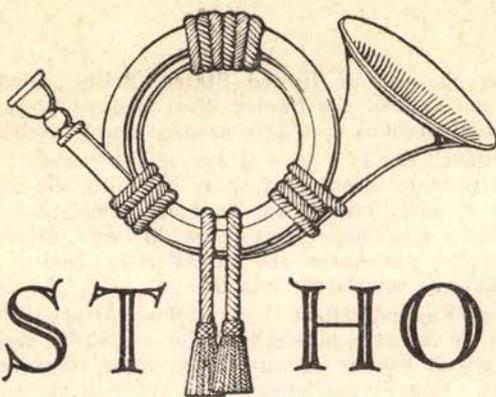


The

POST HORN



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Scandinavian Philately

By Carl H. Pihl (80)

Without doubt the growing popularity of Scandinavian Philately is largely due to the great many advantages that are to be found in the study and collection of the postage stamps of the Nordic countries. Certainly, no group of countries has had a more stirring past, nor can offer a more fertile field for the study of history. The Vikings were among the earliest of seafaring people in the world, and today few scholars dispute that these intrepid seamen reached the New World long before Columbus.

Also, they were among the earliest countries in Europe to organize postal systems and issue postage stamps. In fact, Sweden had the first postal system in the world. Scandinavian Philately is generally considered to embrace the following group of "countries"—Danish West Indies, Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

One advantage that comes immediately to mind is the fact that there are among this group of countries few stamp rarities that are beyond the reach of the average collector. Most of the stamps issued were in use for a good many years; some of them were reprinted many times resulting in numerous interesting varieties. Another attraction is the fact that these countries have not been guilty of producing an excessive number of issues solely for the purpose of sales to collectors. Many collectors are attracted to the stamps of these countries because the stamps themselves offer an exceptional opportunity for serious philatelic study. Finally, the postal history of most of these countries furnish an interesting and challenging field of research for the philatelic student.

For example, consider the stamps issued for use in the Danish West Indies. The inverted frames of the bi-colored issues—identical with the stamps of Denmark—and several surcharged issues offer interesting fields of study. As no stamps were issued after 1917, when these islands were purchased by the United States, this is what is sometimes referred to as a "dead" country, which is in itself an attraction to some philatelists. However, the greatest attraction of this former Danish colony in the Caribbean is the study of postal

history, involving the use of United States, British, French and German stamps—as well as those of the Danish West Indies—on packet mail. These come in various combinations that have aroused much fascination and interest.

What of Denmark itself? Here is one of the “classic” countries of Europe, one that offers many avenues of study including the burelage plate varieties and shades of early issues, the inverted frames and shades of the bi-colored issues, plus a most interesting postal history. Danish philately is replete with interesting postmarks and cancellations, not to mention its close ties with Greenland and the Faeroe Islands.

The stamps of Finland reflect the turbulent history of this gallant country. In addition to the rich possibilities for philatelic study of the stamps themselves, the postal history of this nation offer an enticing field for the serious philatelist. Equally challenging is a study of the early issues of Finland. Many collectors specialize in the “associate group” of Finland which includes Karelia and Ingermanland. Few of the stamps of Finland are beyond the reach of the average collector.

Since Greenland began the issue of postage stamps in 1938, there has been a growing interest in its postal history, especially in the study of its unique parcel post stamps. For many years, Greenland was closely allied to Denmark. With the establishment of the great U. S. air base at Thule, it is certain that interest in this Arctic bastion will increase.

Among the stamps of Iceland, the “prir” and other surcharges provide a fertile field for study at a reasonable cost. The issue commemorating the oldest parliament in the world also is of great interest to collectors, as are the air mail stamps and covers.

The famous “posthorn” design of Norway has been in continuous use for more than 80 years—longer than any other single stamp design. It was first issued on January 21, 1872, and with minor changes in the design, has been used continuously ever since. It is anticipated that it will continue to be used. It offers a rich field for philatelic study. Most of the stamps catalog only a few cents, the most expensive being listed at \$25.00 in used condition. Even the plating of the early issues is not costly and many philatelists are engaged in this field of study. There are a total of approximately 150 varieties of Norwegian stamps with the posthorn design listed in Scott's Catalog. However, this does not begin to tell the whole story. The specialized Norwegian Catalog lists more than 2500 varieties of the posthorn stamps, excluding plate flaws, watermark positions and various oddities. In Norwegian philately, postal history, seapost and other cancellations also are of great interest.

It is generally conceded that Sweden produces some of the most beautiful stamps of any nation, especially from the standpoint of design and color. This is true of the regular issues as well as the commemoratives. There are a number of rarities among the stamps of Sweden, notably the color error of the three skilling banco, which is reputed to have been sold for \$30,000. However, most collectors will not have to worry about this—the rarest stamp of Europe. The early issues of Sweden offer fascinating possibilities for study, especially in regard to cancellations. The early postal history of Sweden is of great interest, particularly the pre-stamp period. Sweden has the distinction of being the first European country to establish a government postal service (1636) and in 1823 suggested the adoption of postage stamps, a project that did not materialize due to the difficulties inherent in the various rates and combinations then employed.

The advanced collector can carry on plating studies, cancellation collections, shade and paper varieties with any of the above group. These are some of the reasons why philatelists find in the stamps of the Scandinavian countries a most satisfying and rewarding field of study.

A Listing of Journals, Books and Catalogues Currently Available on Scandinavian Stamps

The following listing is being made as a service for collectors of Scandinavian Stamps. Only too frequently collectors are hampered by a lack of information in being able to pursue a phase of their studies. Your indulgence is asked in this listing since we are sure that it is incomplete through oversight and ignorance. It is our intention to publish in a future issue a supplement to this listing. Your cooperation would be appreciated in order to make this list complete. Please send any additions to this listing to the editor with information as to where the publication is available and the price. It is also our desire to publish in a future issue a comprehensive listing of important articles and books which are out of print. In order to accomplish this it will be necessary for our readers to help in this project.

1. List of Philatelic Journals

A. Denmark

- a. "Frimaerke Nyt" (Danish) Rosenorssalle 2, Copenhagen
- b. "Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" (Danish) Goodthaabsvaenget 14, Copenhagen
- c. "Populaer Filateli" (Danish) Lindevej 26, Rosenvaenget, Aarhus

B. Finland

- a. "Suomen Postmerkkilehti" (Finnish) Postilokero 167, Helsinki
- b. "Filatelia Seneca" (Finnish) Post Box 202, Helsinki

C. Great Britain

- a. "Scandinavian Newsletter" (English) 2 Priory Avenue, Linccluden, Dumfries, Scotland \$.85 USA

D. Norway

- a. "Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" (Norwegian) Postboks 46, Hovik 15 Nkr

E. Sweden

- a. "Svensk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" (Swedish) Apelbergsgatan 58, Stockholm 7 SKr
- b. "Nordisk Filateli" (Swedish) Regeringsgatan 91, Stockholm 7SKr
- c. "Frimärksbladet" (Swedish) Box 31, Johanneshov 7 SKr

2. General Specialized Catalogues of Scandinavian Stamps

- a. AB Harry Wennberg, Drottninggatan 82, Stockholm 7:50 SKr
- b. Facit (Swedish) Frimärkshuset, Mästersmauelsgatan 3, Stockholm C 6:00 SKr
- c. AFA Frimaekatalogue (Danish) Aarhus Frimaerkehandel, Bruunsgade 33, Aarhus 3:00 DKr
- d. Handbook of Private Local Posts by Hurt & Williams (English) Fritz Billig 168-39 Highland Avenue, Jamaica 32, N. Y. \$5.00 USA
- e. The Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue by Barfoot and Simon (English) Werner Simon, 345 Lunde Place, Memphis 11, Tenn. \$3.00 USA

3. Danish West Indies

- a. American Stamp Catalogue (English) Minkus Publications, 116 West 32 St., New York 1, N. Y. \$3.00 USA
- b. United States Specialized Catalogue, Scott Publications, 461 8th Ave., New York 1, N. Y. \$3.50 USA
- c. See Hagemann—Denmark

4. Denmark

- a. The Stella Catalogue of Denmark by King-Farlow (English) H. L. Lindquist, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N. Y. \$2.75 USA
- b. Special Frimaerkekatalog Danmark med Kolonier (Danish) Fyens Frimaerkehandel, Klaregade 4, Odense 3:00 DKr
- c. Danmark Specialkatalog (Danish) Schmidt Andersen og Rønne, Aarhus Frimaerkehandel, Bruunegade 33, Aarhus 6:00 DKr
- d. Danska Poststemplar før Frimaerketiden by Rathje (Danish) H. L. Lindquist, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N. Y. \$2.00 USA
- e. Danmarks og Dansk Vest Indiens Frim. 1864 (Danish) by G. A. Hagemann Aarhus Frimaerkehandel 4:50 DKr
- f. Danmarks og Dansk Vest Indiens Frim. 1970-1905 (Danish) by Hagemann Aarhus Frimaerkehandel 6:50 DKr
- g. Danmark og Dansk Vest Indies Frim. Bind 4 (Danish) by Hagemann Aarhus Frimaerkehandel 10:00 DKr
- h. Poststemplar fra Frimaerketiden (Danish) by Arnholtz Aarhus Frimaerkehandel 15:00 DKr
- i. Danmarks Hellsager (Danish) Ostergaard Aarhus Frimaerkehandel 6:50 DKr

5. Finland

Helsingfors Filatelist Förening Handbooks

- a. "Finland I Briefmärke", (German) Boktryckeri Ingelius, Frederiksgatan 25, Helsinki 40 FMA
- b. "Finland II Ganzsache" (German) Ingelius 100 FMA
- c. "Finland III Stadtspost" (German) Ingelius 100 FMA
- d. "Ny och Eftertryk" (Swedish) Ingelius 60 FMA
- e. "Katalog över Granbergs Samling of Finlands Hellsaker" (Swedish) Philatelic Division of Post Office, Helsinki 100 FMA
- d. State and Privately Owned Railroad Parcel Post Stamps of Finland by E. A. Hellman (German) H. Lazarus, 29 Wadsworth Ave., New York 33, N. Y. \$9.00 USA

6. Iceland

- a. Catalogue of Iceland Postal Stationery (English) by F. Brofos, Billigs Handbook Vol. 23, Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y. \$5.00 USA

7. Norway

- a. Katalog over Norges Frimerker (Norwegian) Oslo Filatelist Klubb, Postboks 298, Oslo 7:00 NKr
- b. Stempelkatalog (Norwegian) Oslo Filatelistklubb, Postboks 298, Oslo 6:75 NKr
- c. Norges Helsepost (Norwegian) Oslo Filatelistklubb 8:00 NKr
- d. Plating of Norway #1(4 sk) and the 3sk, 4sk, 8sk of 1856/60 Billigs Handbook Vol. 9, Fritz Billig \$5.00 USA
- e. Catalogue of Norway Postal Stationery (English) by F. A. Brofos Billig's Handbooks Vol. 16 and 24, Fritz Billig \$5.00 each

8. Sweden

- a. Catalogue of Swedish Postage Stamps (1855-1948) (English) Harry Wennbergs Frimärksaffär AB, Drottninggatan 82 Stockholm 5:40SKr
- b. Sveriges Frimärken 1956 (Swedish) Harry Wennbergs AB 6:00 SKr

- c. Priskatalog 1956 (Swedish) Sveriges Filatelist Förening, Apelbergsgatan 58, Stockholm C 3:75 SKr
- d. "Handbok över Sveriges Franktecken 1855-1946" Sveriges Filatelist Förening 15:00 SKr
- e. "Svenska Postverkets Frankotecken" (Swedish) Olsson and Benzinger, Sveriges Filatelist Förening
 Part 1A Skilling Bancofrimärken 8:00 SKr
 Part III Konung Oscar II Porträttfrimörken och samtida Frimärken 6:00 SKr
 Part IV 1910-1920 Ars Vanliga Frimärken samt Tjänstefrimärken, Landstormfrimärken och Luftpostfrimärken 7:50 SKr
- f. "Skilling Banco Stamps of Coat of Arms Type" Olsson and Benzinger translated by Erik Hallar Kungl. Generalpoststyrelses bibliotek, Stockholm 1 8:00 SKr
- g. "Sveriges Frimärken 1920-42" (Swedish) by Menzinsky Kungl. Generalpoststyrelses bibliotek 3:00 SKr
- h. "Postage Stamps of Sweden 1920-45" (English) by Menzinsky Kungl. Generalpoststyrelses bibliotek 3:00 SKr
- i. "Handbok över Svensk Post och Makulerings Stämplor 1685-1951" Sveriges Filatelist Förening 26:00 SKr
- j. "Checklist of Swedish Traveling Post Offices 1914-54" (English) by Jahr, Capt. K Jahr, 2 Priory Ave., Lincluden, Dumfries, Scotland 3sh.6d. GB
- k. "Sveriges Helsaker" Lilliehöök, S. Lilliehöök, Upplandsgatan 3, Stockholm 5:00 SKr
9. Scandinavian Philatelic Societies
- a. Scandinavian Collectors Group of London, c/o Roland King-Farlow, 91 Hillway, Highgate, London N6, England
- b. Kjobenhavens Filatelistklubb, Kristianiagade 12, Copenhagen, Denmark
- c. Helsingfors Frimärksamlarers Förening, Helsinki, Finland
- d. Suomen Filatelistiseur, Box 167, Helsinki, Finland
- e. Suomen Filatelistiliitto, Box 202, Helsinki, Finland
- f. Oslo Filatelistklubb, Postboks 298, Oslo, Norway
- g. Sveriges Filatelist Förening, Apelbergsgatan 58, Stockholm, Sweden



Danish West Indies Provisionals of 1902

THE MYSTERY OF THE INVERTED "C"

By Doris T. Stericker (107)

When the Danish West Indies reduced their postal rates from 3 cents to 2 cents for inland mail and from 10 cents to 8 cents for foreign postage, it was found necessary to surcharge some of the old stamps for use until the new issues arrived from Denmark. The work was done at the local printing office in St. Thomas for release on January 1, 1902 when the new rates went into effect.

In December of 1901 four hundred sheets of one hundred stamps of the 3 cent bicolored value were surcharged "2 CENTS 1902" and five hundred sheets of the 10 cent were surcharged "8 CENTS 1902". The setting of the type for the overprint on these two denominations is identical except for the figures of value. For the 2 cent on 3 cent stamps this is known as Setting I, since there was a later issue of these stamps. Only the first setting was used to surcharge the 8 cent on 10 cent stamps.

In March of 1902 when more 2 cent stamps were required, three hundred more sheets of the old 3 cent stamps were surcharged. The same type was used as for Setting I but it had been broken up and reset in a different arrangement. The March issue is known as Setting II. Both settings of the 2 cent on 3 cent stamps are grouped as Scott No. 24. The 8 cent on 10 cent stamps are No. 25.

On one copy of stamp No. 6 on the sheet of the first setting of the 2 cents and on two of the 8 cents a clearly printed inverted "C" has been found. In these cases the "C" seems to be from a different font. All of the other stamps in Position 6 which have been examined have the "C" broken in the middle of the curve at the left. The position may be identified further, though, by the short right leg of the "N" and by the serifs on the "1" of 1902, which are stunted at the top and missing at the right of the foot. In Setting II of the 2 cent on 3 cent, stamps with these characteristics are found on stamp No. 88. So far, no inverted "C" has been found on Setting II.

The Problem

If we leap to the conclusion that comes first to mind and say that during the printing of the last few sheets of the 2 cent stamps the broken "C" was discovered and replaced by a new one in the inverted position and that the inverted "C" was then used in the first few sheets of the 8 cent, we immediately run into difficulties:

- 1: Early sheets of the 2 cent would have the broken "C" but late sheets of the 8 cent should have an intact "C".
- 2: Setting II of the 2 cent has a broken "C", usually at least, since no inverted "C" has been found.
- 3: No intact "C" in normal position has been found in position 6 on Setting I of the 2 cent, on the 8 cent, or on Position 88 on Setting II of the 2 cent.
- 4: It would not seem reasonable to suppose that, when the inverted "C" was discovered, it was replaced by the old broken letter instead of being turned around into the correct position.
- 5: Although it has always been assumed that the 2 cent was printed before the 8 cent, because of the first four sheets with the 1901 errors, we can imagine that the printing was done in the reverse order and that the four sheets with the 1901 errors were in the nature of a trial run. This would have necessitated the resetting of the figures of value and does not seem a



Fig. 1

practical thing to have done. If it were done, however, the inverted "C" should then appear on the last sheets of the 8 cent and on the first sheets of the 2 cent. Since this would not seem to help with the solution of the problem with regard to the broken letters before and after the replacement, the whole idea should probably be discounted. It would be interesting to know whether a broken "C" or an inverted one is found on the 1901 errors in Position 6. Since the small and large types differ in the numerals of 1901 only, no differences should be found in the letters of "CENTS". Of course, there were only four of these but, since many of the errors have been preserved with care, perhaps one will be reported.

- 6: How was the type set in those days and in that part of the world? We think of broken up type as being returned to the boxes for reuse. That cannot have been the case there, since all of the letters of "CENTS" and the numerals in Setting II in Position 88 are like those of Position 6 in Setting I. Was the type tied together, was it cast and, if so, how did the inverted "C's" occur? Could a zinc electrotype have been made and cut into clichés?
- 7: It has been suggested that the printing ink merely ran between the two ends of the right side of the "C" and so created the illusion of an inverted

letter. Five printers, however, have said that although it was possible that it might have happened once, it was very unlikely. An excess of ink would more probably run out in a large blob, fill in the center of the letter or fill in the rough edges of the break at the left. Three examples in the same position and with the same shape and thickness is so mathematically impossible that this solution, too, must be discarded.

- 8: Usually philatelists consider four copies of a variety as indicating a constant flaw or error. How shall we evaluate three?

There seems to be no way to find out just how many of the sheets surcharged with the first setting contain this error but there surely must have been more than one of the 2 cent and two of the 8 cent denominations. No doubt, more will come to light before long, since the error should be of as much interest as the one with the wide space between the "1" and the "9" on the 8 cent stamp or as the varieties which have a straight foot on the "2" in 1902 in both denominations. All of these are desirable varieties to collectors.

It is hoped that some of the philatelic Sherlocks will be able to solve this mystery, since the solution eludes the writer and the experts consulted.

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

Denmark—Frederick IX Issue

Some Practical Hints On Distinguishing Between the Types

by Aage Tholl (623)

Reprinted from "Frimaerkesamleren" No. 6-7, 1955

translated by Roland King-Farlow (317-H7)

Most of the stamps of the Frederik IX issue so far issued exist only in a single type and therefore present no problems. There are, however, four value-color combinations which occur in two or more types, identifiable only by closer examination. These are:

- 15 øre, green—Types II and III
- 20 øre, red—Types I and III
- 30 øre, orange—Types II and III
- 30 øre, red—Types III, IVA and IVB.

The object of this little article is to give collectors some practical hints to enable them speedily and positively to divide up these stamps according to their types (dies).

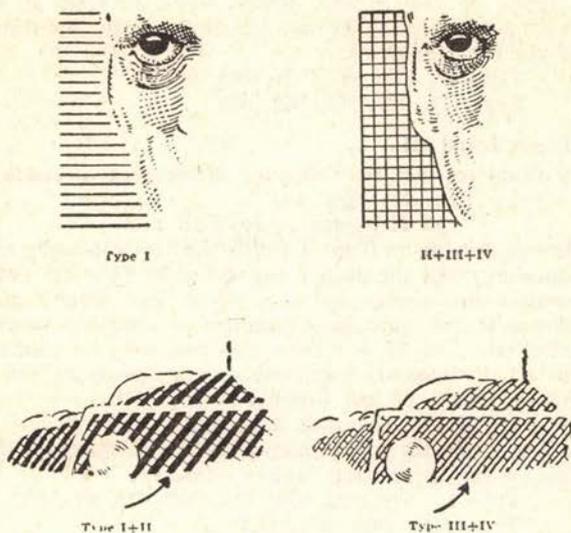


Fig. 1

Vertical background—lines
 Countour—lines on profile
 Lines in uniform-jacket
Main Characteristics.

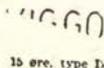
Type I	Type II	Types III & IV
missing	clear	clear
thick	thick	split

The difference between Types III and IV is due to a minor re-engraving of the upper right corner—see under 30 øre, red.

15 Øre, green, Types II and III.

The “main characteristics”—the thick lines in the uniform in Type II and the split ones in Type III—can safely be used for the 15 øre stamps, since the space between the split lines in Type III is hardly ever filled in with ink.

The safest distinction of all, however, lies in the signature VIGGO BANG in the bottom left corner. In Type II the lower half is missing, whereas in Type III all the letters are clear.



If the above characteristics are hidden by the postmark, recourse can be had to the slight difference in the engraving of the figure 5:

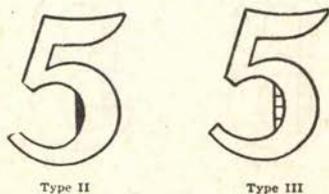


Fig. 3

Type II	Type III
Fields in inner vertical line narrow, filled in	full width, uncolored

The two types of the 15 øre, green, were covered by the following "batches" (printings), indicated by the numbers in the top right and bottom left corners of the sheet margins:

Type II: 841, 859, 871, 885, 900

Type III: 907, 939, 952, 974

20 Øre, red, Types I and III.

For really rapid sorting, the following differences in shade are useful:

Type I: light red

Type III: dark, brownish red

The shallow engraving in Type I (with the vertical background lines and contour lines missing) and the deeper engraving in Type III (where these defects are remedied) can be regarded as a simple and reliable distinction.

The difference in the right-hand epaulettes (shoulder ornaments) can be used as an extra test. In Type I there are two rows of slanting lines, very faint. In Type III the lines are much clearer, but the upper row is defective—see sketch illustrating the 30 øre, orange, in Type III.

In the Type III 20 øre, the split lines in the uniform are often filled in with color, making them difficult to distinguish from the thick lines of Type I.

The batches of the 20 øre, red, were as follows:

Type I: 816, 822, 835, 845, 858, 874, 888, 897

Type III: 908, 935, 954

Part of batch 897 occurs in a somewhat darker shade than the rest of the Type I stamps, but the colour is still considerably paler than in the Type III stamps.

30 Øre, orange, Types II and III.

The best distinction is provided by the epaulettes, whose slanting lines are clear in Type II but very defective in Type III, in which most of the upper row is missing:

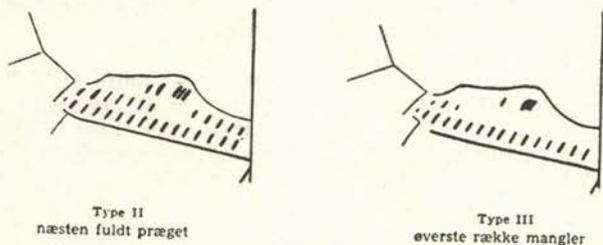


Fig. 4

nearly complete

top row defective

It may be mentioned that this "defective epaulette" occurs in all values of Types III and IV and also in the 15 øre Type II.

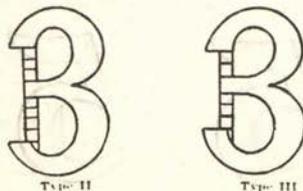


Fig. 5

Height of upper opening in 3
Height of lower opening in 3

3 fields
4 fields

2 fields
3 fields

The types can also be distinguished by the fact that the mouth of the figure 3 is more "open" in Type II than in Type III. (Fig. 5)

Inking between the split lines of the uniform in Type III is particularly common in the 30 øre value, making it difficult to distinguish them from the thick lines of Type II.

The 30 øre, orange, was issued in the following batches:

Type II: 868, 896, 896 POSTFAERGE, 926

Type III: 955, 969, 1012, 1059

30 Øre, red, Types III, IVA and IVB.

The difference between Types III and IV was due to a re-engraving of the upper right corner of the die, making this corner of the stamps lighter in shade, but the resultant change in the appearance of the stamps was so slight that this cannot be used as a means of distinguishing between the two types. It is, therefore, of little or no importance to collectors that all new values (so far, the 65 and 95 øre values only) are being produced in Type IV and that the daughter-dies of Type IV are being polished, giving the stamps a lighter shade and clearer impression than they would otherwise have had.

When, on the other hand, the older values, hitherto issued in Type III, appear in Type IV, it is of interest to collectors, because this involves a re-engraving of the figures of value. So far this has occurred only in the case of the 30 øre value, for which it is necessary to distinguish between two subtypes, IVA and IVB. In preparing the new die some defects occurred in the orb on the crown and in the signature, but these were corrected after only two batches had been printed. Type IVA can therefore be regarded as a defective version of Type IV and Type IVB as the normal version.

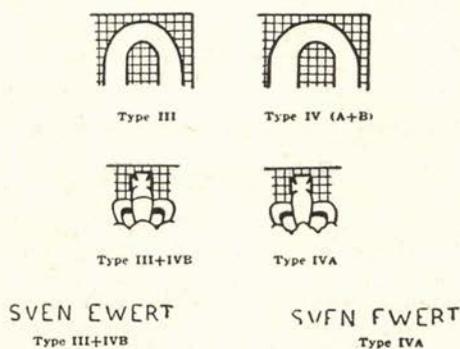


Fig. 6

	Type III	Type IVA	Type IVB
Shade	dark	pale	pale
Fields in figure 0	$\frac{1}{2} + 3$	4	4
Arc under orb on crown	clear	missing	clear
SVEN EWERT's signature	clear	defective	clear

For quick sorting, the 30 øre, red, can be divided into dark (always Type III) and pale shades. Part of the last batch of Type III (No. 1127) occurs in a lighter shade which may perhaps be confused with Type IV. It is therefore necessary to check the figures 0 on all the paler stamps. If there are $\frac{1}{2} + 3$ horizontal "fields" in the center, it is Type III; if there are 4 complete "fields" in the center, it is Type III; if there are 4 complete "fields," it is

Type IV. It is easy to remember that there are 4 complete fields in Type IV.

The lighter shade stamps in Type IV can be sorted by the orbs and signatures, defective in IVA and normal in IVB.

The following batches of the 30 øre, red, were issued:

Type III: 1087, 1098, 1117, 1117 NL+10, 1127

Type IVA: 1142, 1148

Type IVB: 1163, 1163*, 1171*, 1188*, 1198, 1205, 1205*,
1236*, 1241, 1266*

An asterisk (*) after the batch-number indicates that the stamps were printed on the new press, which shows the marginal numbers in thicker type. Note that batches 1163 and 1205 were both printed partly on the old and partly on the new press.

Literature.

For further information on the Frederik IX issue, readers are referred to: *Tillaeg 1951 to Haandbog over Danmarks staaletukne Frimaerker*, pages 9-12.

Also, Supplement 1954.

The Postage Stamps of Denmark 1851-1951, pages 181-183.

Danmarks Kataloget (DAKA); Supplement 1952 & 1955

The Stella Catalogue of Denmark, page 39 and Supplement 1954, page 3.

Frimaerkesamleren: 1950, page 205; 1951, pages 17-20; 1953, pages 3, 101, 159; 1954, pages 70-72; 1955, page 59.

Frimaerke Nyt: 1949, page 261; 1950, page 157; 1954, page 19.

The author wishes to thank Hr. T. Plovst (who first noted several of the characteristics noted in the article) for his excellent advice and for help with the drawings, and Mr. Roland King-Farlow for undertaking the translation into English. This article originally appeared in "FRIMAERKESAMLEREN" No. 6-7, 1955.

Finland 1917 Lion Type Issue

By George Wiberg (177)

The 1917 Lion type stamps are generally known as the first Republic of Finland issue. This designation, however is not quite correct, as this issue was planned and released long before Finland attained its independence. Shortly after the Russian revolution in March 1917, the provisional government, headed by Kerensky, restored to Finland, on March 20, all the constitutional rights and privileges which in an attempt to destroy Finland's identity as a separate nation had been gradually suppressed during the tsarist governments russification campaign from 1889 to 1917. Not until the Kerensky provisional government was routed by the extreme Bolshevik elements under Lenin, on Nov. 7, did Finland sever its ties with Russia. On Dec. 6, 1917, one month later, it declared its complete independence. The Finnish Constitution provided the right to issue postage stamps and in accordance with this restored constitutional law, on April 5, the Post Department petitioned the Finnish Senate for a directive to make the old type Finnish stamps valid for postage. However as there were not any supplies of the old type stamps on hand and the printing plates could not be located, the Senate appointed a 4-man committee to study the postage question in general, with recommendations to submit a suitable new stamp design. The Committee, which was by the eminent Architect Eliel Saarinen included two postal representatives as well

as Dr. Harald Lindberg who represented the Philatelic groups, submitted a new stamp design showing the Arms of Finland, inclosed in a oval frame. Architect Sadeniemi from the government printing office "Suomen Leimakonttori" was later invited to take part in the committee work, as an expert on printing. The new design executed by Saarinen was accepted after a few minor alterations and on July 5, 1917 the Finnish Senate authorized the work of producing these new stamps to commence at once. The new issue, consisting of following values: 2½, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40 and 50 penni, 1, 5, and 10 markkaa, was scheduled to go on sale on Oct. 1, 1917. However the delivery of the plates, prepared by Lilius & Hertzberg, was delayed and only the 5 penni value were released on this date, while the rest of the values were placed on sale before the end of the year, except the 20 penni value, which was not issued before April 19, 1918.

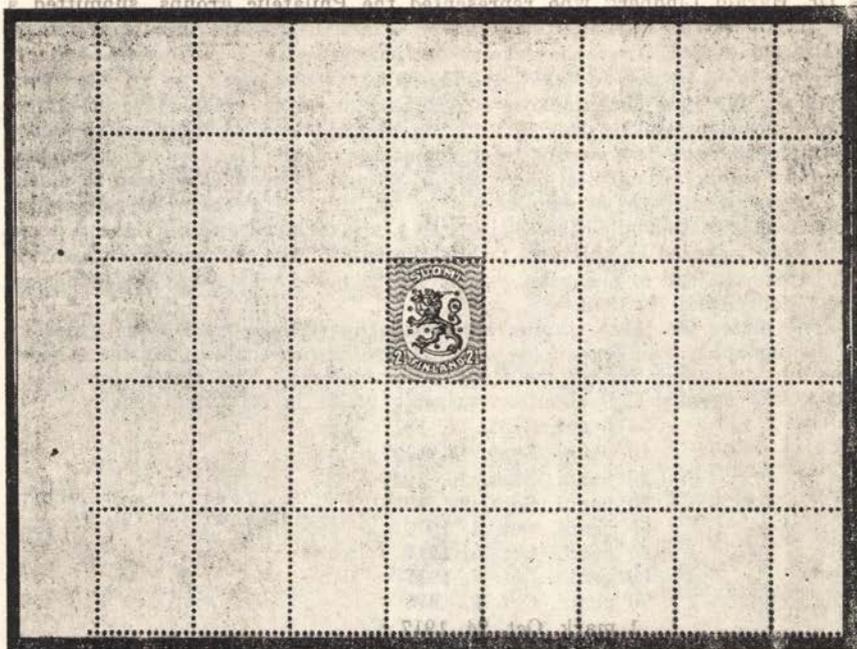
The plates for these stamps were made by etching, with Ferri Chloride, the photographic transfers of the original dies on brass plates for the 5 penni value and on copper for all the other denominations. The plates were delivered to the Suomen Leimakonttori printing office in following order:

5 penni, Sept. 12, 1917
10 penni, Sept. 18, 1917
25 penni, Sept. 26, 1917
20 penni, Sept. 28, 1917
50 penni, Oct. 4, 1917
40 penni, Oct. 5, 1917
30 penni, Oct. 8, 1917
70 penni, Oct. 9, 1917
1 mark, Oct. 24, 1917
5 mark, Nov. 2, 1917
10 mark, Nov. 2, 1917

No printing plates for the 2½ penni essay was prepared.

As Finland had been admitted to the U.P.U., as an autonomous stamp issuing country, on July 1, 1875, the government proceeded with the printing and sent to the UPU Headquarters in Bern, 400 copies each of all the authorized stamps. These specimen stamps were printed in small sheets of 35 subjects (5-7) with only the center stamp showing the design, all the others being blank (see Fig. 1). Due to increased postal rates the 2½ penni, printed in deep gray, become obsolete before the printing had commenced and no stamp of this value was ever issued. Consequently it reverts to the essay classification as well as the authorized 20 penni olive yellow of which only 1200 specimen sheets were printed. As earlier indicated, this denomination was not issued until April 19th, 1918, in a different yellow-orange color, after the government had returned to Helsinki from the provisional capital of Waasa, at the end of the War of Liberation. Also, two additional essays were created, when due to the increased postal rates authorized by the Senate on Sept. 5, 1917, plates were prepared and UPU specimen sheets of two additional values, 30 p. brown and 70 p. gray, were printed simultaneously with the originally authorized values. The 70 penni value was never released for postal use and the 30 penni denomination of this type was not issued till four years later, on Sept. 6, 1923, in a different yellow green color.

Three values, 75 p. orange brown, 90 p. carmine rose and 1½ mk. blue, for which plates were prepared in 1921 and a trial printing of 200 copies of each value were sent to the UPU, may be classified as essays as none of these were ever released in the original colors for postal use. The 75 p. value was later issued in a light yellow color, which differs radically from the trial printing and a 1½ mk. values of these series were not issued until 1926, in blue green and lilac color on swastika wmkd paper. The 90 p. value was never released for postal use.



The following small UPU specimen sheets have been reported:

- 2½ penni gray, un gummed, white or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 5 " green, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 10 " carmine, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 10 " blue, ?
- 20 " olive yellow, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 25 " blue, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 30 " brown, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 30 " yellowish green, yellow gum, perf. 14
- 40 " violet, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 40 " blue green, ?
- 50 " orange brown, un gummed or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 50 " olive green, ?
- 60 " lilac, ?
- 70 " gray, un gummed, imperf.
- 75 " orange brown, ?
- 90 " carmine, yellow gum, perf. 14
- 1 mark dull rose/black, un gummed imperf, yellow gum, perf. 14
- 1½ " blue, white gum, perf. 14
- 5 " red violet/black, imperf, un gummed, white or yellow gum, perf. 14
- 10 " brown/black, white or yellow gum, perf. 14

As it seems to have been the custom for several years to print the specimen stamps in sheet form, probably other sheets also exist.

Following trial colors, plate or perf. proofs, (printers waste) of which some are known in postally used condition have been reported:

Thick White Paper:

- 30 penni light bluegreen, perf. 14
- 50 " olive green, perf. 14

Grayish Paper:

- 5 penni gray, imperf.
- 50 " green, imperf. and perf. 14
- 60 " violet, imperf.
- 75 " yellow, imperf.
- 1 mark carmine/black, imperf.
- 2 " green/black, imperf.
- 3 " pale blue, imperf.
- 25 " rose/yellow, imperf.

Yellowish Paper:

- 50 penni green, imperf.
- 60 " violet, imperf.

Thick Yellowish Paper:

- 50 penni green, perf. 14
- 60 " violet, perf. 14

Pink Paper:

- 60 penni violet, imperf.

Tissue Paper: Offset printing. (Proofs of transfer plates)

- 10 penni green, imperf.
- 1 mark carmine/black, imperf.

Until July 1, 1923 all stamps were printed at Suomen Leimakonttori (Finland's Stämpelkontor). On this date the Leimakonttori equipment and all matters appertaining to the printing of postage stamps were transferred to the Printing Office of Finland's Bank, where also the plates were manufactured in the beginning. Later, making of the plates was contracted to private firms. The actual moving of the printing presses and other equipment was however not completed before Oct. 12, 1923 and in the interim period the stamps were printed in the old plant under Finland's Bank's supervision. The first stamp printed at the new location was the 2 mk. blue, plate #82.

The stamps of these series were printed in sheets of 2000 subjects, divided into 2 panes of 100 stamps, on white wove paper showing a marginal watermark "Markkaa-Mark" and "Mark-Markkaa" or "Pennia-Penni" and "Penni-Pennia" with numerals between, indicating the value. This paper, supplied by Tervakoski Paper Mills, was originally manufactured for printing the 1911 type stamps and in order to use up the remainders, little heed was paid to the marginal watermarks during the earlier printings and consequently the denominations of the stamp does not always correspond with the marginal value. For example, sheets with the marginal wmk "2 Pennia" were used in printing the 5 p. value, though no stamp of such denomination was included in this issue. After the remainders were used up, more of the same paper, with the correct marginal watermarks, apparently was ordered as needed. Also, due to the dimensions of the printing sheets, the format and size of the previous issue of stamps had to be retained. Several values, issued during the 1917/23 period, are known printed on "glazed paper". In 1925 a new type of paper watermarked "Multiple Swastika", was introduced. This paper, for some reason, did not however prove satisfactory and in 1927 paper watermarked "Posthorn" was adopted. These experimental watermarked papers were found impractical and late in 1929 unwatermarked paper with marginal watermark "Suomen Leimakonttori-Finlands Stämpelkontor" was once more employed for this issue. All above mentioned papers were manufactured by the Tervakoski Paper Mills. With the commencement of the Republican era, a new series of marginal plate numbers and dates in the color of the stamps were adopted. However, for plates 1-4 the old pattern of the previous series of plate numbers was retained. Beginning with plate #5, the new style was adopted with the number and date indicated twice on each pane, opposite the

2-4 and 7-9 rows of stamps, either in the right or left margin. The so-called "Plate Numbers" used in printing of the Finnish stamps have somewhat different origin and meaning than the serial numbers inserted in the margin of United States printing plates. The numbers appearing on sheets of Finnish stamps are actually ORDER NUMBERS for a specified quantity of stamps, not plate numbers as we know them. The same plates can be and usually are used for several printings, with a different number and date inserted for each new printing. The date does not refer to the time of printing, but indicates the date the order was issued.

The plate or, more correctly, the order #35 is missing from the new series. Order #35 was originally issued for a quantity of the 1917 issue 50 p. brown. However, the completing of this order was delayed, and this number was accidentally used in printing some Postal Savings Stamps. In the meantime, due to an increase in postal rates, the color of the 50 p. value was changed to blue, to conform with the UPU requirements. The order, numbered 38, which was issued for printing the new 50 p. blue stamp also confirmed the printing order of the delayed 50 p. brown and consequently both of these stamps show the same "plate number".

Imperforate copies of the 1917 10 penni carmine rose, (90 copies), 1921 provisional issue 1½ mark blue, (100), 1921 60 penni violet, (400), 1 mark orange wmkd. Posthorn, reversed wmk, (400?), are known and were presumably sold through the post office in this condition. The 1919 issue 25 penni light brown is known imperforate at the top. This variety is quite rare.

During the War of Liberation, in Feb. 1918, vertically bisected 40 penni stamps were used at Ruhtinansalmi postoffice. Supplies of the 20 penni stamps (domestic letter rate) become exhausted and the local postmaster, without authorization, bisected a small amount of the 40 p. violet to relieve the shortage. (Copies of the 1911 issue 40 p. value, were similarly bisected and used.) These bisects have received official as well as philatelic recognition and are listed in the Finnish catalog as authentic varieties.

5, 10, 20, 25, 40 and 50 penni values of the 1917/18 issues, overprinted in red with a cross, and with a surtax corresponding to the face value, are a privately prepared trial printing for a proposed charity issue to raise funds for the Red Cross Society. However, this idea was rejected by the government and less than 25 sets are known to exist.

Counterfeits of the 1921 provisional issue 1½ mark on 50 penni blue exist. The forged overprints are known on the 1917 25 penni as well as on the 1919 50 penni blue, which stamp was originally used for the 1½ mark overprint. These are one of the rarest Finnish philatelic forgeries. All known copies are postally used and cancelled "Wiborg 2", during May-June 1926, except 4 recently discovered copies reported by Mr. Erik Wahlstrom in Helsingfors Frimärkssamlare Forening's 1953 60-year Anniversary publication. Three of these copies are postmarked "Kajaani" and one "Ayrapaa".

Stamps perforated horizontally through the middle were used in 1919/20 as amusement tax stamps.

Simultaneously with the printing of the 1 mark orange, on Swastika wmkd. paper, (plate #104), 380,000 copies were also printed on remainders of the 1911 unwmkd. paper, with marginal wmk "Markkaa 1 Mark". In 1929 the 1 mark stamp was reissued in the same color (2,047,222 copies, plate #169) on the newly employed unwmkd. paper with marginal wmk. "Suomen Leimakonttori-Finlands Stämpelkontor". Due to their similarity it is very difficult to identify these two stamps, but recently an identification method that has proven absolutely dependable has been discovered. It has been found that the fibres in the texture of the paper in the two issues run in different directions, and by simply floating the stamps on the surface of water, face down, the fibers on the underside absorb a certain quantity of moisture,

gradually expanding the paper and causing the stamp to curl. In the 1925 issue the side edges curve upwards, whereas on the 1929 issue the ends curl similarly. The 1925 stamp is printed on slightly thicker and faintly yellowish paper with brownish toned gum, whereas the 1929 issue paper and gum is purer white. The 1928 stamp is quite scarce in used condition as only 44,220 copies were sold before it was rendered obsolete.

Gum used on the 1917/18, and occasionally also on the 1919 printings is yellow. On later printings throughout all the issues of this design it is fairly uniformly white and smooth.

Numerous interesting and constant plate varieties are known. However, we shall not attempt to list them all here, but will give a description only of some of the best known varieties.

Perforation, watermarks, and other relevant data will be recorded in connection with the consecutive listing of the various printings.

On June 27, 1919, 8 values of the then current stamps of this design were overprinted "AUNUS" (the Finnish name for the Province of Olonetz) for use by the Finnish volunteer forces in occupied Russian territory.

The small supply of the initial printing (82,100 stamps) was soon exhausted and on Aug. 18, 1919 a second printing of 88,000 stamps was made.

Due to the small editions, postally used copies of these stamps are very scarce, and especially on original covers they are much sought after.

(To be continued)

U. S. Army Post Office Units in Greenland

By George Stribley (507)

After the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the military forces and units of the United States began to spread over the face of the globe. Greenland was not overlooked. Military and naval commands lost little time in establishing bases and posts in Greenland. In fact, anticipating future events, under an agreement with the Danish Minister in Washington, from and after April 9, 1941, Greenland was placed under the protection of the United States. Prior to that date, in 1940, the Germans had occupied Denmark, whereupon, trade activities were carried on by the Greenland Section of the Danish consulate General in New York.

The military interest of the United States in Greenland was for weather observation stations, air bases, and to keep the Germans from weather information. The weather of Europe may be accurately predicted from Greenland, as evidenced by the fact the German weather units in Greenland predicted the heavy fog which enabled the Germans to take their fleet from Spain through the English Channel in a three day fog, the might of which the British fleet could not challenge. Several German weather stations were put out of commission in Greenland by our forces. The German weather stations were along the east coast of Greenland.

Small detachments of the U. S. Army guarded the cryolite mines near Ivigtut, and there were several airfields which played important roles in the ferrying of airplanes to Europe.

The first Army Post Office established in Greenland was American Base Force 809, and the first day of use was June 19, 1941. At this date, regular U. S. postage was required for letters and packages forwarded by military personnel.

The first U. S. military plane to land on the new airfield at Narsarsuak was a Grumman Duck flown by Commander Hubbard. His plane took out the first airmail letters on 18 March, 1943.

On March 27, 1942, the armed forces were granted free mailing privileges, and members of the military units were able to use the "Free" frank on personal mail. The "Free" franking privilege was discontinued December 31, 1947, without philatelic fanfare or publicity.

A list of the American Base Force and Army Post Office (APO) units in Greenland, with the identification designation of the killer device style of type, as published by John H. Engel in his handbook of Army Post Offices, is as follows:

Location	APO #	Killer Device Type
Thule	23	M-?
Iviglut	615	H-46
Iviglut	615	H-47
Ikatek	679	H-44
Narsarsuak	858 (Bluie West #1)	H-40
"	858	H-41
"	858	H-46
"	858	H-47
"	858	H-44
"	858	M-88
Søndrestrømfjord	859 (Bluie West #8)	H-40
"	859	H-46
"	859	H-47
Narsarsuak	809 (American Base Force)	H-28
"	809A " " "	H-28

American Base Force 809 saw first use on June 19, 1941 and was moved or reassigned to Rheims, France on October 1, 1945. The first day of use of #809A was March 16, 1942.

APO covers with Ikatek 679, Narsarsuak 858 and Søndrestrømfjord 859 unit cancellations are not difficult to acquire. Covers from Iviglut with APO #615 are not plentiful.

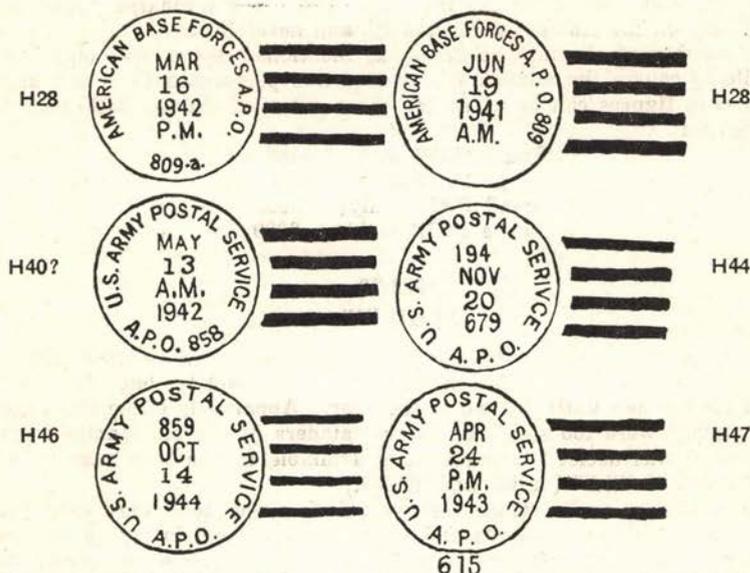
APO covers from Greenland have the familiar U. S. Army and Naval censor's markings. Other allied military powers appear to have exercised the right of censorship of U. S. APO mail, as indicated by a cover cancelled at Iviglut October 4, 1941, with a straight line rubber stamp in caps: "Examined by Censor 55" and bearing a circular backstamp "Eastern Arctic Patrol RMS, Canada, AM Oc 4 1941".

M ?



M88





The Greenland APOs are an interesting sideline of the postal history of Denmark's largest colony.

Asst. Editor's note: Observe spelling error SERIVCE instead of SERVICE in APO 679 postmark.

Iceland 1897

"Prir" Issue

In October, 1897, the mail steamer from Denmark, which was to bring new supplies of 3 aur and 10 aur stamps, was delayed and did not arrive until the latter part of November. The supply of these two values on hand in Reykjavik ran out about the first of November, and while the shortage of 10 aur (letter rate) stamps was not serious, since there were plenty of 5 aur stamps on hand, surcharging was resorted to for the 3 aur (printed matter) value. At first 86 sheets were surcharged with a red numeral "3", but this was not considered satisfactory, so they were surcharged a second time with the word "prir" (three) in black; and at the same time an additional 50 sheets received this black surcharge only.

Two types of each surcharge arose from the fact that there was apparently not enough type available to set up a plate of 100 subjects in a uniform style, so one size was used for the six top rows, while a slightly larger type was used for the lower four rows. This was true for both the numeral 3 and the word "prir". Vertical pairs or blocks, therefore, can be obtained showing the two types, but are of course very scarce.

The stamps used for surcharging were the first printing of the 5 aur perforated 13 (yellow green), then current; but a few of the older, perforated 14 x 13½, were included in the first 86 sheets, receiving both the "3" and "prir" surcharges, and these were all from the second printing of this perforation (gray green). These are very scarce, especially unused; the larger size surcharge being practically unknown thus. The inverted surcharge is found only on the perforated 13 variety with both "3" and "prir"; oddly enough, both the

red and the black surcharges are inverted. The black surcharge "prir" alone is found only on the stamps perforated 13, and never inverted.

The number of sheets surcharged, as mentioned above, was quite small, and while of course the number of inverted and perforated 14 is not known, the following figures can be given for the number of stamps with each type of surcharge:

Small PRIR & 3:	5160
Large PRIR & 3:	3440
Small PRIR Only:	3000
Large PRIR Only:	2000

1902-03

"I GILDI"

When the new stamps with Christian IX appeared in October, 1902, the old stamps in the numeral design were declared obsolete, but could be exchanged for the new until the end of the year. Apparently either the supplies of new stamps were too small, or the remainders of the old stamps were so large, that it was decided to make them available for another year by overprinting them "I Gildi" (valid) and '02-'03.

The conditions under which the overprinting was done were very primitive, so that all kinds of defects and errors crept in, and in trying to correct these others were often introduced. In all, the printing plate was partly taken down and reset five times, and each of the six settings has its own characteristics. First of all, though the overprinting plate consisted of only 50 subjects, it could not be set up in a uniform type, but two types of noughts had to be used: one wide and one very narrow. These are irregularly distributed and give rise to four types in the overprint; namely,

- Type I: Both Noughts Narrow
- Type II: First Narrow; Second Wide
- Type III: First Wide; Second Narrow
- Type IV: Both Noughts Wide

The "type" of one or more subjects was frequently changed with a change of setting, in addition to minor defects, such as thick apostrophes, large "I", broken letters, etc., and of course principally the major defects or errors, which may be summarized by settings as follows:

Setting I: No major varieties

- IA: (Late state of setting I) "I" before "Gildi" missing on stamp #6 (caused by printing form becoming loose)
- II: Above error corrected; no major varieties
- IIA: (Late state of setting II) "IL" or "L" only of "I GILDI" on stamp #5 (caused by form becoming loose)
- III: Above error corrected; but '03-'03 on stamp #16
- IV: Same as above; and 02-'03 on stamp #50
- V: '03-'03 corrected; but 02-'03 still on stamp #50
- VI: 02-'03 corrected; no major varieties

Because the printing plate was only 50 subjects, five rows of ten each, each sheet had to be overprinted twice, on upper and lower halves; and many errors of printing therefore occurred, such as inverted, double, and tetebeche overprints, as well as pairs, one with and one without overprint, etc. Errors of color also occur in the case of the four values which were to be overprinted in red only, but are found in black also.

Lastly there are the rare perforation varieties, 14 x 13½ instead of 13, arising from old stocks being returned from provincial post offices or turned in by individuals, which naturally were not differentiated against since they were regarded as being the same issue.

Early Norwegian Railroad Cancellations

by Frederick A. Brofos (497)

An interesting collection may be formed of the railroad postmarks of Norway, a considerable number of varieties having been used down through the years on the various lines.

This article will deal with the earliest Norwegian railroad postmarks—those of the so-called 1-ring type. First, however, mention must be made of the manuscript cancellations which were in use for several years before the railroads got their own postmarks, and occasionally afterwards, as a supplementary measure. The stamps were generally cancelled by pen and ink with a cross, while the Norwegian word for "railroad" (Jernbanen) was written nearby on the envelope or card itself, together with the date, the year usually being omitted. The following inscriptions have so far been recorded:

Jernbanen—on mail from 1856 and 1857

H-Jernbanen—on mail from 1872

Jernbanen—on some postcards from 1879 and 1880

Hovedb.—on mail from 1880 and 1882

The second and fourth inscriptions (and probably the others also) were used on Norway's first railroad. Called "Norsk Hovedjernbane", meaning Norwegian Main Railroad, it had been opened on September 1, 1854, and ran between Christiania and Eidsvold. The railroad was right away used to transport the mails, which were no doubt accompanied by one or more postal officials. Most of the mail was already postmarked, so only those pieces which had been missed by oversight or mailed aboard the train were pencancelled. Later on, when the volume of mail handed in at the stations increased, the need for a handstamp was felt, and, in 1875, Norway's first railroad postmark made its debut. The circular postmark had an outer diameter of 23 mm., and bore the text HOVEDJERNB:POSTEXP.;, with the date in the center.

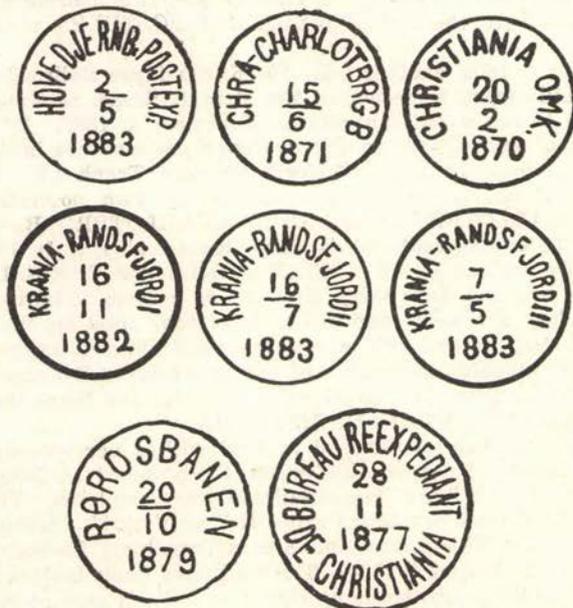
On October 6, 1862, another line—the Kongsvinger Railroad—was opened. It ran from Lillestrøm, a station on the Main Railroad, to Kongsvinger, and was continued to the Swedish border on November 4, 1865. However, a connecting railroad service between the two countries was not inaugurated until June 19, 1871, when the Swedish North Western Trunk Line (Nord Vestre Stambane) Laxå-Charlottenberg was completed. Two postmarks, with the text CHRA-CHARLOTBERG A and CHRA-CHARLOTBERG B, were brought into use in 1868 on the route Christiania-Charlottenberg. In 1870 there followed two more postmarks, CHRISTIANIA OMK. and CHRISTIANIA OMK.;, the difference between them being a period or a colon following Omk. (Omkartering). They are both supposed to have been used on the Kongsvinger Railroad. Starting around 1876 a new postmark appears on mail for abroad handled by the travelling post office of the Kongsvinger Railroad. It is somewhat larger in size than those previously described, and bears the French text BUREAU RÉEXPÉDIANT DE CHRISTIANIA.

The Røros Railroad was opened in 1862 with a narrow-gauge line from Hamar to Grundset. Later on, this line was lengthened northward to Støren, and on October 17, 1877 the Røros Railroad was completed. There was now narrow-gauged railroad connection from Hamar through Elverum and Røros all the way to Trondhjem, the line Støren-Trondhjem having already been put into service on August 5, 1864. The mail from Christiania was now transported by rail to Eidsvold, thence by ship over Lake Mjøsen to Hamar, and on by rail to Trondhjem. The Røros Railroad had postal facilities at an early date, and a postmark inscribed RØROSBANEN was used since 1877.

On October 13, 1868 the Randsfjord Railroad was completed from Drammen via Vikesund-Hønefoss to Randsfjord, with sidelines in 1871 from Hauge-

sund to Kongsberg and in 1872 from Vikesund to Krøderen. On October 7 of that year the line between Christiania and Drammen was opened. The Randsfjord Railroad Postal Service started on July 1, 1883, but postmarks are known from as early as 1877 with text KRANIARANDSFJORD I, II and III.

This completes the list of Norwegian railroad postmarks of the 1-ring type. From then on, postmarks with an inner circle—the 2-ring and Swiss types—were used. These have the date in one line instead of three.



Bibliography:

- Lt. Col. Max Nørgaard: Norges Jernbanestempler. Nord. Fil. Tids. Dec. 1936.
 Lt. Col. Max Nørgaard: Norges Jernbanestempler. Nord. Fil. Tids. Jan. 1937.
 Lt. Col. Max Nørgaard: Norges Jernbanestempler. Nord. Fil. Tids. Feb. 1948.

The Fieldpostmarks of Norway

by Frederick A. Brofos (497)

PART II

My article on Norwegian FPO's in the January issue of this journal aroused considerable interest both here and abroad and has brought to light some previously unchronicled fieldpostmarks. To the former list we can now add the following

Supplementary List of Fieldpost Offices

Text in postmark:	Location:	County ?
FELTPOSTKONTORET AUR	?	?
FELTPOSTKONTORET BØMOEN	----	?
FELTPOSTKONTORET DREVJEN	----	Nordland
FELTPOSTKONTORET DREVJA	----	Nordland
FELTPOSTKONTORET GIMLEMOEN	----	Vest Agder
FELTPOSTKONTORET HEISTADMOEN	----	Buskerud
FELTPOSTKONTORET ★HELGELANDSMOEN★	----	Nordland
FELTPOSTKONTOR NR. 1 ★	Gardermoen ?	Akershus ?
FELTPOSTKONTOR No 6	?	?
FELTPOSTKONTOR No 7	?	?
FELTPOSTKONTOR No 18	?	?
FELTPOSTKONTOR No 22 (seen Feb. 8, 1918)	?	?
FELTPOSTKONTOR No 25	?	?

NOTE: The word "No" in the postmarks has a raised and underlined "o". Drevjen and Drevja are of course the same place, the latter being the new spelling. The postmark of No 6 has an unusually large space between the "o" of "No" and the figure. It may have always been thus, but, on the other hand a possibility arises of its originally having been No 16, 26 or 36 and later having the first figure removed. No. 22, not illustrated, is in the same type as No 25.

I am particularly grateful for information and the loan of material from the collection of Dr. Earl G. Jacobsen of Oak Park, Ill., who confirmed what I had already suspected, namely that the Norwegian "Feltpost" offices may be divided into two groups—those of a military character and those for emergency or temporary postal service. Classed in this latter category is the office which operates in the Parliament building in Oslo only when the Storting is in session. Officially the postoffices of the fisheries and some mines (Knaben Gruvor etc.) were called fieldpost offices. According to Dr. Jacobsen, the fisheries at Sørkjæslingerne had six fieldpost offices, "Narvik Feltpostkontor" was used at Viktoriahavn in 1899, Odda Feltpost operated from 1908, and Kirkenes had a fieldpost office from 1908-12. As regards the numbered FPO marks, he believes that some of them operated at different places at different periods—so there is plenty of research to be done. Covers with these marks and a return address will of course be very useful in determining the place of usage. Those he knows of so far are Feltpostkontor No 18 at Høyanger (Sogn og Fjordane county) in 1917, and No 19 at the development at Bjølfefossen in 1916. In 1940, nine offices were in operation, of which no. 1 was at Gardermoen, no. 4 at Elvegårdsmoen, no. 9 at Molund i Bardu near Setermoen, no. 15 at Nybergmoen, no. 16 at Trandum, no. 36 at Kirkenes, and no. 50 at Midtre Helgeland at Hemenesberget.

I note that the Norwegian Postal Guide of 1949 lists five military fieldpost offices, namely no. 1 at Gardermoen, no. 5 at Ulven, no. 9 at Saetermoen, no. 16 at Trandum, and no. 20 at Heistadmoen.



Sweden's First Postal Cards

By J. D. Peterson (504)

Introduction

The first postal cards of Sweden are distinguished from all of this country's later postal cards by virtue of the fact that the value stamps are embossed upon a card which previously had been lithographed with a fancy border, address and similar printed designations. The later cards had the stamp applied by the same method and at the same time as the border and the text. As one would suspect the former procedure resulted in many varieties and consequently has made these cards a fertile field for research.

While there has been considerable research on these cards, much of the information thus obtained is published in Swedish, French, or German catalogues and articles which are not readily available to collectors in the United States. A notable exception to this is an article in the November, 1953, issue of "The American Philatelist" (Vol. 67, No. 2, p. 126), entitled "Sweden Postal Card No. 1", written by Mr. Roy Herbert Holmes. This article is an excellent introduction to the subject and in the material which follows use will be made of it as well as of the following references: S. Lilliehöök, "Handbok över Sveriges Helsaker", Hackzells Tryckeri, Stockholm (1947); John Spohr, "Les Premières Cartes Postales De Suede", L'Échangiste Universel, Paris (1925); and Berlag von Gebruder Senfs "Illustrierter Postivertzeichen-Katalog" Zweiter Teil, Leipzig (1914).

It has been an object in compiling this information to avoid errors, however, if such there be let the blame rest on this writer's lack of fluency in translation rather than on the shoulders of the original authors.

The Issues

The first postal card was issued January 1, 1872, and consisted of a 12 öre value. This was used only until December 31, 1872, and then withdrawn, since as of January 1, 1873, the postal card rate was reduced to 10 öre for cards sent from point to point within the kingdom and 6 öre for local (city) service. Thus there were issued on January 1, 1873, a 6 öre single card, a 6 öre double card (single type card with attached 6 öre reply card), a 10 öre single card and a 10 öre double card.

The 6 öre single card was valid until February 1, 1880, the 6 öre double card until April 2, 1882, the 10 öre single card until April 30, 1879, and the 10 öre double card until March 30, 1883. During that time the rates were further reduced so that the 10 öre could be used for cards sent abroad while the 6 öre cards were sufficient for mailing between points within the kingdom.

It should be noted, however, that in accordance with custom, the catalogues designate the 6 öre single as No. 1, the 10 öre single as No. 2, the 12 ö as No. 3, the 6 ö double as No. 4, and the 10 ö double as No. 5.

Printing and Paper

As has been pointed out, the first postal cards were printed at two different times and, strangely enough, by two different companies.

The border and text of the cards were first lithographed by Norrköpings Litografiske Aktiebolag, then these were sent to Stockholm where the stamps were embossed on the cards by P. O. Bagge, the same company that held the contract for printing the current adhesive stamps. Since this contract was turned over to Jacob Bagge Bank Note Company in 1873 (and continued to 1919), it seems reasonable to assume that the embossing of the cards likewise was taken over by the latter company from 1873 until these cards were discontinued.

The lithographed portions of the cards were used interchangeably for all values, however, the embossing was not done as soon as the lithographed cards arrived, but rather according to orders from the Postal Administration which orders were governed by the sale of the finished cards. It is apparent, therefore, that it is possible to find 6 öre, 10 öre, and 12 öre cards with identical lithographed portions.

There were differences among the various "lithographings" and these will be identified later, however, not each of these will be found in combination with each value.

The cards were printed on pale cream colored paper of various qualities which for convenience may be divided into two broad classes—rough and smooth. The rough paper has a characteristic striated appearance, especially when viewed with light striking the card at a low angle of incidence. The rough paper was used for the 12 öre, 10 öre single and double cards, and for the early printings of the 6 öre single and double cards. While Spohr states that only the late issues of the 6 öre were on the plain smooth paper, the writer has in his collection a 10 öre card postmarked 1880 which certainly closely resembles the smooth paper variety. Moreover, there are noticeable differences among the so-called smooth papers, some are hard and close-text-

tured with almost a shiny surface, while others have a porous texture and a dull surface.

The supposition that several qualities of paper were used is also supported by the fact that the thickness of the paper used varies from about 0.15 mm. to 0.30 mm. for the rough paper with the medium thick being common and thin the exception. There is less marked variation in the smooth paper, it being about 0.2 mm. in thickness, deviations from this being only about 0.02 mm.

The dimensions of the cards vary from 122 to 123½ mm. in length, and from 86½ to 87½ mm. in width. The writer has not been able to correlate any particular size card with any particular quality of paper or issue. It should be pointed out, however, that trimmed cards are quite common. The writer has 12 öre cards only 79 mm. wide bearing the commercially printed address: "Herr G. W. Schroder, Nr 8 Norra Hamngatan, Göteborg" which were apparently trimmed to fit envelopes so that they could be returned to the company by the recipient as a type of reply card, in fact the reverse of the card has just such a form which has been filled in. These cards are post-marked 1872, while in 1879 the same company (now Hrr G. W. Schroeder & Co.) used 6 öre cards which were trimmed to 84 mm. in width. The lengths of these cards are normal.

The Text and Border Portions

The lithographed text of the cards consists of eight lines as follows: (Fig. 1)

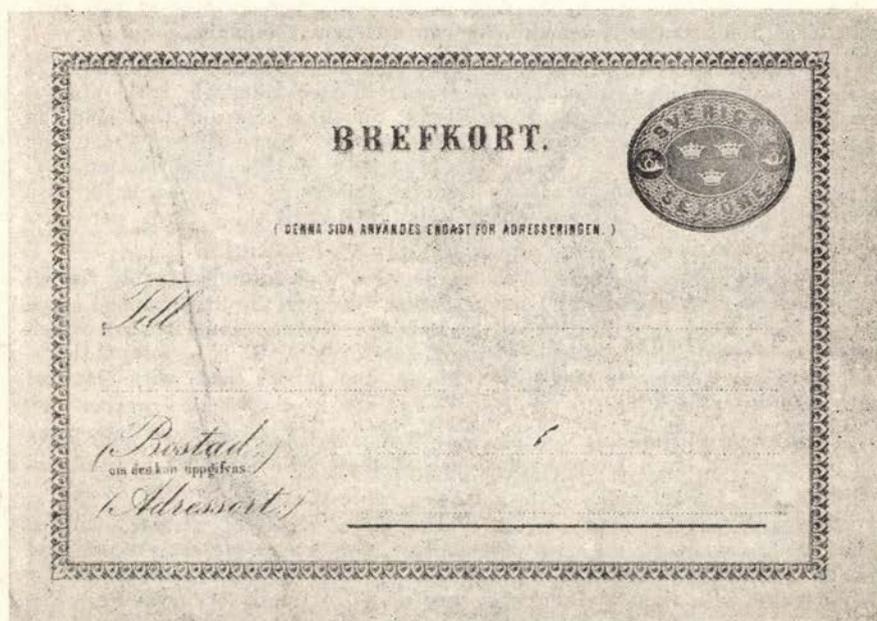


Fig. 1

There are four major types of text; in the table which follows only the outstanding differences which can be used to characterize the types will be found, although there are others less important.

Characteristics	Text Types			
	A	B	C	D
1. "O" in "BREFKORT"	wide	wide	narrow	narrow
2. Second line, "(DENNA etc.)"	56.5 mm	56.5 mm	48 mm	57 mm
3. Tail of lower loop of "B" in "Bostad" is	long	short	short	short
4. Cross bar of "t" in "Bostad" and "Adressort" is	long	short	short	short

Type C can be quickly separated from the other types merely by measuring the length of the second line of text beginning with "DENNA". Type A next can be separated by the fact that it alone has a long tail on the lower loop of "B" of "Bostad" which crosses the first stroke of the loop, also the cross bar on the "t" of "Bostad" and of "Adressort" are long. This leaves only types B and D unidentified. Since these differ only by 0.5 mm. in the length of the second line, it is not always possible to clearly distinguish them by this measurement. The opening in the "O" of "BREFKORT", however, in the case of type B is wide and exactly like type A, whereas in the case of type D the opening is narrow like that of type C. Thus, comparison with the easily recognizable types A and C renders positive the separation of type B from type D.

Type A was used for the first issue of each value, and the 12 öre value is found with text type A only, as might be surmised from its short period of use. The single cards of the 6 öre and 10 öre values are found with all four text types. The 6 öre double card has the following combinations (the text type of the card bearing the words "Svaret Betaldt" meaning "reply prepaid" is given first, the text type of the card identical to the single card is given last): C+A, C+B (rare), C+C. The 10 öre double card is known only C+A.

It is probable that type A was replaced by type B late in 1876 or very early in 1877. Spohr mentions a type B card postmarked Jan. 16, 1877, and several in February 1877. It also appears that type C appeared during 1877 since Spohr also notes a card bearing the postmark Stockholm, 22 Oct. 1877. The writer has a type D card postmarked 25 Nov. 1878, however, it is quite possible that this type appeared earlier since the writer has not seen many used examples.

It is noteworthy that the type A cards have been found on rough paper only, while types C (and possibly B) are found on both rough and smooth paper, but mainly on smooth, and type D as far as the writer has seen appears on smooth only.

The ornamental border surrounding the text was mentioned by Spohr to be asymmetrical and to occur as normal and inverted! The inverted type, however, is found only in the case of text type A. Several possible explanations could be proposed to explain the fact that the border in type A is found normal and inverted, but these would of necessity be in the realm of pure speculation since there is not available the necessary facts to prove any one theory.

The asymmetry is quite apparent if one observes the corner ornaments (see Fig. 2).

In ornament No. 1 the two balls touch; in No. 2 they are close but do not touch; in No. 3 they are far apart; in No. 4 they touch but are placed awry. The arrow in No. 1 differs completely from the others and in addition there are other small differences. Finally, a very useful method of distinguishing the two types is the fact that in the normal position there are 35 ornaments between the two corner ornaments on the right side and only 34 on the left.

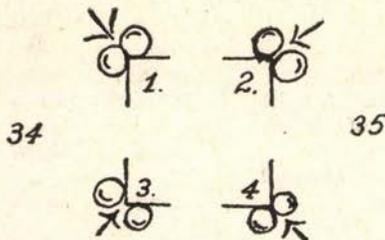


Fig. 2

Spohr mentioned examining the dimensions of the borders on some 2000 cards and gives the following subtypes on the basis of these measurements (in millimeters):

Text Type A: $108\frac{1}{4} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $108\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $108\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{3}{4}$ to 75, $109 \times 74\frac{3}{4}$ to 75, $109\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $109\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{3}{4}$ to 75.

Text Type B: $108\frac{1}{2} \times 74$, $108\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $108\frac{3}{4} \times 74$, 109×74 , $109 \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $109\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$.

Text Type C: 108×74 , $108\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $108\frac{3}{4} \times 74$, $108\frac{3}{4} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, 109×74 , $109 \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, $109\frac{1}{4} \times 74\frac{1}{4}$, $109\frac{3}{4} \times 74\frac{1}{2}$, and perhaps more.

Since Spohr confused type D with type B, it is probable that some of the dimensions given for type B are valid for type D only.

These measurements indicate that new stones were prepared from time to time and in some instances were used for a single printing. This is the only explanation for the fact that type A measuring $109\frac{1}{2} \times 74\frac{3}{4}$ to 75 is always a lilac brown shade and vice versa.

The Color of the Text and Border

The first issues of the text and border, particularly type A, were printed in a lilac color with little or no variations in shade. The 12 öre card is an excellent example of this early lilac shade of the text and border. The 6 öre and 10 öre cards are found with a brown lilac shade (which is almost brown) with type A as mentioned above. It might be assumed from this that the brown lilac shade resulted from a printing made after 1873 and prior to 1877. The other three types have numerous variations in shade ranging from gray lilac through true lilac and almost to violet including a blue lilac and red lilac shade. A blue gray color is mentioned by several authors for type C, however, this color also has a lilac tint so that it might properly be termed a dark gray lilac.

Varieties Due to the Embossed Stamp

As is well-known, for each value stamp of this issue there was engraved a double die in steel; one the cameo or relief, the other the intaglio or mould. Clearly this method of printing permitted several varieties most of which are known.

The stamp is often found displaced, that is, touching either the border or a portion of the text. The other errors recognized include:

1. The albino, produced by failure to ink the die.
2. Double impression, one of which is an albino.
3. Reversed impression, lower left instead of upper right.
4. Impression "inside out".

Spohr indicated that all of the last named are quite rare and not found in all values. It is particularly interesting to note that at the time Spohr wrote only a very few were known outside of the Ferrari collection.

The 12 öre Blue

The dies used for embossing this card were the same as those used for printing the stamped envelopes, which were also first issued on Jan. 1, 1872. Since the envelopes were used quite freely it became necessary to re-engrave the dies. Thus the 12 öre card is found in three distinct states:

1st State. The first issue—very fine impression

2nd State. The intermediate issue—worn, light blurred impression, sharpness lacking.

3rd State. The last issue—retouched engraving.

While the surest way of identifying these dies is to have a sufficiently large number of the cards that all three dies will be represented and then make the separation by actual comparison, this is not always possible. Moreover, photographs do not always bring out the subtle differences. Since, however, these are clearly visible on the actual examples when one knows where to look, the writer will attempt to point them out here.

The most obvious differences will be found in the background to the words "SVERIGE", "TOLF", and "ÖRE". This background resembles the engine turned engravings found on currency, borders to certificates, and the like. In the first issues (Fig. 3) the white lines between the letters of "SVERIGE" in some instances form almost a solid white background with only a minimum of color showing. In the worn die impression considerably more color shows and close observation will show that the white lines are much thinner and in some cases actually broken so that the blue "spots" run together. In the fine impression the background between the "O" and "L" of "TOLF" shows whole white lines, but in the impression from the worn dies these have broken giving the appearance of a blue period between the letters. Likewise, the engraving between the "F" of "TOLF" and "Ö" of "ÖRE" shows clear and distinct white lines for the fine impression while for the intermediate



Fig. 3

stage (worn dies) these lines have thinned to the point where the background appears to be almost entirely blue with only a trace of white. There are similar differences following the "E" of "ÖRE".

The retouched die is the most easily identified of the three. There is a large triangular shaped dot of color following the "R" of "ÖRE". The engraving of the entire background has a jumbled aspect and in some instances the letters appear to be outlined with white lines.

Since there was only a small number of the 12 öre value printed, the number of printings likewise must have been small. Consequently, the three die differences cannot be a result of wear from printing the cards but instead they must be a result of using the dies for printing the envelopes in-between times, as was pointed out earlier.

The color of the stamp is found in several shades:

First state, fine impression—deep blue, clear blue.

Second state, worn die—blue (between the deep and clear blue).

Third state, retouched die—blue, same as for worn die.

The 6 Öre, Lilac

The two different dies were used for this stamp and while Spohr mentions a third he does not describe it and it appears never to have been used.

Holmes gives a very excellent summary of the differences between the dies the most important of which are:

Die I	Die II
1. "Ö" in "ÖRE" is round with 5 small dots in 2 rows in center.	"Ö" in "ÖRE" is oval with one row of 3 dots.
2. A line of dots touches the lower left corner of "R" in "SVERIGE".	Dots are midway between the "E" and "R".
3. Large dot follows the middle bar of final "E" in "SVERIGE".	Two small dots instead.
4. Line of 4 dots to right of "E" in "SEX".	Only one dot.

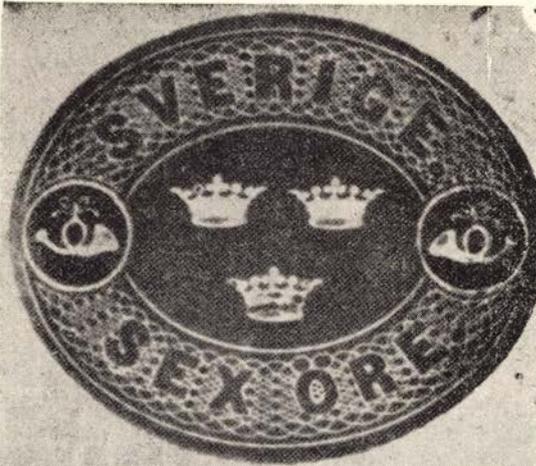
It is believed that Die II was used only with text type C except in the case of the 6 öre double card text types C+B wherein both cards were embossed with Die II. The alleged existence of a single card text type B combined with Die II has never been proved.

In view of the information set forth, one would expect to find Die I in combination with rough paper cards, text type A (borders normal and inverted), text type C, possibly text types B and D, with the latter very doubtful, and smooth paper cards with text types B, C and D. Die II is found in combination with text type C on both rough and smooth paper.

The 10 Öre Carmine-Rose

Only one set of dies was used for this stamp, however, the early impressions are fine as in the case of the 12 öre, but the later impressions show evidences of worn dies. The chief difference between the two is that more color shows in the background of the worn die impression, particularly after "E" of "ÖRE". In the latter difference, the worn die shows almost a solid line

Type I



Type II



of color extending from the end of the middle bar of the "E" to the edge of the background.

It is the writer's belief that the fine impressions should be found on rough paper, text type A cards only since the worn impression also appears on these same cards and text types B, C, and D should therefore bear the worn impressions only. As mentioned earlier, the writer has a smooth paper text type C card so it seems reasonable to assume that type D should also appear on smooth paper.

The color of the stamp varies from pale rose through rose to rose-carmine.

To be continued

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 FIPEX

The Scandinavian Collectors Club will have a lounge at the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held April 28 through May 6, 1956 at the New York Coliseum. Many of our members will be exhibiting portions of their collections, for competition. There will also be frames exhibited outside the club booth showing selections of general interest by members of the club. These pages covering all Scandinavian countries are to illustrate the possibilities in collecting and specialization of the Scandinavian group. For our members attending the exhibition the booth will be a welcome haven to rest in. The members in the metropolitan area will be attending to the booth and are looking forward to meeting our out of town members.

We are hoping that this exhibit will stimulate interest in the stamps of Scandinavia. This will be a good time for our members to get together and exchange ideas. It is also hoped that at this time that members will give constructive criticism as to how our organization and magazine can better serve them. Additional material is always being sought for future issues of "The Posthorn".

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