small percentage of copies show one or two letters of this watermark, consequently some booklet panes will be found with it, however, if the booklet pane is arranged horizontally it will quite likely show a good portion of the letters of the watermark.
(To Be Continued)

## Stamps for the Wounded

Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, editor of the Herald-Tribune, is making an appeal for "stamps for wounded soldiers." If you have any duplicates which you don't need mail them to Mr. Kehr, who will see that they are properly assorted and given where they do nost good. This work is a very worthy cause and deserves your support.

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# The Parcel Post Stamps of Greenland 

by Svend Yort



10 ore: At left, Thiele's printing; at right, Schultz' printing.
70 ore: At left, lithographed; at right, typographed.
Stamps: There were five issues of these stamps altogether, in the same design, but differing in other respects, as described in the listings to follow. Seme common features, however, may be mentioned first.

The design was drawn by the artist Gerhardt Heilmann, and the dies and plates were made by H. H. Thiele Co., who also printed the first three issues. The plates were composed of separate cliches, as is shown by the fact that the position of plate varieties changes not only with each issue, but each printing. The various printings, while differing in shades, paper, and gum, are very difficult to describe, and in the case of the 10 ore and 20 ore have not all been definitely determined. Therefore no attempt will be made to describe them at this time, but the number of printings of each value is given in the following listing. In the last three issues there was only one printing of each value.

All values were issued in sheets of 25 , five rows of five. The first printings had narrow sheet margins, and the next few printings had no margins at all; that is, were imperforate around the edges, so that all the marginal copies are with "straight edge." The later printings had very wide margins. All the typographed issues were apparently printed from the same cliches, except Schultz' 10 ore value. The plate of this value was apparently lost, or perhaps worn out, and a new one had to be made. The differences, however, are only minor. For the other three values Schultz used Thiele's plates.

All issues can readily be distinguished by the perforation, except the lithographed issue, and this is easily identified by comparison. The lithographed has less shading on the bear, and the lines of the shield are perfectly uniform, straight and parallel, while on the typographed they are uneven, irregular, and not parallel. The lettering on the lithographed is also more uniform and regular, and the cross on the crown is about 1 mm , from the hyphen, while on the typographed it is only about $1 / 2 \mathrm{~mm}$. from the hyphen.

A very rare variety, a double print, is found on the 2 ore value, of which the writer has seen only a photograph. It is said to occur in both the second and third printings.

These stamps became obsolete on December 1, 1938, with the issuance of the set of regular postage stamps.

Cancellations: The cancellations found on these stamps are a study in themselves, and space will permit only a seneral description here. They fall into two natural catagories, namely those of the main office in Copenhagen, and those used in Greenland. The former consist of the name of the bureau as it was designated at various periods in its history, as mentioned before; the name in one or more straight lines, surmounted by a crown, either unframed or enclosed in a large horizontal oval. These changes of name are almost the only guide to the classification of the different printings, since dated cancellers were not used until 1936.

The cancellers used in Greenland consist of the name of the colony, usually prefixed by the description "Kolonien," "Anlaeget," etc. These are found in several forms also: the name in one or more lines, with or without a crown above, and unframed or enclosed in an oval; or with the name between two ovals, with the center blank. Many of the colonies have had cancellers in two or more of these types.

There is also a type consisting of the coat of arms of Greenland, similar to the design of the stamps themselves, enclosed in a large upright oval, with the name of the colony at the top. However, this is very scarce, and the author is inclined to think from the copies he has seen, that these are not properly cnacellers, but the seal of the colony, and only used on the stamps by request or favor.

In 1936 dated cancellers were introduced. These consist of a double circle, with the name between, and the date in a straight line in the center, between parallel lines. For the main office the inscription" reads "Gronlands" above, and "Styrelse" below; in the case of the Greenland offices, the name of the colony appears at the top, and "Gronland" below. A list published in Denmark at the time the regular postage stamps were issued in 1938 gives the names of twenty post offices in Greenland, all of which presumably had cancellers of this type:

| Angmagsalik | Julianehaab |
| :--- | ---: |
| Christianshaab | Kudtligssat |
| Egedesminde | Marmorilik |
| Frederikshaab | Proven |
| Faeringerhavn | Ritenbenk |
| Godhavn | Scoresbysund |
| Godthaab | Sukkertoppen |
| Holstensborg | Thule |
| Ivigtut | Umanak |
| Jakobshavn | Upernivik |

## Catalogue

1905 Typographed by H. H. Thiele. Perforated 12-121/4
1 ore olive green
5 ore reddish brown
10 ore dark blue
Two printings of each of the 5 ore and 10 ore.
The second is with imperforate sheet margins.
1915 Typographed by H. H. Thiele. Perforated $111 / 4-111 / 2$
1 ore olive green (3)
2 ore yellow (4)
5 ore brown (3)
10 ore dark clue (5 or 6)
15 ore violet (3)
20 ore red ( 5 or 6 )
Numbers in () refer to the number of printings. The first printings of each of the $1,2,15$, and 20 ore is with imperforate sheet margins.

- 1930 Typographed by H. H. Thiele. Perforated $111 / 4-111 / 2$

70 ore violet
1 Kr . yellow
e. 3 Kr . brown

1937 Lithographed by Andreasen \& Lachmann. Perf. 101/2 70 ore violet a. red violet<br>1 Kr . yellow<br>1938 Typographed by J. H. Schultz. Perforated $101 / 2$<br>10 ore blue<br>20 ore red<br>70 ore violet<br>1 Kr . yellow

# A Review of Scott's 1945 Catalogue <br> by Carl E. Pelander 

In the new catalogue just published by the Scott Publications, Scandinavia has shown more forward strides than any other specialized group. This of course is chiefly due to the splendid support given Mr. Clark by the Catalogue Committee of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. No less than 739 stamps show from slight to considerable gains, and there are no less than 67 new listings plus a number of stamps priced, that had hitherto been unpriced.

DANISH WEST INDIES in view of being recently revised, when added to the United States Specialized catalogue, came in for very few and unimportant changes, 15 mint and 3 used stamps showed slight advances.

DENMARK had no les than 100 mint and 61 used stamps increased in price, most important were: \#1 to $\$ 125$ mint and $\$ 30$ used; \#10a (formerly 6a) up to $\$ 40$; \#21 now priced in italics at $\$ 50$ mint and $\$ 65$ used; \#88a the Faroe Isl. bisect up to $\$ 17.50$ on cover; \# 155 the Faroe provisional to $\$ 25$ mint and $\$ 12.50$ used; O4 had a well deserved boost to $\$ 7$ used. Formerly unpriced stamps that are now priced are the Faroe Isl. provisionals \#272A to 76 and Q9 the last priced at $\$ 7.50$ both ways. There are no less than 35 new listings, most noteable being the 1st printing of Nos. 1 and 2, the perf $121 / 2$ varieties of the 1864-65 issue, the "Hook" variety $\# 55 \mathrm{~b}$ and Nos. 58a, 60a the 2 and 4 o. perf. $14 \times 141 / 2$, the balance of new listings are chiefly booklet panes.

One commendable change is the transfer of \#6a to its rightful place, namely 10a. This stamp which is watermarked with the "New Crown" could not possibly have been issue in 1853.

FINLAND also had 156 increases in prices, being equally divided between used and unused. These price increases were chiefly among the commemorative and charity issues. Other increases of interest were: \#69 which is now quoted at $\$ 7$ either used or unused; \#175a the rare double foot variety up from $\$ 20$ to $\$ 55$; the Zeppelin is now $\$ 15$ and keeps steadily climbing, the error " 1830 " is now priced at $\$ 100$. Many stamps that were formerly unpriced, such as the Compound Perfs of 1881, \#24a and 45a are now priced in mint condition and \#74b and 99a used.

ICELAND had surprisingly few changes, 61 unused and 53 used stamp showed slight gains and 8 stamps a slight loss. The most noteable changes were: \#57 to $\$ 60$ both ways; \#57a to $\$ 70$ also both ways. The amazing thing was the slight increase the Balbo issue received, which according to recent auction prices certainly warranted a stiff boost. There is only one new listing namely the 20a Parliament \#157a with double print, which is priced at $\$ 25$, the 10 kr . of the same issue, imperforate is now priced at $\$ 7.50$.

NORWAY also had a thorough overhauling a couple of years ago, yet showed 133 price increases and one slight loss, the only noteworthy increase was on \#68 the $11 / 2 \mathrm{kr}$. Die B, which went up to $\$ 20$ both ways. There were two new listings \#29b 35 o. re-touched plate priced at $\$ 50 \mathrm{mint}$ and $\$ 30$ used and \#99b 5 o . on 25 o. "Thick neck" variety. Here as well as in Jceland it is hard to understand the slight increase on such popular sets as the North Pole, King Haakon, Queen Maud and the second Nansen issues. These should prove excellent buys at present prices.

SWEDEN next to Denmark came in for more changes, 157 stamps made from slight to very noteable increases, of these 97 were mint and 60 used, there were also eight slight losses. Among these many changes we may call the attention of
the reader to a few, namely: \#4 up to $\$ 25$ used; \#5 to $\$ 85$ used; \#7 and 7 a to $\$ 9$ used; \#15 now lists at $\$ 50$ mint and \#27a at $\$ 15$ mint. A stamp that keeps steadily climbing is \#37 now priced at $\$ 7$ and a good buy at that price. Nos. 90 and 92 are up to $\$ 75$ each, \# 189 the 15 o . wmkd lines is priced at $\$ 40$ used. C5 is up to $\$ 60$ which seems below the market.

As in the case of the few Norwegian sets quoted, it seems the two U. P. U. issues deserved a good boost, as both sets have been bringing steadily over $\$ 20$ in recent auctions. These two sets have been underpriced for many years, the high values being quoted at from 30 to $50 \%$ higher in Sweden than here. Two other stamps that have been bringing prices above catalobue are $\mathbf{C 4}$ and $\mathbf{C 5}$, the first has sold well in excess of the $\$ 400$ cat. price, one copy recently sold at private treaty for $\$ 550$, the second has steadily brought from $\$ 65$ to $\$ 75$.

There were also 29 new listings in Sweden, all of them being booklet panes. * * *

Any members that have any suggestions regarding next years catalogue should mail their suggestions to the Editor of this paper, so that they may be brought before the catalogue committee.

## New and Recent Issues

CAUTION: We are herewith listing and illustating several War Issues that are prohibited for sale in this country. Some of these are now selling at enormus prices in the Philatelic "Black Market." Members of the S. C. C. are cautioned against purchasing any of these stamps, as the issues are large and a plentiful supply will be available at the termination of the war and at nominal prices!

The illustrations are supplied for the Post Horn by courtesy of the Swedish Consulate, Mr. Leon Monosson and the Swedish Fleet stamps by Col. Hans Lagerloef, of New York City.

## DENMARK:

(Ill. 1.) 1942 Round Tower Issue. Commemorating the Copenhagen Round Tower, built in 1642.
Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf. 13. 10 o. violet.
1943. Child Welfare Issue (Scott type SP 4)

Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf. 13
20 o. +5 o. carmine
(IIl. 2) 1943 Red Cross Issue, surcharged on Round Tower stamp.
$10 \mathrm{o} .+5 \mathrm{o}$. violet and red
(III. 3) 1943 Commemorative Issue. We believe that this stamp was issued in commemoration of N. S. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), who in 1843 founded the Farmers High School, and the Church depicted on the stamp as that of Grundtvig's Church.
Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf. 13.
20 o. carmine

## FINLAND:

(IIl. 4) Jan. 1, 1942 Red Cross Issue.
Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf. 14
$50 \mathrm{p} .+5 \mathrm{p}$. green and red (Arms of Aland - Ahvenanmaa)
$1.75 \mathrm{mk}+15 \mathrm{p}$. brown \& red (Arms of Nyland - Uusimaa)
$2.75 \mathrm{mk}+25 \mathrm{p}$. rose lake \& red (Arms of Egentliga Finland - Varsinais Suomi)
$3.50 \mathrm{mk}+35 \mathrm{p}$. ultramarine \& red (Arms of Karelen - Karjala)
$4.75 \mathrm{mk}+45 \mathrm{p}$. slate \& red (Arms of Satakunta)
1942 General Post Office Issue (Scott type A 44)
Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf. 14.
7 mk brown black
9 mk carmine rose
(IIl. 5) Jan. 1, 1943 Red Cross Issue
Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf 14.
50 p. +5 p. green \& red (Arms of Lappland - Lappi)
$2 \mathrm{mk}+20 \mathrm{p}$. brown \& red (Arms of Tavastland - Hame)
$3.50 \mathrm{mk}+35 \mathrm{p}$. rose lake \& red (Arms of Osterbotten - Pohjanmaa)


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\(4.50 \mathrm{mk}+45 \mathrm{p}\). ultramarine \& red (Arms of Savolaks - Savo)
    (IIl. 6) 1943 National Welfare Issue
        Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf 14.
                        \(2 \mathrm{mk}+50 \mathrm{p}\). brown
                    \(3.50 \mathrm{mk}+1 \mathrm{mk}\) red brown
                (III. 7) 1944 President Svinhufvud Memorial Issue.
                    Engraved - Unwatermarked - Perf 14.
                        3.50 mk black
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## NORWAY:

(Ill. 8) June 12, 1942 Nordraak Issue.
Commemorating the 100 th anniversary of the birth of the Norwegian composer Rikard Nordraak.

Photogravure - Unwatermarked - Perf 13.
10 o. green (Composer portrait)
15 o. brown (Spread sails over the North Sea)
20 o. dark red (as 10 o.)
30 o. blue (Sea Scape with Norwegian National Anthem)
(Ill. 9) 1942 U. P. U. Issue
Commemorating the Postal Union Congress in Vienna 1942, depicting Quisling and the first stamp of Norway
$200 .+200+30 \mathrm{o}$. brown red
30 o. +20 o. +30 o. bright ultramarine
Photogravure - Unwatermarked - Perf. 13.
(IIl. 10) Oct. 6, 1942 Wessel Issue
Commemorating the birth of the noted playwright and author Johan Hermann - Wessell in 1742

Photogravure - Unwatermarked - Perf 13
.15 o. brown
20 o. brown red
1943 North Cape Issue (Scott Type SP 1)
Small size re-issued on unwatermarked paper, perf 13.
15 o. +25 o. black brown
20 o. +25 o. brown carmine
30 o. +25 o. deep ultramarine
(III. 11) 1943 Frontier-Guardsmen Issue.

Photogravure - Unwatermarked - Perf 13
20 o. +30 o. brown carmine
(IIl. 12) 1943 National Welfare Issue
Photogravure - Unwatermarked - Perf 13
10 o. +10 o. green
20 o. +10 o. brown carmine 40 o. +10 o. slate

## SWEDEN:

(Ill. 13) Oct. 13, 1944 Navy Issue.
Commemorating the Swedish Fleet. Stamps designed by Olle Hjortzberg and engraved by Sven Ewert and depict the following historical events. 10 o. The Lion of Smaland, flagship of Commander Karl G. Wrangel, during the Battle of Femern in 1644; 20 o. Klas Fleming, founder of the Swedish Fleet; 30 o . King Karl, Swedish flagship during the Carolinian period; 40 o. stern of King Gustav IIl's ship, the Amphion; 90 o. the modern costal defense cruiser, Gustav $V$.

Coil Stamps, Perf. $121 / 2$ vertically.
Engraved - Unwatermarked 10 o. violet
20 o. carmine
30 o. ultramarine
40 o. olive green 90 o. slate
Booklet Panes of 20 stamps, perf $121 / 2$ on three sides 10 o. violet
20 o. carmine

## Club News

## Sepetmber 13th Meeting.

More than 30 members attended this meeting, in spite of the inclement weather, which was chiefly a general get-together gathering, at the beginning of the season.

Even tho no regular program had been scheduled, Mr. Ferrars H. Tows had brought along a volume of Great Britain and France used in Danish West Indies. This part of Mr. Tows collection is generally considered the finest in the world, containing every known stamp and plate number used in the Islands canceled with the three types of "C 51 " and also the rare "D 26 " killer, it is rich in covers and multiple pieces and was used by Stanley Gibbons in London in compiling their data for the catalogue.

Mr. William Foulk also had brought along two volumes of the skilling issues of Norway, which he displayed to the enjoyment of the members present, making them forget the thunder and torrential downpour on the outside.

## October 11th Meeting

This being the Annual meeting of the club, Mr. Elkins requested the report of the nominating committee, consisting of Messers Tows, Jalkut and Buyer, who suggested that the present slate of officers should be re-elected, with the exception of the secretary Mr. George Guilsher, who due to increased war work with his firm, was no longer able to carry on his duties in the club. The nominating committee suggested that Mr. John Boyce should fill the vacancy. No other nominations being made, the secretary was instrueted to cast one ballot for the entire slate.

The new officers for 1944-45 are as follows:


Mr. William Foulk was re-elected to serve for three years on the Board of Governors, other Governors whose terms did not expire are Ferrars H. Tows and Hans Rose.

Following the election Mr. Stephen G. Rich, showed his magnificent collection of "Poland number one," after which the general "Dutch treat" collation followed.

## November 8 th Meeting

This night was Bill Foulk night, who showed us his "Ore Issues" of Norway, which includes platings, cancellations and all of the various printings and types. As usual when Bill shows, a good times was had by the large attendance and many visitors present.

Meetings: Regular scheduled meetings are held at the Collectors Club 22 East 35 th St., every second Wednesday in the month. If in town drop in and meet the regulars.

## News of Interest As Seen By Our Members <br> NEW CHAPTER:

Several members in and about Philadelphia met at the Congress and decided to have regular meetings of the Scandinavian Collectors Club in Philadelphia. It was decided that the first meeting was to be called in January and held in the home of Gustave Von Gross.

## SALE OF COLLECTION:

Mr. O. J. Olson (S. C. C. no 81 of St. Paul, Minn., has sold his large general collection of over 100 volumes, to a New York Dealer, for the reputed price of $\$ 100,000.00$. We all hope Mr. Olson will start all over again, otherwise Philately has lost one of its most valued members.


## ICELAND VARIETY:

Svend Yort of Chevy Chase, Md., reports the herewith illustrated variety of Iceland \#O50, where the stamp on left being the normal stamp and the stamp on right the variety "no period after Pjonusta." Mr. Yort states that this only occurs on the 2 kr . value and is constant, but somewhat scarcer than the regular overprint. It is listed in Kohl's handbook and some Scandinavian catalogues.

## ERRATA IN GREENLAND PARCEL POST RATE:

Mr. Svend Yort the author of the article, writes that a slight error regarding the rate on packages of 5 to 10 kg was made, and should read 3 kr .40 ore, this of course was the reason for the issuance of the 3 kr . stamp.

## IMPORTANCE OF MAIL TO OUR SOLDIERS:

As a veteran of World War I, I know how much a line from home means to the boys in the service today, and only the other day I ran across a small article from "Skinners Tales of Danish Heroism," written in 1865, and entitled "PostBag of the Danish Army," where history repeats itself. I feel it appropriate to our present struggle, and the boys serving our country.
"In the redoubts on Dybbol Hill, at the country quarters among villages in Als, and in the muddy streets or Sonderborg, I saw letter-bags eagerly watched for. A crowd of broad-backed, tobacco-smoking soldiers thronged-round the postman, besieging him with questions. 'Is there one for me?' exclaimed a dragon, who cannot dismount and who is fidgeting round and round behind the rest. Some tall sergeant of the infantry gets near the bag, and announces loudly whose letters have come. It is like seeing a lottery decided. The men appear so happy if they receive news and so disappointed should the sergeant's voice answer 'None for you to-day Andersen!! or 'Nothing from home, Niels, this time!!. At Dybbol it was often a service of danger to bring packets to their destination. But the pleasure of those who received them must have been all the greater. I walked up the hill one morning with a fine young corporal of the .... regiment charged with letter. "You see," said he "they are anxious to have them soon, because if they are killed they will never be able to read them." This reasoning, though homely, contained a world of truth. The more uncertain their fate the more did the soldiers desire news from home, and in supplying this healthy appetite the Fieldpost rendered infinite service."

## Write your friends and loved ones to-day and every day!

Re-printed from the November issue of the MASONIC PHILATELIST by courtesy of the writer and Editor Harry M. Konwiser.

## THE FIRST AUCTION SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS

A notable event in the annals of philately took place on Saturday evening May 28, 1870, when stamp collecting assumed its position alongside other well known collector's objects, in presenting its first auction sale.

This sale was announced and advertised in the "American Journal of Philately" as follows: "Auction Sale of Postage Stamps to be sold without reserve, comprising the entire stock of a bankrupt European dealer, and several small American collections with many exceedingly scarce stamps, together with a Job lot of Albums. The well known auctioneers of Messrs Leavitt, Streibeigh \& Co., will conduct the sale, and orders to purchase executed by J. W. Scott, Cogan \& : ampson, of New York City and Mason \& Co., of Philadelphia."

The weather on that eventful day was most disagreeable, but in spite of the incessant downpour, a goodly crowd arrived in their carriages. Among the many present were J. W. Scott, Messrs. Watson, Sampson, Bailey, Williams and S. Allen Taylor, of Boston. Mr. Mason arrived shortly after the sale began.

The opening lot of 100 foreign started at 25 c and was knocked down for 60 c . The next lot of 200 common foreign brought 90 c . Then followed several lots of albums which brought very little. Lot \#30, a fine mint Corrientes sold for $\$ 1.13$. Lot \#33, a mint set of U. S. 1851, brought $\$ 1.12$. (The cheapest varieties today catalogues $\$ 1000$ ) Lot $\# 34$, a set of current envelopes (Reay Issue), sold for $\$ 1.70$. Lot \#40, Cape Wood blocks, the 1 penny and 4 penny realized $\$ 2.00$ (Cat. \#1250.) The next few lots were Confederates and brought very little. Lot \#43, a Knoxvale in fine condition $\$ 2.25$, a 10 c green canceled, brought $\$ 1.10$ (Cat. $\$ 2000$ ). A 10 c red envelope, canceled, sold at the same price. (Cat. $\$ 300$ ). A beautiful mint set of French Republics brought $\$ 3.13$. Then followed lot \#62 collection of 389 mint stamps in a beautiful morocco album which sold for $\$ 9.50$. The real prize, an Hawaiian Missionary 5 c , was sold for $\$ 11.00$, and was bought by J. W. Scott for a customer. Lot \#79-5c Geneva went for $\$ 4.00$. A 60 Crazia Tuscany brought $\$ 3.12$ (Cat. $\$ 1000$ ) Lot \#198, a mint penny Mauritius red $\$ 3.75$. One on blue paper sold for $\$ 2.25$. The highest price for a single lot was realized as a collection of 1800 stamps in a Moens album in excellent condition sold for $\$ 38.00$.

All in all, 269 lots were disposed of during the two and one-half hours of the sale. The highest price paid for any single stamp was $\$ 11.00$ the entire sale realizing about $\$ 500$. Total number of stamps sold 14,000 . One lot wrongly catalogued was resold for 55 c formerly brought 40 c .

Dr. IRWIN M. YARRY

## The Horn Blower

## by Agent No. 42

Staff of the Old Sleuth
The Horn Blower wants to take this opportunity to wish you A HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, * * * due to the limited space and lengthy report from my Philadelphia sleuth, I shall spare your hides just now * * * but it seems rather queer to me that a certain Gus VonGross escaped all the panning * * * He certainly was much in evidence, even though there was nothing complimentary to say regarding his behavior * * * nuff said * * we believe he is in cahoots with Vince Domanski in cooking up fake racing tips * * * and so on with what our Philadelphia Scout reports * * Echos from the Philatelic Congress and SEPAD Exhibition at the Bellevue Stratford, Philadelphia * * * John Boyce, Eddie and Ann Elkins on a dict, were noticed each eating only three breakfasts, succeeded by a good sized luncheon on the closing date of this affair. When not busy feeding, Amn had the job of looking for the two. What Eddie's well guarded briefcase contained remains a dark secret, but we hope it was not the hotel's silverware * * * Handsome Harry Konwiser was on the water-wagon up to $4 \mathrm{P} . \mathrm{M}$. when a cyclone dragged him down to the "Hunters Cocktail Lounge". Asked if he was on speaking terms with S. G. R., he was not quite certain, but finally was convinced by a party of the second
part that his relationship at that time was most congenial. * * * Stalwart Harry Lindquist blew in and out the same day, taxing the hotel's elevators to capacity and trying to make the most of a short stay. * * * Debonair Michael Miller looking for excitement was annoyed by the shortage of lonely, beautiful women, but conceeded that the trip was worth his while * * * Valdemar Weiergang, Steve Rich and Vincent Domanski found a taproom on 15 th Street near Broad Street Station where the bartender dispensed free as many "Michelobs" as the place could stand. No wonder they stayed until closing time trying to console the persecuted beer-slinger about his home relations. * * * At a "round table conference" the news leaked out, that our "Egyptian Queen" Margaret Pierce, a veritable fountain of youth, weakens at high altitudes. No less than three of the masculine sex immediately offered their service to escort her to the top floor of the Empire State Building * * * Athletic Arthur, her "Prince Charming," a newconer in our ranks, but an old acquaintance, proved to New Yorkers his winning ways by collecting 10 bucks in cold cash from one of their newspapers for his comment on "Ermine Lumber Jackets" * * * Bob Stone also paid us a flying visit, he must have smelt the gang was here * * * Good natured Marcus White and H. R. Harmer, of London fame, interested in the "fast" waiter service at the Hunters Lounge, just missed being locked-in for the night and spared from sampling the remaining fancy bottles * * * Much traveling Sol Glass had a busy time presiding over several tables when not occupied greetins the ladies * * *idney Lake, Paterson's star performer was in top form and entertained his friends with tales of "African Nights" and "Special Stamp Exhibits (?) in Private Homes" during attending conventions. The suit case and the labels were there, but the feminine touch was missing. * * * Dr. and Mrs. Stericker had the time of their life and did not mind waiting in the cold after missing the "Owl bus" for Swarthmore.

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