



# The POST HORN

Sponsored by the  
SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

---

Vol. 20

April 1963

No. 2

---

## Fiscal Cancellations on Greenland Parcel Post Issues

By George Stribley

The Greenland Parcel Post Stamps are an intriguing issue to the philatelic specialist by reason of the many perforation, paper, cancellations and the printing process varieties to be found. The cancellations are in two categories; those of the administration office at Copenhagen, and those used in Greenland. These stamps were used not only for postal duty, but for fiscal purposes as well, and many a collector has acquired cancelled copies believing them to be postally used, when examination will reveal a fiscal cancellation. Little has been written in the philatelic press on the fiscal cancellations, and it is upon the fiscal cancellations this article is based.

In the *American Philatelist* for November, 1940, Vol. 54, No. 2, Page 80, is the pioneer article in the American philatelic press on the Greenland parcel post issues, entitled: "The Mail Service To and From Greenland Under the Royal Greenland Company," by E. F. Hurt. The author catalogs the postmarks of Greenland, and states: "Probably it will be long before a complete listing of all markings used will be made. . . There is therefore, great scope for the interested specialist who wishes to continue this study."

The obstacle in the pursuit of a study of the Greenland cancellations is the inability of a collector to acquire these stamps in any appreciable quantity. A purchaser of a lot of 15 or 20 of these issues at one time, is indeed fortunate. For this reason there has been some uncertainty as to postal and fiscal markings. Mr. Hurt's prediction of the time required for a complete listing is conservative.

On page 95 of the article by Mr. Hurt on the Greenland Parcel Post stamps, it is stated: "The 'Pakke Porto' stamps have been used for savings bank purposes, being attached to the pages of savings bank books and cancelled with the oval Gronlands Styrelse cachet, after being obliterated in pen or pencil as attached. Each page took twelve stamps—usually the 20 ore value."

Since the publication of Mr. Hurt's article, the Greenland Administration Bureau of the Danish Department of the Interior, published a booklet, the first official pamphlet explaining the Greenland postal system, entitled: "Gronlands

No. **Fig. 1****Mærkinik**Uvanga  
Jeg

nipitissuifingnik ukuninga  
som ejer denne Bog meddelet  
nalunaerpunga imai tamaisa  
Belobet til

pisiniar  
Til Hæd

pisiniartississup al  
luniusagangamigt tauva  
nut kanok amerlatigissat  
sinassut, magpersigarsu  
ssuma aningaussat tauko  
lererunilo tauva Mærkit  
katsigut nakitasavai pis  
niarsunik. pisiniartiss  
savai nautorsuunigssar  
nipitissuifit nautorsat  
kunarpal.

Naar en Handelsbestyrer  
tæller han selv op, for hvormange  
skrives i sin Hovedbog, at de  
regnede Beløb, hvorefter han  
Handelsstedets almindelige Num  
mer Bogen omhyggeligt indf  
sender da Bogen som Bilag til

tignerit  
(Kvittering)

Uvanga nipitissuifingnik

No. **Fig. 2****Mærkinik nipitissuifig**  
(Spærkemærkebog)Uvanga  
Jeg

nipitissuifingnik ukuninga pigingnigtung  
som ejer denne Bog meddelet herved, at jeg ønske  
nalunaerpunga imai tamaisa tignumavai  
Belobet til

pisiniartississumut  
Til Handelsbestyreren

pisiniartississup aningaussat nipitissu  
nitiisagangamigt tauva kiserkårsasavai  
kanok amerlatigissat Mærkit nipitissu  
magpersigarsuaminutlo agdlåsaok in  
aningaussat tauko nautorsuugkat tignu  
runilo tauva Mærkit (nipitissuassut) tam  
sigut nakitasavai pisiniartekarliup nakit  
niarsunik. pisiniartississup nipitissuifit  
vai nautorsuunigssane utarkivdlugo, tain  
pitissuifit nautorsuutiminut ilangutdlugit  
pal.

Naar en Handelsbestyrer skal udbetale Pen  
tæller han selv op, for hvormange Penge, der er  
skrives i sin Hovedbog, at det Menneske har fa  
afregende Beløb, hvorefter han overstamper alle  
Handelsstedets almindelige Nummerstempel. Handel  
mer Bogen omhyggeligt indfild Regnskabsarets  
sender da Bogen som Bilag til Handelsstedets Reg

Fig. 3

tignerinut nalunaerut  
(Kvittering)

Uvanga nipitissuifingnik

No. **Fig. 4****Mærkinik nipitissuifigssat**  
(Spærkemærkebog)Uvanga  
Jeg

nipitissuifingnik ukuninga pigingnigtunga matumana  
som ejer denne Bog meddelet herved, at jeg ønsker at have hele  
nalunaerpunga imai tamaisa tignumavai  
Belobet til

pisiniartississumut  
Til Handelsbestyreren

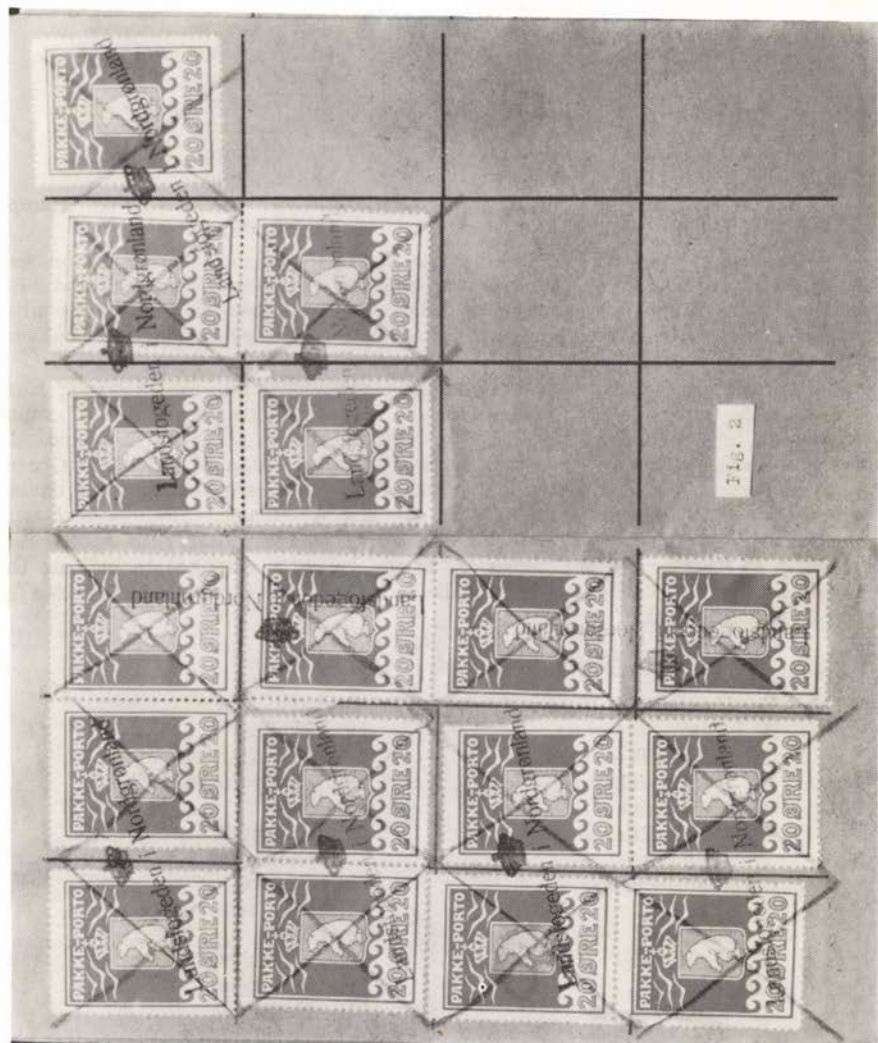
pisiniartississup aningaussat nipitissuifingnilt  
luniusagangamigt tauva kiserkårsasavai aningauss  
nut kanok amerlatigissat Mærkit nipitissuornekars  
inassut, magpersigarsuaminutlo agdlåsaok in  
ssuma aningaussat tauko nautorsuugkat tignu  
runilo tauva Mærkit (nipitissuassut) tamardlunai  
sa katsigut nakitasavai pisiniartekarliup nakitiss  
niarsunik. pisiniartississup nipitissuifit forkordlu  
savai nautorsuunigssane utarkivdlugo, tainanikudlo  
nipitissuifit nautorsuutiminut ilangutdlugit nagsioka  
unarpal.

Naar en Handelsbestyrer skal udbetale Penge for en Bog  
tæller han selv op, for hvormange Penge, der er Mærket i den, og  
skrives i sin Hovedbog, at det Menneske har faet udbetalt det af  
regnede Beløb, hvorefter han overstamper alle Mærkerne med  
Handelsstedets almindelige Nummerstempel. Handelsbestyreren gem  
mer Bogen omhyggeligt indfild Regnskabsarets Slutning, og ind  
sender da Bogen som Bilag til Handelsstedets Regnskab.

tignerinut nalunaerut  
(Kvittering)

Uvanga nipitissuifingnik







Postvaesen Saertryk af Beretninger Vedrorende Gronlands Styrelse Nr. 1, 1945." This publication states: "The 20 ore parcel post stamp was extensively used in North Greenland as and for postal savings stamps, and since 1915, this postal savings service increased in popularity requiring the printing of additional quantities of the 20 ore stamp. The additional quantities of the 20 ore stamp ordered and delivered by the printing firm of H. H. Thiele is as follows:

1915	10,000 stamps	
1923	12,500 stamps	
1926	45,000 stamps	
1927	63,750 stamps	
1929	100,000 stamps	
1931	60,000 stamps	
1933	53,125 stamps	
<hr/>		
Total	344,375 stamps	stamps

"The use of the postal savings service of the Greenland Administration was confined almost entirely to the North Greenland settlements (Kolonien) and 86% of the 20 ore parcel post stamp was used for postal savings. . . Occasionally, other values of the parcel post series was used in the postal savings booklets, but such was the exception."

For administration purposes, Greenland is divided into two districts; Godthaab is the capitol of all Greenland and the administrative center of south Greenland, and Godhavn is the administrative center of north Greenland. In the Greenland language, south Greenland is called 'Qavane' and north Greenland is 'Avane.' In north Greenland there are seven large settlements having jurisdiction for administrative purpose of nearby villages, stations and outposts. Altogether, there are 38 administrative offices as of 1938 selling the parcel post stamps, and the numerical listing below is arranged to indicate the large settlement followed by the smaller offices subject to the jurisdiction of the large settlement.

#### North Greenland (Avane) Offices

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Egedesminde     | 20. Godhavn              |
| 1. Agto            | 19. Skansen              |
| 2. Iginiafik       | 21. Diskofjorden         |
| 3. Kangatsiak      | 22. Kronprinsens Eilande |
| 4. Manermiut       | 26. Umanak               |
| 6. Hunde-Eilande   | 23. Nugssuak             |
| 7. Akungnak        | 24. Niakornat            |
| 10. Christianshaab | 25. Kaersut              |
| 8. Ikamiut         | 27. Ikerasak             |
| 9. Akugdlit        | 28. Satut                |
| 11. Klaushavn      | 29. Uvkusigssat          |
| 12. Jakobshavn     | 30. Igdlorsuit           |
| 13. Rhodabay       | 31. Nugatsiak            |
| 14. Ata            | 34. Upernavik            |
| 15. Ritenbenk      | 32. Sondre Upernavik     |
| 16. Kekertak       | 33. Proven               |
| 17. Sarkak         | 35. Augpiladtok          |
| 18. Ujarasugssuk   | 36. Tuggssak             |
|                    | 37. Tasiussak            |
|                    | 38. Kraulshavn           |

The Greenland Administration booklet contains a table of the sales of the parcel post stamps in Greenland by settlements (Kolonien) from 1905 to 1939,

as follows:

Sales of Parcel Post Stamps In Greenland  
1905-1939

Colony	3 Kr	1 Kr	70 ore	20 ore	15 ore	10 ore	5 ore	2 ore	1 ore
Julianehaab	21	1063	451	521	200	1175	400	200	600
Ivigut	14	78	50			40			
Frederikshaab	13	128	61	59		396	128		274
Godthaab	43	873	501	395	112	1000	289	100	379
Sukkertoppen	46	464	302	300		866	250		300
Holsteinsborg	38	381	265	172	100	605	250	100	300
Egedesminde	52	4099	252	27469		722	300		500
Christianshaab		1701	53	26176	50	368	100		200
Jakobshavn	30	1603	320	24738		611	100		209
Ritenbenk	56	3146	74	8874		134	50		100
Godhavn	114	1198	357	16423	100	726	250	150	159
Kutdligssat	100	2878	276	6367		1250			
Mamorilik	3	16	17	125		335			
Umanak	478	7598	140	123150		414	126		155
Upernavik	330	9025	264	45716	300	528	175	100	209
Thule		3	1			2			
Angmagssalik	34	307	76	195		197	5		30
Scoresbysund	34	66	42	87		74			
	1406	34627	3502	280767	862	9443	2423	650	3388
Damaged and Returned				3071		318			
	1406	34627	3502	277696	862	9125	2423	650	3388
Used for Sav- ings Stamps	100	29000	500	273200	90	890	65		
Net used for Postage	1306	5627	2003	4496	772	8235	2358	650	3388

The 3 Kr., 1 Kr., 70 ore, 20 ore, 15 ore, 10 ore and 5 ore, having been used for postal savings should exist with fiscal cancellations. The table reflects the extensive use of the 20 ore stamp for postal savings by the north colonies and at Umanak colony in particular with 123,150 of the parcel post stamps sold mainly for postal savings use. The colony of Umanak has through the years sold upwards of half of the 20 ore stamps. Likewise, most of the other values of these stamps, particularly the 1 krone were sold in North Greenland. Savings stamp books, when redeemed, are with the exception of the latest redemptions, destroyed after the books have been audited in accordance with an ordinance or order by the Constable of Greenland. But, like our own post office department in selling postal notes for scrap paper from which the buyer salvaged complete sets of the postal note stamps which otherwise would not have reached the philatelic market; there were leaks and postal savings stamp books, the front and back covers of such books, and the parcel post stamps with fiscal cancellations soaked from book pages have found their way into the hands of stamp dealers and collectors.

Economic conditions in North Greenland account for the large sales of stamps for postal savings use. South Greenland has not developed commercially to any extent, while in North Greenland the financial lot of the native has been improved by regular, almost year around employment in mining coal on Disko Island, marble at Marmorilik, near Umanak; ship repair work, fish



canneries and in other industrial and commercial activities. There are no banks as we know them, so the native is a good patron of the postal saving service for the investment of his surplus funds.

A Greenlander in making a postal saving deposit is given a "sparemaerk-bog" or a stamp book with the front and back covers printed in the Greenland language, with directions and instructions for use of the savings service, with a line to write in the name of the depositor, date, signature of the station or colony official, and other information. The inside of the front and back cover and sixteen pages are ruled and blocked off into spaces for 12 stamps (Fig. 2) for each page. The covers are printed on a gray soft pulp stock, while the sixteen inner pages are of a brown cheap pulp paper. A full book will contain 216 stamps.

When a depositor made a postal saving deposit, stamps to the amount of the deposit are affixed in the stamp book and cancelled by the administrative official. When the stamp book of the depositor has been redeemed by the Greenland Administration and audited by the Controller, or bookkeeping office, a line drawn in blue crayon is made diagonally across the page of stamps, in such a way as to cancel at least 10 of the 12 stamps on the page. After the audit, the stamp book was to be destroyed.

Usually, at the time of the purchase of the stamps, the Administrative official cancelled the stamps then affixed with a two line rubber stamp containing "Nr." (with a number) on top line, and "Avane" on the bottom line. (Fig. 3.) Usually, a purple ink was used with the cancelling stamp, but occasionally a black ink was used. However, in many instances, the stamps were cancelled with the cancelling device used for cancelling stamps used for postal purposes, such as a straight line "Koloniene Ritenbenk" (Fig. 3) with crown above, oval cancelling devices, etc. (Fig. 2).

To the unwary, a tell-tale sign of the fiscal use of a parcel post stamp is the diagonal blue crayon mark (Fig. 2), which mark rules out postal use. Many stamps used for fiscal purposes have been and are being sold to collectors as postally used stamps. When the above table is studied, it will be observed that the net amount of the parcel post stamps used for postal service is relatively small.

Another indication of the fiscal use of the parcel post stamp is the cheap brown pulp paper with the line used for blocking off the stamp squares still adhering to the stamp, on which pairs and blocks are affixed. Pairs and two single stamps with such brown paper affixed have been cut from the stamp savings books, and the stamps performed fiscal and not postal service. Cancelled stamps with Greenland cancellations, which have been soaked and removed from paper, present a problem to determine whether the stamp was used for fiscal or postal service. If the stamp is affixed to a wrapping paper of a weight and quality strong enough to carry a package from Greenland to Denmark, such paper lends some credence to postal use. Considering the nominal parcel post rates from Greenland to Denmark, and that the various values of the parcel post stamps provide the correct postage for the parcels to the weight limit allowed, blocks, strips of three and pairs should be the exception and a rarity. Blocks of four, strips of three, and pairs are available for a price and in an apparent good supply, there is good reason to doubt the legitimate use of blocks, strips and pairs for postal service use; the finger of suspicion points to fiscal use. The oval "Gronlands Styrelse" cancellation commonly found on the parcel post stamps was used only by the Administration office at Copenhagen and has not been found on stamps in the postal saving books.

Appended is a catalog of fiscal cancellations found on the Greenland parcel post issues. Some stamps will be found with an "Nr. --- Avane" cancellation and with another "Colony" cancellation also used, the reason being that a stamp

affixed at Ujarasugssuk, designated as "Nr. 18 Avane" is a substation of "Colony Ritenbenk," and the stamps were double cancelled on the way to the redemption office. No claim is made for completeness in listing all fiscal cancellations, Fig 3, but the catalog of cancellations will afford a basis for further study of the fiscal cancellations and a complete catalog thereof at some time in the future.

### Fiscal Cancellations on Greenland Parcel Post Stamps

"Nr. --- Avane" in 2 lines, with numbers 1 to and including 38, in purple and black ink on all values of stamps used for postal savings.

"Nr. 11 Avane" in 2 lines with a double lined oval in purple on the 20 ore. Apparently this type of the Nr. Avane cancelling device used by Station No. 37 only.

"Avane 38" in two lines in purple on 20 ore. Reported on station No. 38 only.

"Kolonien Godhavn" in two lines with Crown above, in both black and in purple, on 20 ore.

"Handelsstadt Marmorilik" in two lines in black on 20 ore.

"Kolonien Jakobshavn" in two lines with Crown above in black on 20 ore.

"Handelsstedt Kutdligssat" in two lines in purple on 1 krone.

"Kolonien Ritenbenk" with crown above on 20 ore and 1 krone in purple and black.

"Kolonien Ritenbenk" between single inner and double lined outer ovals with three stars to left and right of inner oval, in black on 1 krone.

"Kolonien Umanak" in two lines with crown above in double lined oval, in black on 20 ore and 1 krone.

"Kolonien Christianshaab" in two lines with crown above in double lined oval, in black, on 20 ore.

"Sysselmandon i Christianshaab Syssel" in three lines in double lined oval, in purple, on 20 ore.

"Chb. N. 11" in single line, with crown above, in purple on 20 ore. This is an abbreviation for "Christianshaab No. 11".

"Udstedt Satut" in two lines, in purple, on 20 ore and 1 krone.

"Udstedt Proven" in single line, in purple and in black, on 20 ore and 1 krone.

"Kangerdluk" in single line with crown above, in double lined oval, in purple, on 20 ore.

"Landsfogeden i Nordgronland" in straight line with crown above in black. (Fig. 2).

From the table of sales, it is apparent that a parcel post stamp with a "Qavane" or south Greenland fiscal cancellation is a rarity, and it may be next to impossible to assemble a complete collection of the Qavane and Avane fiscal cancellations with the numbers from 1 to 38 inclusive.

Fig. 1 illustrates the three known printings of the postal savings booklets. The last line of the first paragraph of the instructions on the front cover was re-set three times at least so that in each setting the last word "nagsiukumarpai" is divided to end up on the next line with "kumarpai", "marpai" and as "pai". The number printed and the dates of the respective printings are unknown.

## Sojex 63

The Vineland Chapter of S. C. C. will hold a regional S. C. C. convention in connection with this show, which will take place at the Sea Side Motel and Hotel in Atlantic City from November 1st-3rd. The show will take over the 2nd floor of the Hotel. Naturally the Vineland Chapter hopes for participation from other S. C. C. members.



## Compex 63

PaSalle Hotel, Chicago, May 31st, June 1st and 2nd

As usual, the Compex program offers all sorts of things in addition to the stamp exhibits and the bourse. Of particular interest this year will be the U. S. Postal Department's participation, consisting in part of the special exhibits prepared for the Barcelona, Spain, show a couple of years ago. The competitive designs for the Gettysburg stamp will also be shown as will many other essays.

In addition to the philatelic contents of Compex, things will be happening all over the place in all directions. The Chicago Chapter is doing its best to make the social program of the show as complete as possible. Here are some of the items that you shouldn't miss.

Friday, May 31st, 1:30 P.M.—First Day Ceremony.

Saturday, June 1st, 3:30 P.M.—Coffee hour, Chicago Chapter Hospitality Suite.

6:00 P.M.—Cocktail hour

7:30 P.M.—Compex Banquet.

Sunday, June 2, 2:30 P.M.—S. C. C. regional meeting. Cocktails. Chicago Chapter Hospitality Suite.

In addition to this there will be auctions, meetings, movies and parties all over the Hotel. We of the Chicago Chapter are hoping to see lots of our members, and we promise to do our best to make your visit as memorable as possible. If you possibly can, we would like to have an exhibit from you. We are enclosing an entry blank in this Posthorn.

Be seeing you at Compex 63!

Ralph E. Danielson, President Chicago Chapter.

## Report From the S. C. C. Meeting March 28th, 1963

Among the items discussed at this meeting, one is particularly interesting to the membership at large. A member of one of the chapters in a letter brought up the possibility of using some of the S. C. C. surplus money to subsidize chapter meetings. In the discussion that followed, the idea found little or no support. It was brought out that the Chicago Chapter with its \$2.00 yearly dues has managed very well indeed, put on Compex, have a hospitality suite with coffee, cakes, drinks and so on, and in addition give door prizes at every meeting.

It was however, unanimously voted to make a small contribution to special regional meetings like the ones in connection with Sojex and Compex with a hope we might increase our membership. \$25.00 apiece was voted to Chicago and Vineland Chapter to help defray expenses at their hospitality suite. \$20.00 was voted to Mr. Banks and Svend Yort who are all alone putting on an S. C. C. proselyting show at the Canadian Royal Philatelic Society meeting May 17th at Niagara.

The problem of finances is a fairly pressing one. While we did end 1962 in the black—the above grants came out of that years surplus—the cost of everything is going up and it is only by exercising the utmost care, that we are getting by.

50 or 100 new members is a better answer to our problem than raising the dues.

It was also proposed to look into the possibility of the club running an auction this year, as there seems to be some sentiment among the members that an auction be held. In view of the New York Chapter's experience in this field, it was voted that they be contacted about running it.

—James Nyboe, Secretary.



## Chapter News

### DETROIT CHAPTER NEWS

On March 9th and 10th the Scandinavian Collectors Club of Detroit joined with the Northwest Stamp Society of Detroit to once again put on their annual stamp exhibit and bourse. As an added attraction, The Scouts on Stamps Society, International, Great Lakes Chapter, was also invited to show.

The Scandinavians came in for a good share of the awards. Albert E. Anderson won a gold medal for a superb collection of Greenland, with William Sarenius winning a silver for his Early Finland, and Ken Seifert, a bronze, also for Early Finland.

Petter Poppe stepped into competition with the Scouts on Stamps and won the silver award, and Ken Brown with the Northwest Society, won two gold medals with exhibits of Greenland and also Japanese National Parks. Carl Tordrup of the Detroit Chapter took a silver award also for his Miscellaneous Covers also in the Northwest section of the show.

A memorial exhibit of Dag Hammarskjold, world-wide issues including the first day covers, by Ken Brown, excited much comment and will be seen by request, at the Albion, Michigan Stamp Club Show on May 5th, at the Albion Armory, Albion, Michigan.

—Ken Brown

### CHICAGO CHAPTER 4

The Chicago Chapter which meets the fourth Thursday of each month, has been holding meetings at the LaSalle Hotel. At the January meeting the following were installed in office to serve for the year 1963.

Ralph E. Danielson, President

Dr. Charles Evanson, Vice President

Paul Mead, Secretary and Treasurer

Since the club is vitally interested in Compex, the club is briefed at each meeting on the progress towards the exhibition to be held May 31st, June 1st and 2nd. Roger Swanson of the S. C. C. is President of Compex this year. Ralph Danielson is delegate and Dr. Earl Jacobsen is alternate delegate representing the S. C. C. at the Compex meetings.

At our January meeting the club welcomed back Waldemar Niesen who had spent the past two years in Lapland, Norway, visiting relatives. He showed maps and pictures of the places he visited and told the club of his experiences and stamp collecting activities.

At our February meeting everyone brought something—a stamp, a cover or a page which could be described briefly and passed around so that everyone could take a close look. Many odd things turn up at a meeting like this.

At our March meeting Ralph Danielson showed the club a wonderful collection of Swedish postmarks—mostly of mail boats and steamships. He also showed several covers signed by U. S. asironauts.

—Paul Mead, Secretary.

---

Please send in your right address; 15 January Posthorn were returned because you had moved, and had failed to leave proper forwarding information. Did you know that every returned copy costs us or you—8 cents?

An afterthought: the Posthorn is your paper. Why don't you write something for it?

## New Issues

## DENMARK



On the occasion of the FRO campaign for Freedom from Hunger, a special stamp was issued, the value 35 ore. The date of issue March 21, 1963. The stamp will be printed on fluorescent paper as well as on non-fluorescent paper.

The stamp was designed by Mads Stage and the die engraved by Czeslaw Slania, the Swedish engraver.

## GREENLAND



To replace the current series of Greenland stamps of the King Frederik IX type and the type with the motif of the arctic ship (Gustav Holm) the Greenland Post Office issued the following new types:

Northern Light motif; denominations 1, 5, 10, 12 and 15 ore.

Picture of King Frederik IX in Anorak; 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80 ore.

Polar Bear Motif; 1, 2, 5 and 10 kroner.

The Northern Lights type were issued March 7th. The design for this type is by Viggo Bang and the die engraved by Miss M. Franzen, the Swedish engraver.

## FINLAND



On February 15th, Finland issued the following stamps: 15p, 25, 45, 1 mk 25p. These stamps are provided with denominations in conformity to the new monetary unit.





Finland will issue a new stamp April 21st, the value 0.40p. This stamp is to be issued in connection with the Day of the Postage Stamp in Finland.

#### NORWAY



In connection with the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, conducted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, the Norwegian Postal Administration will issue 4 stamps. First day of issue, March 21st, 1963.

25 ore, color yellow brown; design, boat loaded with sheaves of corn

35 ore, color green; design, boat loaded with sheaves of corn

50 ore, color red; design, victuals on cloth

90 ore, color blue; design, victuals on cloth



On April 22nd, Norway will issue a new series of ordinary stamps. They will be produced in steel plate printing by Norges Bank, the values 25 ore, 40 ore, and 90 ore. The stamps were designed by professor Arne E. Holm and engraved by Lokke Sorensen.

#### SWEDEN

##### U. N. Campaign Against Hunger

In connection with the World Campaign against hunger pursued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 1960, it has been proposed to issue on March 21st, 1963, simultaneously in as many countries as possible, special postage stamps in order to draw the attention to the want of food. The design of the stamps ought to include a symbol created especially for this issue: three ears of wheat. The basic idea is solely humanitarian, thus unpolitical.

The U. N. underlines that the absolute misery in which more than half of



the world's population lives and which implies that hundreds of millions of human beings starve, constitutes one of the most urgent problems of our time. By the World Campaign against hunger, the U. N. wants to make more favored people understand the extent and the intensity of the hunger of their fellow human beings and they also want to initiate ways in which this hunger can be immediately relieved and permanently eliminated.

## Tolf Öre and All That

By Ernest H. Wise

Behind the prosaic description under Sweden 1858 "12 ore blue" and a price that is a fleabite to any junior, lurks a great deal. The fact that any man can win a Grand Award anywhere at all with an exhibit of it is proof—and whether he happens to be the Editor of "Posthorn" or not is utterly irrelevant.

To ask a fellow to produce for you a 12 ore stamp in blue, and expect him over a period of 14 years to produce 106.7 million of them so alike as to be indistinguishable is a little unreasonable, and no one, not even the most meticulous Swede, could be expected to do it, certainly not between 1858 and 1872.

So it came about, (when all that was really required was a scrap of perforated paper to stick on a letter saying that Aunt Greta's little Ingrid had arrived safely), that the terms of reference were interpreted liberally enough.

To the physicist "blue" is a radiation that is of a definite wavelength. By fixing its intensity he has one color and no other.

Now in 1858 when the exercise was tackled, no one knew this and "blue" was the color of a rather messy liquid obtained when certain plants were boiled up in water (or a mixture of several such). Even if, by some miracle, you managed to get two lots of ink exactly the same, there was a good chance that when you used it to print on two batches of hand-made paper, the final shades would not be identical due to selective absorption of the constituents of the ink. Small wonder, then, that the color of this stamp while always blue, i.e. not red or puce, varied over the years between a delicate egg-shell blue and an indigo with occasional excursions towards a near-lilac.

Suppose you get your hands, then, on a thousand copies of this stamp—and you won't if someone we know well gets there first—what sense are you going to make of them and how?

First, and most important, cancel all your engagements for a month and have a good meal, because you won't be eating again for a week.

Then sort out all those that have dated postmarks with the year and month visible, and line them up. Hold nearby those bearing the year only as reinforcements. All you want to do at this stage is to put together those which are the same HUE and segregate them from those which are not. I say "hue" here because the term refers to distinct spectral colors, from which "tones"



and "shades" come by adding white or black. As you are not then interested in comparing the actual colors with those listed, but only to separate hues, this is best done in a light as different as possible from the blues you are separating, an orange light. This will emphasize whatever differences of hue exist.

The pile of 1862 stamps for example will have many in an unmistakeable ultramarine which has not appeared earlier, but others in shades which have. Segregate these "throw-backs" and you are left with authentic examples of the different hues to compare, in good daylight, with the shades listed by such catalogues as Wennberg, Facit or Dan. In these one sees listed with the hue the shade classification, say (8-6) which could be obtained with a given supply of ink by adding white or black to it, or by variation in the supply from the inking roller. Hence the tone or shade can vary considerably over a short period of time, though the hue will not.

Mount these definite, distinct hues, each on a separate page. Then sort the undated ones to match them, as far as possible, which will tire the eyesight dreadfully. Take a quick rap, or attend to your business if you must, then come back and see if all the stamps on the same page match each other and the prototypes. Some will strike you at once as intruders and can be put into the correct place.

The copies dated 1872 or later, and those judged to be of that period by the color, then subdivide into those on the "standard" paper, white and of medium thickness, and those on yellow paper usually thinner and softer. A bluish light shows up the color difference remarkably well. You will then have completed a broad vertical division by periods of use.

The postmarks have now served their principal purpose, so this is the time to remove those specimens which have postmark interest, since there is no point in having stamps with interesting postmarks, especially if scarce, doing duty helping to illustrate perhaps a common shade. Types to look out for are the boxed town cancellations more frequent on the skilling-banco series, "frykantstämplat," the arch-cancellations with the year 18...59 set radially, village undated cancellations with a star, or the numerous different type of T. P. O. markings. Of these the more important are the rail T. P. O.'s bearing "PKXP NR..." and those, easily missed, bearing a series of initial letters of the route on which used, e.g. N. S. B., Y. E. B. Two distinctive cancellations, Sodra St. Banan and West St. Banan being used on main routes are not uncommon. Ship T. P. O. in a large circle bearing "Angbats PXP", and "No..." in a segment are more elusive. Parcel post, field post, and other cancellations are found infrequently.

I recently unearthed a copy with the Danish 3-ring numeral cancellation "3" of the Danish P. O. in Lübeck obviously from a cover posted on one of the Baltic ferries. Copenhagen's "1" and the cross-Denmark railway's "181" also turn up from covers posted on the ferries from Malmö. Put all this postmark material aside for the next vacation; you already have more than enough to be going on with! The danger in a job of this kind is of being side-tracked too often.

We are left, then, with a mass of copies "vertically" classified for shade, which one now would wish to classify "horizontally" for varieties of different kinds. It is generally a good thing before hunting for anything, to get a fairly clear idea of what it is one is hunting for, that is, to establish the forms that varieties can take.

The "vapentyp" stamps of Sweden were typographed. Matrices of each value taken from the master-die were used to make electrotype clichés, then shells of copper which were backed by type-metal, and clamped together 100 at a time in a frame to make the plate. This was inked by a roller on the

raised portions and the ink pressed on to paper. Irregularities in the printing can be of two kinds—white where there should be color, and color where there should be none. Which of these has significance and which has not? If a hair from one of those gorgeous Swedish blondes should get on to the plate it would receive ink from the roller and dutifully transfer it to the paper, giving a colored hair-line. Dirt would likewise fill in the white areas with color till the next time the machine-minder cleaned the plate. Yet no real significance can be attached to these happenings. Frequently after prolonged use the soft copper was crushed slightly so that the frame appears to barrel out slightly and the corners tend to become splayed out. Likewise the background tends to become fuzzy, and these features are characteristic of certain printings.

Nevertheless the really significant plate flaws all result in defects in the coloring of the stamp. Pitting of the copper due to corrosion results in a freckled appearance of the blue in the panels at top and bottom. Distintegration of fragments from the plates shows as a number of constant flaws on the stamps. The most notable of these are breaks over the R of SVERIGE on one stamp, and over RI on another, a kink in the left panel near "12", a break in the line below 5. Others cause TOLF to appear as TQLF and TOLE. Such flaws are numerous, and for every one listed there are several which are not. The stamp is a good exercise in plating but for the fact that multiples of this stamp are very rarely found.

Finally the perforations merit scrutiny, being subject to two kinds of flaws. Slight slipping of the paper in the machine or slightly incorrect adjustment can produce a long tooth at the base of the vertical perforations throughout a horizontal row and persists on each stamp of a horizontal strip. Teeth occasionally broke off the machine and we see in consequence an "interrupted perf" effect which persists in stamps in a vertical strip. Rough perforation, and a "sharp" perforation of large holes and sharp teeth due to resharpened combs are also found especially, it seems, in 1865.

Much more could be written about it, but perhaps this contribution may bring out some of the fascination of this stamp, and explain why our Editor should have become so devoted to it whilst preserving all outward appearance of sanity!

---

## Odds and Ends

A new Norwegian monthly publication devoted to stamps has made its appearance. It is called Norsk Frimerkeblad and of course is written in Norwegian. Its editor is Carl A. Hamre and the address is P. O. Box 98, Sandnes, Norway. Interested subscribers may contact Brian Bjorgo, 650 Washington Ave., Bremerton, Washington, or write directly.

Your own editor's feelings about another monthly stamp paper in Norway is the following: There seems to be enough philatelic material floating around Norway and enough people willing to write. Why don't they get together and make up one top notch magazine.

---

Mr. Martin Bostrom, S. C. C. 846, of Klovjevagen 4, Orebro, Sweden, offers to handle First Day Covers from all the Scandinavian countries for our members.

---

Carl Pelander started his retirement none to auspiciously. He became ill during his last sale and as of now he is still under the weather. Snap out of it Carl, the palms of the South Seas are waving and waiting!



## Rare Danish Christmas Seal?



To S. S. S. Members:

I recently acquired a sheet of the Danish christmas seals of 1953 surcharged 1959. One of the stamps in the sheet, #31, has by a mistake been surcharged 1950 instead of 1959, and I understand it is quite scarce. I have not been able to obtain any information about this stamp, so I would appreciate it very much if anybody who has any information about this stamp would contact me.

—Arnold Sorensen, S. C. C. 938  
73 Platt Ave., West Haven 16, Conn.

#### S. C. C. AT NIAGARA FALLS MAY 17th

W. J. Banks and Svend Yort are promising a fine Scandinavian show at the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada meeting May 16-18, at the Sheraton Brock Hotel, Niagara Falls. The tentative program includes talks by Banks on the stamps of Faroe Islands, and by Svend Yort on Norway covers. Dr. Jacobsen promises to talk on Norway #1 if he can possibly make the meeting.

S. C. C. naturally wishes Banks and Yort the best of luck.

Somehow the name of the author of "Inverted Background on the 5 and 20 Pennia Issues of Finland, 1906," in the January issue of the Posthorn was lost, strayed or stolen. We are of course glad to credit the article to Mr. Stanley Pollard.

## NEW MEMBERS

- 962 Lester M. Nelson, 6165 Blain Pl., La Mesa, Calif.  
 963 Gordon Nielsen, 53 Bismark Ave., Valley Stream, N. Y.  
 964 Mrs. Evelyn Parks, P. O. Box 173, El Verano, Calif.  
 965 Harold D. Peterson, 1403 S. E. Ogden St., Portland, Oregon.  
 966 Peer Frederiksen, Bygaden 2, Haarlev, Denmark.  
 967 Raymond J. Patzer, 237 Republic Road, Batavia, Ill.  
 968 Alanson C. Schwarz, Jr., 744 So. Washington Street, Hinsdale, Ill.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

- 299 Nils Stalhandske, Nasbypark, Sweden  
 648 Paul Erickson, Ostra Berga, Arvika, Sweden  
 H1 Carl E. Pelander, 365 Clinton Avenue, Apt. 9A, Brooklyn 38, N. Y.  
 445 Waldemar Nielsen, Box 124, Alta, Norway  
 120 Lawrence D. Steefel, Route 1, Box 1712, Apache Junction, Arizona  
 927 Lt. jg John F. Walker, CHC, USN, U.S. M.C.R.D., Parris Island, So. Car.  
 892 David W. Angevine, 719 Capitol Park Towers, 301 G Street S.W., Washington 24, D. C.  
 505 Mogens Paulli, 946 S. E. 6th Street, Deerfield Beach, Fla.  
 883 Frank Cannon, 7400 Lakeview Drive, Bethesda 14, Md.  
 746 Paul H. Johansen, 1030 Edgehill Road S., Apt. 301, Charlotte 7, N. C.  
 805 Edward M. Nielsen, 6 Catherine St., Fairfield, Conn.  
 796 Frank E. Shaug, 4 Plymouth Ave., Middletown, Rhode Island.  
 876 Roland H. Osborne, M.D., 13336 Chalon Road, Los Angeles 49, Calif.  
 862 William C. Norby, 237 Blackstone Ave., La Grange, Ill.  
 656 Mrs. Lawrence F. Lees, 3812 Eddy Place, Shreveport, La.  
 692 Nils Pontenstein, 1621 Whittier, Springfield, Ill.  
 955 Wallace J. Gaarsoe, 2376 Derby, Birmingham, Mich.  
 202 Robert W. Palme, 4525 High St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

## LIFE MEMBER

- L19 Bert Baker, 1215 La Salle Ave., Minneapolis 3, Minn.

## RESIGNATIONS

- 696 Carl Vesterholt, Klostermarken 30, Aalborg, Denmark  
 215 Thomas W. Blinn, 104½ Pleasant Street, Belding, Mich.  
 887 Axel J. Eyberg, 264 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.  
 669 Frederick Larson, 16 Gates Rd., Gornfield Pr., Old Saybrook 57, Conn.  
 169 Ralph J. Long, 7264 Richmond Pl., Maplewood 17, Mo.  
 854 Joseph A. Zurek, 211 Penn Place, Linden, N. J.

## DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- 880 Bjorn Lydesen, 37 Elmore Ave., Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.  
 823 Svend A. Jensen, Lane Gate Road, Gold Spring, N. Y.  
 853 Magnus L. Jonsson, 2317 S. Veitch St., Arlington 6, Va.

## CLOSED ALBUMS

- 595 Edward C. Marsh, 5543 N. Diversey Blvd., Milwaukee 17, Wis.  
 225 L. F. Hyde, 4029 Oakwood Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.  
 837 Axel Heilborn, 1020 Creekside Drive, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

## THE POSTHORN

Editor: Ralph E. Danielson, 19 Harrison Street, Oak Park, Illinois

Assistant Editors: Dr. Earl G. Jacobsen, Roger Swanson.

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