

# The Posthorn

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## The "Prir" Surcharges of Iceland

by Valdemar Weiergang and Svend Yort



Prir+3, perf. 14 and Prir only, Perf. 13, two types, se-tenant

The "prir"<sup>1)</sup> surcharges of 1897 seem to be one of the least appreciated issues of Iceland, perhaps because most of the catalogues do not list half the varieties that can be collected of this issue. Yet it is not a case of errors, in which overprinted issues often abound (no need to look further than the "I Gildi" overprints of the same country), but rather of the makeshift methods used in their production. There was really only one error—the inverted surcharge—the other varieties arising from necessity or expedience.

The reason for the issue is best explained in the words of the Governor of Iceland at the time, as quoted by Hanciau:<sup>2)</sup>

"Shortly after the (new) postmaster, Briems, took over the post office at Reykjavik on August 1, 1897 . . . it was discovered that the supplies of the ordinary 10 aur. and 3 aur. stamps were almost used up. The want of 10 aur. stamps could be supplied by stamps of 5 aur., of which a considerable

- 1) "prir" means "three." The first letter, which resembles a "p" is a letter of the Icelandic alphabet and is pronounced like "th."
- 2) L. Hanciau, "The Postal Issues of Denmark and the Danish Colonies," Gibbons Stamp Weekly, Nov. 20, 1909, page 487.



quantity were on hand. As, however, the rate for printed matter was 3 aur. per 10 kvint (about 1¾ oz.), the ordinary stamps of 3 aur. could not be dispensed with. Soon afterwards I ordered from Copenhagen a new supply of the ordinary stamps of 10 aur. and 3 aur. At the end of October in the same year the yellow 3 aur stamps were quite used up, before the new supply had arrived from Copenhagen. As in this way there were no more 3 Aur. stamps for use, I caused 86 and 50 sheets of the 5 aur. letter stamps to be overprinted . . . . The first 86 sheets were at first overprinted with the "3" in red, but in consequence of representations made thereupon by the postmaster, all the 136 sheets were overprinted with the word "prir" in black color . . . ."

There are also still in existence the official announcements of the issuance of these stamps, and, later, of the fact that they were sold out, to the various postmasters in Iceland from the postmaster in Reykjavik, who was a sort of postmaster-general for the whole island (the Danish titles are difficult to translate accurately). The interesting thing about these announcements is that the complete text is given in both Icelandic and English. Furthermore, they were mailed as ordinary printed matter, and the first of them was franked with a copy of the provisional, to serve as an illustration.

This first circular describes the surcharges, and states that the "3" and "prir" was issued on the first of November, while the "prir" alone was not issued until the third of the month. This is partially confirmed by the notations on the two complete sheets in Mr. Weiergang's collection. The sheet of the "3" and "prir" is inscribed in the margin (in Danish): "Bought at Reykjavik post office the 2nd of November, 1891, one sheet of 3 aur. postage stamp." It is signed S. Briems, and sealed in red wax with the seal of the Reykjavik post office. The sheet of "prir" only is similarly inscribed, except that the date is November 3rd, and the signature is C. Wildensen. The inscriptions, of course, make both of these sheets unique, but actually only one other complete sheet of these surcharges is known, namely the "prir" alone, in the collection of Hans Hals of Sweden.

On November 13th came the second announcement, saying that the provisionals were now sold out, and that no more would be issued. Instead, it was planned to use a black handstamp "FRANKO" to indicate prepayment. This, however, was not carried out; at least no such markings has been seen by any of the writers on the subject. The circular itself is endorsed "Franco" in manuscript in the upper right corner and a signature, apparently of the postal clerk handling it.

As the announcements imply, it was apparently not the intention to distribute these stamps to the provincial post offices, nor is there any record of any such distribution. The scarcity of cancellations other than Reykjavik bear out this assumption; the few that are known might easily have been sent or carried to these places by collectors or other interested persons. Kohl's handbook lists the following cancellations on the "3" and "prir": Eskifjordur, Isafjordur Kirkjubaerklaustur, Seydisfjordur, and Stykkisholmur, and on the perforated 14 x 13½, Hraungerdi; while the "prir" alone is known only with Grenjadarstadur and Isafjordur.

The overprint is merely type-set, as one might expect in such a small printing; but it is doubtful whether any other means, such as electrotypes, were available in Iceland at the time. (The "I Gldi" overprints five years later were also type-set, although printed in very large quantities.) But the printers did not have enough type to set up the whole plate in one size, either of the numeral "3" or the "prir," so the first six rows were set in one size (small "prir") and the last four rows in another (large "prir.") Why a 60-40 division, and not 50-50, will probably never be known, but at least they were consistent, the types of the numeral coinciding with those of the "prir," otherwise we would have even more varieties to collect. As it is, this mixing of two sizes of type gives rise to the highly interesting pairs or blocks with the two types set tenant vertically (never horizontally). These can be collected, of course, of both the normal overprints, and, although very much scarcer, with the inverted surcharge and with the perforation 14 x 13½. Four such blocks from Mr. Weier-



gang's collection are illustrated; it will be noted that the perf. 14 variety is cancelled, about which more later.

Apparently, it was the intention to conceal the numeral by printing the "prir" over it, but this was not always successful, since some copies show the numeral entirely above or below the "prir." But it is noticeable that on all copies with both overprints, the "prir" is a much stronger impression and more heavily inked than on the ones with the "prir" alone.



Normal and Inverted, Prir+3, perf. 13, two types, se-tenant

The inverted surcharge exists only on the "prir" and "3", not on the "prir" alone; and oddly enough both the "3" and the "prir" are inverted. Yet perhaps it is not so strange when we consider what must have happened. One or more of the original 86 sheets that were surcharged "3" must have been reversed in the pile; then probably only the first sheet or two were examined, and it was decided that the surcharge was not satisfactory. When they were sent back to be surcharged "prir," probably no one thought to check through all the sheets to see if they were all right, hence the same sheets received the "prir" inverted also. From the scarcity of the inverted surcharges, it is doubtful whether there ever was more than one sheet of these.

The variety perforated  $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  also exists only with both the "3" and "prir," and not with the "prir" alone. This variety can not really be considered an error, since the post office did not at that time consider the new perforation ( $12\frac{3}{4}$ ) as a separate issue. The perforation had been changed only that year, and naturally there were some of the older stock on hand, which it may have been the intention to use up first, or it may have been pure chance that some were included among those overprinted. This variety is not as scarce as the inverted, but it is not likely that there were more than two or three sheets surcharged.

One peculiar thing about this perforated  $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$  variety is the scarcity of unused copies. The small surcharge is very scarce, and it is possible that the large surcharge may not exist unused at all. Kohl's handbook does not price it, and the great 19th century collection of the late Baron Rothschild did not contain one. The Weiergang collection does not have an unused copy, although there is an unused pair of the small surcharge; and as mentioned before, the se tenant block of this variety is cancelled.

For a type-set surcharge, however, this issue is singularly free from minor varieties. Careful examination of Mr. Weiergang's two sheets reveals only one defect worth mentioning: on the 85th stamp (large "prir") the loop of the "p" is flattened or broken at the upper right. This appears on both sheets, with and without the "3", and therefore probably is constant on all sheets of the issue. It should be noted that in spite of the apparent effort to cover the "3", the black ink did not always take well over the red, and so parts of the letters of "prir" often appear broken. But inasmuch as these same defects are not found on the same stamp with the "prir" only, they cannot be considered bona



fide varieties.

We conclude with a complete listing of these stamps, including the se tenant pairs. The prices are approximately those given in Kohl's handbook, which seem to reflect the relative scarcity of the various types better than Scott's catalogue. Where the price is omitted, that particular variety has not been seen by the authors in that condition, and information as to the existence of any of these will be appreciated.

I. Surcharged "3" (red) and "prir" (black).

	Quantity Issued	Unused	Used
A. Perforated 13:			
Type I—Small "prir"	(5160)	6.00	5.00
a. Inverted		20.00	20.00
Type II—Large "prir"	(3440)	7.50	6.00
a. Inverted		25.00	25.00
Types I & II Se tenant, vertical pair		20.00	....
Inverted se tenant		60.00	....
B. Perforated 14 x 13½:			
Type I—Small "prir"		50.00	12.00
Type II—Large "prir"		....	15.00
Types I & II Se tenant, vertical pair		....	40.00

II. Surcharged "prir" only (black).

A. Perforated 13:			
Type I—Small "prir"	(3000)	9.00	8.00
Type II—Large "prir"	(2000)	12.00	10.00
Types I & II Se tenant, vertical pair		30.00	....

## New and Recent Issues

Due to several requests by members, we will here give a complete chronological listing of the War Issues of Norway and Finland, so as to aid the collectors in mounting their stamps, as most of these will not be included in the Standard Catalogue until 1947.

### DENMARK:

1943-44

Church Issue (Ill. 1)

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 13
10 o. violet (Osterlaro Church)		
15 o. green (Ejby Church)		
20 o. red (Hvidbjerg Church)		

(The 20 o. stamp was illustrated in Vol. 2, No. 1.)

### GREENLAND:

May 5th 1945

Denmark Liberation Issue

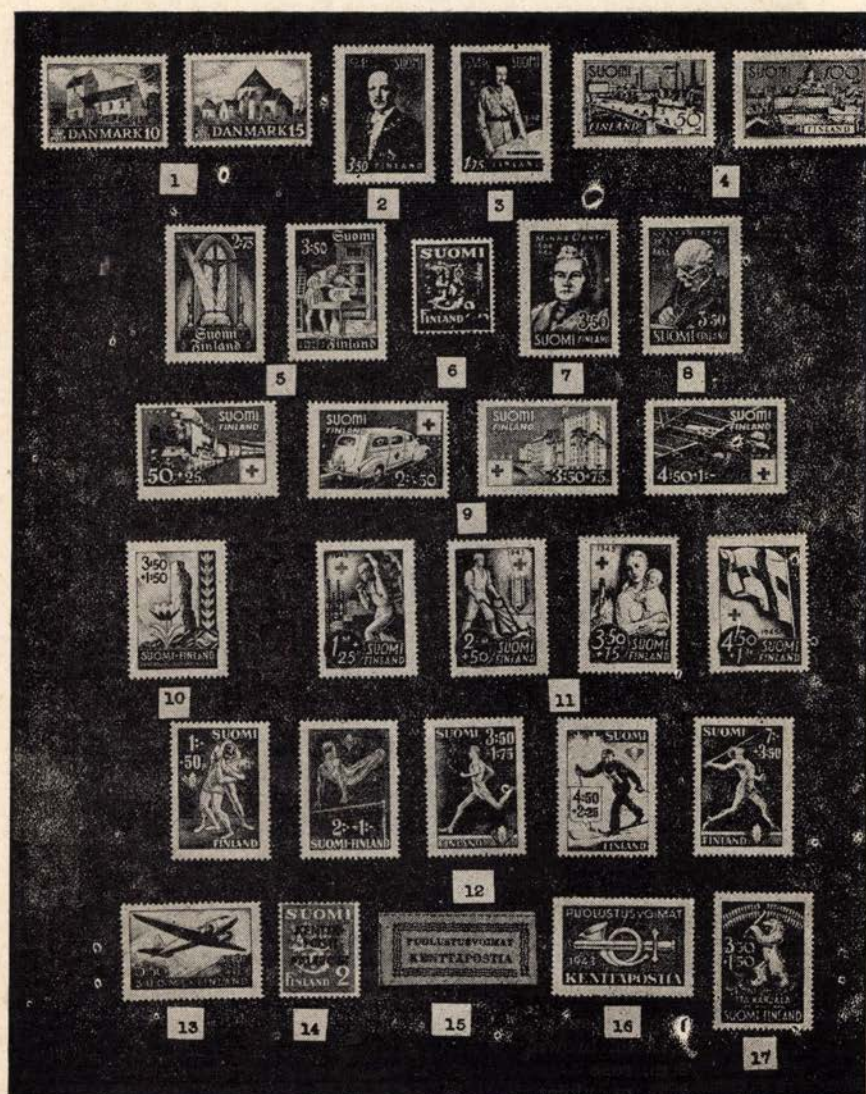


Stamps of 1945 issue overprinted in three lines "DANMARK BEFRIET—5 Maj

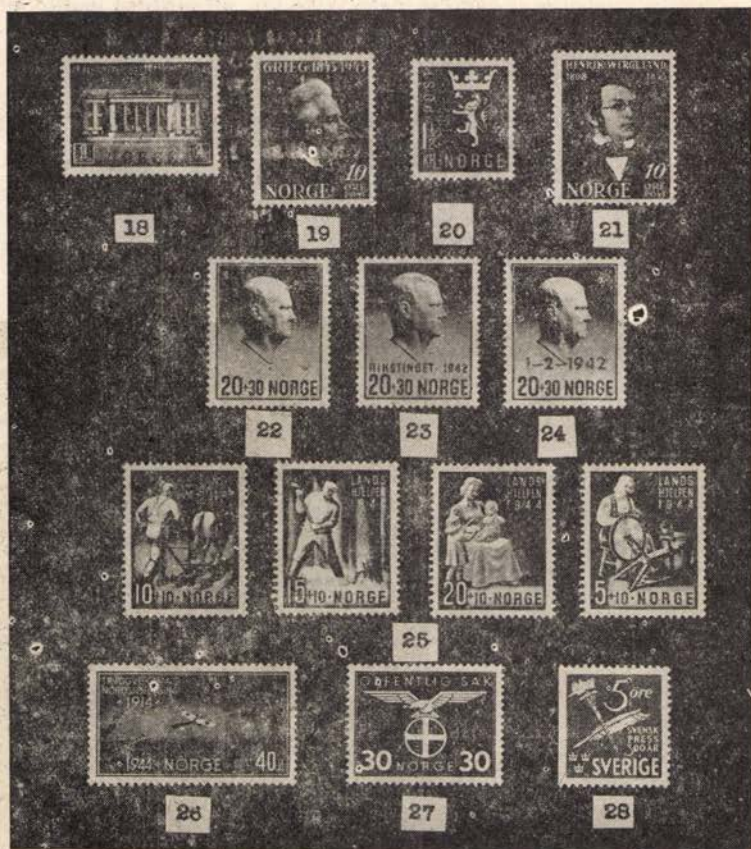


1945". Stamps printed by American Bank Note Co., overprinted locally at Godthaab in red (R) or Blue (B).

- 1 o. olive black and violet (R)
- 5 o. rose lake and olive bistre (B)
- 7 o. green and black (R)
- 10 o. purple and olive green (R)
  - a) Blue overprint
- 15 o. carmine rose and ultramarine (R)
  - a) Blue overprint
- 30 o. steel blue and red brown (B)
  - a) Red overprint
- 1 kr brown and gray black (R)
  - a) Blue overprint







- 2 kr sepia and myrtle green (R)  
 a) Blue overprint  
 5 kr purple and dull brown (B)  
 a) Red overprint

According to information there were 7,000 sets overprinted and of the a) varieties 1,250 each.

#### FINLAND:

	<b>December 1941</b>	
	<b>Ryti Issue (Ill. 2)</b>	
Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
50 p. green		
1.75 m. brown		
2 m. rose		
2.75 m. violet		
3.50 m. ultramarine		
5 m. slate		
	<b>December 1941</b>	
	<b>Mannerheim Issue (Ill. 3)</b>	
Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
50 p. green		
1.75 m. brown		
2 m. rose		
2.75 m. violet		

3.50 m. ultramarine

5 m. slate

**April 1942**

(Ill. 4)

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

50 m. dark violet (Hame Bridge, Tampere)

100 m. slate blue (South Harbor in Helsinki)

**May 1942****Bible Issue (Ill. 5)**

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

Commemorating the 300th anniversary of the printing of the first Bible in the Finnish language in 1642. The work was under the supervision of Dean Petraeus and assisted by Professor Stodius of the University of Abo.

2.75 m. brown

3.50 m. blue

**1942-45****Regular Issue (Scott type A26)**

Typographed Unwatermarked Perf. 14

75 p. orange (1942)

1 m. emerald green (1944)

2 m. orange yellow (1945)

2½ m. carmine (1944)

3½ m. olive gray (1945)

4½ m. blue (1942)

**1943****Provisional Issue (Ill. 6)**

Surcharged on 2.75 m stamp of 1940

3½ m. on 2.75 m. rose violet

**1943-44**

7 and 9 m. Post Office (chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

**February 1944****Minna Canth Issue (Ill. 7)**

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous Playwright and Author, Miss Canth's earliest play "The Burglary" is still famous in Scandinavia. Among her better known works are "The Priest's Family" and "Anna Liisa." Miss Canth died at the age of 52 in 1896.

3½ m. olive green

**May 1944****Svinhufvud Memorial Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

**Jan. 28th 1945****Stahlberg Issue (Ill. 8)**

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

Commemorating the eightieth anniversary of Kaarlo Juho Stahlberg, first President of Finland, 1919-1925.

3.50 m. brown violet

**CHARITY STAMPS**

1942-43 Red Cross Issues (See vol. 2, no. 1)

1943 National Welfare Issue (see vol. 2, no. 1)

**Jan. 1, 1944****Red Cross Issue (Ill. 9)**

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

50p+25p green and red (Red Cross Train)

2m+50p violet brown and red (Ambulance)

3.50m+75p orange red and red (Red Cross Hospital, Helsinki)

4.50m+1m ultramarine and red (Hospital Plane)

**June 1944****National Welfare Issue (Ill. 10)**

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

3.50m+1.50m violet brown



Jan. 1, 1945

**Red Cross Issue** (Ill. 11)

Similar in design to 1941 Issue, with year date plus new values added.

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	1m+25p green and red	
	2m+50p brown and red	
	3.50m+75p lake and red	
	4.50m+1m ultramarine and red	

February 1945

**Sports Issue** (Ill. 12)

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	1m+50p green (Wrestling)	
	2m+1m rose lake (High Jump)	
	3.50m+1.75m violet (Running)	
	4.50m+2.25m ultramarine (Skiing)	
	7m+3.50m brown (Javelin)	

**AIR POST STAMP**

Feb. 1944

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	(Ill. 13)	

Commemorating the twentieth year of Air Transport Service 1923-43.

3.50 m. brown

**FIELD POST STAMPS**

1942 (Ill. 14)

Regular Issue of 1941 used for East Karelia, overprinted "KENTTA-POSTI"—"FELTPOST" (Field-post)

2 m. orange

3½ m. blue

1943 (Ill. 15)

Typographed  
 Inscribed "PUOLUSTUVOIMAT — KENTAPOSTI" (Defense—Fieldpost)  
 black on red

1943

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	Size 29 x 19 mm (Ill. 16)	
	green	
	violet	

1944

design as above, size 20 x 16 mm

green  
violet**STAMPS ISSUED FOR EAST KARELIAN OCCUPATION**

Jan. 1942

**Ryti Issue** (Similar to Ill. 2)

Stamps of Finland, printed in new colors, and overprinted "ITA KARJALA — Sot. Hallinto" (East Karelian — War Administration)

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	50 p. yellow green	
	1.75 m. slate	
	2 m. orange red	
	2.75 m. orange brown	
	3.50 m. ultramarine	
	5 m. violet	

Jan. 1942

**Mannerheim Issue** (Similar to Ill. 3)

Stamps of Finland printed in new colors, and overprinted as above.

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 14
	50 p. yellow green	
	1.75 m. slate	
	2 m. orange red	



2.75 m. orange brown  
 3.50 m. ultramarine  
 5 m. violet

**CHARITY STAMP**

Jan. 1943 (Ill. 17)

Engraved Unwatermarked Perf. 14

The surtax was for benefit of War sufferers in the Occupied territory.  
 3.50m+1.50m dark slate green

**NORWAY:**

1941

**University Issue** (Ill. 18)

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Oslo. 200,000 copies printed.

Photogravure Unwatermarked Perf. 13

1 kr dark olive green (University Building)

**Nordraak Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

**Wessel Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

**U. P. U. Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

June 15, 1943

**Grieg Issue** (Ill. 19)

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous composer.

Photogravure Unwatermarked Perf. 13

10 o. green

40 o. olive green

20 o. red brown

60 o. blue

1944

**General Issue** (Ill. 20)

Photogravure Unwatermarked Perf. 13

1½ kr blue

July 12, 1945

**Wergeland Issue** (Ill. 21)

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of the Poet and Prose writer Henrik Arnold Wergeland. A great patriot and enthusiast for Norwegian Independence, his early writings were wild and rambling compared with his later works, that will remain classics in Norwegian literature.

Photogravure Unwatermarked Perf. 13

10 o. olive green

15 o. brown

20 o. red brown

**CHARITY STAMPS**

Feb. 1, 1942

**Quisling I.** (Ill. 22)

Photogravure Unwatermarked Perf. 13

20o.+30o. red brown (250,000)

Feb. 1, 1942

**Quisling II** (Ill. 23)

Similar to above with date 1-2-42.

20o.+30o. red brown

Sept. 26, 1942

**Quisling III** (Ill. 24)

Similar to Quisling I, with overprint "RIKSTING"

20o.+30o. red brown

1943

**Third North Cape Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

Aug. 2, 1943

**Frontier-Guardsmen Issue**

(Chronicled in vol. 2, no. 1)

Dec. 1943

National Welfare Issue  
(Chronicle in vol. 2, no. 1)

Dec. 1944

National Welfare Issue (Ill. 25)

Photogravure	Unwatermarked	Perf. 13
50.+100.	rose lake (Spinning)	
100.+100.	deep green (Plowing)	
150.+100.	brown violet (Woodsmen)	
200.+100.	copper red (Care of Children)	

1945 (?)

Shipwreck Issue

(Chronicle in vol. 2, no. 3)

## AIR POST STAMPS

1941

Type of Scott AP2

Photogravure	Unwatermarked	Perf. 13
45 o.	Prussian green	

1944

Grans Flight Issue (Ill. 26)

Commemorating the Tryggve Grans North Sea Flight in 1914.

Photogravure	Unwatermarked	Perf. 13
40 o.	greenish blue	

## OFFICIAL STAMPS

1940-42

All values of the small design are now known on unwatermarked paper.

1942-44 (Ill. 27)

Photogravure	Unwatermarked	Perf. 13
5 o.	rose violet	
7 o.	orange yellow	
10 o.	yellow green	
15 o.	grayish brown	
20 o.	carmine	
25 o.	orange brown	
30 o.	ultramarine	
35 o.	red violet	
40 o.	slate	
60 o.	Prussian blue	
1 kr.	purple	

## SWEDEN:

May 2, 1945

Swedish Press Issue (Ill. 28)

Commemorating the tercentenary of the Swedish Press. The first newspaper "Ordinari Post Tijdender" appeared in 1645, and is as yet published under the name of "Post och Inrikes Tidningar" (Post and Interior News), being the oldest newspaper in the world. The first editor of the paper was Johan Beijer, who was also at that time Postmaster General of Sweden.

Engraved	Unwatermarked	Perf. 12½ vertically
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5 o. green

60 o. rose lake

Booklet panes of 20 stamps perf. 12½ on three sides.

5 o. green

N.B. The 5 o. coil is issued in rolls of 500 stamps instead of the usual 100, whereas the 60 o. is in the usual form.

## INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING NEW ISSUES

## DENMARK:

Although not compelled to employ Danish stamps for German propaganda, the Quislings in the so-called "Denmarks Free Corps" prepared a set of three field-post stamps, viz: +25 o., +50 o. and 1 Kr. These adhesives were discov-



ered by the Danish Free Fighters, who conquered the "S. S.-Ersatz-Kommando" and were probably never used.

On May 27th, the union of Danish Stamp Dealers sent the following telegram to the Director General of Posts; "The Union of Danish Dealers in stamps assembled on their first general meeting after the liberation ask the Director General of the Post and Telegraph service as soon as possible to issue a series of stamps, to commemorate the liberation of Denmark, together with a charity series for the benefit of the suffering on Bornholm."

Reprint from "Stamps" July 28, 1945.

#### FINLAND:

Stamps issued late in 1944 and 1945 have been noted with a new type of gum, which may be termed "Invisible Gum." It gives the appearance of a stamp from which the gum has been removed by means of soaking. However when moistened, the stamp adheres solidly to any surface it has been applied, yet will not be affected by humidity. To us it appears like a great invention, and probably will be adopted by other countries as well.

#### NORWAY:

A bulletin, issued shortly after "VE" day by the Norwegian Post Office Department, states that the following stamps will no longer be valid for postage and will not be exchanged at the Post Offices for regular issues: Hilogaland, Lifeboat, Legion, the three Quislings, European U. P. U., Frontier-fighter, North Sea Flight, Welfare Charity sets of 1943 and 1944 and Shipwreck Issue. All of the above were issued during the Quisling regime.

#### SWEDEN:

The first direct Trans-Atlantic flight from Bromma to New York took place June 27th 1945. Covers carried on this flight have a small blue cachet which reads "First Swedish Transatlantic Flight From Stockholm 27.6.45 Stockholm-Reykjavik-Goose Bay-New York."

## Commemorative Stamps of the 300th Anniversary of Colonization of Delaware River Valley

by George Wiberg



During the spring of 1638, forty-four years prior to William Penn in 1682 and only eighteen years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock on December 21st 1620, the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip brought to Amer-



ica the first Swedish and Finnish settlers, who landed on the site which to day is known as Wilmington, Delaware, and named this colony New Sweden.

Due to the fact that this Colony retained its name for only eighteen years, this interesting chapter in American History has been sadly neglected, and only few students are familiar with the Finnish and Swedish settlements that grew up in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

After landing the pioneers bought from the Indians the land on the West bank of the Delaware River, which included the present site of Wilmington, where they established their first settlement, naming it "Fort Christina" in honor of the then reigning Swedish Queen. During the interim of 1638 and 1655 a succession of ships brought additional settlers to the Colony, which spread along both shores of the Delaware.

The first Governor of the Colony, Johann Printz, established his residence on Tinicum Island and soon many new settlements developed in the surrounding territory. The present site of Philadelphia and that of Chester, Pa., were called Finland and Upland, and Newcastle was known as Fort Kasimir. From Fort Christina, settlers crossed to the east bank of the river and established farms in what is now known as New Jersey. South of the crossing, Finnish settlers, established themselves in what is known today as Finns Point. North on Raccoon Creek, Swedes founded the town of Swedesboro, and east of that town Erik Mullikka, a Finn, built his log cabin and broke the land for his farm, and on that site now stands the small town of Mullica Hill.

In 1656, Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of the Dutch Colony of New Amsterdam descended on the Swedish Colony, and captured its Forts without bloodshed. This conquest, however, was of rather short duration, because eight years later the treaty with Great Britain ended the Dutch rule in New Amsterdam, and all Dutch possessions on the North American continent were transferred to England.

With the advent of the English colonists, their frequent intermarriage with the Swedes and the Finns, soon absorbed all traces of this once promising Colony and its people, and the English language became universal, however, the pioneers of this peaceful and industrious Colony, left a heritage to America of love for liberty and independence, which brought them here, and many of their descendants fought in the War of Independence and helped set up the United States as a nation. Best known among these is John Morton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who lies buried at Chester, Pa.

In 1938 the Governments of the United States, Finland and Sweden, issued stamps to commemorate the founding of the Colony of "New Sweden" on the banks of the Delaware River. This was the first time that three countries simultaneously issued stamps commemorating the same event.

The United States stamp is well known to all collectors of this country. It is of 3c denomination and one of the very few square commemoratives ever issued by the United States. Its central design is a reproduction of a painting by Stanley Arthurs depicting the arrival of the first settlers, and across the bottom of the stamp is the legend "Landing of the Swedes and the Finns." It was placed on first day sale at Wilmington, Del., June 27th 1938.

Sweden issued a series of seven stamps, of five designs, the denominations being 5, 15, 20, 30 and 60 ore. Five being issued in coil form and the 5 and 15 ore also perforated all around. There was also a commemorative reply Postal Card issued for this event.

The 5 ore stamp depicts Governor Johann Printz negotiating with an Indian chief. He was a distinguished soldier, having led a Finnish infantry regiment during the Thirty Year War, and is best known of the Colonial Governors.

The 15 ore value depicts the ships Kalmar Nyckel and Fogel Grip, on which the first settlers voyaged from Goteborg, Sweden to the Colony in the New World.

On the 20 ore stamp two men are shown raising the Arms of Sweden, symbolic of the Swedish rule over the Colony.

Holy Trinity Church in Wilmington, Del., still preserved and a noted landmark, is shown on the 30 ore stamp.



The 60 ore stamp portrays Queen Christina of Sweden, under whose reign the Colony was founded.

Finland, on June 1st 1938, issued a 3½ markka commemorative stamp, designed by the well known artist Aarne Karimo, depicting two pioneers struggling with a tree stump in the process of clearing land for cultivation. The stamp bears the inscription "Colonization of Delaware." Its color is brown and measures 25 x 35 mm. One million stamps were printed.

It is interesting to note that it is the first time in Philately that an English inscription occurs on a non-English speaking country's stamp.



by Agent No. 42  
Staff of the Old Sleuth

Summer vacation with sunburn, ants and bees has prevented your sleuth to delve into the private and shady side of the membership, however an occasional bit of dirt does come to him now and then \* \* \* certain prominent members of the S. C. C. are hatching up a future trip to Scandinavia—but beware of certain individuals like Chris Zoylner and Bill Foulk, they seem to have a very profitable scheme in view—seems to me to have something to do with concessions \* \* \* lots of boys and girls from the S. C. C. were seen at Stampex—Harry Konwiser in company with Svend Yort picking all exhibits apart \* \* \* Marcus White spending his vacation in Newark (of all places) \* \* \* Mrs. Cromwell all smiles over her new trophy \* \* \* Steve Rich is now going to stay in bed for the next month, says the job of mounting and dismounting half the show was just too much \* \* \* Fay Jordan for once in her young life had enough of a showing—we wonder where all the purple ribbon came from \* \* \* Harry Lindquist and Carl Pelander spent their vacation fishing, and if you listen to them, you will be convinced that everything said about fish stories is true, they grow and grow and grow! \* \* \* Irve Black goes around these days with a slightly sick expression on his face, he is worried over some nice used Scandinavian blocks in a certain sale \* \* \* George and Aune Hendrickson have left our midst, George was transferred to Hartford, Conn.—certain members visited them this summer at their country estate in Voluntown, Conn.—George now insist on having Esq. after his name \* \* \* and speaking of visits, Bill Foulk and Carl Pelander drove up to Pineleagh to see good old Ferrars Tows, drank his good liquor, ate his food, and left with a few nasty remarks—such is gratitude \* \* \* and you should have seen Gus von Gross at the stamp show—was he puffed up—a judge no less—and did he get h--- for not being partial to his friends \* \* \* Hans and Asta Rose keeps right on adding new treasures to their collections—hot or cold, does not bother them \* \* \* and some of the vacationists that have reported their whereabouts to this department; the Buyers were mountain climbing in New Hampshire, we understand that Carl-Emil practiced up on his yodeling \* \* \* Hilda Isola while in Maine tried to convince the Natives that stamp collecting is the latest fad—she reports that she had almost a convert \* \* \* and Toini Jarvinen has been summering in Rhode Island—you ought to see her play croquet—she swings a wicked mallet \* \* \* and the Rev. Ford's left their flock in Sparta for the lobsters in Maine \* \* \* and poor Ted Foulk has had to spend all of this beautiful summer in school at Princeton \* \* \* we envy Arthur Linz for being in Finland \* \* \* and from the West



Coast comes a rumbling of annoyance of Rasmus Bartleson over the difficulty in obtaining the recent issues postally used—cheer up Bart, we are all in the same boat \* \* \* well, it seems to me we have done a swell job of panning, so so-long till we meet again.

## Club News

### June 13th Meeting

This well attended meeting which was the last of the season, was made extremely interesting by the fine talk and exhibit of early Denmark stamps from the collection of Mr. Carl-Emil Buyer.

The following resolution was adopted at this meeting; "That the Scandinavian Collectors Club, shall proceed with editing and publishing of a highly specialized catalogue of all Scandinavian Countries." The financing of said project to be made by voluntary subscriptions by members, all of which will be re-paid from the sales of the Catalogue. Mr. Harry M. Konwiser was nominated Editor in Chief and Mr. Edwin E. Elkins, Financial Director.

At this meeting we had the pleasure of having as guests our out of town members present Lt. and Mrs. Wm. Brown from Auburndale, Mass., and Mr. Paul Jensen from Aruba, N. W. I.

### SEATTLE CHAPTER I

The July meeting was held at the home of the Secretary, Mr M. B. Lake. The subject was a general exhibit and discussion on the stamps of Sweden.

It was decided to discontinue meetings during July and August, the September 26th meeting to be held at the home of Mr. Rasmus Bartleson.

Mr. Lake writes that the idea of a Scandinavian group originated several years ago among the members of this chapter, and was sponsored by Mr. Bartleson, Drs. Eggers and Birkeland and assisted by Messrs. Lake and Lovegren. Judging from the enthusiasm, they expect big things in the future from their chapter.

M. B. Lake, Secretary

### PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER II

Chapter II held meetings throughout the summer, although attendance has been smaller than usual. We hope that when the weather is cooler the quantity will improve, yet the quality has seemed very good to us!

At the June meeting Mr. von Gross showed his Finland and Mrs. von Gross her Denmark. At the August meeting Mr. McClosky showed his method of illustrating pages, using his beautiful United States Commemorative pages as example.

Meetings in Philadelphia are held on the first Friday of each month, at the home of Mr. von Gross, 317 S. 15th St. Notices are sent to each known member, so that if any one is omitted, it is unintentional and we all hope they will come,

Respectfully submitted,

Doris T. Steriker, Secretary of Chapter II.

### PROGRAM FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB 1945-46

22 East 35th St. at 8 p.m.

- Sept. 12, 1945—Speaker Dr. Chas. H. Johnson—Extracts from his collection of Scandinavia.
- Oct. 10, 1945—Members Competition, 25 pages from collections never shown.
- Nov. 14, 1945—Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Informal showings.
- Dec. 12, 1945—Speaker Mrs. Asta Rose—United States.
- Jan. 23, 1946—(Fourth Wed.) Visit of the Masonic Stamp Club.
- Feb. 13, 1946—Members Competition, Any Country (25 pages)
- Mar. 13, 1946—Speaker Mr. Hans Rose—Scandinavia.
- April 10, 1946—Speaker—George Wiberg—Sport on Stamps, also devoted to Research Night. Bring your troubles to the club!
- May 8, 1946—Mininformation Please—Mail in your questions and the experts will surely get the wrong answers—A barrel of fun for all!!
- June 14, 1946—Last meeting of the season. Speakers Ferrars H. Tows, Harry L. Lindquist and William Foulk.

VISITORS AND OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



## News of Interest As Seen By Our Members

**Svend Yort (#158)** sends in the following supplement to the 4 RBS article by Harry Konwiser:

The 4 R. B. S. has been the subject of a great deal of study in Denmark in recent years, and many new facts have come to light regarding it. The most important of these is the belief that there were actually four printings of this stamp, instead of three as had always been reported. However, the whole story with the supporting evidence for this would require a full-length article itself, so for the present I will confine myself to the smaller points.

The first of these is the existence of copies without burelage, of which the best that can be said is the old Scotch verdict of "not proven." I might point out that others of the classic stamps come under the same suspicion, but without any conclusive proof. Marginal copies or blocks can be found on which the burelage is so faint that it cannot be detected on or between the stamps at all, yet it shows up plainly enough on the sheet margin. This is natural, since there is so little white on the stamps themselves, and the spaces between them are very narrow. On single stamps often the only trace that can be found is a slight impression, like a ripple in the paper, rather than any color that the eye can detect.

Secondly the perforations. Three unofficial separations are found on the imperforate classic stamps. The first, perforation 12, was made and used by the firm of Ballin & Sons, Copenhagen, who incidentally made an offer of a perforating machine to the Post Office Department which was turned down. The second, perforation 13, was used at Altona (numeral cancellation 113). Both of these are found on the 4 R. B. S., but are very rare. It has not been determined that the third, roulette 9½, which was used in Oldenburg (numeral canc. 127), was ever applied to the 4 R. B. S.

Lastly the reprints, which really deserve a separate article also. The 4 R. B. S. is never without burelage. The first "reprint," or rather official imitation, is found with the burelage two ways, but usually in the wrong direction; this stamp with the burelage correct being scarce. But for the 1901 reprint, not only was one cliché of the original plate restored, but care was taken to see that the burelage was correct also.

I am also inclined to think that you overestimated the values of multiple pieces, although they certainly are scarce; but they do not usually bring such high prices.

**Mr. Edwin Halvorsen (#51)** also writes the Editor regarding this article, wherein he complains that the prices quoted especially on the re-cuts are far below par.

**Ake Philip (#226)** of Providence, R. I., sent in the herewith illustrated variety of the 4 sk Sweden (Scott #2) where the left frame line is broken, causing the "IM" of "FRIMARKE" to be partly obliterated.

**Illness:** We are happy to report a slight improvement in our good friend and member Anna V. Elkins, although her illness is a slow and trying condition.

Joseph Jaeger suffered a complete physical collapse early this summer and was confined at the Gotham Hospital. We are happy to state that Joe is again his own happy self.

**Tragedy:** While driving down to the Club on June 13th, to hear her husband, Carl-Emil Buyer speak, Mrs. Buyer was the victim of an automobile accident. Fortunately the injuries were not too serious, yet kept her confined to her home for some time.





**Rolf Thorsen (#265)** has sent us the herewith illustrated counterfeit of Sweden #5, 24 skilling. Color, paper and design are almost perfect imitations, however the word "SKILL" is spelled out as on the low values, whereas on the genuine it reads only "SK".



#### Donations to the Library:

Norges Frimerker Katalog 1929—by Arthur Linz

Les Premieres Cartes Postales de Suede by

John Spohr donated by Arthur Linz.

Handbok over Sveriges Frankotecken 1855-1915 edited by Sveriges Filatelist-Forening donated by Arthur Linz.

The Postage Stamps of Norway by A. Nichols donated by Arthur Linz.

Confederate States Catalogue and Handbook by August Dietz (Autographed copy) donated by Carl E. Pelander.

**Our Members Abroad:** Dr. James K. Senior is at the present in France on a Government mission. Dr. Chas. H. Johnson by order of President Truman is over in Europe, reorganizing the Masonic bodies in Holland, Belgium, France and Austria. Dr. Arthur Linz has been given a Government mission which has taken him to Finland. Dr. Linz is well known in that country as he acted as assayer of mineral deposits in Petsamo and other parts of Finland a few years ago.

**The Specialized Catalogue of Scandinavia:** As mentioned in the report of the June meeting, this task before the membership is a vast project, and will involve considerable expense and research. The S. C. C. is indeed fortunate to have an able man like Mr. Konwiser head the committee, who in the past has in parts edited Scott U. S. Specialized, Sanabria's Air Post, The Stampless Cover Catalogue, etc. We feel confident that this work will succeed, because we have had a number of offers for help, both financial and otherwise, and non-members such as Mr. Fridl, Mr. John Nicklin and other experts have volunteered their services.

It is estimated that a work of this type will embrace between 500 to 600 pages and require from 1000 to 1500 illustrations.

We urge every member to contribute their knowledge to this work. Mail in any suggestions you have to:

Harry M. Konwiser—Chairman Catalogue Committee  
22 East 35th St., New York, N. Y.

## New Members

### Resident

- 264 John Borkman .....Yonkers, N. Y.  
265 Rolf Thorsen .....New York City  
270 Walter H. Bjornson .....East Bound Brook, N. J.

### Non-Resident

- 260 Capt. Frederick H. Ringer .....Chicago, Ill.  
261 John E. Bock .....Schenectady, N. Y.  
262 David Lidman .....Chicago, Ill.  
263 James B. Green .....Worcester, Mass.  
266 Carl A. Melcherson .....Brookton, Mass.  
267 Roland E. Anderson .....Wesfield, Mass.  
268 Dewey H. Hesse .....Portland, Mich.  
269 Pfc. Clarence S. Quigley .....U. S. Army  
271 Emil Lundstrom .....Huntington Park, Calif.  
272 C. L. Johnson .....Chicago, Ill.  
273 Warren Rosenlund .....Pittsfield, Mass.  
274 Alf Oliver Ahlstrand .....Rockford, Ill.  
275 Lt. E. B. Nyquist .....Des Moines, Iowa