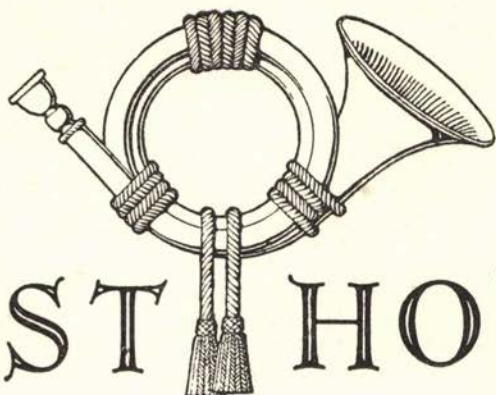


The

# POST HORN



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## "From Greenland"—

The Story About A Philatelic Oddity

by John Romer



If there are some unusual aspects in Greenland's quite interesting postal history, it should be realized that Greenland is an arctic territory with approximately 80% of its area covered by eternal ice. Its population of native Eskimos and a few thousand Danes is found in small coastal settlements, where life except for local fishery must depend on supplies being shipped in from Denmark.

Administrative responsibility is placed with the Greenland Authority, a separate department under the Government of Denmark. However, a number of official functions are delegated to, and carried out by the monopolized Royal Greenland Trading Company—among these is the postal service.

The Trading Company not only handles Inter-Greenland letter mail deliveries, but also carries outgoing letter mail from Greenland to Copenhagen—all completely free of charge. Parcel post is not free. At Copenhagen the mail is turned over to the Danish postal service for further delivery.

From Copenhagen and onwards normal postage must be paid, and the letters affixed with stamps in the usual manner. Until 1938 ordinary Danish stamps were sold on Greenland for this purpose.

On January 1, 1927 the Postal Department demonetized some older series of Danish stamps, which then became invalid for use as postage. Through an oversight, the Greenland Authority was not notified to this effect, and the invalid stamps were not withdrawn from sale on Greenland.

When the first ships from Greenland arrived in Copenhagen in the early fall of 1927, the mail sacks contained a number of letters affixed with invalid stamps. According to the regulations, these letters were "insufficiently franked," and could be handled by the Postal Department only as being subject to the "postage due" penalty rates.

The senders on Greenland had to be absolved of all fault, and a special arrangement was made with the Postal Department which would permit the letters to be expedited without penalty.

The Greenland Authority was provided with a rubber stamp for use on these letters, with the wording:

Fra Grønland—  
Frimaewkerne er gyloige,  
i.e.,  
From Greenland—  
The Stamps Are Valid.

In addition, the official Authority hand stamp was used on the back of each letter, thus attesting to its origin. This handstamp, which occurs in two types, reads "GRØNLANDS STYRELSE" (i.e., "GREENLAND AUTHORITY") above which is a crown.



The same procedure was used again in 1929, when through a similar incidence a few letters from Greenland arrived with invalid stamps, after another series of Danish stamps had been demonetized on April 1, 1929.

Five postmark datings have been recorded on such letters, apparently corresponding to five ship's arrivals in Copenhagen, but it has not been possible to ascertain the exact number of letters involved. From all indications it must be concluded, however, that not more than approximately seventy letters of this kind ever existed.

Covers showing these stampings are considered to be extremely scarce material.

On the subject of Greenland it might be of interest to collectors to note that a constitutional revision of June 5, 1953, changes the status of Greenland from that of a colony to now being an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark.



Also by a new regulation, effective June 1, 1958, Inter-Greenland letter mail is no longer delivered free of charge, but must be provided with Greenland stamps according to rates. At the same time a number of new Greenland post offices have been established.

The increased use of Greenland stamps, also including postal money orders, could make it possible that Greenland kilo packets were made available for the first time.

Conversely, articles published in Denmark have pointed out that since Greenland now is just like any other part of Denmark, there remains no good reason for maintaining special Greenland stamps. This point of view seems to rate some merit, although apparently is not favored by the Greenland Authority. It cannot be precluded, however, that the special Greenland stamps may be discontinued entirely.

Assistance in obtaining information and material for this article is gratefully acknowledged to the Danish collector and Greenland expert, Mr. Eric Wowern, Copenhagen.

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## Danish "Wavy Lines" Type—Some Minor Varieties

by W. J. Banks

Minor faults or varieties quite as prominent as those long since recorded and sought after as aids to specialized study in early issues, often continue to be ignored in later ones. A good example, it would seem, is furnished by the Danish Taltype or Bølgelinie (wavy lines) typographed stamps, 1905-30. A few matrix or cliché flaws such as the broken lion's head (1 øre), M-A joined, dot in D and short T (3 øre), A-R joined and deformed E (4 øre) have been recognized by specialized catalogues and handbooks; but we have noticed many others of which we have not found mention, though in some cases this may have been published in Scandinavian journals not available to us.

The 2 øre red stamp seems to be particularly prolific in such varieties, a number of which are here listed. We have at least three examples of each in most cases; when only two are on hand, the stamps also agree in other minute details which would seem to indicate constancy.

- (1) Blob of color under raised paw of right lion, joining solid field of color.
- (2) Break in rear paw of right lion, and colorless spot in field below it.
- (3) Raised paw of right lion badly formed and touching tongue, and break across upper left corner of "F."
- (4) Spot of color in front of rear paw of right lion (these stamps also show thickening of upright stroke of "P" just below the loop).
- (5) Spot of color below right leg or "R" in right ØRE; also tiny spot of color in second arch of crown.
- (6) Join in tail of left lion; break in forward back leg of right lion.
- (7) Pear-shaped spot of color extending from corner under rear paw of left lion.
- (8) "K" leans backward, causing its upright stroke to extend below "R" and lower forward stroke to touch the "E."

- (9) Two spots under raised paw, right lion. Apparent variations of this are (a) the two spots merged (b) left (smaller) spot missing (c) third spot added.

Varieties (1) and (9), at least, are common enough to indicate that they represent some kind of matrix flaw, appearing more than once in the sheet. In one block of stamps of a Multiple Cross watermark printing (1) appears twice, in positions 7 and 17, and (2) once, No. 39. We have found all 9 in the later, Multiple Cross printings, but only (1) and (9) in the Crown watermark. We have one complete sheet on Crown wmk. paper, an earlier printing without the control number, which shows none of the above flaws, but has no less than 55 of a further variety.

This (10) persists also into the Mult. Cross printings. It shows a downward bend of the upper cross stroke of the "E" of the right ØRE, which sometimes becomes more acute, in the form of a sudden, downward break in the stroke. In these cases the upper stroke of the final "E" of Post Frimaerke below is also bent slightly downward. (10a).

Another very common variety is in the 10 øre stamps. It shows a hollow in the rear part of the back of the right lion. (11). It is perhaps slightly less frequent in the green printings than in the earlier pink or later brown ones; we have a sheet of brown stamps (batch 381J) showing it 10 times in no discernible pattern.

Many other 10 øre stamps show, on the contrary, a hump (12) instead of a hollow in the same position. This appears only once (No. 94) on the above-mentioned sheet but is so common that it must appear much more often in other sheets, in all three colors. Frequently stamps with the hump variety also show a flattening or cutting off of the outer curve of the left lion's tail.

A third variety shows a spot of color above the back (13), again in about the same position. (Frequently the spot joins the back, but this appears to be a matter of inking distinct from the wider hump variety.) This is also common in the green and brown printings but we have not found it in the pink. It appears 15 times on the above mentioned brown sheet.

Another (apparently a matrix) flaw is in the 1 øre stamp, showing a short lower cross stroke in the final "E" of Postfrimaerke (14), similar to but less pronounced than the recognized "E" flaw in the 4 øre. This appears twice in one block of 30, Crown Wmk., positions undetermined, and is also found in the Mult. Cross printings.

Other varieties which are common enough to indicate more than one to a sheet include: 5 øre (both colors); colorless spot in "F" (15); 20 øre: (16) sharp projection from back of first "R" in Postfrimaerke (also colored dot in oval white line above "0" of 20); and (17) colored dot which normally appears in center projection from base of crown is missing. (Second dot which normally appears in projection to left of centre remains.)

Finally, we call the reader's attention to a hook or spur extending in an upward and backward direction from the center stroke or bar of "AE" in Postfrimaerke (18). This shows clearly in the illustration of the mother-die in Schmidt-Andersen (page 114). Apparently it was reproduced in the daughter-dies for the 2, 3, 5, 8, 10 and 20 øre values, for it shows consistently in these stamps, usually coming close to or actually touching the upper cross bar. In the 1, 4 and 15 øre stamps it is absent; in the 7 and 12 øre it is present but more flattened, pointing farther back and well clear of the top bar.





How much of the above is mere fly-speck philately, or how much might be of value in the study of the many plates and printings of these issues, must await the work of those with much more material and knowledge than the writer. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who has pursued the subject further. Meanwhile the inclusion of some of the above and other minor varieties may add interest to a collection of these common and attractive little stamps.

## A Postal History of Finland

by Eivind Evensen  
Member of Bergens Filatelist Klub

Translated by Abr. Odfjell

I have been asked: Why do you collect Finland? My reply has been: Why not? I have always been interested in the Finnish people and their country—"The Land of the Thousand Seas"—and the heroic fight during the hundred days' Winter War, which made a deep impression upon me in my early youth. At that time we figured that war and its horrors did not concern us in the peaceful North, but the attack was a warning from the mighty neighbor in the East. Besides, Finland is one of the Northern countries, and although the race and the language are different, the Finns are fully our Scandinavian brothers.

The history of Finland can be divided into three parts. The Swedish Finland, Eastland or Østland, as it was called then. The Grand Duchy of Finland from 1809 to 1917, through a personal union with the Russian Czar, being the Grand Duke of Finland, and the last part: "The Republic of Finland," which in December 1957 celebrated its 40 years anniversary.

Finland may also be divided into three philatelic periods: the prephilatelic Finland, the stamps 1856-1917 while a Grand Duchy, and the purely Finnish stamps while a Republic.

The prephilatelic Finland may be divided into four groups:

1. Privately forwarded mail.

2. The church mail, or as it was called "Klokkerpost," the Sexton's mail.
3. "Kroneposten" or the official mail, and
4. "Allmänna Posten"—the public mail.

The first two groups may be passed over lightly, but we shall have a little look at "Kroneposten," in order that the studies of a philatelist may be understood. It was Johan III, who in 1580 first established regular official mail service. Among the prephilatelic letters one meets with several pen-marked ones, which have a wavy line, snakelike, across a straight line and several figure 3's or crosses. No one knew the meaning of these marks. One meets with other letters having the wording written: "To be carried forth by day and night and from man to man" and one generally believed that this was the meaning of the wavy lines and figures. The Finnish philatelist Kustaa Lakanen cleared up the puzzle some years ago. The wavy lines represent the three Swedish crowns, which, over the years had been simplified so much that, at last no one knew what the origin had been. At Mr. Lakanen's home district "Østerbotten" there are some stone pillars at the border of the country. On the pillars there are engravings reminding one very much of the wavy line ornaments. No one knew why these stones were placed there, but Mr. Lakanen has discovered that they were placed there according to a regulation of 1683, which demanded that the town's borders should be decided upon and the land outside should belong to the state, meaning the crown. The marks on the stones are therefore the marks of the crowns, and therefore the waveline ornaments, "Kronepost."



The Finnish Postoffice dates its history to 1638—it is 9 years earlier than that of Norway. The first general postal service in Sweden was started in 1636, on the route Stockholm to the southern border. The service was quickly extended, and in 1638 the first mail route in Østland and the Baltic countries was opened, between Stockholm—Grislehamn—Eckerø—Åbo—Karis—Helsingfors—Viborg—Nyenskans (a fort where the present Leningrad now is)—Narva—Reval and farther southwards. Later on several more mail routes were started in Finland—but it was after the war of 1808-09, when the Grand Duchy Finland came into a personal union with Russia, that we may count the beginning of the prephilatelic period. Finland DID NOT become



a part of Russia at the Peace Conference in 1809, but became, as said above, a Grand Duchy. Truly—it was the Czar who became the Grand Duke of Finland, and he was absolute, therefore the dependence on Russia became a fact, which we shall see later.

In the meantime the official government organs were erected. Of these it is the Finnish postal service which is of interest here. The first instructions concerning it were made in 1812 by the newly appointed General Postmaster Gustav Ladan. In his "Project—Instruction for the postmasters of Finland" it is in #3 ordered that all mail shall be cancelled by a handstamp. In all 33 postoffices, yielded up to Russia, they obtained such handstamps. These may be called "rekkestempler" or one line cancellations. The letters were in Russian style (Cyrillic) except Åbo and Viborg, which had what I will call a manuscript style. On January 31, 1847, postmarks with a date taken were brought into use. They were the so-called "Lådstämpel" or box type. They are rectangular, with the name above, the day and month in the middle between the year. There are two types, a low one, and after 1851/52 a taller one.

ГЕЛЬСИНГФОРСЪ

Åbo Wiburg

KARIS.  
11 APRIL 1875

ÅBO.  
18 <sup>21</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 55

There is much more to say about the prephilatelic period, but I think we shall leave it here and jump forward to the year 1845.

After postage stamps had been in use in England since 1840 the idea spread over great parts of Europe, also to Finland, but here it was not ordinary postage stamps, but the "Stemplade Kuverter"—stamped envelopes, that were first used. It is worth notice that Finland with regard to using these was the first country outside England. They were ordinary envelopes to which was added a stamp value. I have read one place that the stamp or dies were hit with a hammer—therefore in the highest degree with manual power. The words "Porto stempel" appear in the upright oval stamp above the arms of Finland, the Lion with the grand duke's crown and a postal horn on each side. The oval is placed above a scroll inscribed with the value. There are two values, 10 and 20 kopec, respectively in black and red. At the same time a uniform postal rate was introduced for the whole country, 10 kopec for each "brevlod"—1 lod equals 13.25 grams. These envelopes could only be used in the Grand Duchy and were used to the end of 1849. The issue was small, for 10 kopec, 67,500 and for 20 kopec only 12,500. These envelopes, specially the 20 kopecs belong to the rarest philatelic objects of Finland. At present only 10 copies of the 20 kopecs are known on whole envelope.

The postal rate was, as mentioned, in 1845, 10 kopec per "brevlod" for the whole country. Some people, like today, thought the rate too high, espec-

ially for the shorter distances, which often resulted in that the mail was not forwarded by post, but with private travellers, and the postoffice lost the postage. New postal rates were introduced from January 1st, 1850. The rate became 5 kopecs per "brevlod" for distances within 125 verst (about 130 km) and 10 kopecs for larger distances. The postal authorities considered still the normal postal rate to be 10 kopecs, which in official documents are named first—10 kopecs before 5 kopec. With the introduction of the new rate a new envelope was introduced which also had the oval stamp—but now in a

**WS NICOLAI** den Förste, med  
Guds Nåde, Kejsare och Sjelfherrskare  
öfver hela Ryssland, samt Stor-Fur-  
ste till Finland, etc. etc. etc.

**G**öde weterligt: att WS, på derom gjord framställning, i Nåd-  
der sunnit godt förordna, det porto-afgiften för brefwexlingen inom  
Finland skall, med ändring af des nu stadgade likformighet för al-  
la distancer, ifrån och med början af nästinstundande år utgå så-  
lunda, att för bref, som inom Storfurstendömet med posten befor-  
dras på ett afstånd af icke mer än Etthundra tjugufem werst, erläg-  
ges Fem kopel, men för alla bref, hwilla afgå till orter på längre  
distancer, äfwen som för bref till Ryssland, Tio kopel silfwer lodet,  
samt att från samma tid, i afseende å brefwens wigt, skall iakttas,  
att för bref, som icke wäga öfwer halftannat lod, betalas  
porto-afgiften blott såsom för ett lod, hwaremot för bref af mer än  
halftannat lods wigt fortfarande gäller, att hwad öfwerhuter det  
jemna lodtalet, skall tagas i beräkning för fullt lod. Det alle, som  
wederbör, till underdånig esterrättelse lünder. Helsingfors, den 21  
September 1849.

**Enligt Hans Keiserliga Majestäts Egget Beslut  
och i Des Höga Namn,**

**Des tillförordnade Senat för Finland:**

**J. M. NORDENSTAM.**

**LARS SACKLEEN.**

**G. v. KOTHEN.**

**A. F. R. DE LA CHAPELLE.**

**PEHR TÖRNQVIST.**

**AUGUST LOHMAN.**

**FREDR. WILH. PIPPING.**

**P. H. EDELHEIM.**

**CARL TRAPP.**

**CARL S. FORSSMAN.**



horizontal position. The Finnish lion is used but it fills almost the height of the oval, the postal horns are now below and follow the oval-line, the value is in Swedish on the left and in Russian on the right. The stamp was now placed on the flap of the envelope and therefore on its back.

With these envelopes we enter the history of the postage stamps. It was on November 23rd 1855 that the Postmaster General Alexander Wullfert proposed in a memorandum to the Senate that they should introduce postage stamps in Finland. After several meetings in the Senate with the Governor and at the Russian Postal department about the stamp itself and its design, it was confirmed on February 12th 1856, by the economical department to give postage stamps a trial. Their values should be 10 and 5 kopecs and the design similar to the stamped envelopes of 1850. The colors should be the same, respectively red and black. In a letter to the Postmaster General of the same date it is said:

“— partly to protect and partly to detect possible forgeries of these stamps there will be placed a secret sign, consisting of a small periode lying in the opening of each posthorn which shall remain colorless.”

These are the pearls of the oval stamps. The stamps could also be used for foreign mail but not for registered mail. The oval postage stamps were made from two original dies, one for the 5 kopec and one for the 10 kopec. They were the same as were used for the envelopes after the above changes were made. The printing was done in a seal press which produced one stamp at a time. Students do not seem to agree how the sheets were made, but the method which most students have approved is that the official paper sheets were divided in seven and on each of these strips 20 stamps were stamped in two rows. A row of ten were printed, whereupon the sheet was turned and another row was printed—thereby the stamps became *tete-beche*. All vertical pairs are *tete-beche* pairs.

The economical department had decided that the postage stamps should be delivered to the postal department from Karta-Sigillata office (which later became the “Seal and Stamp Office of Finland”) in boxes with 100 postage stamps in each. It was Karta-Sigillata which was responsible for the printing of the postage stamps. Its staff was three men, which gives you an idea of its size and importance in the early days. To begin with, the small strip-sheets of 20 stamps were cut neatly up and put into boxes. The early stamps are even-cut with good margins. As the demand for stamps increased in the summer of 1856, the scissors were put aside and the stamps delivered in strips sheets. This issue was put into use on March 3rd, 1856.

The manner of printing did not allow errors in printing as all were printed from the same die, however, one meets with a few curiosities. Besides the pearls, the 5 kopec has a small rhombe above the arms. On the early printings this is closed but later it is open, most likely due to wear. On the 10 kopec it has happened the same way with a tiny dot on the same location. One does not know if these “errors” have occurred to protect against forging—but it is believed. In April 1858 was the right pearl on the 5 kopec altered and became larger. It is believed that this alteration took place because the blue ink was liable to flow over and cover the pearls. In this way there will be three types of the 5 kopec oval stamp—without a pearl on the envelopes of 1850-1856, a small pearl on the postage stamps of 1856 and the large pearl on the 1858 postage stamp.

About the paper, I can tell you that there are several kinds, both hand-made and machine made paper. The Karta-Sigellata office was responsible

for the official paper and they bought where and when it suited them. The same may be said about the ink, several shades are met with, because the shades were then of less importance.

About the use of the oval stamps, it may be said that it seems natural that the 10 kopec was in the highest demand—several postoffices did not have any 5 kopec values at all as there were no postoffices nearer than 125 verst. When the postage was 10 kopec a 10 kopec postage stamp was used, rarely two 5 kopec ones. However, covers with two 5 kopecs exist. A cover with one 5 and one 10 kopec postage stamps is very rare. This is explained, although there was no rate for 15 kopecs as "registered mail." These few copies are not really "registered" mail, however the letters had been specially noted on a letter list.

About the cancellation of the oval stamps, it was instructed that they should be cancelled in such a manner that the date in the "lådstamp" (box cancellation) struck the postage stamp. The cancellation marks were often weak in their construction and in the larger postoffices they were worn out more or less—hence one circle cancellation stamp, 28 mm, was taken in use in 1856. Black ink was also used. It happened that the postmaster ran short of ink and then soot or something similar was used—which could be cleaned off. Therefore in 1857 it was instructed that all postage stamps should be cancelled in ink. It happens occasionally that the cancellation marks were used, but the rule was that the postage stamp should be crossed with ink and only the cover postmarked. It occurred that the postmark also touched the postage stamp, which in the catalogues is marked with "ink and postmark." On the 5 kopec with large pearl a postmark only was against the regulation and should be rare. Some officials with time and ideas drew figures in place of a cross or a stroke, double crosses, stars, a net of squares, etcetera, but there are two marks known, a "L" made by Mr. Langolain at Helsingfors and Mr. Norring (first at Wiborg and later at Lovisa) with his "N" with a double line above. These penmarks are rare.

On many oval stamps in addition to ordinary cancellation, stamp or ink, one often finds a letter or figures. This is not a cancellation but the number in m/s on the letter to correspond with the numbered letter list. This number was placed on the cover's upper right corner, where the postage stamp was placed, therefore the number came on it. If a postage stamp is to be of unusually high quality then, it should be without this number.

The sale of the 5 kopec was 138,500, of which 70,000 with a small pearl and 68,500 with a large one. Of 10 kopec the sale was 442,439. The quantity is not large and the price today is accordingly. As an example according to the catalogue prices one will get for one copy of 5 kopec large pearl 20 copies Norway No. 1. After the stamps were declared void at the end of 1859 the remaining balance was burned. The original dies have been preserved and some reprints have taken place. In 1862 twice, in 1872, in 1881 and now finally in 1956. The last, of which I have a copy, had 3210 reprints printed of each value. They are printed from the original dies at the Bank of Finland on paper from Tervakoski, watermarked posthorn. Attention has been given to have the watermark in the same position on all stamps.

Folks are inventive, sly also in Finland in 1850. The oval stamps are the same as on the envelopes. The envelopes had their postmarks on the front while the stamp was on the back and left uncanceled. When the postage stamps came in use then, the envelope stamps were cut off the used envelopes and used as postage stamps. But, if the public is inventive so are



the officials, and the economical department decided in 1858 to issue new stamps, this time on colored paper, to stop the use of cut-outs. The new stamps arrived on January 1st 1860, and are the wavy perforated kopec stamps. The values remained the same, 5 kopec blue on blued paper and 10 kopec red on reddish paper.

At the end of the oval stamp period, the public had become more accustomed to postage stamps and therefore the printing had to be improved. One departed from the hand press and bought a printing machine for book-printing with four plates of 40 stamps. The clichés were made by copper electrotyping. The die was made by Carl Magnus Mellgren, who formerly had made the oval stamps. The new printing machine could produce 50,000 stamps a day, so postage stamps were printed twice a year only. After the printing of the first 50,000 the plates were broken up and the clichés cleaned. Each printing therefore gave the stamps a new position in the plate.

Finland did not have a perforating machine and they had not money to procure one. It may here be noted that the economical department was very niggardly disposed to everything connected with the postal service. However, imperforated stamps were not wanted and they had to hit upon something. They took in use a perforation wheel (something like grandmother used dividing up her Christmas cakes). This was rolled over the sheets—serpentine roulette. We may well understand that it was a hard way to perforate stamps, because the plate upon which the paper lay when perforated became cut up and the perforation accordingly, so parting the stamps one or more perforation teeth were torn from one stamp, while another stamp had the missing teeth. At the time this was not taken tragically, because there was no philatelist present to take into consideration. Perfect stamps are rare and therefore the catalogue prices them in three groups, viz. prima, less one tooth, and less two or three teeth. If anyone wants to collect stamps which are short of more, that must be left to each collector. For the 1860 issue two types of wheels were used. Perforation I and II (some catalogues use A and B) according to the famous expert on Finland, Gustaf von Möller, three wheels have been used for type I and two wheels for type II, further he has discovered that wheel type II has 18 stamps or teeth.

This issue has several color shades both on the postage stamps and of the paper and several varieties of paper, thin, medium and thick, with luster lines and cartonlike. These stamps were in use until the end of 1865.

We may let the stamps rest for a while and turn to the history of Finland. When Finland became a Grand Duchy, the Senate became the highest organ of administration. The Senate was divided into the Economical Department, which was the government proper, and the Department of Justice. The governor acted as the president of the Senate. He was the personal representative of the Czar or, if you wish, the personal representative of the Grand Duke. It is therefore natural that Finland was dependant on the Russian Czar and his politics. It is worthy of note that several of the Czars went in for reforms, but after a while these were stayed by intrigue, corruption and bureaucraties. From 1809 Finland was governed in various ways but a real Russification policy was not used. In 1855, during the Crimean war, Alexander II followed the reactionary Nicolas I as Czar and Grand Duke. The early period of his government was a hay day for reforms. Bond service was abolished in 1861 and the Finnish Parliament was summoned for the first time since 1809. From 1809 Swedish currency had been allowed beside the Russian, but in 1840 Russian became the only legal tender, 1 ruble=100 kopec. During the Crimean war the value of the ruble went down and accordingly

the Bank of Finland lost heavily. It was therefore resolved to issue a Finnish currency proper. 1 mark silver=100 penni and 1 Mark was equal to a quarter of a silver ruble. It was silver standard coin which was used then. This currency reform which was the result of a lenient political climate was first felt on the postage stamps in the new issues of 1866 due to the slow process of minting the new coins. The 10 kopec stamp became 40 penni and 5 kopec 20 penni. The colors were the same, respectively red and blue. New postage rates, the distance 125 verst was extended to 200 verst, and some other changes made necessary new values, and two new values, 5 penni and 10 penni were issued. The design remained as with the kopec stamps, they are on colored paper which for the 5 penni is red lilac to blue lilac, 10 penni yellowish, 20 penni bluish and 40 penni lilac rose. There are many shades on the stamps but in general they may be called, 5 p. brown lilac, 10 p. black, 20 p. blue and 40 p. red. In November 1866, it was decided to issue two supplementary values for the foreign mail, 8 penni green and 1 Mark brown, which were issued respectively January 1st 1867 and May 9th, 1867.

The penni stamps are the same as the others in the issue, but the 1 mark value has the figure 1 in each corner and the value in Russian letters on the left side, Finnish on the right and Swedish above and below. The same method for perforating was used but with a few more types of wheels. We have perforation types III (c) and IV (D). Many think that III is the result of sharpening of wheel II as the wheels became dull through wear and sharpening made the cuttings deeper and the teeth longer. The perforation IV is difficult to identify as it is much like type I. The difference is that while the teeth on I are conically formed, they are nearly square on IV. This perforation is rare and so is type V. The specialists of these stamps distinguish 12 different perforations. They are met with double and mixed perfs. Also in this issue one meets with several paper qualities and color shades, both on the papers as well as on the postage stamps themselves.

For this issue the number of clichés was 50 instead of 40 for the kopec values.

As mentioned for the kopec stamps, this time too the plates were broken up after each printing. Once, when they had to print the 5 pen., a cliché for the 10 pen. was put into the plate of 5 pen. causing a rare error for philatelists.

I mentioned that during Alexander II's reign the political climate was lenient. This is seen on the next Finnish stamp of 1875. On this issue all that reminds of Russia is removed and one meets with the name of the country for the first time. The text is Swedish and Finnish and the Finnish coat of arms. The stamps remind one about the German and design is known which is a copy of the German. These stamps were the result of the Congress of Bern, 1874, when the U. P. U. was founded. The foreign rate became decided for Russia to 8 silver kopec for 15 grams. Accordingly with 1 ruble=4 mark silver, the foreign rate in Finland became 32 penni. The first stamp to be made was 32 penni. The clichés were made by H. H. Thiele, Copenhagen, who also made a trial issue (57,500 stamps) which was perforated by Thiele 14x13½. It was issued July 1st 1875, the day when the new rates were introduced. This stamp is known as the "Copenhagen print." The plates for the stamps in this issue were as follows, 50 clichés for 2, 5, 8 and 32 penni, 100 clichés for 20 penni and 25 for 1 Mark. The stamps were sent out in the fall and the winter of 1875, except the 1 Mark which was issued January 1877.

These postage stamps have always been difficult for the collector. They



may be divided into four parts:

- 1) The provisional 32 penni (the Copenhagen print)
- 2) Stamps from 1875-1882, perforated 11,
- 3) Stamps from 1881-1884, 12½ and mixed perforations.
- 4) New colors and values, 1885-1888.

This is a good way to divide the issue and for 1 and 4 it is correct but for 2 and 3 it may be too simple. To divide the stamps according to the perforation is, according to the specialists, worthless. On July 1st 1875 the 32 penni Copenhagen print arrived. Between August 1875 and January 1877 the balance of the issue appeared. They were printed by the Senate's printing shop (which by the way also printed the wavy perforation stamps). They were gummed and perforated by the Karta-Sigillata office. Up to 1881 the perforation was 11. On May 15th 1879 the 8- and 32-penni values were withdrawn according to regulations from the international congress in Paris, which decided upon new rates for the foreign mail. A new value, 25 penni, replaced the 32 penni.

According to the latest information Thiele, Copenhagen, also delivered the clichés for the 25 penni. On October 1st a new 10 penni stamp was issued for postcards. In October 1881 a new perforating machine—12½—was taken in use at the Karta-Sigillata office. The old 11 perforating machine was not removed but the two machines worked side by side for three-quarters of a year and from this period originates the mixed or compound perforation. In 1882 the printing was removed to a new printing shop at the Karta-Sigillata office. The difference here is not in the perforation but in the difference between the two print shops—between Senate printing called S-print, and Karta Sigillata print, K-print. For both prints one meets with perforation 11, 12½ and mixed. The K-print used aniline in the inks and by this the prints may be separated. The plates were the same for both printers. In the catalog one will note that the color shades for respectively 11 and 12½ perforation for one shade are priced high in one perforation but cheap in another. This is because the S-print has less perforated 12½ and the K-print has less perforated 11. This is not always followed in exchanging, and it is easy to come to the conclusion that the shade is the expensive one. It is difficult to separate the stamps according to the prints, but the printing cloth is somewhat different and the mixed aniline in the K-prints give these stamps a flat, unmarked soft and an almost primitive print.

The sizes of the plates did, as said above, differ from 25 stamps for the 1 Mark to 100 for the 20 penni—anyway it is correct for the 1875-1882 years. There are however many signs which show that the number of clichés were increased to 100 for all values, these were all made by Thiele. It was unsatisfactory to work with different sizes of the sheets, you see.

These issues have, as mentioned before, a richness of color shades and paper qualities. Variations of perforation (also rough perforation) printing and plate flaws are also found.

Finland's entrance into the Postal Union caused the country to take note of the color rules and to comply with same. New colors came January 1st, 1885. During the last few years there had been a demand for higher values and now 5 and 10 Marks were issued. With this issue two color printing was used for the first time, that was for the marks values: 1 Mk. grey/rose, 5 Mk. green/rose and 10 Mk. brown/rose. The clichés for these three values were made by the Finnish Mint. Students do not agree whether there were 100 or 200 clichés, but it is certain that they were printed in double sheets of 200

stamps. For the penni values the old clichés were used. There is a richness of plate flaws and color shades.

On several occasions I have mentioned that the years of the Czar Alexander II reign were a time of reforms. However, at its end his reign hardened and simultaneously the revolutionary movement gained strength. The harder the reign the harder were the methods used by the revolutionaries in Russia, one bomb attempt followed the other and Czar Alexander was killed in 1881 as a victim to one of these. He was succeeded by Alexander III and from then on all reforms terminated and a growing unrest followed with fights and demonstrations which lead up to the revolution in Russia in 1917 and the freedom of Finland.

It took some time before the hardened process can be noted on the postage stamps of Finland. We saw that the 1885 issues remained purely Finnish but in 1889 the Russian wording returned to stamps and from then on increasing Russification took place up to 1917.

The new stamps of 1889 remind one of the issues of 1875-1888 but now the text is Swedish on the left, Finnish above and Russian on the right side. Now it is only the value in figures in the upper circles, below in the circles are the coinage in Swedish/Finnish at left and Russian at the right. Besides this we have now the figure of value below the oval. The clichés were made by Thiele, Copenhagen. This issue was printed with 2 x 100 stamps in a double sheet. The mark value was printed in sheets of 50.

This issue comes in two parts according to perforation and paper quality. The values of 1889 are: 2 pen. gray, 5 pen. green, 10 pen. red, 20 pen. orange, 25 pen. blue, 1 mk. brown/rose, 5 mk. green/rose and 10 mk. brown/rose. They are in the same colors and values as for 1885, but with the addition of a 2 penni stamp. All the values have many shades. The stamps were printed by Karat-Sigillata kontoret, perforation 12½. The perforation is divided in three, the ordinary, the rough and the large holes. The rough perforation is a defective one which also is known on Norwegian stamps, where we consider them cheaper, while the Finnish rough perforated stamps are of higher value than the ordinary perforation. For the large hole perforation, too thick needles were used, so the stamps parted too easily. The perforations became pointed and are often called the sharp perforation. The 14x13x12½ perforation is known too.

Herewith we have finished with the first period of the Finnish stamps which lasted from 1856 to 1891. Here we have seen that the stamps are mostly purely Finnish and Finland was with regard to stamps an independent country. The second period is different. The Russification aim which began in 1880 and caused Russian text on the 1889 issue assailed the Finnish postal administration itself in 1891, which by the Czar's proclamation of June 12th, 1890, became dependent on the Russian department of Interior in St. Petersburg. In July the same year it was decided that all Governmental institutions and offices in Finland from now onwards should accept Russian currency as perfectly valid and legal tender. All postoffices received a tabular form for recalculating from Russian to Finnish currency. This line of Russification progressed even further and it was decided that all mail to Russia should use Russian stamps of the double eagle design. To insure that all expenses with the postage stamps used in Finland were paid by the Finnish treasury, the Russian stamps were provided with a ring imprint. The rings were not put on the stamps to mark Finland apart from Russia, but only to have a control of the payment of the printing. The postage stamps were



printed and ring surcharged by the Government printing works in St. Petersburg, but for the account of Finland. These stamps were the only payment for mail to Russia also legal postage inland and for foreign use beside the stamps of 1889. At this time the Finnish resistance awoke and increased and the silent resistance against the Russification rapidly grew. It is typical that Finnish postage stamps preferably were used both for the inland mail and abroad.

The ring surcharge is placed on the postage stamps in four different ways. For the 1, 2, 3 and 7 kopecs around the oval, for 14 and 35 kopecs two rings above, on the 4, 10, 20, 50 kopecs and 1 ruble a ring in each corner while the 3.50 and 7 rubles stamps had one ring in each corner inside the frame. One meets with the ring surcharge displaced, touching either the oval or the frame. The kopec values are perforated  $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ , the ruble stamps  $13\frac{1}{2}$ . There are two types of the 20 and 50 kopecs, type I has an under print over the stamps only, while on type II the under print covers the whole sheet. It is also found displaced.

(to be continued)

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## Norwegian Railroad and Steamship Stamps

by Frederick A. Brofos

### Part III—Suburban Railroad Parcel Services (cont.)

In the second installment of this article, in the July issue, some printing errors occurred which should be corrected as follows: On page 40, the number under the 10 øre stamp pictured in the middle of the page should be changed from No. 5 to No. 6. The number under the 20 øre stamp should be changed from No. 6 to read No. 5. On page 41, the number under the 20 øre stamp should read No. 10 instead of No. 12a. Incidentally, the picture of the 20 øre pair, at the bottom of page 45, shows Type 2 on the left and Type 1 on the right.

I shall now continue the list of Ekebergbanen stamps which, together with those of Graakalbanen, brings to a close the group of suburban railroad parcel services. Later on, we shall move farther afield and cover the other private railroads which have operated in various parts of Norway. Some of them issued stamps as far back as in 1870 and 1881.

#### Ekebergbanen (cont.)

Date? New values. Design as previously.

16. 230 øre red on green (black control no's.)
17. 250 øre red on blue (black control no's.)
18. 280 øre red on white (black control no's.)
19. 310 øre red on yellow (black control no's.)
20. 330 øre red on pink (red control no's.)

Date? New values. Design as previously.

21. 75 øre red on blue (black control no's.)
22. 125 øre red on white (black control no's.)
23. 175 øre red on yellow (black control no's.)
24. 200 øre black on pink (dark red control no's.)

Date? (current in 1957). Design as previously.

25. 50 øre black on white (red control no's.)

Special stamps were issued for an express-goods motor truck route run by the Ekeberg Railroad Company.



December 1, 1940 (?). Large size. At top, in band, "EKEBERGCANENS" and beneath this "ILGODSBILRUTE". Value in circle in the center above the company monogram "EB". Each stamp has a consecutive control number added in black at the bottom. The stamps are from rolls and are imperforate at the sides and perforated 10 at the top and bottom.

1. 10 øre black and light green
2. 15 øre black and red
3. 20 øre black and ultramarine
4. 50 øre black and yellow
5. 100 øre black and mauve

I imagine the following three stamps were used in connection with the above mentioned delivery truck route.





Date? Large size stamp. Printed in coils, imperforate at sides and perforated  $9\frac{1}{2}$  at top and bottom. Inscribed at top "EKEBERGBANENS ILGODS-RUTE" and, diagonally across the center, "OMBRINGELSESavgift"—i.e., Ekebergbanens express-goods route. Delivery fee. At the bottom of the design there is a control number with the figures printed in red.

6. 20 øre black and red
7. 30 øre black and red
8. 50 øre black and red

### Graakalbanen

A company was organized and founded in Trondheim in 1916 to build and operate a suburban railroad. The new line was called "Graakalbanen," after the proposed terminus near Graakallen hill. A 5.76 kilometer stretch from St. Olafsgate, Trondheim, to Munkvold was completed by July 24, 1924, at which time traffic was inaugurated. The line was lengthened to Ugla station in 1925 and by November 1933 it had reached Lian, the present terminus, which is about 8.8 kilometers from St. Olafsgate. A stretch of about 3 kilometers still remains before the original terminus near Graakallen is reached. In all, there are 14 stations on this line, which is run by electricity.



Date? Company name, under which is the value and beneath this the word "Frimerke gods". This simple design is surrounded by a single-line border. Perforated 11.

1. 25 øre black on pink paper



Date? Design as previously, but the company name and "Frimerke gods" are in a new type of lettering. Notice especially the "R" in "GAA" which here has a loop on its right foot. The "g" in "Frimerke gods" is now open at the bottom, while previously it was closed. Perf. 11.

2. 50 øre black on light blue paper
3. 1 Krone black on yellow paper
  - a) error: additional horizontal line of perfs thru middle of stamp.

It seems possible that each of the above three values may occur in both

types of lettering, although I have myself only seen those mentioned. They are cancelled in violet with a straight-line cancellation reading "A/S Graakalbanen". All three of my stamps have one side imperforate, which indicates that the sheets had no margins around them and that therefore all marginal stamps would have one—and corner stamps two—sides imperforate.

(to be continued)

## Facsimiles and Forgeries of Norway

by Frederick A. Brofos

### Part II

In the April issue we discussed three old forgeries of Norway's first stamp, all of which were quite easy to discern. However, a fourth forgery of Norway No. 1 has recently been discovered and is now described and pictured in "Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" No. 4, 1958. This appears to be a dangerous counterfeit and at first glance it might fool even the best. Fortunately there is one big thing wrong with it, and that is that the lion watermark is missing. So, in the future, better check for the watermark when buying the 4 skilling 1855 of Norway!

The next monkey business on hand is a crude forgery or facsimile of the 8 skilling Oscar I of 1856. There is an irregular perforation of square-shaped holes. The pale carmine color is passing, but the drawing of the design is badly copied. The most prominent mistakes are that the word "FRIMÆRKE" is broken into two parts and all the lettering is without serifs. The figures "8" in the bottom left and right corners have been replaced with rosettes on the counterfeit. Poor King Oscar has raised his eyebrows in a startled expression, and no wonder—the "G" of "SKILLING" is even missing! The blurred black (numeral 7—) postmark is also a fake and of a type never used on Norwegian stamps. There are of course many other minor differences but I think this should be quite sufficient to nail down this old imposter. A friend in Norway sent me the photo and description of this interesting item, and I would be interested in hearing from anyone else with similar material which should be put on record.



Just as this was going to press, I hear from Capt. F. G. Olausen that he has seen the 2nd forgery of Norway No. 1, but with the numeral postmark 306. As with the other numbers, mentioned in the last issue, the rings did not form complete circles.



## Recent and Prospective Issues of Scandinavia

DENMARK issued a special 30 øre stamp in red on September 4, 1958, on the occasion of the centenary of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College. The harvest motif was prepared by Marcel Rasmussen.

GREENLAND will issue on November 5, 1958, a new 30 øre stamp in red color for the 200th anniversary of the death of Hans Egede. The design was made by the artist Viggo Bang, the motif being taken from a painting of Hans Egede by Johan Hørner done in 1740. The stamp will be printed in sheets of 50 stamps. Perf. 12%.

FINLAND issued on October 1, 1958, a 30 mark stamp commemorating the centenary of the founding of the first secondary school to use the Finnish language, namely the Lyceum of Jyväskylä. The stamp shows the seal of the institution, and was designed by the artist Olavi Vepsäläinen, and was engraved by B. Ekholm. The quantity of the issue will be two million copies.

ICELAND issued on September 27, 1958, two new stamps honoring the Icelandic pony. For centuries these ponies were the only means of land travel in Iceland. The values are 10 aur. grey and 2.25 kr. brown. The design is the work of the Reykjavik artist Halldor Petursson. The engraving and the printing by single direct plate in sheets of 50 stamps was done by the firm of Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London.

The issuance of the above two stamps coincided with the opening of the Icelandic stamp exhibition "Frimex," at which there was a special post office using a special postmark.



## Notes from the Editor

Another year is drawing to a close, and I hope that you all have been able to spend many pleasant hours with your stamp collections.

Although this is the last "Posthorn" of 1958, it is perhaps still too early to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank so very much all those of you who have lent their support by contributing articles and news. It is only with your cooperation that this magazine can continue its high standards. In the course of the new year I hope that many more of you will be inspired to do some writing. If everyone kept his discoveries to himself, what a primitive state philately would be in!

The S. C. C. AUCTION will start at 2 PM on November 8, 1958 in Room 807, 545 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

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WANTED: Norway No. 1 position B50 primary, B50 secondary, D16 secondary, D17 secondary, B6 secondary, in singles or multiples. Write to Capt. Fredrik G. Olausen, 743 West "D" Street, Ontario, California.

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