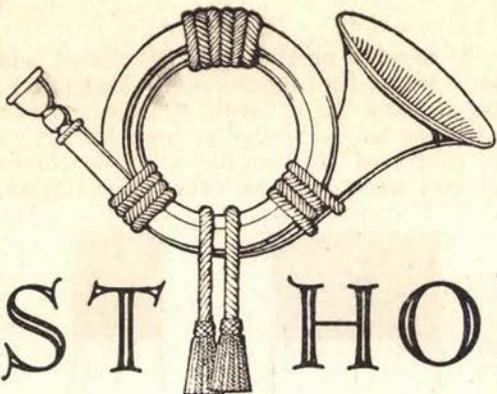


The

POST HORN



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Philatelic Measuring Technique

by Carl H. Werenskiold (59)

INTRODUCTION

Stamps and other philatelic material frequently have to be measured for various purposes, usually to distinguish between related issues and types. There has been little uniformity, however, in the methods employed and it is sometimes difficult to compare the results obtained by various investigators. The unit of linear measurement, in particular, has been recorded variously in philatelic literature as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ mm., $\frac{1}{8}$ ", etc. The uniform use of the metric system in such measurements is greatly to be preferred, in that one may choose a convenient unit, such as the millimeter, and proceed by decimals to any desired extent, making the annotations simpler and more readily comparable than with the various common fractions.

The purpose of this article is to develop a satisfactory general method for the linear measurement of stamps and other philatelic objects, and to discuss various questions arising in connection with such measurements, so that the results may be evaluated in a proper manner.

Most philatelic measurements have been made without optical aid, and usually have not been more accurate than to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mm or so. It will be shown, however, that much more significant results may be obtained by raising the standard of accuracy. Due to the fibrous texture of paper, any design printed thereon will suffer from a certain lack of sharpness, so that consistent reproducible measurements of an accuracy better than .01 mm cannot ordinarily be expected. A practical measuring technique capable of approaching this accuracy would therefore be highly desirable.

THE TOOLS

Complicated and expensive measuring equipment is fortunately not required. Entirely satisfactory results may be obtained by simple means available to the average collector, consisting of a quality ruler divided in half millimeters, and a watchmaker's loupe of a magnification of about 5 (focal length approximately 2"). The edge of the ruler preferably should be thin,

so as to minimize the so-called parallax error (explained below). The use of a watchmaker's loupe leaves both hands free to manipulate the ruler accurately. Glass scales designed for philatelic use and divided partly in tenths of a millimeter exist, and may of course be used, but are rather difficult to obtain as well as expensive. The readily available "half-millimeter" ruler has therefore been used throughout the work outlined below, to demonstrate its utility.

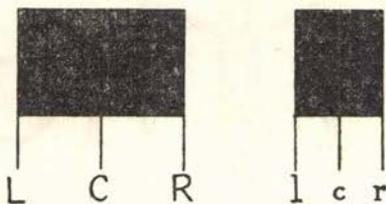


Fig. 1—Stamp details (enlarged)

"A", "B" AND "C" MEASUREMENTS

A distinction will be made here between three types of measurement:

"A"—from center to center, as from C to c in Fig. 1.

"B"—from a left to another left edge, or from a right to another right edge, as from L to l, or from R to r, in Fig. 1.

"C"—from a left to a right edge, or from a right to a left edge, as from L to r, or from R to l, in Fig. 1.

In stamps printed from one and the same cliché, the relative dimensions of the colored and uncolored parts will vary with progressive wear of the plate and with the degree of inking. These variations do not, at least theoretically, affect the "A" measurements, and largely cancel out in the "B" measurements, but tend to make the "C" measurements inconsistent and unreliable for identification purposes. It is best therefore to avoid "C" measurements whenever possible, and to use in their place "A" measurements obtained either directly, or derived from "B" measurements as will be explained. Certain stamp details are sometimes so large that it becomes difficult to determine the exact centers for an "A" measurement. In such case, one may derive the "A" measurement from two "B" measurements, one from a left to another left edge, and another from a right to another right edge. The average of the two figures obtained corresponds to the "A" measurement desired. Referring to Fig. 1, we may, for example, want to determine the distance C to c. We measure the distances L to l, and R to r, and calculate the "A" result as follows:

$$(C \text{ to } c) = \frac{(L \text{ to } l) + (R \text{ to } r)}{2}$$

In this manner we obtain a more significant result than if we measured, for instance, from R to l, which would be a "C" measurement.

ERRORS OF MEASUREMENT

An individual measurement of a given distance on a stamp may be subject to several errors, such as:

- a. Null point error, failure to register accurately the zero or starting line on the ruler with the stamp detail in question.
- b. Reading error, failure to read off the result correctly.
- c. Parallax error, caused by viewing the places of registry and measurement at an angle other than viewing perpendicular in each case.
- d. Ruling error (negligible in a quality ruler).

These errors may either add up to a significant total, or may partly cancel each other out. The only rational procedure, of course, is to exercise the greatest care in avoiding these errors. It should be kept in mind that the zero line on the ruler has of necessity a certain width, and this line should therefore be registered as if it had no thickness, as indicated in the various examples shown in Fig. 2.

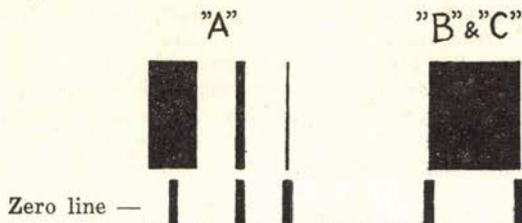


Fig. 2—Stamp details (enlarged)

PAPER ERROR

At the moment of printing, the dimensions of a stamp design will, of course, be the same as those of the cliché from which the stamp is being printed. These dimensions are, however, subjected to various changes during the subsequent gumming, drying and perforating operations, and the rewetting of the stamp for use, followed by cancellation, and finally in the washing, drying and other handling of the stamp by the collector. Some of these operations tend to increase the dimensions, others to reduce them. The dimensions will also be affected by differences in the humidity conditions between the times of printing and measurement.

Most of the coarser fibres in machine-made paper are oriented in the direction in which the paper comes off the machine. It is well known that the expansion of such papers with increased humidity, or shrinkage upon drying, is usually much greater in the direction across the fiber than with it. The fiber direction in a stamp may be determined in several ways. When the stamp is placed in water, it usually curls one way or the other. The direction of the curvature is ordinarily across the fiber, but certain predispositions may exist in some stamps, preventing them from behaving in a normal manner. This test is therefore indicative of fiber direction, but not invariably dependable. Examination under the loupe, holding the stamp at a slant against the light will reveal the more prominent fibers running towards the eye, if we happen to be looking in the direction of the fibers. When we turn the stamp at right angles and again examine it in the same manner, little or no indication of fiber direction will usually be noted. This test is quite reliable.

The net result of these dimensional changes, as we are confronted with it, sometimes after a period of many years, we shall call the paper error, for want of a more precise term. Since the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the paper are affected unequally by changes in humidity conditions, we shall expect at least this part of the paper error to differ in the two directions of the paper. The horizontal paper error from all sources will thus ordinarily differ from the corresponding total vertical paper error. Less difference would be expected in hand-made papers, where the fibers are usually oriented more at random. The amount of paper error can only be determined by comparing the dimensions of the stamp with those of the cliché from which it was printed. However, since this is ordinarily not possible, the paper error usually represents an unknown quantity. It is fortunate, therefore, that most of our measurements are on a comparative basis, so that we are usually con-

cerned more with the variations in the paper error than with the amounts themselves. It will also be shown in the following that we may plan our measuring work so as to minimize the effects of the paper error.

THE MEASURING PROCEDURE

We shall have to distinguish here between the accuracy obtainable in each individual measurement of a series on one hand, and the reliability of the average of several measurements to represent the series on the other. It was found that readings for the individual measurement can easily be obtained to the nearest .03 mm or so, using the "half millimeter" ruler and the loupe. With a little practice, one may readily distinguish between various fractions of the half-millimeter, and the results are then recorded in decimal form, with the aid of the easily memorized relationships shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Fraction of half-millimeter	Equivalent to:	Record as:	or
On the line -----	----	.00 mm	.50 mm
Barely off the line -----	----	.03 mm	.53 mm
More off the line, but less than 1/5--	----	.07 mm	.57 mm
1/5 -----	.10 mm	.10 mm	.60 mm
1/4 -----	.125 mm	.13 mm	.63 mm
1/3 -----	.167 mm	.17 mm	.67 mm
2/5 -----	.20 mm	.20 mm	.70 mm
1/2 and close to 1/2 -----	.23 mm	.23 mm	.73 mm
		.25 mm	.75 mm
		.27 mm	.77 mm
3/5 -----	.30 mm	.30 mm	.80 mm
2/3 -----	.333 mm	.33 mm	.83 mm
3/4 -----	.375 mm	.37 mm	.87 mm
4/5 -----	.40 mm	.40 mm	.90 mm
Off the line, but more than 4/5 ----	----	.43 mm	.93 mm
Barely off the line -----	----	.47 mm	.97 mm
On the line -----	----	.50 mm	.00 mm

It will be noted that the second decimal in the recording figures is usually a 0, 3 or 7, which is quite convenient to remember during the work. In tabulations of closely related measurements, the whole number may be written at the top, so that only the decimal parts need be entered in the table proper. A uniform recording in two decimals is correct here, since (a) we can read closer than to one decimal, (b) the second decimal, while usually not exact, is of some value, and (c) a third decimal would be meaningless.

When several measurements of a series (stamp, type, subtype, etc.) have been recorded, we proceed to average them to a figure representing the series. In so doing, we also record the average deviation from the calculated average. This provides an indication of the reliability of the results obtained, or the range of variation in the series. The method of calculation is shown in the following example:

5 stamps:	Average	.27	
	+	—	
(20)	.27	.00	
	.23		.04
	.33	.06	
	.23		.04
	.27	.00	
Add to 1.33	.06	.08	

1.33 : 5 = .27 (nearest) with remainder: —.02. As a check, there should be .02 more in the minus column, as is the case here. Add the figures in the plus and minus columns, regardless of sign: $.06 + .08 = .14$. Divide this by number of measurements, $14 : 5 = .03$ (approx.). Our average result is thus 20.27 (mm) with an average deviation of + or — .03 (mm).

A TEST TO DEMONSTRATE ATTAINABLE ACCURACY

This relates to the true accuracy attainable by the use of the simple tools described. In other words, to within what limits of accuracy can our results be reproduced and depended upon, when we measure linear distances that either are the same or are supposed to be the same? In order to throw light on this and other related questions, I have carried out several thousand measurements on certain Norwegian postal issues presenting interesting dimensional relationships. It will be readily understood, of course, that the method employed and the useful general conclusions arrived at will be found universally applicable to the study of philatelic issues of all countries.

Measurements were first carried out on the stamp designs of the 2 and 3 skilling postcards of Norway, printed 1872-1876. The entirely reasonable assumption was made that the postcards, being relatively thick and sturdy and not having been subjected to gumming and washing, etc., as in the case of stamps, would have an insignificantly small paper error. The dimensions of the postcard stamp designs should therefore correspond substantially to those of the clichés from which the printing was done. The variations found in the measurement of each type of post card should accordingly be errors of measurement only, and thus an expression of attainable accuracy.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

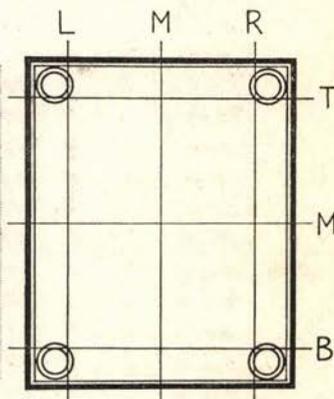


Fig. 5

The clichés for the stamp designs of the 2 and 3 skilling postcards (Figs. 3 and 4) and the corresponding stamp issues (Scott Nos. 17 and 18) were produced by electrotypy, in which the original die (with appropriate center plug) was molded in lead. The small words TO (two) and TRE (three) were engraved by hand in an early stage of the work, giving rise to twelve engraving types¹ in each value. All twelve types are found in the stamps, but only five in the postcards. In Ascher's catalog², Nos. 1 and 2 refer to the 3 skilling postcards, with and without wavy line in the frame of the card, respectively. Nos. 3 and 4 refer to the 2 skilling postcards as they were printed originally, and as they were later overprinted "0.05", respectively.

Nine measurements were taken of each stamp design, three vertical "A" measurements along lines L, M and R (Fig. 5) between the upper and lower inner frame lines, three horizontal "A" measurements along the lines T, M and B between the left and right inner frame lines, and three corresponding "C" measurements vertically between the outer edges of the upper and lower outer frame lines. This large number of measurements was considered necessary in the present investigation, in order to provide sufficient data for certain general conclusions. Once these conclusions have been established, the routine measuring technique may be simplified considerably (measurements along one or two lines only).

The average measuring results are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2
"A" Measurement on 2 and 3 Skilling Post Cards

Value	Ascher	Type	Cards measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
				Average, 20mm. or 79mm.			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 16mm. or 15mm.			Deviation, average \pm		
				L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
3 Sk.	1a I	8	2	*80	*90	*81	.00	.00	.02	*77	*85	*77	.00	.02	.00
	2a I	"	3	*78	*90	*78	.03	.02	.03	*77	*83	*74	.00	.00	.02
	Both	"	5	*79	*90	*79	.02	.01	.02	*77	*84	*75	.00	.01	.02
	1a II	1	4	.06	.12	.01	.04	.03	.02	.03	.13	.02	.00	.00	.01
	2a II	"	3	.02	.09	*96	.03	.04	.02	.02	.13	.00	.01	.00	.00
	Both	"	7	.04	.11	*99	.04	.03	.03	.03	.13	.01	.00	.00	.01
	1b I	2	8	.10	.19	.00	.01	.02	.01	*80	*95	*84	.00	.02	.02
	2b I	"	2	.05	(14)	*94	.05	(04)	.04	*79	*97	*85	.02	.00	.02
	Both	"	10	.09	.18	*99	.02	.02	.02	*79	*95	*84	.01	.02	.02
	1b IIa	3	4	*98	.13	.03	.02	.03	.02	*31	*38	*23	.01	.01	.00
	2b IIa, b	"	4	*97	.12	.00	.00	.02	.00	*30	*37	*23	.00	.00	.00
	Both	"	8	*98	.13	.01	.02	.02	.02	*30	*37	*23	.00	.00	.00
	1b IIb	9	4	.00	.08	*96	.02	.04	.03	*83	*98	*83	.02	.03	.03
	2b IIc	"	2	*97	.07	*93	.04	.04	.00	*83	*94	*83	.00	.04	.00
Both	"	6	*99	.07	*95	.03	.04	.03	*83	*96	*83	.01	.03	.02	
2 Sk.	3a α	9	2	.20	.29	.22	.00	.01	.01	*92	.00	*83	.02	.00	.00
	4a α	"	3	.22	.32	.20	.01	.01	.00	*90	.01	*84	.00	.01	.02
	Both	"	5	.21	.31	.21	.01	.02	.01	*91	.01	*84	.01	.01	.01
	3a β	6	5	.17	.25	.14	.03	.02	.03	*87	*97	*89	.00	.00	.01
	4a β	"	2	.18	(30)	.15	.05	—	.05	*84	*97	*90	.04	.04	.03
	Both	"	7	.17	.26	.14	.03	.02	.04	*86	*97	*90	.02	.01	.01
	3a γ	12	4	.32	.34	.28	.02	.02	.01	*91	.01	*88	.01	.01	.01
	4a γ	"	2	.32	(37)	.23	.02	—	.00	*92	.02	*89	.02	.02	.02
	Both	"	6	.32	.35	.26	.02	.02	.02	*92	.01	*88	.01	.01	.01
	3b δ , e	5	3	.29	.33	.38	.01	.02	.03	.00	.04	*90	.00	.02	.00
	4b δ , e	"	9	.29	.33	.40	.01	.03	.00	.00	.05	*92	.00	.02	.01
	Both	"	12	.29	.33	.39	.01	.03	.02	.00	.05	*92	.00	.02	.01
	3c	3	2	.30	.37	.29	.00	.00	.02	*90	.00	*82	.03	.03	.02
	4c	"	4	.29	.35	.29	.01	.03	.01	*93	.03	*89	.00	.00	.02
Both	"	6	.30	.36	.29	.01	.02	.01	*92	.02	*86	.02	.02	.03	

Average Accuracy—Average of all deviation figures \pm .016

Table 3
 "C" Measurements on 2 and 3 Skilling Post Cards

Value	Ascher	Type	Cards measured	Vertical						
				Average,			Deviation,			
				21mm or	*20mm		average	±		
L	M	R	L	M	R					
35k	1aI	8	2	*97	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
	2aI	"	3	*88	*86	*89	.05	.04	.06	
	Both	"	5	*91	*93	*93	.05	.06	.05	
	1aII	1	4	.26	.22	.19	.04	.02	.03	
	2aII	"	3	.17	.09	.08	.02	.04	.03	
	Both	"	7	.22	.16	.14	.05	.06	.06	
	1bI	2	8	.26	.24	.20	.03	.03	.02	
	2bI	"	2	.15	.12	.00	.02	.02	.00	
	Both	"	10	.24	.21	.17	.05	.05	.05	
	1bIIα	3	4	.11	.14	.24	.06	.05	.07	
	2bIIαδ	"	4	.09	.16	.21	.04	.04	.01	
	Both	"	8	.10	.15	.22	.04	.04	.04	
	1bIIβ	9	4	.22	.15	.15	.07	.04	.04	
	2bIIγ	"	2	.12	.10	.12	.01	.00	.01	
	Both	"	6	.18	.13	.14	.07	.03	.04	
25k	3aα	9	2	.37	.32	.37	.04	.02	.04	
	4aα	"	3	.32	.26	.29	.04	.02	.01	
	Both	"	5	.34	.28	.32	.04	.03	.04	
	3aβ	6	5	.24	.25	.25	.04	.06	.04	
	4aβ	"	2	.25	.25	.27	.05	.08	.07	
	Both	"	7	.24	.25	.26	.04	.06	.05	
	3bγ	12	4	.47	.43	.43	.00	.02	.02	
	4bγ	"	2	.47	.42	.42	.00	.02	.02	
	Both	"	6	.47	.43	.43	.00	.02	.02	
	3bδ,ε	5	3	.27	.26	.36	.01	.02	.04	
	4bδ,ε	"	9	.27	.26	.35	.02	.03	.02	
	Both	"	12	.27	.26	.35	.02	.02	.03	
	3c	3	2	.40	.44	.45	.00	.04	.02	
	4c	"	4	.38	.38	.41	.03	.01	.01	
	Both	"	6	.38	.41	.42	.02	.03	.02	

Average Accuracy—Average of all deviation figures +—.032.

We can now draw the following conclusions from the data in Tables 2 and 3:

- The average accuracy (+—.016) of the "A" measurements is of a high order. The accuracy of the "C" measurements (+—.032) is only half as good, as might have been expected.
- Each type or series has its characteristic set of measurements. The format is usually not strictly rectangular, as shown by differences between the L and R figures on one hand, and between the T and B

figures on the other. The M figures are also generally higher than the L and R, and the T and B, and are thus indicative of slight bulges in the inner lines.

- (c) The 3 skilling clichés vary considerably in size (compare types 8 and 2), while the 2 skilling clichés show somewhat less variation. Since both the 3 skilling and 2 skilling clichés were descendants of one original die by reproduction in lead, we should have expected, off hand, no such variations.

The corresponding 2 and 3 skilling stamps are known to vary considerably in size. Since the view was widely held that the clichés reproduced via lead would be equal in size, the differences in the stamps were ascribed to variations in the paper, or what we have here called the paper error. Our measurements definitely prove, however, that the differences in the size of clichés are chiefly responsible for the variation in the stamps.

The explanation for the size differences in the clichés probably lies in the stripping of the electrolytic copper shell, and also in the finishing or flattening operation, in which the cliché or plate had to be pressed or hammered sufficiently plane for printing purposes. It is obvious that the resulting distortion might be variable, depending on conditions during stripping and on the original state of curvature of the cliché. It appears that the flattening operation must have been more severe on the 3 skilling clichés than on those of the 2 skilling group. Particular attention is called to the surprisingly narrow 3 skilling type 3 cliché, which evidently must have been strongly cylinder-shaped before flattening.

Since the opposing frame lines are usually neither perfectly straight nor parallel, an accurate simple statement of height and width is not possible. A proper and complete record of a measurement should therefore always specify along what line, such as L, M or R, the measurement was made.

To be continued

Scott 1954 Catalogue

All of the Scandinavian Countries have received very little attention from the publishers of the Scott Catalogue. True there are a number of changes in the 20th Century, all of which are of minor importance, as they chiefly reflect current issues that are still available at the various agencies, but the early 19th Century, which is badly in need of revision, has remained stationary. Two important changes have however, been made, one is the omission of Finland #17b, 2p compound perforated, which for a number of years has been considered a fraudulent stamp. The other is the new listing of Sweden, #189A the 20 öre, wmkd wavy lines, which is priced as used only at \$225.00. The Finland Charity Issues, received a good boost upwards, many individual stamps have gone up as much as \$1.50 each. Even tho the 20th Century did receive a great deal of attention, there are still many stamps we would like to buy at Scott prices, such as Norway 147a Abel error, which has been selling regularly at auctions at from \$15.00 to \$18.00, also Norway #218 the 50 öre wmkd "V" stamp, which wholesales at from \$3.00 to \$3.50 higher than Scott's listing. Another matter which puzzles us, is the omission of even a foot note of the Free Norway "London" overprints. Both the Norwegian Government as well as all other catalogues recognize this set, why not Scott?

Danish West Indies, Finnish Occupation of Russia, North Ingermanland and Karelia had no changes.

C. E. P.



The Horn Blower

by Agent No. 42
Staff of the Old Sleuth

With the approaching Holiday Season, your Old Sleuth feels very charitable—so, only good things and happy thoughts will go into this column—and while we are at it “A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU”—may 1954 be the banner Philatelic year in your career—and may a lot of rare sleepers come your way * * * perhaps the most noteworthy event that has taken place since the last issue, was the fabulous sale of Norway stamps held by a well known Auctioneer, of the Arnstein Berntsen collection—where prices looked like telephone numbers and all catalogue prices (both Scott and the Norwegian) were forgotten. The sale in itself looked like a gathering of a S. C. C. meeting and many familiar faces were seen. The highlight of the sale was our famous photographer from Peoria, Ill., Dr. Charles D. Sneller, whose camera was clicking constantly—in between pictures Doc got into the bidding too, and left with some rare loot—General Robert J. Gill, after getting half the sale still smiled—he was heard to say, “I have a pretty good Norway collection now”—yes, we are afraid he has!—Harry Lindquist very jubilantly was heard to exclaim, after the sale, that his collection went up at least \$20,000—and Doctor Earl Jacobson flew in from Chicago to pick up a few nice items—Doc is still muttering in Chicago about this awful experience—Phil Ward of Philadelphia forgot that he comes from the City of Brotherly Love, especially when he was competing with Gen. Gill for some of the early blocks, well he too went home happy (or was it unhappy) with a few souvenirs—other lucky buyers were Harold Watson, Trygve Larson, Arthur Lind and Dr. Hans Lundberg * * * we are glad to welcome back into the fold one of our past presidents of the club, Miss Martha Hamline, who holds the unique distinction of having been our only woman president (1938-39)—those were the days when every meeting was followed by a nice coffee clatch at a near-by restaurant—well, we had a good time in those days * * * we were very happy to run across Dr. James K. Senior of Chicago, who for over two years has been seriously ill—he was looking his own old cheerful self again—and tells us that he has resumed his chair of chemistry at the University of Chicago—another good sign of his complete recovery is his returning interest in stamps * * * we have received hundreds of greetings during the Holidays, from near and far—never knew I had so many friends in the Club—among those received was one from our old Secretary John Boyce—you probably know that John has been laid up for a long time with a very serious illness, yet his interest in the doings of the S. C. C. is very keen—I am certain he would appreciate a note from some of you (address 417-72nd St., Brooklyn 9, N. Y.) * * * another one was from a good friend out in Los Angeles, Laurence Hyde, who did not take the Old Sleuth’s advice and get a new car, because that would leave no money for stamps and that, of course, would be tragic * * * our January meeting on the 27th, at the Collect-

ors Club, promises to be one of highlights of the season, when Dr. Hans Lundberg of Toronto will bring his famous Saxony collection down. This collection is generally rated as the finest in the world and should warrant a trip to New York for our nearby members. * * * As I promised not to say anything detrimental about anyone, I'd better close this column for now, so so-long until we meet again in the April issue.

News of Interest

Carl E. Pelander has obtained a newly discovered "I GILDI" error on the 25a Iceland stamp (Scott #48), recently found in Denmark, where the complete upper half of the sheet has a clear double overprint. The sheet in question was purchased from the Post Office in Reykjavik many years ago and had been placed aside by the purchaser until recently, when it was sold to Frederik Hasle in Copenhagen, from whom Mr. Pelander obtained it. This error, no doubt will be listed in the next catalogue alongside others of this issue. The double overprint is clear and distinctly overlapping and not like the recently discovered Zeppelin double overprint, which requires extremely close scrutiny to see.

It is interesting to note that even today, 50 years after these stamps were issued, a major error would come to light.

Robert J. Read won the Grand Award at Cenjex 1953, the fourth annual exhibition of the Central New Jersey Federation of Stamp Clubs held in Asbury Park, where he showed his collection of 19th Century Danish Cancellations. Congratulations.

Capt. Robert W. Scherer, serving with the United States Air Force in Germany, showed his specialized collection of Iceland's Parliament Millenary issue at Ifraba, the international exhibition held this summer at Frankfurt on Main, and won a Bronze Medal. Nice Going.

Mrs. Agda Pade has closed the Pade Stamp Shop in Denver, henceforth she will conduct a mail business from her home at 1324 South Race Street, Denver, Colorado, specializing in mixtures, Scandinavian issues and first day covers.

Sweden Night

October 14, 1953 was Sweden Night at the S. C. C. in New York. Eric Hallar began by showing portions of his collection of stampless covers showing the intensive study that he has made of the postal markings during the two centuries from 1685 when such markings were first introduced. Markings were introduced to control services and as a financial check, because of many complaints of delays and losses of messages. The first markings, used only in Stockholm, consisted of the letter B surmounted by a crown with both enclosed in a circle, used probably on prepaid mail, and the same type of marking with the letter F used for official mail. Several types of these rare markings exist and some were shown. In 1708 a "straightline" "Stockholm" within a frame was first used and several examples of various types used until 1747 were shown. The numerals in the upper right hand corner of covers are

registration numbers, as until 1855 all letters were recorded as they were received at the post office.

In 1769 Norrköping received a stamp and in 1819 some 114 different offices also received town name straight line markers. Examples of many of these were shown. In 1824 another official cancellation "FR*BR" was introduced in Stockholm and examples of these were shown. Others of the later postmarks, due markings and ship cancellations were well represented.

Another interesting and unique service was represented by a "Feather Letter". In the rural regions ordinary mail was delivered once a week, so to expedite official mail there was established a special supplementary service known as the "Official Rural Express Mail" which operated when necessary. Official letters with a feather sealed to them were delivered by special messengers, who were subjected to a heavy fine if they did not leave with such a letter within 15 minutes of the time they received it.

The next collection to be shown was that of Lauson Stone's early issues of Sweden. As early as 1823 the use of adhesive postage stamps had been proposed in Sweden, but too many values would have been required to pay the rates on the milage basis then used, so the scheme was abandoned. In 1855 the first stamps, the coat-of-arms skilling-banco series, were issued. The 3 sk. appears in three shades, while the 4 sk. can be found in many shades. We were shown mint copies, used ones with various types of cancellations and also covers. The 6, 8 and 24 sk. values were similarly represented. The three sets of official reprints were then shown, including used copies, as these reprints were valid for postage.

In 1856 a 1 sk. value was issued by the government for local letters. Several shades and plate varieties were illustrated, as well as various cancellations.

In 1858 a new coat-of-arms type appeared with the values in öre. The 5 ö green was issued on white paper and appears in a variety of shades. A late printing in 1872 is on yellowish paper, as are all other values of this issue except the 9 ö. The 12 ö, paying the domestic rate appears in many shades and types of cancellations.

In 1862 the local letter stamps also appeared in the new currency.

The lion and numeral types of the 1870's were also well represented. One of the interesting stamps of this series is the 20 ö on 20 ö. This value was issued in an orange shade which faded very rapidly. So the stamps were recalled from the post offices and run through the presses using a dull red or vermilion ink on the same plates used at first. This is one of the very few instances of a double printing regularly issued by the postal service.

The final showing was the study made by Eric Kindquist of the stamps produced on the rotary Stickney press during the years 1920-1937. These stamps can be the subject of intensive study for several reasons. First, two series of plates were used; the Ottawa, prepared in Canada by the British-American Bank Note Company for stamps required immediately and the Stockholm, prepared in that city and used after the Ottawa plates. Then as the press was a new type, various kinds of paper were used to determine which was the most satisfactory. So there are three types of watermarked paper and about four types without watermark used. In addition, many of the plates developed flaws as they were used. Also, some new values were printed in different colors due to rate changes.

The collection has been prepared to illustrate all of these factors and the result is a most unusual display.

This showing brought to a close another of our "One Country" nights and an evening enjoyed by all present.

Albert Tate

New and Recent Issues

by Carl E. Pelander

DENMARK:



1953

Millenary Issue

The first three values of a proposed ten value set has been released by the Danish Post Office Department, commemorating the 1000th anniversary of the Danish Kingdom. The first of these values, the 10 øre green, was placed on sale Sept. 5th, 1953, and depicts the runic "Jelling Stone", said to have been inscribed sometime between the years of 900 and 1000.

The designs for the stamps are by Viggo Bang and the engraving by Bengt Jacobsen.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Perf. 12½

10 øre green

15 øre violet

20 øre brown

1953

General Issue

To supplement the King Frederik IX Issue, two new values have been released.

65 øre gray

95 øre orange

FINLAND:



November 16th, 1953

Anti Tuberculosis Issue

On the above date the P. O. Dept., released the annual Anti T. B. Charity Issue, depicting Finnish Wild life. The stamp designs were executed by the well known artist, Mrs. Signe Hammarsten-Jansson. The surtax was for the use of combatting the spread of Tuberculosis.

In the wake of the introduction of Christianity 1000 A. D. the Latin alphabet was introduced in Iceland with the ensuing writing of books. At first the art of writing was solely practised by the clergy, but the Icelanders were eager to learn and gradually this art became common amongst laymen.

The art of writing was originally used only concerning matters spiritual or practical and many books were translated from Latin, especially ecclesiastical works. But as the art of writing spread, the variety of the literature increased. The Icelanders began to compose historical works concerning their own country as well as other countries so that these works bore on all peoples who spoke the Nordic language. They wrote about the kings of Denmark, Sweden and Norway as well as the earls of the Orkneys and the chieftains of the Faroe islands. Of these works the "Heimskringla" (The Norse Kings' Sagas) by Snorri Sturluson is the most famous. They also composed works treating subjects from their own Republican community; about chiefs and bishops of the 12th and 13th centuries, but the peak of the art of storytelling was attained in the Icelandic family sagas, works about heroes and poets of the Icelandic saga age (930-1030). By the sagas they created an original literature of a singular artistic beauty, of rare objectivity and of a style both natural and impressive. In this classical form they created magnificent and varied pictures of human life. In addition they composed stories of the heroes from the Viking age and from the earliest times, and wrote down poems old and new treating Christian and heathen themes. The most famous of these are the Edda poems about the heathen gods and ancient Germanic heroes, many of which are of a singular beauty.

It has often been said that the Icelanders have preserved much but it is no less true, that they have created still more.

The old literature was written down on vellums and there exist a great number of old Icelandic manuscripts, most of which, owing to historical grounds, were transferred to foreign countries. Many of these manuscripts are finely wrought, the writing clear and graceful. Some of them are plain, others with ornamental initials and illuminated.

SWEDEN:



November 2nd, 1953

Telegraph Issue

Commemorating the Centenary of the Swedish Telegraph Service. The stamps were designed by the artists Pierre Olofsson and Karl-Axel Pehrson. The 40 öre stamp was engraved by Sven Ewert and the others by Arne Wallhorn. The stamp design measures 27.25 x 20.5 mm and are printed in coils of 100.

Engraved

Coil Stamps

Perf. 13 horizontally

25 öre dark blue

40 öre olive green

60 öre red violet

Booklet pane of 20, perf. 13 on three sides

25 öre dark blue

The introduction of the first electric telegraph line in Sweden, was between Stockholm and Upsala on November 1st, 1853. The following year the line was extended via Örebro and Gothenburg to Malmö, also connecting via cable across the sound with Denmark. In 1855, through the general European network of telegraph lines, Sweden became connected with the rest of the Continent. In 1858 telegraph offices had been established in most of the principal towns in the country.

Marconi's invention of wireless telegraphy in 1896, opened up fresh vistas and in 1910 the first coastal stations were established to receive and send messages to vessels at sea.

Telephony was introduced in Sweden in the 1880's and today more than 2 million apparatuses have been installed, which gives Sweden second place in the world in number of telephones per capita of population.

We have received from our life member Torsten Ingeloff, specimens of the new Scandinavian Christmas seals; Denmark shows children of all nations holding hands in a ring-dance, so that every seal shows a different design, Finland depicts a very attractive child, Norway a very interesting snowman and Sweden the Three Wise Men.

Club Dues for 1954

As will be noticed on the next page, the membership at a special meeting held on December 19, 1953, voted to increase the dues. Notice of this proposed change in dues was reported in the July 1953 issue of *The Posthorn* (page 47). These increases were necessitated by the increasing cost of publishing the club journal, and rises in the cost of other club activities. Resident Membership (for persons residing within 35 miles of City Hall, New York City) dues is now \$3.00 per year; Non-Resident dues (including foreign) is now \$2.00 per year. **Please send your dues for 1954 to the Treasurer now:**

Treasurer—Phillip R. Grabfield

18 East 62nd Street, Apt. 5R, New York 21, N. Y.

If you have not paid your dues for 1953, please do so now. Last year dues were as follows: Resident—\$2.00, Non-Resident—\$1.00. Due to the illness of our Treasurer—Robert J. Read—last year there were a few mixups. Please help us straighten out our records and get the club out of the red.

SALES CIRCUIT

Anker B. Grumsen, Manager of the S. C. C. Sales Circuit, needs material for the exchange books. This is a good way to dispose of duplicates, etc. He has some 1954 AFA catalogs for members who want them. Write Mr. Grumsen at P. O. Box 565, San Diego 7, California.

Club News

Report of the splendid showings enjoyed by the club on Sweden Night held on October 14, 1953 may be found on page 10 of this issue. The Fifth Annual Auction Sale conducted by the club on November 11, 1953 under the able leadership of Mr. Arthur I. Heim broke all previous records. There were a total of 286 lots of which 258 lots were sold. These lots, the property

of nine owners, were obtained by 15 floor bidders and 26 mail bidders. The profit to the club was \$221.20 (including a donation of \$2.25), less approximately \$50.00 for the cost of the catalog and postage.

The Annual Meeting of the S. C. C. was held at the Collectors Club in New York on December 9, 1953, at which the following officers were elected for 1954: President—George Wiberg, Vice-President—Eric B. T. Kindquist, Secretary—David W. Summerfield, Treasurer—Phillip R. Grabfield, Librarian—Frank E. Maybury, Editor of The Posthorn—Carl H. Pihl, and Member of Board of Governors (1954-56)—Lauson H. Stone. Following the business portion of the meeting those present enjoyed showings by several members.

Following is the scheduled program of the club through next June:

Feb. 10—Guest speaker—Philip Ward, Jr.—Classic Scandinavia in multiples.

Mar. 10—Denmark Night—William F. Foulk, Carl-Emil Buyer and others.

Apr. 14—Philatelic Quiz—Carl H. Pihl.

May 12—Iceland Night—David Summerfield and others.

June 9—Members Competition—25 pages—any country.

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the S. C. C. was held in Room 807, 545 Fifth Ave., on December 19th, at 4:30 P.M.

The purpose of this meeting was to amend the By-laws of the Scandinavian Collectors Club;

ARTICLE 2, Sec. 4 — Life membership may be secured upon payment of \$50.00 by a resident member and \$30.00 by a non-resident member.

ARTICLE 6, Sec. 1 — Dues shall be \$3.00 annually for resident and \$2.00 annually for non-resident membership, payable in advance. An initiation fee of \$1.00 must accompany all applications to the club.

The above amendments, which had previously been approved, were read for information only by Lauson H. Stone, the motion for their acceptance was made by Philip Grabfield and seconded by Eric Kindquist. They were unanimously carried.

Reinstatement of Miss Martha Hamline, past president of the club, 1938-39, was approved unanimously.

New Members

RESIDENT

723 Samuel R. Lewis, 630 West 173rd Street, New York, N. Y.

724 Arthur L. Lind, 41-28 49th Street, Long Island City 4, N. Y.

NON-RESIDENT

725 Leslie F. Peterson, 78 Sanborn Avenue, West Roxbury 32, Mass.

REINSTATED

11 Miss Martha Hamline, 1161 York Avenue, New York, N. Y.

THE POSTHORN

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Associate Editors:

Eric Hallar, Harry M. Konwiser, Carl E. Pelander and Carl H. Werenskiold

Staff Photographer: Arthur I. Helm

All material and communications concerning The Posthorn should be sent to the editor, address above.