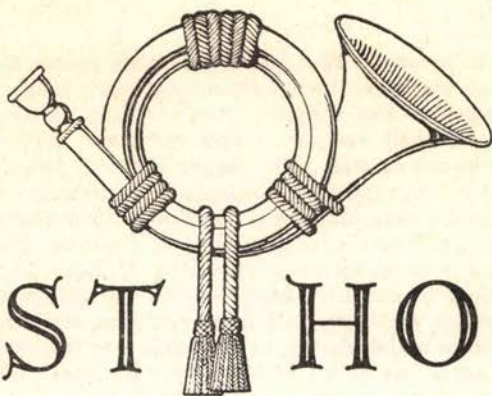


The

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Cracked Plates on the Stamps of Sweden 1891-1919

by Eric B. T. Kindquist (639)

With the advent of the King Oscar II portrait series of 1891 the Swedish Postal Administration inaugurated the use of recess printing of its stamps for regular postage. Prior to 1891 all its stamps were printed by typography and subsequent to 1891 typography was used, on regular postage stamps, for the 1, 2, 3 and 4 öre values of the 1892 issue and for the 1, 2, 3 and 4 öre values of the 1910-19 issues.

By the use of intaglio (recess engraved) printing it was felt that a finer quality postage stamp could be produced and investigations were carried out in Vienna to determine the most suitable method. As a result of these tests it was decided that the printing would be done from electro-formed plates rather than the more commonly used steel plates. This basic method was used with variations for all values of regular postage stamps produced by Sweden during the period 1891-1919, except for the low values mentioned above.

The method of production of the stamps for the 1891 issue was as follows. A master die was engraved in reverse without the numeral of value. After the die was hardened, it was pressed into a small steel plate, forming a negative impression (counter die) of the master die. This second impression was then hardened and used to make a number of third impressions in a soft steel plate. These impressions, or secondary dies, were an exact duplication of the original master die. In these secondary dies the numerals of value were engraved, one for each value of the series, namely: 5, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 50 öre. After this operation these dies were hardened and polished. Separate dies were made for the 1 Kroner value of 1900 and the 5 Kroner value of 1904.

These dies were each impressed into 100 small lead plattens (50 in the case of the 5 Kroner value) forming impressions or molds for the subsequent electroplating. These lead plattens were carefully assembled to the format of

the plate, subjects arranged 10 x 10 for all values except the 5 Kroner which was 10 x 5. This plate was then electroplated with copper until it was sufficiently thick when it was stripped from the lead platens, or mold. This electroplated copper shell was the "recess engraved" surface which was used for the printing of the stamps. The copper shell, or plate, was reinforced on the back side with cast type metal, machined to the correct dimensions, then polished. All plates were numbered and were then ready for use. These numbers, however, fall outside of the printing area and are not found on the printed sheets. The stamps were printed at A. B. Jacob Bagges Sedeltryckeri.

For the stamps of the 1910 issue bearing the full face portrait of King Gustav V, the plates were prepared in a somewhat similar manner as in the previous issue. One major change in technique was introduced in that a final plating of hard steel was added to the copper surface. When this steel surface showed signs of wear it would be stripped off by acid and replated with another coating of steel. The plate numbers are visible in this series. As the plates were replated a scratched notation would be made near the plate number to indicate the number of times that plate had been reworked.

The stamps produced by these methods were generally satisfactory, however, the plated surface is weak in comparison with steel. Consequently, these plates were subject to cracking after prolonged use. The examples of cracked plates examined by the author were generally more severe in the stamps produced for the King Oscar II issue, being much more noticeable and appearing to be wider than those of the subsequent 1910-19 King Gustav V issue. In the later issue the cracks are much finer, indicating that they probably occurred only in the final steel plating rather than in the basic copper plating.

A statistical study by E. Björkman in *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* of January 1952 on the 5 öre 1891-1910 issue indicates that approximately 80



Fig. 1

different examples of plate cracks exist on this stamp alone. The greatest majority of the cracks were produced during the period December 1893 through December 1896 with sporadic examples being produced during the subsequent years up to 1910. Mr. Björkman found 49 different examples that were postmarked December 1893 through December 1896. Examples of cracked plates from the collections of the author and Lauson H. Stone (483) are illustrated in Figure 1. Note that the cracks in the two examples of the 5 öre start at the corner of the stamp but do not go into the stamp design very far. The same characteristics are true of the example of the 30 öre. On the example of the 8 öre, however, note that the crack extends far into the design. While cracks were not found on the other values in this series in either of the collections studied, they probably do exist since the indications are strong that these cracks were due to a basic fault in the manufacture of the plates.

The cracked plates of the stamps 1910-19 are much finer in appearance than those of the previous issue. In these stamps there are visible a multitude of cracks indicating that these are very fine surface cracks rather than



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

deep cracks. Examples of these cracks were found in the collections of the author and Lauson Stone on the 8, 12, 20 and 30 öre stamps. It is presumed that cracks can probably be found on the other values of this series. In Figure 2 showing the 8 öre of this series, note the large number of cracks going out into the margins of the plate. Their formation and shape is typical of cracking of electroplated surfaces. The same general characteristics are apparent in the illustration of cracks found on one 20 öre and two 30 öre stamps, shown in Figure 3. Generally, the cracks do not go far into the design of these stamps, terminating mostly at the design or near it. The illustrations of cracks accompanying this article have been accentuated somewhat for illustrative purposes. When viewed on the stamps themselves, the lines indicating plate cracks are generally far more subtle than is apparent here.

Philatelic Measuring Technique

by Carl H. Werenskiöld (59)

PART II

10 Øre "20 mm" Stamp, Plate IV, and Post Cards

(Scott Cat. No. 40b—Norw. Cat. No. 53 IV)



Fig. 6

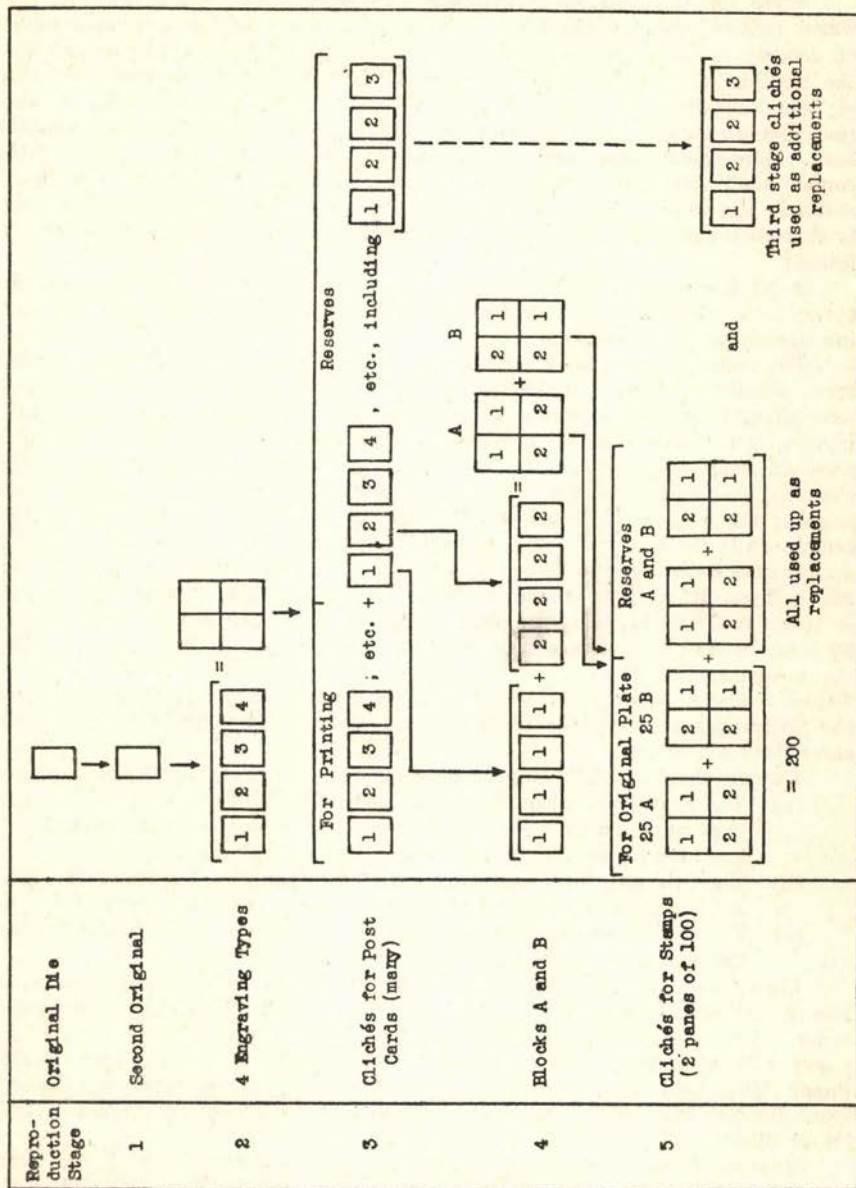
Related sets of single and double postcards were first printed (1889), having four types of clichés as shown in Fig. 6 (note the differences in the separately engraved small numerals). The subsequently (1890) printed stamps have been investigated and described in great detail by Jellestad³, who has shown that two postcard clichés of types 1 and 2 were used as originals for the production of the clichés for the printing of the stamps.

The reproduction of the clichés, from the original die, for the printing of

the postcards and stamps took place in several stages, probably as indicated in Table 4.

Jellestad has further shown that several of the original clichés in the plate had to be replaced, and as the normal (stage 5) reserves for this purpose became exhausted, it became necessary to use four (possibly more) clichés from the post card series (stage 3). The stamps from the "postcard" clichés were identifiable by their being somewhat larger than the other

Table 4



stamps. The explanation for this lies in the changed procedure for reproducing the clichés, in that a molding wax (wax-asphalt-graphite mixture) was employed instead of soft lead for taking the impressions. This method was used in the entire "20 mm" (and several other) series, where one speaks of a "law of successive reproductions", according to which the clichés become progressively smaller as one passes from one stage to the next. Several explanations⁴ have been advanced for this shrinkage in size, partly in line with my own views, which are as follows:

Since the impressions in molding wax were taken while the wax was warm (about 40°C, or 104°F)^{5,6,7}, the impressions would shrink appreciably on cooling to room temperature, due to the high coefficient of expansion of the molding wax (about .00035 between 20° and 40°C) as compared with that of lead (.00028), the ratio being about 12:1. The wax impressions were therefore already too small at the time they were placed in the electroplating bath. Subsequent expansion on heating and contraction on cooling of the copper shell were substantially the same in both the "lead" and the "wax" methods and would largely cancel each other out. The contraction of the wax is therefore the main cause of the reproductions being smaller than the originals.

Referring to Table 4, it is obvious that a study of the postcards and the stamps, including the "postcard cliché" stamps, should reveal some interesting dimensional relationships.

The measurements on the postcards seem to fall in two groups for each type, possibly indicating an extra reproduction stage to form two blocks of four ahead of stage 3 in Table 4. However, since this is by no means certain, in view of the small number of cards examined, I have not included this hypothetical extra stage in Table 4. It was noted, as a possible support for this thought, that the cards designated here as Type 1b have a dent in the lower edge of the oval band ahead of the small 10 and also a broken arch in the crown, while the cards of Type 1a do not have these flaws. No differences in appearance were noted in Types 2a and 2b. The foot of E in NORGE is normal in Type 3a, while it is almost pinched off in Type 3b. Lower right corner is sharp in Type 4a, but rounded in Type 4b. Pending further clarification by other collectors having access to larger material for study, I have recorded the measurements for each type both on a divided and undivided basis in Tables 5 and 6. Twelve measurements were made on each stamp design on the postcards, six "A" measurements and six "C" measurements, along the same lines as before.

We can draw the following conclusions from the data in Tables 5 and 6:

- (a) The postcards, assumed to represent the third stage clichés in size, vary appreciably from type to type, indicating a similar variation in the four engraving type clichés of the second stage.
- (b) There is also some apparent variation within each type of the third stage clichés, probably without real significance. (Compare Table 2).
- (c) The "C" measurements are again less reliable than the "A" measurements, as might have been expected.

The original plate IV for the printing of stamps consisted of 2 panes of 100 clichés each, made up from fifth stage "A" and "B" blocks in irregular order. According to Jellestad⁸, the stamps were printed at first on a rough paper with a posthorn watermark in various vertical positions, from Bentse Paper Mill, then on a smooth paper with horizontal watermark, likewise from Bentse, and finally on paper with horizontal watermark from Alvöen Paper Mill.

Measurements of the normal (fifth stage) stamps were made in the same manner as with the postcards, and are summarized in Tables 7 and 8 for

Table 5
"A" Measurements on "Plate IV" Post Cards

Ascher	Type	Cards measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 19. mm			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 15. mm			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
	1a	6	.29	.30	.30	.02	.03	.02	.41	.47	.55	.01	.01	.04
	1b	3	.30	.30	.30	.00	.00	.00	.44	.56	.61	.02	.02	.01
35a I,	Both	9	.29	.30	.30	.02	.02	.01	.42	.50	.57	.02	.04	.04
37a I	2a	2	.45	.49	.47	.02	.02	.00	.53	.62	.63	.00	.02	.00
and	2b	3	.41	.42	.39	.01	.01	.01	.49	.54	.58	.01	.02	.01
37b I,	Both	5	.43	.45	.42	.02	.03	.04	.51	.57	.60	.02	.03	.02
as the	3a	2	.47	.50	.47	.00	.00	.00	.45	.47	.52	.02	.00	.02
case	3b	4	.49	.49	.49	.02	.02	.02	.49	.57	.59	.01	.02	.02
may	Both	6	.48	.49	.48	.01	.01	.01	.48	.54	.56	.02	.04	.03
be	4a	6	.24	.26	.34	.04	.03	.04	.42	.43	.43	.03	.03	.03
	4b	7	.29	.30	.37	.01	.00	.01	.43	.47	.53	.01	.02	.01
	Both	13	.27	.28	.35	.03	.03	.03	.42	.45	.49	.02	.03	.05

Average variation in each type—Average of all deviation figures +—, .018

Table 6
"C" Measurements on "Plate IV" Post Cards

Ascher	Type	Cards measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 20. mm			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 16. mm			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
	1a	6	.53	.48	.48	.04	.04	.03	.60	.62	.67	.06	.07	.06
	1b	3	.54	.52	.56	.06	.05	.10	.61	.69	.73	.08	.06	.04
35a I,	Both	9	.53	.49	.50	.04	.04	.05	.60	.64	.69	.06	.07	.06
37a I	2a	2	.70	.70	.65	.10	.10	.05	.70	.77	.82	.07	.04	.05
and	2b	3	.64	.61	.58	.04	.06	.05	.60	.69	.69	.07	.04	.04
37b I,	Both	5	.67	.65	.61	.06	.08	.04	.64	.72	.74	.06	.04	.06
as the	3a	2	.70	.65	.62	.00	.05	.02	.70	.72	.73	.00	.02	.00
case	3b	4	.72	.67	.65	.05	.07	.05	.66	.67	.67	.04	.05	.06
may	Both	6	.71	.66	.64	.04	.06	.04	.67	.68	.69	.04	.05	.05
be	4a	6	.45	.44	.47	.04	.03	.04	.61	.62	.61	.05	.05	.06
	4b	7	.50	.49	.49	.03	.03	.01	.58	.62	.65	.04	.04	.06
	Both	13	.48	.46	.48	.04	.04	.03	.60	.62	.63	.04	.04	.05

Average variation in each type—Average of all deviation figures +—, .048

stamps with horizontal watermark, and in Tables 9 and 10 for stamps with vertical watermark. The subtypes A I to A IV and B I to B IV are identifiable by the presence or absence of certain plate flaws. A majority of the positions of the stamps with horizontal watermark were included in the measurements, and the results should therefore be reasonably representative.

Stamps with vertical watermark are scarcer and are accordingly represented by a smaller number in the tables. The stamp of the secondary or replacement cliché of subtype B III in position R61 has been listed separately in Tables 7 and 8 on account of its apparently abnormal size. An interpretation regarding this stamp has been attempted³, but will not be followed up here.

All of the stamps measured were in used condition, having been washed reasonably free of gum in an attempt to minimize variations in the paper error.

Table 7

"A" Measurements on Plate IV Stamps with Horizontal Watermark

Engr. Type	Sub-type	Stamps measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 19. mm or $\frac{3}{16}$ in.			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 15. mm			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
1	A I	16	.02	.07	.06	.03	.03	.03	.20	.22	.25	.02	.03	.03
	A II	12	.14	.19	.21	.04	.04	.03	.22	.24	.30	.02	.03	.04
	B II	23	.99	.03	.05	.03	.04	.03	.23	.24	.27	.03	.03	.04
	B IV	21	.11	.17	.15	.04	.04	.05	.22	.24	.25	.04	.04	.03
	Average	72	.06	.11	.11	—	—	—	.22	.24	.26	—	—	—
2	A III	20	.23	.24	.20	.04	.04	.03	.26	.25	.26	.04	.04	.04
	A IV	19	.25	.28	.25	.03	.03	.04	.19	.24	.25	.04	.03	.03
	B I	20	.29	.32	.28	.03	.03	.03	.31	.33	.34	.04	.03	.04
	B III	26	.18	.23	.19	.03	.02	.03	.25	.26	.27	.04	.04	.03
	Average	85	.22	.26	.23	—	—	—	.25	.27	.28	—	—	—
	B III R61 sec.	1	.30	.33	.30	—	—	—	.37	.37	.37	—	—	—

Average of all deviations: Vertical \pm —.034, Horizontal \pm —.034

Table 8

"C" Measurements on Plate IV Stamps with Horizontal Watermark

Engr. Type	Sub-type	Stamps measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 20. mm			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 16. mm			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
1	A I	16	.17	.17	.16	.04	.03	.03	.28	.29	.31	.04	.03	.04
	A II	12	.28	.29	.32	.04	.04	.04	.30	.33	.37	.03	.05	.04
	B II	23	.17	.17	.19	.04	.04	.04	.36	.35	.38	.05	.04	.05
	B IV	21	.27	.27	.27	.05	.06	.05	.31	.31	.31	.05	.06	.05
	Average	72	.22	.22	.23	—	—	—	.32	.32	.34	—	—	—
2	A III	20	.38	.40	.34	.03	.04	.04	.34	.36	.34	.05	.05	.05
	A IV	19	.38	.38	.35	.05	.04	.05	.26	.31	.31	.03	.02	.04
	B I	20	.44	.44	.40	.04	.03	.03	.40	.42	.44	.05	.04	.04
	B III	26	.34	.32	.28	.04	.03	.03	.32	.34	.35	.06	.06	.05
	Average	85	.38	.38	.34	—	—	—	.33	.36	.36	—	—	—
	B III R61 sec.	1	.47	.47	.40	—	—	—	.40	.43	.43	—	—	—

Average of all deviations: Vertical \pm —.040, Horizontal \pm —.045

Table 9

"A" Measurements on Plate IV Stamps with Vertical Watermark

Engr. Type	Sub-type	Stamps measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 19. mm or *18. mm			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 15. mm.			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
1	AI	6	*77	*80	*80	.06	.05	.05	.16	.20	.22	.03	.03	.01
	AII	5	*84	*87	*89	.05	.06	.07	.18	.21	.24	.01	.01	.01
	BII	4	*76	*79	*83	.03	.02	.03	.20	.19	.22	.02	.01	.01
	BIV	7	*90	*95	*92	.11	.11	.10	.18	.19	.20	.01	.01	.02
	Average	22	*83	*86	*86	—	—	—	.18	.20	.22	—	—	—
2	AIII	5	.01	.02	*98	.05	.06	.05	.23	.23	.25	.01	.01	.02
	AIV	4	.06	.07	.06	.09	.09	.10	.19	.23	.26	.06	.05	.06
	BI	9	.11	.12	.07	.05	.04	.06	.25	.28	.31	.05	.05	.04
	BIII	10	.00	.06	.03	.09	.08	.06	.23	.24	.26	.03	.04	.03
	Average	28	.05	.07	.04	—	—	—	.23	.25	.27	—	—	—

Average of all deviations: Vertical \pm .065, Horizontal \pm .026

Table 10

"C" Measurements on Plate IV Stamps with Vertical Watermark

Engr. Type	Sub-type	Stamps measured	Vertical						Horizontal					
			Average, 20. mm or *19. mm			Deviation, average \pm			Average, 16. mm			Deviation, average \pm		
			L	M	R	L	M	R	T	M	B	T	M	B
1	AI	6	*91	*88	*88	.06	.07	.06	.24	.27	.28	.03	.02	.03
	AII	5	*99	*95	*97	.04	.06	.06	.24	.26	.28	.01	.01	.01
	BII	4	*93	*94	*95	.03	.03	.02	.33	.28	.29	.05	.03	.02
	BIV	7	.05	.03	.02	.10	.12	.11	.24	.23	.25	.05	.04	.03
	Average	22	*98	*95	*96	—	—	—	.26	.26	.27	—	—	—
2	AIII	5	.13	.14	.09	.07	.05	.06	.32	.33	.31	.03	.02	.03
	AIV	4	.16	.17	.15	.11	.12	.12	.26	.32	.31	.08	.08	.08
	BI	9	.22	.23	.17	.08	.06	.08	.34	.38	.40	.06	.06	.05
	BIII	10	.15	.13	.11	.08	.09	.08	.29	.30	.32	.05	.05	.04
	Average	28	.17	.17	.13	—	—	—	.31	.33	.34	—	—	—

Average of all deviations: Vertical \pm .073, Horizontal \pm .040

We can draw the following conclusions from the data in Tables 7, 8, 9 and 10:

- The stamps vary somewhat in size from one subtype to another, indicating a similar variation in the "A" and "B" block clichés of the fourth stage.
- There is also some variation within each subtype. Since the measurements now include an unknown and variable paper error, the average "A" deviations are larger than those found for the postcards in Table 5.
- The stamps of Type 2 are on an average larger than those of Type 1, indicating a similar difference in size between the two clichés from the reserves in stage 3, from which the "A" and "B" blocks of

- stage 4 were produced (compare postcard Types 1 and 2 in Table 5).
- (d) The "C" measurements are again less reliable than the "A" measurements, as might have been expected.
 - (e) In Tables 9 and 10, on the stamps with vertical watermark, there is a strikingly better agreement between the horizontal measurements (smaller average deviations) than between the vertical measurements. In Tables 7 and 8, on the stamps with horizontal watermark, the difference is less marked, but here the advantage is with the vertical measurements (note also average deviations in Tables 11 and 12). The explanation for this lies in the different fiber directions in the stamps with vertical and horizontal watermarks, as discussed more fully below.

The dandy roll imparted the posthorn watermarks to the paper in such a manner that the long direction of the posthorns was across the paper and thus at right angles to the direction in which the paper came off the machine. Accordingly, the fiber of the paper was always at right angles to the long direction of the posthorn watermark, which means, in turn, that stamps with vertical posthorn watermarks have horizontal fiber, and those with horizontal watermarks have vertical fiber. For reasons explained under "Paper Error" we shall expect the most consistent measurements in the direction of the fiber. This is, of course, quite independent of the existence of a watermark or lack thereof, and applies to unwatermarked stamps as well.

It is clear that the manner in which the paper was cut for printing determined whether the watermark would appear in a vertical or horizontal position on the stamps.

The difference in consistency between horizontal and vertical measurements may be striking, as in this particular vertical watermark paper (Tables 9 and 10), which was poorly sized and of distinct fiber orientation, or less marked, as in the two papers with horizontal watermark (Tables 7 and 8), which were more or less heavily sized (tying up the fibers) and of less pronounced fiber direction.

As a matter of general measuring procedure, one should therefore first verify the direction of the fiber in the stamp to be measured, and then proceed accordingly with the expectation of the most concordant and significant results, for comparison purposes, in the direction of the fiber.

To be concluded.

News of Interest

According to reports received from Finland Lt. Col. Rainer Ahonius (503) has been honored by the award of the 1953 Fieandt Medal. This medal is presented annually by the Finnish Philatelic Society for outstanding contribution to the advancement of Philately. In connection with the presentation of the award, his complete and exhaustive study of the various phases of Fieldpost and his achievements as leader and organizer of Philatelic Youth Groups received special mention. Mr. Ahonius, a fine gentleman and true Philatelist, is active in several Stamp Clubs, member of the Board of Governors of the Finnish Philatelic Society, Associate Editor of the Finnish Stamp Magazine, *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, and also a frequent contributor to *The Post Horn*. Congratulations for the well deserved honor.

Ernst M. Cohn (61) of 1258 South Taylor Street, Arlington 4, Virginia (formerly of Pittsburgh, Pa.) sent us a copy of a Danish 2 skilling bicolored stamp with a prominent plate flaw (creased frame on lower left) that is quite

similar to, though not identical with, variety B reported by Doris T. Stericker (107) in her article "Frame Varieties on the Bicolored Stamps of the Danish West Indies" that appeared in Vol. 10, No. 1 (January 1953) issue of *The Posthorn*.



A. J. Wennermark (543), Box 3056, Rochester 14, N. Y., would like to buy or borrow a copy of the October 1953 issue of *The Stamp Journal*, published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. of London, containing the excellent article on Denmark.

Kaj Blom (436) Nerievej 3, Hellerup, Denmark, Scandinavian correspondent for *Western Stamp Collector*, sent us recently a first day cover of the new Greenland 30 øre stamp. Mr. Blom has a supply of extra covers if any members are interested. Anyone interested in obtaining first day and other special covers from the Scandinavian countries can arrange with Mr. Blom to receive them. Please communicate directly with Mr. Blom, address above.



George Wiberg (177) reports: A news item appearing in the Finnish Stamp Magazine, *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, states that the internationally known Gold Medal collection of Finnish Figure or Cork and Ship cancellations formed by E. A. Hellman, has been recently acquired by the Finnish Postal Museum.

Leading Philatelists in Finland as well as abroad have expressed their satisfaction of the fact that this unique collection, the result of 30 years of intensive collecting by Mr. Hellman, was obtained intact by the Museum.

All facts and data pertaining to the collection, together with the catalog compiled by Mr. Hellman, showing India Ink illustrations of all the different cancellations were also turned over to the Museum. It is noted that Mr. Hellman has been able to establish the place of origin of about 40% of the different postmarks.

The collection consisting of over 500 different types of cancellations is divided in two parts.

Part I, Figure or Cork cancellations, mounted on 403 album pages showing 4,012 subjects (stamps and covers).

Part II, Ship cancellations '45 pages and 1,441 subjects.

Trygve Larssen (25) sent us photographs of Norway's King Haakon VII 30 øre stamp with the period above the "9" in 1952, used as well as mint. He says he looked through more than 500 used copies in order to find this single example.



HONORARY MEMBER PASSES

We have just learned and regret to announce that Uno Söderberg (H-5) passed away in Stockholm, Sweden, on March 2, 1954. Mr. Söderberg was an official of the Post Office Department in Sweden for many years and for several years preceding his retirement in 1951 was head of the Swedish Philatelic Agency. Many members recall Mr. Söderberg's visit to the club in 1947. Scandinavian philately has lost a fine scholar and a gentleman.



by Agent No. 42
Staff of the Old Sleuth

This is the first day of Spring—and a lovely day it is—now that baseball season is almost here, stamps soon will be placed aside and our thoughts will wander to other subjects, such as travel, vacations, etc. * * * It gives this old sleuth a great deal of pleasure to announce that our good friend and Editor of the "POSTHORN", Carl H. Pihl, has been promoted from Major to Lt.

Colonel in the Army Reserve. Col. Pihl is commanding the 809th Field Artillery Battalion, an 8-inch howitzer unit of the Army Reserve Forces, attached to the First Army * * * Philadelphia recently had their annual "SEPAD" exhibit, and as always some of the awards went to our members—Doris T. Stericker won one of the section trophies, for her study of the 10 cent bi-colored stamps of Danish West Indies—John D. Peterson received a gold medal for his showing of Swedish Stampless covers—Dr. (Bill) Stericker got a bronze for his Finland exhibit and Christine Hushebeck a ribbon award for Inini * * * speaking of Doris Stericker, she is having a very learned article published in the "Royal Philatelist" shortly, of course the subject is The Danish West Indies * * * it is always nice to see some of our out-of-town members visit the club, during the past three months we had the pleasure of seeing J. Urban Edgren of Boston, Abr. Odfjell of Bergen, Norway, Chris Petersen from Battle Creek, Mich., and Vaino Lana of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—we trust that others will do likewise in the future * * * Denmark Night went off with a bang and Bill Foulk showed up with some very unusual items, four volumes of Danish Proofs and Essays, plus early 19th Cent. classics in multiples—Mr. Odfjell, after the showing, expressed a few remarks regarding our exhibitor, stating that "Bill's" collection certainly ranked among the best, if not the very best in the world—some of the boys were wondering what Bill did with all his singles, since the only stamps we saw were multiples, ranging from pairs to full sheets * * * recently we had a surprise showing at the club by our past secretary Albert Tate, he showed a lot of nice items, but complains that he has no time to mount all of his stamps properly * * * the "POSTHORN" now has a competitor, from up in Sitka, Alaska, one of our more recent members, Richard S. Calhoun, publishes a new magazine, called the "Arctic Philatelist", looks like something of interest to our members * * * Laurence Hyde from L. A. tells us that he has now put in 40 years with "Maw Bell"—long time—and he still goes skiing up Yosemite way * * * Dr. James K. Senior of Chicago, recently underwent an operation, but is now feeling fine again * * * Hans Lundberg of Toronto, the last we saw him, was on his way to Morocco—we trust he stayed away from those Riff damsels * * * Dick Gibson and family have now found their dream home in Ridgewood, N. J.—no wonder we don't see much of him lately * * * we recently heard from Chauncey Dutcher, who has been quite ill for a long time, that he has now improved so much that he can take an occasional drive again * * * John Boyce still is feeling poorly—we are all pulling for him to get well soon, so that we can have him back to the meetings again * * * Al Van Dahl, the publisher of Western Stamp Collector, recently passed away—though not a member of the S. C. C., he was always one of our friends and a staunch booster of Scandinavian Philately—his passing is a great loss to our hobby * * * construction work has now started on the new Coliseum, where the next International Stamp Exhibition will be held in 1956. This new exhibition center will be the last word as far as this type of building go and will far surpass the Grand Central Palace—yes, now is the time to start planning to participate in this wonderful show—remember a lot of your fellow members from the S. C. C. are going to help run it, on the executive committee you have Harry Lindquist, Harry M. Konwiser, Sid Barrett and Carl E. Pelander, in addition you have several more on the board of governors, such as Carl H. Pihl, etc.—there is one way you can help now—take out your membership in the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, Inc., life membership \$25.00, sustaining membership \$10.00, or yearly membership \$2.00. Life and sustaining members are entitled to a free admission pass to the Exhibition. Write to any of the above board members for an application blank, by doing this you are aiding your hobby in every way possible.

New and Recent Issues

by Carl E. Pelander

DENMARK:



February 2nd, 1954

Telegraph Issue

Commemorating the Centenary of the opening of the first Danish Telegraph line, "Helsingør-Hamburg", on February 2nd, 1854. The stamp, designed by Viggo Bang, depicts the original instrument used, the engraving was by Bent Jacobsen.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Perf. 12½

30 øre red brown

FINLAND:



February 26th, 1954

Commemorating the Centenary of the birth of the "Father of Gymnastics", Ivar Wilksman. The design was executed by the artist Olavi Vepsäläinen and the engraving by R. Achren. Two million copies were printed.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Perf. 14

25 m blue

March 8th, 1954

Red Cross Issue

The 1954 Red Cross issue consists of three values, depicting various activities of the Society. The stamps were designed by Olavi Vepsäläinen, the low value being printed in 500,000 copies, whereas the other two in 400,000 only. The surtax is for the benefit of the Red Cross Society.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Perf. 11½

10m+2m olive green, cross in red (Child Welfare)

15m+3m ultramarine, cross in red (Old age)

25m+5m light brown, cross in red (Aiding the blind)

It is interesting to note, that a new perforating machine has been used on this set, measuring $11\frac{1}{2}$ instead of the usual 14.

Our President, George Wiberg, reports that in April the first two values, 15m red and 25m blue, of the long awaited General Issue will be placed on sale. The eight low values of this 14 value set will depict the new Arms design, the balance will be of the larger format and will depict various buildings, etc.

The new stamps will be released separately during the spring and summer, whenever the supply of the various denominations of the current stamps are exhausted.

The following denominations will form this issue: 1m, 2m, 3m, 5m, 10m, 15m, 20m, 25m (Lion type), 30m, 35m, 40m, 50m, 100m and 300m (Pictorials).

SWEDEN:



February 13th, 1954

Ski Issue

Commemorating the International Ski Association's World Championships held in Sweden, February 14th to March 7th, 1954. The Nordic events (Cross-country and Jumping), were held at Falun, Feb. 14th to 21st, and the Alpine events (Downhill and Slalom races) at Åre, Feb. 27th to March 7th, 1954. The stamps were designed (20 öre) by Georg Lagerstedt and the (1 kr) by professor Stig Blomberg. The engraving was by Arne Wallhorn and Sven Ewert.

Engraved

Unwmkd.

Coil Stamps, Perf. 13 vertically

20 öre gray (cross-country skier)

1 kr. blue (girl slalom runner)

Booklet pane of 20, perf. 13 on three sides

20 öre gray

1954

Change of Colors

Two values of the King Gustaf VI Adolf design have been issued in new colors.

Engraved

Unwmkd

Coil stamps, perf. 13 vertically

25 öre blue

40 öre olive green

Club News

The January meeting of the S. C. C., held on January 27th, was a gala occasion with an unusually large gathering of members and guests, including J. Urban Edgren and Miss Richards of Boston, Carl Petersen of Battle Creek, Mich., Robert Stone of Washington and Winthrop Boggs. Featured speaker was Dr. Hans Lundberg of Toronto who showed selected pages from his prize collections of Saxony and Switzerland. Following the showing there was a novel and interesting discussion from the experts and specialists present.

Another very interesting meeting was held on February 10th when another in our series—this time Finland Night—was held before a large audience. George Wiberg, our president, showed a portion of his Finnish collection which traced the history of Finnish cancellations. He exhibited stampless covers, early cancels, cancels in various languages, including those used during the Russian regime, and a host of special cancels including cork and ship cancellations. Carl Pelander then showed Lauson Stone's collection of the Associate Group of Finland (Olonetz, North Ingermanland and Karelia which included many rare blocks, covers, errors, varieties and forgeries.

On March 10th the club had the privilege of having Mr. and Mrs. Abr. Odfjell of Bergen, Norway, present at our meeting. Mr. Vaino Lana of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., was also present. Feature of the evening was a showing by William F. Foulk of a unique collection of Danish proofs, essays and reprints. Included in the showing were a great number of multiple pieces of classic 19th Century Danish stamps which left most of the viewers gasping.

Scheduled program of the club for the balance of the season is:

April 14—Philatelic Quiz—Carl H. Pihl.

May 12—Iceand Night—David Summerfield and others.

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

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER NO. 2

Our regular meetings are held at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia on the first Monday of each month from October to May. At the October meeting William F. Foulk gave an interesting discourse on his excellent collections of Denmark, Norway and Norwegian Sea Post issues. In November the members, deviating from our usual Scandinavian fare, enjoyed a showing by Mr. Charles McDonough of his fine collection of Canada. The December meeting was devoted to business and planning our 1954 program.

CHICAGO CHAPTER NO. 4

At our annual meeting the following officers of the chapter were re-elected: President—Paul Mead, Vice President—Dr. Earl Jacobsen, and Secretary-Treasurer—Axel Nielsen. We have had some very interesting meetings as our members include a number of fine philatelists, such as Dr. Earl Jacobsen with his superb collection of Norway, Ralph Danielson and his noted collection of Scandinavian Red Cross stamps, and Paul Mead with his superb collection of Finland. At the January meeting Jan Hansen showed pages of his Copenhagen cancellations and various printings of the Danish 1874-79 issues. At our last meeting we had as a visitor Mr. C. R. Snider from Alaska, now residing in Harvey, Illinois.

NEW MEMBERS

As we do not have a complete list of the new members as we go to press, we will provide the complete list in the next (July) issue of *The Posthorn*.

REMINDER

Don't forget to send your 1954 dues (Resident—\$3.00, Non-Resident—\$2.00) to our Treasurer—Philip R. Grabfield, 18 East 62nd Street, Apt. 5R, New York 21, N. Y.

THE POSTHORN

Editor: Carl H. Pihl, 77 Amherst Road, Albertson, New York

Associate Editors:

Eric B. T. Kindquist, Carl E. Pelander, Carl H. Werenskiold, George Wiberg

Staff Photographer: Arthur I. Heim

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