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Postal Markings and Cancellations of Finland

by George Wiberg (177)

In spite of the fact that the collecting of Finnish cancellations seems to have increased in popularity in America, as well as in Finland, during the past decade, we find that comparatively little information on the subject has appeared in the American philatelic press. What scattered articles have been published on this subject in Finland from time to time seldom reach the collector in this country. Unfortunately, most of the information found in the English language is obsolete and inaccurate. Hence, we are almost completely dependent on study of our own collections and bits of information garnered from fellow collectors.

Although it is incomplete, I hope the information presented in this article will, in some degree, be of help to collectors interested in this field. It is also hoped that it may stimulate some readers to examine their own collections and accumulations, thus they may be able to contribute new facts or corrections which will add to our knowledge of this field.

The study and collection of cancellations and postmarks is a most interesting phase of philately. It often reflects to a greater degree than the postal issues of a country, the history and political upheavals of a nation or a people. Certainly this is true in the case of Finland, whose history during the past 100 years has been almost constant turmoil.

Finnish postal markings had their beginning in 1635 during the administration of Count Per Brahe as Governor General of Finland. Until the war of 1808-09, when the territory of the Grand Duchy of Finland was ceded to Russia by Sweden, the postal service was closely connected with the Swedish Postal Department. The postmarks used in Sweden during that period were also used in Finland, but covers from this period are very scarce. Town postmarks first came into use in 1810, when the Finnish Postal Department postmarks were first introduced. These were slightly-curved single-line markings with the text in Russian. (Fig. 1) In 1847, a few years after the first stamped envelopes were issued, a dated oblong-boxed canceller was placed in use. These cancellers, known as the "low-type boxed," measure between $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 mm. in height and 30 to 43 mm. in length. This type canceller is known

to have been used at 36 different post offices. (Fig. 2) A new "high-type boxed" canceller, measuring from 14 to 20 mm. in height and 22 to 36 mm. in length, appeared in 1851. (Fig. 3.) The "high-type" canceller was used at 15 post offices. Boxed town postmarks are common on all postal issues up to 1875; they appear less frequently on the 1882 issues and become quite scarce on stamps issued after 1885.



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

A great number of stamps of the early issues are found pen cancelled. This is partly due to the fact that when adhesive stamps were first introduced in Finland, the postal regulations covering the cancelling of stamped envelopes were still in force. These regulations specified that the stamps were to be cancelled by pen and the town postmark applied to the envelope to indicate office of origin. However, shortly after the issuance of the first adhesive stamps, a notice to postmasters, dated Feb. 26, 1856, directed that all stamps affixed to letters were to be cancelled with the town postmark. As the smaller post offices had not been furnished with cancelling devices, pen cancellations continued to be used generally. Sometimes, in addition to the pen cancellation, a town postmark, indicating either the place of origin or destination, is found on a stamp. By the end of 1870 all existing post offices were provided with some sort of cancelling device and pen cancellations disappeared, except in cases of emergency. A straight line or a cross were the most commonly used forms of pen cancellations, but "bars," "grids" and other more intricate designs were also used. A few postmasters and postal clerks obliterated the stamps with their initials, sometimes appearing as an intricate monogram. One of the best known "monogram" pen cancellations is credited to John W. Norring (Fig. 4) who was employed as a clerk at the Lovisa post office from March 1857 until 1868 when he was appointed a postmaster and transferred to Nystad. His earlier monograms are quite crude but with time and practice they became more elaborate. These "monogram" cancellations might be classed as forerunners of precancels because, as post offices generally were not very busy places in those early days, it is probable that clerks initialed whole sheets at their leisure before they were broken up and affixed to mail. Some postmasters were known to have had complete sheets "pre-cancelled" with crossed pen lines in advance of use.

Penned numerals found on early Finnish stamps are not actual cancels but registry numbers. When stamps were first introduced all letters were registered and numbered; quite often the registry number was put on the

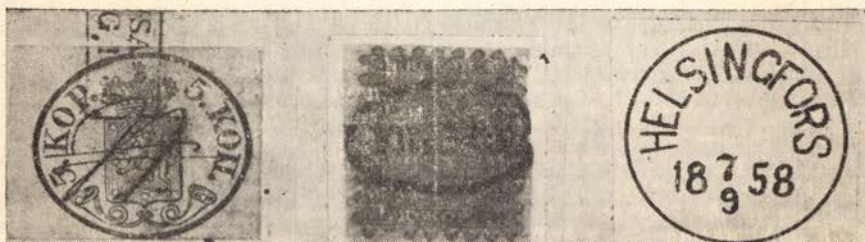


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

stamp instead of the envelope, either by accident or design. During this early period several types of "Franko" and "Ank." (receiving) postmarks made their appearance. "Franco" enclosed in an oval (Fig. 5) is the rarest of these cancels. Use of "Franco" cancels was discontinued in 1874, the "Ank." type remained in use a few years longer.

A large single-line circular cancellation, measuring 28 mm. in diameter, was placed in use in 1856. (Fig. 6.) Only three post offices—Fredrikshamn, Helsingfors and Tavastehus—were provided with this type of postmark. It was apparently continued in use until 1875, but appears mostly on the 1856-60 imperforate issued and is rarely found on the serpentine rouletted stamps. About 1860, with the appearance of the smaller serpentine rouletted stamps, a new single-line circular-type canceller, measuring only 19 to 22 mm. in diameter, was adopted and used at 36 post offices. (Figs. 7 & 8.) It is extremely rare on the 1856-60 issues. In the middle of the 1870s a double-line circular canceller, measuring from 19 to 29½ mm. in diameter, was placed in use. (Figs. 9 & 10.) Cancellers used in Nikolaistad and Tammerfors are found also bearing "P. St." (Poststation) after the town name. This canceller was used at 149 post offices; at least four different sub-types were used in Helsingfors and Abo each.



Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Rising nationalism and resistance to the Russian "russification" of Finnish institutions—of which the Finnish Postal Department was one of the first to feel the pressure—is reflected in the postal markings introduced in the late 1880s. Two large cancellers, measuring 29 mm. in diameter, bearing the name of the country—"Finland" in one and "Finland-Suomi" in the other—appeared for the first time around 1885. (Figs. 11 & 12.) The first type was used in Helsingfors and Abo, the latter in Helsingfors and Wiborg. Simultaneously with the issuance of the first stamps of "russified" design in



Fig. 11

Fig. 12

1889, cancellers showing the name of Finland were generally adopted. These cancellers were of the double-circle type with a date ribbon across the center, town name on top and Finland at the bottom between the circles. (Figs. 13, 14 & 15.) At this same time the Tavastehus and Abo post offices were provided with a somewhat different "Finland" canceller, on which the single circle was formed by small dots. (Fig. 16.) These "nationalistic" cancellers



Fig. 13

Fig. 14

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

remained in use only a few years as the Russian authorities ordered all cancellers withdrawn from use on Dec. 31, 1893, substituting new cancellers bearing Russian and Swedish text, as well as Finnish. The Russian cancellers are found in four language combinations: Finnish-Russian, Swedish-Russian, Finnish-Swedish-Russian, and Swedish-Finnish-Russian. (Figs. 17 to 20.)



Fig. 17

Fig. 18

Fig. 19

Fig. 20

After Finland had attained its independence in December 1917, the Russian text was removed from all current cancellers. (Figs. 21 & 22.) These provisional cancellers, with the lower portion of the double circle blank, were shortly replaced by regular Republic of Finland cancellers. However, quite a few of these modified cancellers were retained in use for some years in the smaller post offices and some are occasionally still used, even at this late date. The new cancellers, which began to appear late in December 1917, were of the double-line circle type with crossed posthorns at the bottom. On these cancellers the town name appears either in Finnish or Swedish, also in Finnish-Swedish or Swedish-Finnish combinations. (Figs. 23 & 24.)



Fig. 21

Fig. 22

Fig. 23

Fig. 24

In 1918, bi-lingual cancellers almost identical to those previously used, but without the posthorns, were provided for towns with mixed Finnish and Swedish populations. (Figs. 25 & 26). A new type double-line circular canceller, in which the town name appears in one language only and containing a single posthorn at the bottom, was placed in use in 1930. (Figs. 27 & 28.)



Fig. 25

Fig. 26

Fig. 27

Fig. 28

These cancellers were provided either with Finnish or Swedish text.

Owing to the repeated complaints from collectors about the heavy and smeared impressions made by the cancellers in use—spoiling the stamps from the philatelic viewpoint—the postal authorities produced a simpler type marking. This single-line circle type canceller was first introduced experimentally at the Helsinki (Helsingfors) post office in 1938. (Fig. 29.) Later, during the war of 1941-44, similar types of cancellers were used in the occupied territory of East Karelia, but were not generally adopted in Finland proper until 1942. Of this type of postmark, two distinct types are known: one showing a single posthorn, the other without the posthorn. They come in the same language combinations as the 1917-18 cancellers. (Figs. 30 & 31.)



Fig. 29

Fig. 30

Fig. 31

Finnish postal markings can be roughly divided into four groups:

1635-1847	Pre-stamp period
1847-1893	Self-government period
1894-1917	Russification period
1917-date	Republic of Finland period

However, the precise dates of usage is very difficult to establish or define as the old cancelling devices were rarely discarded when new cancellers were provided, except when made obligatory as in 1893 and 1917, but were retained in use side by side with the new types as long as they were serviceable. As a result of this thriftiness some cancellers are known to have been in use for almost 40 years.

In this paper there has been discussed only the most widely used types of town cancellations. In addition to those shown here there are some 100-odd known sub-types with a more or less limited usage. Space limitations do not permit their description and illustration here.

LAST CALL FOR AUCTION!

Deadline for sending material (Scandinavian only) for the November Club Auction is August 15, 1951. Send your lots to the Chairman of the Auction Committee—Arthur I. Heim, 91 Amherst Road, Albertson, New York.

East Karelian Post Offices

By Carl E. Pelander (H-1)

To supplement my article on the stamps of the Associate Group of Finland, which appeared in Volume 4, No. 2 of The Posthorn, I have since obtained additional information regarding the first days of use of the various town cancels, which may be of interest to collectors of these issues.

Name of Town	Supposed Official First Day of usage	Actual Date when placed in use
Post and Telegraph Offices:		
1. Aunus, later changed to Aunuksenlinna -----	Oct. 1st 1941	Oct. 1st 1941
2. Aänislinna -----	Oct. 15th 1941	Oct. 20th 1941
Main Post Offices:		
1. Karhumäki -----	Sept. 15th 1942	Sept. 20th 1942
2. Kontupohja -----	June 15th 1942	June 20th 1942
3. Lisma -----	Feb. 10th 1943	Feb. 10th 1943
4. Paatene -----	Jan. 1st 1942	Jan. 16th 1942
5. Repola -----	Oct. 15th 1941	Oct. 15th 1941
6. Soutjärvi -----	Nov. 15th 1941	Nov. 20th 1941
7. Suurlahti -----	Dec. 11th 1942	Dec. 28th 1942
8. Teru -----	Oct. 15th 1941	Oct. 17th 1941
9. Vieljärvi -----	Oct. 1st 1941	Oct. 3rd 1941
10. Vitele -----	Oct. 1st 1941	Oct. 1st 1941
11. Aänislinna, Branch No. 1 -----	June 16th 1942	June 16th 1942
Post Offices First Class:		
1. Alavoinen -----	June 1st 1942	June 1st 1942
2. Ilomaskä -----	Feb. 16th 1943	Feb. 16th 1943
3. Jessoila -----	Jan. 10th 1942	Jan. 10th 1942
4. Kaskesoja -----	Jan. 1st 1943	Jan. 10th 1943
5. Kenjärvi -----	June 11th 1943	June 11th 1943
6. Kinnos -----	-----	-----
7. Kolatselkä -----	Dec. 15th 1941	Dec. 17th 1941
8. Kontokki -----	Jan. 11th 1943	Jan. 15th 1943
9. Kotkatjärvi -----	June 1st 1942	June 1st 1942
10. Kutisma -----	Oct. 1st 1943	Oct. 1st 1943
11. Kuujärvi -----	Sept. 1st 1942	Sept. 1st 1942
12. Latva -----	Aug. 16th 1943	Aug. 16th 1943
13. Matrossa -----	July 16th 1943	July 16th 1943
14. Munjärvi -----	July 10th 1942	July 10th 1942
15. Nurmiola -----	June 1st 1942	June 1st 1942
16. Pajusuo -----	Oct. 16th 1943	Oct. 16th 1943
17. Palalahti -----	Dec. 15th 1941	Dec. 17th 1941
18. Patojärvi -----	July 1st 1943	July 1st 1943
19. Porajärvi -----	-----	-----
20. Ruoppoja -----	Apr. 10th 1942	Apr. 10th 1942
21. Soksu -----	Apr. 10th 1942	Apr. 14th 1942
22. Soloma -----	Oct. 16th 1942	Oct. 16th 1942
23. Suunu -----	Jan. 1st 1943	Jan. 6th 1943
24. Suoju as (as-R. R. Station) -----	Dec. 1st 1942	Dec. 1st 1942
25. Suvanto -----	Nov. 15th 1942	Dec. 1st 1942
26. Terun Pyhäjärvi -----	June 1st 1943	June 1st 1943
27. Vahvajärvi -----	Aug. 1st 1943	Aug. 1st 1943

28. Veskelys -----	Jan. 10th 1942	Jan. 10th 1942
29. Veskelysen kylä -----	June 16th 1943	June 16th 1943
30. Vilka -----		
31. Vuokkiniemi -----	Nov. 15th 1941	Dec. 11th 1941

Post Offices, Second Class:

1. Akve -----	Mar. 1st 1943	Mar. 1st 1943
2. Kinelahti -----	Jan. 11th 1943	Jan. 11th 1943
3. Kuittinen -----	Mar. 1st 1943	Mar. 1st 1943
4. Mäkriä -----	June 1st 1942	June 1st 1942
5. Sellinjärvi -----	Sept. 1st 1942	Sept. 1st 1942
6. Suurmäki -----	Sept. 1st 1942	Sept. 1st 1942
7. Uutela -----	Nov. 1st 1943	Nov. 1st 1943

Judging from the short period that some of these Postoffices were in use, commercially used covers should be of the greatest scarcity.

First Official Polar Flight



Capt. Charles Blair, on his recent Trans-Polar Flight, from Oslo, Norway to Fairbanks, Alaska, carried with him 2,900 specially prepared covers, that were later sold at \$1.00 and up for the benefit of the Damon Runyon Memorial Cancer Fund.

All of the covers are franked with various current Norwegian 25 ore stamps, postmarked "Oslo-29-5-51" and also bear a special cachet (illustrated above), which was authorized by the Norwegian Post Office Department. Upon arrival at Fairbanks, the covers were properly backstamped and then turned over to Capt. Blair, who carried them further on the last lap of his flight to New York "outside the mails," and where they were offered for sale to collectors.

It may seem unusual that this flight should be termed the First Official Trans-Polar Flight, when numerous covers are known to have been carried on various Polar Flights, between 1926-49, yet all of the previous flights, even though they did carry mail, are considered private flights and the letters thus carried are merely souvenirs or semi-official, as classified in the American Air Mail Catalogue. The earliest of any successful Trans-Polar flights was made by the Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile expedition, which in April 1926, flew the dirigible "Norge" from Spitzbergen to Teller, Alaska.

For those who collect Norwegian stamps, this special flight cover should make a very important addition to their collections.

Carl E. Pelander

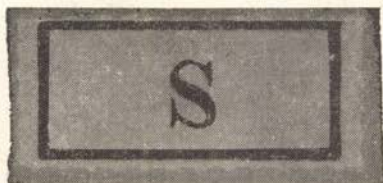
News of Interest

Roland King-Farlow (317) writes from England: "I thought that you'd like to know that Bill Foulk's display to the Royal Philatelic Society in London was an immense success. He read an interesting paper describing the earlier issues, and some 45 pages of the real gem pages of the 'earlies' were passed around the tables for inspection. In the permanent wall frames around the meeting room another 140-150 pages were set up for inspection before and after the meeting. There was a very good turn-out—far above the average. At the end of the meeting, after a vote of thanks had been enthusiastically carried, the President announced that the Council had elected Bill as a Fellow of the Society, in recognition of the great service he had rendered the Society in flying so far especially to present such an excellent show. (This is a most unusual step; in fact, I believe it is the first time that anybody has been so honored after giving a display.) At any rate, you've got an F. R. P. S. L. for a President of the Scandinavian Collectors Club." Congratulations, Bill!

Thorsten Ingeloff (344-L4) reports: June 17th 1951 will be the first Sunday in modern Swedish Postal History that no regular mail will be distributed. In order to comply with labor laws and regulations, the postal employees Sunday has to be restricted to practically nothing.

Until further notice "Express" or Special Delivery mail and parcels, so marked, will be delivered at certain post offices.

However, a new form of "S-mail" has been introduced, for the benefit of news-agencies, reporters, etc., which may be called for by the daily papers on Sundays at the proper post offices. In order to facilitate the sorting of this Sunday mail, it will have to be marked with the "S" label, illustrated below, supplied by the post office and printed in sheets of 40 subjects (5x8).



Jarle O. Stensdal (387) writes from Norway: An important philatelic exhibition, DE-NO-FIL, will be held in Oslo from August 25 to September 2, 1951. The exhibition will be held in "Frimurerlogen" on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Oslo Filatelistklubb. Patron of the exhibition is His Majesty the King of Norway. The Minister of Transport and the Directors of the Postal Administration of all the Scandinavian countries have accepted invitations to be on the Committee of Honor. Members of all stamps clubs in Scandinavia, as well as members of the Scandinavian Collectors Club of New York, are eligible to participate. Secretary General of the exhibition is Mr. Tor Joh. M. Holtan, Box 298, Oslo, Norway, to whom all correspondence should be directed. (Editor's note: Mr. Stensdal's letter was received too late for inclusion in the last issue of The Posthorn and entries closed on March 31, 1951. However, several members of the SCC have sent entries for the exhibition).

Uno Söderberg (H-5) reported from Sweden: that on June 6, 1951, the Swedish National Commemoration Day, the new stamps bearing the likeness

off the new King Gustaf VI Adolf would be issued, enclosing a reproduction of the design. (Editor's note: Details of the new stamp are given in the section on New and Recent Issues.)

From the "Folket i Bild" Philatelist Club in Stockholm we learn: that this club, in celebration of its 10th anniversary, will hold an International Exhibition—"Frimärket ger"—at the Swedish Postal Museum from October 26 to November 4, 1951. Exhibits will be classified on "cultural lines" (known as topical collecting in the U. S.) and there are three groups: youths under the age of 13, youths between the ages of 13 and 18, and seniors. Entries are limited to 27 pages of ordinary dimensions. Entries close on July 15, 1951, and it is hoped that this issue of The Posthorn will reach anyone interested in time to submit an entry. Address all inquiries to: Utställningen "Frimärket ger," Folket i Bild, Box No. 118, Stockholm 1.

Ernest M. Cohn (61) writes: You may be interested to record a new "first day cover" in The Posthorn: According to the DAKA catalogue, the third printing of Denmark's 4 R.B.S. stamp of 1851-54 was delivered to the post office from 16 June to 20 August 1853. Until now, the earliest known use of this printing was Oldesloe, 22 July 1853. I have the same printing on piece from Copenhagen, 14 July 1853. It is, unfortunately, not tied by the ring cancel, but there is no reason to suspect the genuineness of the piece—an opinion shared by a well-known British collector who examined it.

PHILANDER THE PHUNNY PHILATELIST SAYS:

That he has phinally seen an "invisible" stamp. At the June meeting of the Scandinavian Collectors Club those present were being entertained by the very interesting showing of Tibet by our good member, Dr. William Stericker of Philadelphia. I was extremely interested because when "Doc" started to talk about "lamas," I recalled having seen one at the Punxsutawney Zoo many years ago. But, to get back to the invisible stamp, as page after page of rare Tibetan stamps were being shown I suddenly noticed a phull sheet of twelve stamps on which the stamp in the UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER WAS MISSING. Was this an albino? No, I was informed, this was a GENUINE INVISIBLE STAMP. It is phound on the four trangkas sheet issued by Tibet in 1933. Apparently the cut for this stamp became damaged, was removed and the Tibetans, instead of replacing the missing cut, printed the sheet with eleven stamps. Yak! Yak! Yak!

SALES CIRCUIT

You may be missing a bet if you are not taking advantage of the club's sales circuit. Mr. Anker B. Grumsen, Manager, reports that he has some fine material on hand and can fill want lists. This is also a fine way to dispose of surplus Scandinavian stamps. For information or stamps address: Mr. Anker B. Grumsen, P. O. Box 565, San Diego 7, California.

Book Reviews

"POPULAR" SCOTT CATALOG:

For years countless stamp collectors and dealers have been saying, "What this hobby needs is a good, reasonably priced, simplified catalog," Scott Publications, Inc., now announces that it is publishing just such a book—SCOTT'S POPULAR STAMP CATALOG, priced at \$3.

The POPULAR CATALOG is a simplified edition of Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, the two-volume "Encyclopedia of Philately" which has been the chief guide to the collectors of America for more than 80 years.

The new catalog lists only face-different stamps—that is, stamps which differ from each other in design, color or denomination. Differences in perforation and watermark, and all minor varieties are ignored.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF DENMARK:

Upon the Centenary of the first Danish Postage Stamps, the General Directorate of the Royal Danish Post Office has published this boon to the English-speaking collector of Danish Stamps—The Postage Stamps of Denmark, 1851-1951.

The book has been very well written by Mr. J. Schmidt-Anderson (513), a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. It is very ably translated from the Danish manuscript by Mr. Roland King-Farlow (317), also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society.

The book is paper bound, printed in English on a heavy coated art paper in Baskerville Monotype, a type face that makes the book very easy to read. It is richly illustrated with nearly 600 cuts of Essays, Dies, Sheets and Varieties, some of them never published before.

The subject matter of the book has been confined to the adhesive stamps issued for postal purposes in the past one hundred years. This, of course, rules out the Postal Stationery and the Postal Ferry Stamps. Very little is said as regards to cancellations with the exception of the pen or manuscript cancels of 1851, which were in use for a short time.

The introductory chapter is devoted to various information regarding paper, watermarks and methods of production.

Included at the end of the first chapter is a page with ten different color specimens of the Fire R. B. S. ranging from Yellowish Brown to the Dark Olive Brown, including three Chestnuts. These reprints were made from a restored cliché of the Fourth (Thiele III) Printing. Each is inscribed "Color Specimen, 1951" on the reverse.

Following the color specimens, there is a very interesting chapter on the first of the Danish stamps, the Fire R. B. S. It includes the essays, the manufacture of the plates, proofs, and several cuts showing in detail the various more noticeable plate varieties and complete descriptions of each.

Each succeeding chapter is confined to one particular type of stamp. The 2 R. B. S., the dotted backgrounds, wavy lines, roulettes, Arms type, the Bi-colors and all regular issues through the current Frederick IX values are treated separately in their own chapters as to the reasons for issue, the origin of the designs, the engraver of the original die and where they were printed. In each, there is a section about proofs, paper and watermarks and the method and gauge of perforation.

There is also a section devoted to the various plate or matrix varieties which occur and, if possible, the positions of each are given.

Mr. Schmidt-Anderson explains in the book that due to many elements, as

climatic conditions, the make-up of the ink and other factors, many shades exist and therefore, he has omitted minor color varieties, using instead the basic shades in which the stamp was printed.

At the end of each chapter, there is a table showing the quantities issued for each value in the set. For the most part, these figures are net, deducting those stamps which were used provisionally by means of overprints or destroyed after their withdrawal from the Post Office.

The longest and perhaps most interesting chapter in relation to the regular issues is that devoted to the Bicolors, both the Skilling and Ore Issues. There is a very helpful section about the frames, thick, thin, normal and inverted plus many of the varieties which occur. It is brought out that where nearly complete sheets occur with inverted frames, the change was intentional. This was to extend the life of the plate.

Where it has been possible, inverted frames have been plated, usually where one or two occur in the sheet. However, due to the many settings which occur on the commoner values, the positioning of many varieties has been virtually impossible. To compensate, there are a large number of illustrations of these varieties.

In his reference to the many provisionals which have appeared, Mr. Schmidt-Anderson points out that many of them were made merely to use up surplus stocks of stamps which were no longer useful due to changes in rates. Of course, one of the exceptions to this are the 35ø overprints of 1912 which were necessitated by a fire which destroyed the plant of H. H. Thiele, who was, from 1852 to 1933, the manufacturer of all Danish Stamps.

In 1933, the Post Office took over the printing of its own stamps by a new method, that of Recess Printing. As an introduction to this portion of the book, Mr. Schmidt-Anderson has gone into great detail as to the method employed in making the plates. This makes it easier for the collector to see how the various design types occur. For the balance of the Recess Printed Issues, there are cuts showing the many types which have occurred and this includes the Frederick IX Issues.

In the interests of clarity, the book has been broken down into three main sections, the Regular Issues, the Commemorative and Charity Issues and the Special Issues such as the Airmails, Fee Stamps, Officials, Postage Dues and Newspaper Stamps.

After the Commemorative and Charity Issues, there is a small section pertaining to the Faeroe Islands including the bisects, provisionals and the hand-stamps which were used.

Of the stamps described in the Special Issues Section, perhaps the most interesting is that devoted to the Service or Official Stamps. Here we have a discussion of the various types which occur on several of the earlier issues. All types are illustrated and very clearly described and it will certainly open a new field of research for many collectors.

At the conclusion of that part of the book concerning stamps, there is a chapter listing all of the official reprints.

As a final section of the book, there is a very enlightening article by Mr. E. Th. Bjorn entitled "The Introduction of Postage Stamps in Denmark." This concerns the period prior to the Postal Reform of 1851 and mentions some of the people who were the powers behind the introduction of the postage stamp in that year.

Also, in this chapter, there is a brief summary of the life of Martinus William Ferslew, his background and the reasons that he was chosen as the official engraver of Denmark's first two stamps.

This book has certainly filled the great need of a reference book for the benefit of the many collectors who have been unable to understand the various Scandinavian language publications. It is extremely well written and

easy to understand and it will probably give the collectors of Denmark an opportunity of expanding their knowledge of their favorite country. Price of the book is five dollars postage paid. It can be obtained from the Postal Philatelic Agency, Copenhagen V, Denmark.

Capt. Richard G. Gibson (408)



by Agent No. 42
Staff of the Old Sleuth

Tempus fugit—it seems only like yesterday that I wrote the last Hornblower—and nothing startling has transpired among our members * * * **Harry Lindquist** should have joined the Navy or is it the Marines, where one has a chance to travel and see the world—the last issue reported him in Bermuda and now he responded to the call of Hawaii—well they say that travel broadens one—we'll see how Harry looks when he returns * * * **Hugo Sward** and the better half are summering in his native Sweden—the last we saw them. Mrs. S. was hard at work learning the Swedish language * * * we all feel sad at the untimely death of our good friend **Samuel McCutcheon**, who at the age of 37 passed away—he was a real S. C. C. enthusiast * * * well, all of our exhibitors in Copenhagen came back with medals—we hope the same can be said about "CAPEX" in Toronto—we expect quite a few of our members there—two of our members will be represented in the Court of Honor, namely **Bill Foulk** and **George Wiberg**—good old **Harry Konwiser** has his usual job—the Bin Room * * * **Arthur Heim**, our auction manager reports some fine stuff for our third annual auction sale in the fall and more material coming in, so if you want to participate, get your lots in to Arthur pronto—speaking of Arthur, he is now the President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York and his first V. P. is none other than our good friend and editor **Carl Pihl** * * * while on the subject of Masonry—the Shrine Convention will hit New York in the middle of July—quite a few of the S. C. C. boys will take an active part in this, which promises to be quite an affair * * * and did you know that **Carl Pelander** has taken on the Robson Lowe U. S. agency—it seems that Carl besides his regular sales will handle a number of the Robson Lowe sales as well, plus their private treaty department and sale of literature * * * we are happy to report that **Ferrars Tows**, our past president, who had a rather serious illness, is now on the good road to recovery up at his country estate "Pineleagh" * * * finally **Bill Stericker** had to come down here to New York to convince the boys and gals that he collects something besides Scandinavia—his showing of Tibet was a real treat for all who were present—we are all waiting to see **Doris S.** collection of D. W. I. at some future meeting—and while speaking of the family, why not mention that daughter **Christine Hushebeck** is as trim and nice as ever and still collects stamps—she comes in to New York now and then from Delaware * * * **Dr. Grabfield** was very much in evidence during the recent A. S. D. A. show in Boston, it seems that if there

is a stamp show around, Phil must be in it—well, it sure is a fine thing to have a willing and able worker in that city * * * poor Lawrence Hyde, of L. A., did not get a chance to spend his vacation in his beloved Arizona desert—he had a chance to do a little sailing, but alas—seasickness * * * and from California comes the rumor that the manager of our sales circuit Anker B. Grummen is now a full-fledged stamp dealer * * * Dr. Seaberg of Minneapolis was reported to have been seen around New York this summer * * * in the last issue we reported that Dr. Senior of Chicago might have been lost in Hawaii—our fears were groundless—he turned up * * * our good friend and member Rev. Edwin S. Ford of Sparta, N. J., now has expanded his collection of Roman States to over 100 volumes—he gave the members a real treat with his very fine showing at the club two months ago * * * and now a suggestion to our out of town members—if you plan on visiting New York or any of the places where we have chapters, why not try and coincide this with our meeting nights and bring along a few pages of your collection—I am sure you would receive a hearty welcome * * * so with this important suggestion I say Adios for now.

P. S. Now what do you think of the "Bums"—some ball club!

Support the S. C. C. by getting your friends to join

New and Recent Issues

by Carl E. Pelander



DENMARK:

April 1st 1951

Centenary of the Postage Stamp Issue

Commemorating the centenary of the issuing of the first (4 Rbs) postage stamp in Denmark.

The design is by Viggo Bang and the engraving by Bent Jacobsen. The stamps depict an old post-chaise, with its globular iron mail box, known as the "Kuglepost." This egg-shaped strong box was always kept locked, the keys deposited with the post office officials along the mail route, so as to discourage highwaymen and theft along the route.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Perf. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$

15 ø deep violet

25 ø red



FINLAND:

July 7th 1951

Kajana Issue

Commemorating the tercentenary of the founding of the city of Kajaani (Kajana), on July 7th 1651.

The stamp was designed by the artist Aarne Karjalainen and 2,000,000 copies will be issued.

Engraved

Unwmkd.
20 m. blue

Perf. 14



ICELAND:

May 13th 1951

Postal Service Issue

Commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the establishment of the Icelandic Postal Service by a Royal Decree, issued May 13th 1776 by the King of Denmark.

2 kr. ultramarine (Mail carrier in 1776), 500,000 copies.

3 kr. violet (Modern mail plane) 400,000 copies.

Prior to 1771, all Icelandic postal affairs had been dealt with by the Department of Customs and Revenue, but at this time they were transferred to a new department "Norske Kammer" (Norwegian Department), headed by the Icelandic Jon Eiriksson, a lawyer and professor at laws at the University of Soroe. During his leadership as commissioner, or a sort of permanent Undersecretary of State, until his death in 1787, many reforms beneficial to Iceland took place, among these the above Royal Postal Decree.

This consisted of an instruction to the Governor and Sub-Governors of the North, South, East and West Districts to establish various postal routes, that were to be served three times per year by carriers from the four quarters of the country. These postal runs were to coincide with the arrival and departure of ships for Copenhagen, the carriers to meet at Bessastaoir (the residence of the Governor) at the beginnings of March, June and October each year.

The main object of the establishment of this postal service was to make certain that official mail could be circulated safely between the Bailiffs, the Governor and the Government in Copenhagen.

NORWAY:

1951

Supplementing stamps of the December 1950 issue

Posthorn Type

20 ö. chestnut

King Haakon VII Type

80 ö. brown



SWEDEN:

GENERAL ISSUES

June 1st 1951

Three Crowns Type

Engraved

Unwmkd. Coil Stamps

Perf. 13 Vertically

85 ö. red brown

1.70 kr. red

June 6th 1951

King Gustaf VI Adolf Issue

10 ö. green

15 ö. chestnut

20 ö. red

25 ö. gray

30 ö. blue

Booklet Panes of 20, perf. 13 on three sides

10 ö. green

25 ö. gray

These new stamps were designed by Mark Sylwan, from a portrait by the artist David Tägtström. They are engraved by Sven Ewert.

New Members

Non-Resident and Foreign

634. Ove K. Hunter, 10557 Fullerton Ave., Melrose Park, Ill. (DWI, D., G., I.)
 635. Robert Welvaert, 31 Rob. Scottstr. Ukkel, Brussels, Belgium (F.)
 636. Elmo A. Barry, 1219 So. Central Ave., Glendale, Calif. (I., G., U.S.)
 637. George E. Norsen, 1319 12th St., Rockford, Ill. (Scand., Gen.)
 638. Helge G. Lesch, 1043 Redondo Blvd., Los Angeles 19, Calif. (F.)

Deceased

440. Samuel McCutchen, Elizabeth, N. J.

Resignations Accepted

346. C. H. Hawkinson, Tempe, Ariz.
 305. Jean Eilertsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
 409. Nestor Perala, Tucson, Ariz.
 405. Herbert Harris, Lindenhurst, N. Y.

Club News

April

The regular meeting was held at the Collectors Club on April 11, 1951, with the President, Mr. W. F. Foulk presiding. After the usual business meeting, the members present were privileged to hear the Rev. E. S. Ford of Sparta, N. J. Fr. Ford's discussion and showing of a part of his famous Roman States Collection was very interesting and well liked by everyone present.

May

The May meeting was held on the 9th at the Collectors Club. After the usual business meeting presided over by our Vice President, Mr. Lauson Stone, there was a members competition open to all members present. Those members competing were as follows:

Mr. Hans Windfield-Hansen—Greenland
 Mr. Leon Seaf—Iceland
 Capt. Robert W. Scherer—Iceland Cancellations
 Mr. Lauson Stone—Greenland
 Mr. George Wiberg—Finland

Capt. Scherer, Mr. Stone and Mr. Wiberg were the prize winners, in that order.

June

The June meeting, held on the 13th, was presided over by our President, Mr. W. F. Foulk. After a rapid business meeting, Capt. Gibson introduced our Speaker of the Evening, Dr. William Stericker of Philadelphia. Dr. Stericker's subject was a country far removed from Scandinavia, Tibet. His presentation of the historical background of the country and his description of postal services in this remote mountain fastness blended very nicely with a wonderful collection to give the members present a very interesting and stimulating evening.

CHICAGO CHAPTER NO. 4

Although we are seldom heard from (Ye Editor asks "Why?") the Chicago Chapter of the S. C. C. has been very active. The following officers were re-elected for 1951: R. E. Danielson, President; Dr. Earl Jacobsen, Vice President; Paul Mead, Secretary-Treasurer; Henry Kuhlman, Chairman of the Program Committee; and Joseph Unseitlig, Chairman of the Library Committee. The June meeting was a social affair, held at the Kungsholm Restaurant. The next meeting will be held in September. Our programs have consisted of talks by members, in addition trading and discussion periods have proved successful. The following members have recently given talks to the group: Dr. Earl Jacobsen, Norway; R. E. Danielson, Sweden; Peter Sognefest, Locals; Fred Westberg, Cancellations; Paul Mead, Finland; and Jan Hansen, Denmark.

THE POSTHORN

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