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Mail To and From Greenland During World War II

By George D. Stribley

In 1940, on his way to Norway, Hitler overran Denmark and took over complete administration of the country, including the postal system with its wartime attendant censorship and disruption of routine mail handling. Being in almost complete control of all of continental Europe, normal communication channels were restrictively handled or abolished. The usual modes of movement of mail between Greenland and the Greenland Trade Administration at Copenhagen no longer existed. Yet the record shows that during the years of World War II mail did move between Denmark and the Greenland offices.

There appears to be no literature to explain how mail was handled when Hitler took over, therefore, questions must be answered or queried by taking assumptions and deductions from covers preserved and now existing in philatelic hands. These assumptions and deductions may not be correct and the writer will welcome amendments and facts suggested by readers so that in a future article the various comments, conclusions and explanations will set forth a more accurate record.

MAIL TO GREENLAND

After the invasion, mail did not move direct from Denmark to the offices in Greenland. Letters posted in Denmark on May 18, 1941, to addressees in Greenland, bear a manuscript endorsement "via Lisbon" and also a rubber handstamp impression in black:

GREENLAND
(via Siberia-New York)

Such a cover presumes a choice of routings for surface mail either via Portugal or Russia, both then neutrals with Germany. There were probably designated mail exchange points with these neutrals which permitted further passage of the mail, after censorship by Germany, to the destinations. If the exchange was at Lisbon, then Greenland bound mail was placed aboard ship for New York and from New York transported by ship to Greenland. If the exchange was with Russia, the mail was transported by surface means across

Siberia to a Pacific port, thence to San Francisco, on to New York by surface mail handling means, and then to Greenland from New York by Ship. Transit markings on such covers would be interesting but, unfortunately, there are very few of them. So, when a cover appears via Lisbon, or via Siberia-New York, we can only guess as to how it was delivered.

Some covers with the manuscript "via Lisabon" routing, also bear a straight line impression "Greenland".

Covers bearing dates in 1942 appear with the usual "Geoffnet" German censors printed resealing tapes and the stamp or number to identify the censor, and also the printed resealing tape of the Allies censor, resulting in double censorship. Some 1942 covers also were handstamped in black:

GREENLAND

(via Lissabon-New York)

Covers with this manuscript routing appear occasionally. The elapsed time for such handling, if known, would be of interest particularly for those covers routed "via Siberia".

FROM GREENLAND

A "Pade" cover from Proven, Greenland, registered, with a total of 57 ore of the first issue, posted December 12, 1939, passed through German censors and arrived at San Francisco on September 16, 1940. The cover does not bear the markings of Allies censors. The San Francisco marking indicates that the cover went the reverse of the Siberia-New York route. So covers, dated about this time, were censored with the oval "U. S. Passed by Examiner Base 1217 Army."

On a cover posted in Greenland on September 11, 1940, and addressed to New York City, appears a handstamp marking "PAQUEBOT" which may be that of Philadelphia, Pa. The Pennsylvania Salt Company had ships operating during the war between Philadelphia and Ivigtut, Greenland, for cryolite used in the smelting of aluminum, and it is believed that these ships may have carried mail to and from Greenland and upon arrival at Philadelphia, the cover received the marking. This particular cover is backstamped "New York, Oct. 30, 1940 8 PM Station N."

Occasional covers posted in Greenland addressed to U. S. and to addressees in Europe, in addition to the usual censorship markings, have a double lined oval handstamp marking "Eastern Arctic Mail ----- (Date) Service, R. M. S. "Nascopie"". The activities of the ship Nascopie in and around Greenland during the war years is a story in itself, but it did touch at west Greenland ports, pick up mail there and along Labrador, and deliver it to Quebec. There were other Canadian ships in this service and covers appear with a small round handstamp "Eastern Arctic Patrol R. M. S. Canada" in three lines with the date in the center. Later on, this same marking shows up in a larger sized oval.

A 1940 Juliennehaab cover, addressed to Kobenhavn, S., bears a Greenland 1 krone and a 10c Canadian stamp cancelled "Port Alfred Nov 30 1940 P. Q." probably routed via New York to Lisbon. The reason for the 10c Canadian stamp in addition to the Greenland 1 krone is not known.

Some covers indicate that Great Britain tried to stop some of the passage of mail to Europe because when the Prize Court sale at Bermuda of war material was held, there were covers offered from Greenland to Denmark and Europe, handstamped "Released by Prize Court" in a two line impression.

The Danish Consulate General at 17 Battery Place, New York, upon Hitler's invasion of Denmark, took over the administration of Greenland. Mail addressed from the various Greenland offices to the "Danish Consulate General, Greenland Section, bear a rubber stamp strike of a single line capital's

"OFFICIAL MAIL" franked with regular Greenland stamps, and in some cases opened for examination and sealed with the U. S. Censors tape.

Some transit markings indicate a very fast handling of civilian mail from Greenland probably due to U. S. Military planes carrying the mail.

Information available to supplement this article will be appreciated.

Further Notes On Booklets of Finland

By Stanley Pollard

In the October issue of the Post Horn for 1953 R. Ahonius had an article covering the 3 booklets that existed at that date only one of which was a legitimate booklet issued by the Postal authorities of Finland. The first example, a booklet containing 9 stamps of the 300 years anniversary issue of the Post Office, was made up of regular stamps from the sheets printed for postage, grouped in 3 copies of the 50 pen. and pairs of each of the other 3 values in the series. The only thing that gives it status as a booklet is the container in which it was sold, which resembles the second booklet in color and size. Incidentally the booklet is priced at the exact value of the stamps inclosed, 15 mks.

The second booklet is made up of blocks of 4 of 5 issues of stamps. Although these stamps are identical with those in use at the time of its issue, the stamps in the booklet were from a special printing made especially for these booklets. In every sheet of 100 subjects only 80 were actual stamps, the remaining 20 were blanks to act as selvaige, through which the staples were pressed that held the sheets in the booklets.

As in the regular issues, these sheets of 100 had the usual marginal watermarks at top and bottom. These margins also acted as selvaige along with the 2 rows of blanks. This gives rise to 3 sets of booklet panes, one with watermark at the top, one with watermark at the bottom, and one with blank at the bottom. By top and bottom, I mean the selvages. Due to the method used in separating these blocks, none were ever made with a blank selvaige at the top. All 5 issues can be found with these 3 types, but no booklets ever contained a set of 5 issues of one type. This gives rise to many different combinations of stamps, of which Rogers lists 21 varieties in his catalogue of Booklet panes. At least 32 combinations are possible. To find a complete set of 15 panes, showing the complete 5 issues in the 3 types, I examined 172 different booklets. Again sold for face value, 20 mks.

The third booklet is another example of regular issues mounted in a booklet. The Olympic issue in blocks of 4. This time the face value of the booklet is 325 mks., but the booklet sold for 332 mks.

On the 16th of October 1959 a fourth example of a booklet was issued in Helsingfors. This booklet is smaller in size than any of the other three, being only 4.2 mm by 7.6 mm, and contains a single strip of 5 10 pen. green stamps with selvaige at top and down both sides. The stamps are perforated on all 4 sides the same as the regular issue, and if the selvaige was all removed from the stamps they couldn't be distinguished from the regular issue of 10 pen. green.

These stamps were printed on special plates which only printed the sheet of 100 subjects on alternate vertical rows of 10 stamps, each row having the top 5 stamps in upright format, and the bottom 5 being inverted. The stamps were printed in sheets of 2 panes of 50. Each pane having 5 printed rows and 5 blank rows. The left hand pane had each row of stamps numbered 1 to 5 across the top and 6 to 10 across the bottom. The right hand pane is similarly numbered, except that an "X" is added to each number. This naturally

gives the collector 20 different panes to complete a full set.

The booklet is a bright red, plain inside, with postal rates inscribed in Finnish on the front and Swedish on the back. The panes are divided through the center horizontal row of perforations, and through the center of each blank vertical row by a knife or some other sharp instrument. This gives each pane, or strip of 5 a top margin for the staple, a selvage down each side, equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ a row of stamps, and the bottom perforated right across.

These booklets were placed on sale in automatic vending machines outside of 9 post offices in Helsingfors. For those of you who are familiar with the Finnish language, you can get further information from an article printed in the "Philatelia Fennica" for 1960 Vol. 10 No. 2, and in the "Suomen Postimerkkilehti" for 1959 No. 11/12.

Since the re-valuation of the mark, I suppose the booklets will be reissued with stamps showing the new values.

From the Chicago Chapter President

Never before in the short but eventful life of Compex, have we of the Chicago Chapter received so many letters from friends as we did after Compex "64". According to the sentiments expressed in them, we succeeded in doing our job well: our guests enjoyed the exhibits and had a fine time at our cocktail party and coffee klatch and generally found a feeling of friendliness. For these sentiments we thank you. But I would certainly be remiss in my duties as president of the Chicago Chapter if I did not in return express the Chapter's thanks to all of you for coming, and for sending us your stamps for our exhibition. I also want to thank Dr. Sneller, Fritz Billig and Henry Kuhlmann for taking over the job as judges of the Scandinavian section of the exhibition.

As an interesting sidelight on the show, I want to mention that for the first time we had more exhibitors than we could accommodate. For the first time also that we did not have to bother some of our own Chicago members who by necessity sometimes have had to furnish two exhibits in previous shows.

Personally I want to thank all the members of the Chicago Chapter who to a man did their job, and who cooperated in every respect to make Compex "64" the success it was.

A special thanks to the female contingent of the Chicago Chapter, particularly Mrs. E. S. Jacobsen and Mrs. R. Swanson, without whose help the cocktail party and the coffee klatch could not have come off.

We shall look forward to seeing all of you at Compex "65".

Sincerely

Roger Swanson

President Chicago Chapter S. C. C.

Compex "64"

When Compex "64" opened its doors in the LaSalle Hotel May 29th, it presented to the visitors a completely new format: instead of occupying most of the two top floors in the hotel, it now took in the whole mezzanine floor. While in other shows most of the 1000 frame exhibition was housed in two large ballrooms, this year the participating clubs had their individual exhibition rooms. Previously the dealers were scattered around the largest of the exhibition ballrooms. This year they had a room of their own. Whether or not this setup was better or worse than the earlier one is a debateable point. The dealers liked it better, but our personal opinion is that fewer people saw the exhibits than in previous years.

However, Compex "64" was a huge success. The attendance was bigger than ever, even on Sunday afternoon the crowd was large. The exhibits consisted of about 1000 frames of material and offered something to suit everyone. As usual, the Scandinavian section was excellent. We were particularly happy to see quite a few new names in our show, and several of these showed for the first time anywhere. Here is a list of the exhibitors.

Frame No.	Exhibitor
1-6	W. J. Banks, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada
	Denmark: Bi-colored Stamps, Ore Issue, Perf. 14x13½, 1875-95.
7-10	Lorentz Hinrichsen, Edison, N. J.
	Denmark: Aerograms.
11-18	Herbert Bernstein, Vineland, N. J.
	Faroe Islands: Provisional Surcharge of 1919, complete dated collection on cover, including only known First Day cover, and a complete mint sheet of 100 with "inverted surcharge."
19-22	George D. Stribley, North Muskegan, Michigan
	Greenland: Airmail Covers.
23-26	Jens W. Nyboe, Chicago, Ill.
	Denmark: Twenty-five years of Philatelic Correspondence.
27-29	Harvey Gudmundson, Chicago, Ill.
	Iceland: Pictorial Cancellations, 1930-1965.
30-37	Robert P. Stevens, Chicago, Ill.
	Finland: Selected pages from a collection of Finland, 1855-1964.
38	Paul Mead, Evanston, Ill.
	Finland: A study of the early cancellations.
39-40	Svend Yort, Chevy Chase, Md.
	Finland: The Serpentine rouletted stamps 1860-1871.
41	Stanley Hansen, Chicago, Ill.
	Norway: Types of Postage Due "T" overprints.
42-47	Reidar Norby, Teaneck, N. J.
	Norway: Details of Early Norwegian Stamps. (Norway No. 8, a plate study, also No's. 16, 17, and 18—original cliché types and varieties.)
48-51	Svend Yort, Chevy Chase, Md.
	Sweden: The Arms and Lion Types, 1855-1872.
52-53	Walter Doepp, Chicago, Ill.
	Sweden: Evolution of the Swedish Booklet stamps, including used varieties.
54-57	Ralph Danielson, Oak Park, Ill.
	Sweden: The Semi-Postal Stamps.

The judges of the Scandinavian exhibit were Dr. Sneller, Fritz Billig and Henry Kuhlmann, who picked the winner of a Grand Award, a first and a second prize. Their choices were: Grand Award, R. Norby (fr. 42-47); First prize, H. Bernstein (fr. 11-18); Second prize, S. Yort (fr. 48-51). Our congratulations to the winners.

As usual the social side of Compex was as interesting as the purely philatelic side. The Chicago Chapter's hospitality suite, 1806-07, became the gathering point for tired and footsore members and friends. Here they could rest in air conditioned comfort, chat with local and out of town collectors and show off their newly purchased philatelic treasures. At our official social functions our suite was really "bursting at the seams."

On Saturday afternoon, a "National Meeting" was called by President Dr. Earl G. Jacobson in these rooms, and we noted the following persons were present: Vern Anderson, Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Friberg, Milwaukee; Robert Frigstad, Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. W. Garsoe, Detroit; George Gil-

hinsky, Washington, D. C.; Whitey Johnson, Minneapolis; Glen Larson, Milwaukee; Erwin Nielsen, Milwaukee; Herbert Prichett, London, England; Dr. Chas. Sneller, Peoria; Robert Stone, Belleville, Ill. and Mr. and Mrs. Svend Yort, Washington, D. C. Local members included Messrs. Brownyer, Danielson, Doepp, Gudmundson, Malmberg, Schwartz, Senior, Sognefest, Stevens, Swanson and Nyboe.

Very interesting comments were given by our long distance visitor Herb Prichett from London who scheduled his state-side vacation to coincide with the Compex Show, and Svend Yort from Washington who as general chairman of Napex 1964, is arranging the national exhibition there September 17-20, 1964, during which the Hall of Philately, Smithsonian Institute will be dedicated. The cocktail party which followed swelled the meeting quarters to overflowing.

On Sunday afternoon, we held our annual "Koffee Klotsch" attended by many of those named above. We were particularly happy to see our old friend Mrs. Agda Pade of Denver that afternoon. Others who "checked-in" at the hospitality suite included Fred Bloedow, Henry Kuhlmann, C. J. Michelsen, Olaf Olson, and Joe Unseitig, as well as George Lindhart of Waukegan.

In addition of course, many members of the Compex official family, U. S. Post Office representatives and United Nations Postal representatives were among the visitors.

All in all, Compex "64" was as memorable an experience as any previous show, maybe more so. With a continuous record of excellence we can not but look forward to Compex "65" with great expectation.

Stamping Around the U.S.A.

With only 21 days at my disposal I realized before leaving England that it would be impossible to meet all the members I wished to meet during my stay in the United States, but I am pleased to say that I met quite a number, and it was really grand meeting folks whom I had corresponded with for so many years.

Soon after landing at New York, Mr. Sven Ahman accompanied me around some of the dealers, although I found little of interest except one or two covers, and then in the evening we went to Brooklyn to visit Mr. Summerfield, who, unfortunately, had had an accident; but we found him in good spirits, with Mr. Lind. Owing to the difference in time I found that I was awake for 26 hours the first "day" and was strap-hanging on the London underground in the morning, and again in the New York subway in the evening. The following day I visited the Editor of "STAMPS," Mr. Harry Lindquist, and had an interesting chat, and after lunch went to the top of the Empire State Building. The next day I spent at the New York World's Fair and found it most interesting, but must confess that I was a little disappointed as I had expected much more. I think the Brussels Exhibition of 1958 was better in many respects, but I found the Post Office Exhibit of great interest, and might I suggest that all members attempt to see this working model with its fine modern equipment.

The first week-end I had to experience the temperature of 96 degrees, but took it easy with one of our members, Mr. H. L. Jespersen in Florham Park, New Jersey, and visited Mr. Hinrichsen in Edison too. On Monday I started on the tour I had planned by Greyhound Bus, and went up to Rochester, New York, and the following day was taken by Mr. Arnold to Niagara Falls, and saw this wonderful sight from both the Canadian and American sides, and I realized one of my life-long ambitions in doing so. Then I moved on to Pittsburgh where I saw a most unusual collection of mint unmounted material

of Sweden collected by Mr. R. A. Brightsen, and then on to Chicago.

Of course the highlight of the whole trip was the Exhibition COMPEX held in Chicago between May 29-31, and from the moment I arrived on the Thursday evening when members of the 13 Societies were busy preparing for the show, until the time the sheets came down on the Sunday evening, I hardly had a spare moment at all. Naturally, I found everything on a much larger scale than we are used to in England, for alas we find difficulty in finding a suitable hall for an International Exhibition, and there was some sharp criticism about the use of the Festival Hall in London in 1960. However, the La Salle Hotel was certainly an excellent venue for this Exhibition, ideally situated in the center part of the city of Chicago, and giving the necessary space needed for display. The lay-out was excellent too, on the Mezzanine floor with the various rooms giving ample space for exhibits, and allowing visitors to wander around at will. Of the 1,000 odd frames of philatelic material from the various societies, I can only say that there was something for everyone, and although I was mainly interested in the exhibits provided by the Scandinavian Collectors Club I did visit and view all the Exhibition. Reverting to Scandinavia, the most impressive I suppose was the 8 frames of Faroe Islands submitted by Herbert Bernstein of Vineland, N. J., who I was to meet later, and the 34 covers bearing the 1919 surcharge including the only known first day cover was really fine to see. The plate study of the early Norwegian by Reidar Norby, which incidentally earned first prize, was also fascinating; in fact all the 57 frames contained first-class material of very high standard. Another unusual display I saw in the Roosevelt Philatelic Society Exhibit was the Sweden-date cancels on the 1885 King Oscar 10 öre red submitted by Carl Malmberg. I also had the privilege of seeing more of his collection including revenues of Sweden during a visit to his home, and thought it was of very high standard too, for so much I had seen previously had been mounted in printed albums which we avoid in England.

I visited the dealers too—there were 40 tables at the Bourse—but prices were quite high and the accent seemed to be on the souvenir side of philately which seems to be popular in the States. The great interest in coin collecting amazed me, with specially prepared albums for the various denominations.

The covers bearing the cachets of John F. Kennedy, Dag Hammarskjöld and Count Bernadotte were on sale, the theme of the Exhibition featuring Human Rights, and these seem to sell quite well. Also new stamps for the United Nations were issued on the 29th May, and souvenir folders were also on sale. In addition to the many other souvenirs a special set of postalia meters were used, and a set of four pre-cancelled United States postcards.

The most outstanding item to purchase in my estimation was the 180-page souvenir booklet, which really was a directory containing the names and addresses of members of the various societies that comprise COMPEX, together with information of what to collect as well as the listing of the various exhibits. Also interesting information on the United Nations Postal Administration, Dag Hammarskjöld and Count Bernadotte was included, as well as some other interesting articles. I have not seen an Exhibition booklet similar to this except maybe for an International, and the compilers should certainly be congratulated for a very fine job.

Of course in addition to the actual philatelic interest, the Social side of COMPEX was also well organized, and in addition to the Banquet of the first night when we heard good speeches from the Assistant Postmaster General, R. J. Murphy, and the Chief of the United Nations Postal Administration, Mr. D. T. Clements, the Scandinavian Collectors Club held a cocktail party and get-together on the Saturday afternoon, and this was most enjoyable. Also the "Coffee Klotch" on the Sunday afternoon brought me into touch with many

members and their wives. Everyone was very kind to me during my stay in Chicago, and I thank Mr. and Mrs. Stevens who accomodated me during my stay as well as all the other members.

The whole exhibition I thought was of very high standard, and as mentioned at the Banquet on the Friday evening, all the members of the Committees should be congratulated for presenting such an entertaining and interesting show, and although I had travelled about 3,500 miles to attend, I did not think the journey was in vain.

After a short time in Wisconsin I travelled on to Washington where I attended another Society meeting, and then on to Philadelphia and Vineland where I met members of the Vineland Chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, and returned to New York in time to give the Chapter there a display of pre-stamp material of Sweden and all too soon I found myself aboard the plane returning to London.

Before I left for the States my wife had warned me not to spend too much time on stamps seeing that it was my vacation after all, but I'm afraid I did not altogether heed her warning, and although I got very little sleep I did have a marvellous time, and enjoyed meeting everyone who were so kind and hospitable to me, and I only hope that I shall have another opportunity of visiting the country again soon, but meanwhile look forward to meeting any members from the States who find themselves in London when I can return the kindnesses shown to me.

—H. T. P.

A Most Valuable Guide

Eric v. Wowern's special catalogue for the stamps of the Faroe Islands deserves the attention of all collectors interested in Danish philately. While the Faroe specialist, of course, will find more to his liking in such a catalogue than the collector of Denmark generally, the volume in question will be of great help to both. In spite of the fact that the catalogue is written in Danish, plenty of important details can be picked up without any difficulty, due to the liberal illustrations and reproductions of postmarks and the like.

The U. S. reader will find innumerable informations concerning the Faroe provisionals, most of which have been unavailable thus far. A great service could be performed by some devoted fellow-member, if she or he would go through the trouble of translating Mr. Wowern's work. We find a good listing of all important 1940 provisionals, that is not only the surcharges, but also the emergency rubber stamp markings of that period. Also shown are all major varieties, from the different printings to the broken bars. The collector will now be able to judge for himself why certain items are so extremely hard to find, since Mr. Wowern has, whenever possible, included in his listing the total number of stamps issued, or impressions used—as they have been reported officially by Danish postal authorities.

A short paragraph is devoted to the British Forces mail, listing the FPOs and their basic locations and styles. This section, too, will be news to many collectors of Scandinavian philately.

We understand that Mr. Wowern is considering to publish revised editions of his Faroe catalogue from time to time, listing new discoveries, price changes, etc., and we sincerely hope he will be able to do so. And speaking of prices, his catalogue can only be taken as a guide, since every serious collector will know that many items can not be purchased at the stated value and still others can not be obtained at any price—they are just not available.

The Wowern catalogue of Faroe philately is nevertheless a "must" for every serious collector of the islands' postal issues.

Southern New Jersey Chapter 8 Holds Special Meeting

Herbert Pritchett, our fellow-member from the Scandinavian Philatelic Society of London, was welcomed here in Vineland, N. J., by members of the local chapter #8. A special meeting was held on Sunday, May 17, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the residence of Herbert Bernstein. Previous to his arrival in Vineland, Mr. Pritchett stayed for a few hours in Philadelphia, Pa., where Dr. William Stericker took charge of him on Saturday, when the former came in from Washington, D. C., by Greyhound bus. Dr. Stericker showed Herbert Pritchett some of the sights of Philadelphia and drove him later to Vineland. Our visitor from London stayed over night with the Bernstein family.

It was very unfortunate that not all chapter members could make it to the Sunday meeting. The ones who attended were not disappointed to have driven as much as 85 miles. A lot of ground was covered in the discussions that developed between Pritchett and his American hosts. It was for the first time that we of Chapter #8 had the opportunity to get a direct report from a fellow-member living outside the U.S.A. The state of philately generally and Scandinavia in specific was touched upon and activities here were compared with similar goings-on within the United Kingdom. Having been at COMPEX a few days before, Herbert Pritchett was able to give us an exact eyewitness report about our National Convention.

Some of us were somewhat disappointed since we had hoped that Mr. Pritchett would bring along philatelic material for trading purposes. As it turned out, he had only a very few items on him. However, when he showed his personal collection of Swedish pre-stamp covers, everybody was very much impressed and thanks to his detailed explanations, we all learned quite a lot about this subject. It is safe to say that from now on, no Swedish pre-stamp cover will ever escape our attention!

Chapter #8 hopes that our friend from London had as good a time here with us in Vineland as we had with him and we are looking forward to receiving many more fellow-clubmembers from the U. S. or overseas, whenever the occasion arises. Our special thanks to Dr. Wm. Stericker for taking such good care of Herbert Pritchett in Philadelphia and for "delivering" him safely to Vineland. And not to be forgotten will be the services of fellow-member Hilmer Hendrickson of Freehold, who took Mr. Pritchett from Vineland to New York, following the Sunday meeting.

Sojex 1964

This years' annual stamp exhibition and bourse, organized by the Association of South Jersey Stamp Clubs, will be held from Friday, October 23 to Sunday, October 25, 1964.

Once again the Seaside Hotel and Motel, Pennsylvania Ave. and Boardwalk, Atlantic City, N. J., will play host to SOJEX and its participating philatelic organizations.

Prospectus will be available within the next few weeks and can be obtained by writing to Mrs. Helen Rocco, 405 N. Eighth Street, Vineland, N. J.

Several new features will be added to SOJEX 1964 and many trophies and awards have been donated for this years' event, which have not been available in the past.

The Association of South Jersey Stamp Clubs cordially invites all philatelists to participate in its 29th annual stamp show and bourse.

To Telemark Sans Skis

Who would go to the Telemark snow fields in November without skis or sled? A French navy officer and an irregular soldier flew there by balloon during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/1871 without any suitable equipment but managed to survive (see *The Posthorn*, vol. 11, No. 4, Oct., 1954, pp. 63-65; vol. 12, No. 2, Apr. 1955, p. 27).

The casual reader can find the story in any one of a steady trickle of books and journals published since shortly after the time of the flight, November 24-25, 1870. But if he reads more than one account attentively, he will soon be struck by major discrepancies among them. Memories are imperfect, reporters are inaccurate, writers embellish, editors "clarify," printers slip, records are lost—everything combines to make a complete and correct reconstruction of the events almost impossible.

Since writing the above-mentioned account, I have found a number of both older and newer descriptions of the flight that will serve to illustrate my point.

(a) Memory: Bézier, the passenger on the balloon, published his account of the events less than a month after he left Paris. He seems not to have remembered the names of the two brothers, Strand who saved his and Rolier's, the balloonists', lives.

(b) Reporters: One Norwegian newspaper of 1870 wrote that Bézier would not give his name, another said his name was Deschamps. He seems to have used this pseudonym for fear of being shot by the Prussians upon his return, since he was a franc-tireur. The number of mail bags left in the balloon upon arrival are variously stated to be 3 or 4.

(c) Writers: One account states that Rolier and Bézier first met AFTER the balloon had taken off, which seems highly unlikely. Another writer mentions Rolier's prayer in front of a statue in the balloon's basket, but no record exists of a statue being there.

(d) Editors: An anonymous American translator of Bézier's story didn't know that the French "nacelle" means basket or gondola, so he simply called it a parachute! In two printed French versions of the same story, the "Russian Salute" is variously defined as raising the arms or the eyes to heaven. Just what this old French expression means is still not clear to me.

(e) Printers: One story calls Bézier by three different names in three different places, Bézein, Bézien, and Bézier.

(f) Records: Rolier wrote a letter to a person named Herluison on board the balloon. An extract of it is printed in a French book. Its author, whom I asked for a complete copy or for the source of this vital document, does not remember it. Is it lost irretrievably? And nobody knows who Herluison was.

I am now trying to assemble as complete a record as possible of primary and secondary sources—pictures, books, journals, contemporary newspaper accounts, letters, photographs, and photostats—pertaining to this historical flight of the balloon "La Ville d'Orléans." Individuals, museums, libraries, and newspaper archives in the U. S., France, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden have been most thoughtful and cooperative. Yet there are undoubtedly important sources that are obscure (to me, at least) and still untapped.

Posthorn readers could help make the search more complete by citing references and telling me where I might buy, borrow, or obtain photos of pertinent stories, documents, or pictures. Please contact Ernst W. Cohn, 103 "G" St., S. W., Apt. 620-B, Washington, D. C., 20024.

Carl Pelander writes to thank all who wrote to him. He is still none too strong, largely confined to his home and enjoys hearing from all his friends.

Stamp-wise Around Reykjavik

by Ernest H. Wise

(Continued from last issue)

Two statues on the terraced lawn in front show phases of Iceland's emancipation. On the left we see King Christian IX handing over the 1874 Constitution to Iceland, and on the right is the figure of Hannes Hafstein, Iceland's first Prime Minister following the granting of Home Rule in 1918 (#R61-3).

From there, a ten-minute walk uphill along Skolavordi-stigur brings you out at the statue of Leifr Ericsson who discovered Vineland and founded a chapter of S. C. C. there about 1000 A.D. This statue was given by the U. S. government in 1930 to mark the millenary of Iceland's Althing, and is shown on the miniature sheet of 1938 (#K214-6). It seems a little ironical that this piece of American statuary should have been erected at the front door of the home of Iceland's own most famous sculptor, Einar Jonsson. His former studio is now a museum in which much of his work is preserved, and in which other stamps come to life. The original of Einar's statue of Thorfinnur Karlsefni, which he reproduced as the statue which now stands in Philadelphia, can be seen there (#K234-5 and K252-7). One of the starkest products of his genius is his awesome "The Outlaw" used for the design of the 1960 World Refugee year stamps (#R109-110). The pathetic figure with his bundle, clutching a sick child, and with his dog padding forlornly by his side, stands unrivalled as a stamp-figure to tear your heart-strings. The original statue is unforgettable.

Nearby on the hill stands the Technical High School. I was privileged to be shown around this new and remarkable building (#R127) and was taken to the top of the bell-tower which affords a splendid view.

Walking westwards past the British Embassy brings one near to the airport where we had landed in a Viscount of Flugfelag Islands (Icelandair) such as is shown on the 1959 air stamps (#R102-3), and a short walk along the Hringbraut brings you to the University completed in 1938 and shown on the stamps of that year (#K227-9) and again in 1961 (#R124). Almost next door is the Museum building, opened on Independence Day in 1944. In the porch is the self-portrait of Sigurdur Gudmundsson the founder which appears on a recent issue.

Within the museum is one room devoted to Iceland's national hero Jon Sigurdsson, the leader of the passive struggle for independence. Prominent among the exhibits is the portrait used for the Independence commemoratives of 1944 (#R1-6). There is also within the museum a collection of the stamps of Iceland which is in dire need of attention from a skilful and devoted philatelist. Its present state, with mint and used stamps gloriously mixed and untidily mounted is a blot on the escutcheon of a proud little nation.

Upstairs in the museum building is the National Art Gallery. One of the artists whose work is hung there is Barbara Arnason, an Englishwoman domiciled in Iceland, whom I was privileged to meet at her impressive home in Kopavogi, a new town adjoining Reykjavik to the south. This charming lady was the designer of the two Forestry stamps of 1957 (#R36-7), and was kind enough to autograph a cover for my collection. Also sharing Fru Arnason's hospitality that evening was Gudmundur Hliddal who was the Postmaster-General of Iceland from 1934 until he retired in 1956. He will be remembered as the author of "The Postal History of Iceland 1776-1951," published by the Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs.

Passing from the Museum building and the new sports stadium we are confronted by the Hotel Saga shown on the third of the 1962 pictorials (6 kr., #R129). This compares favorably with any hotel in the world and we en-

joyed Icelandic pancakes and a splendid view in the top-floor restaurant.

Walking back towards the harbour by the side of the beautiful lake, Tjornin one may well encounter a few dozen of the curious ducks who make their appearance on #R105-6. At the junction with Vonarstroeti one gets the view of the Cathedral shown on the 10 and 35 aur pictorials of 1925 (#K142 and K144) and later on the 35 aur U. P. U. stamp (#R27). In a moment one is standing in a beautiful garden in the center of which stands the statue of Jon Sigurdsson. It was the head of this bronze figure which was used as the basis of the embossed stamps of 1911 and 1961 (#K90-95 and R115-7). There in front stands the Parliament Building of the first 25 kr. stamp of 1952 (#R48). It opens right out into the street and anyone may walk in unhindered. Its smallness is apt to surprise the onlooker but Iceland is a "pocket republic" in many ways and the Althing has only 64 members.

Returning to the harbor one is quite certain to see a number of deep-sea trawlers such as that shown on the 1950 definitives (#R31, etc.). These are about 200 ft. long and were built mostly in England. They are of 500-800 tons and very sturdy. They do not look pretty but they are intended to be functional rather than decorative. They search far afield for fish, off Western Greenland or Newfoundland and then often carry it to European ports to earn Iceland's foreign currency. A walk along the West Pier gives the visitor the view of the harbor with its twin moles shown on the commemoratives of 1961 (#118-9). Merely by walking back along the pier he can look out across the bay to a peninsula on which stands the farm of Bessastadir, the home of the President (#85). We motored overland from Hafnarfjordur and had the immense pleasure of meeting President Asgeir Asgeirsson and his lady as they set out for a stroll. Such is the informality surrounding them that they exchanged a few words with us and invited us to look around the beautiful church adjoining the farmstead.

Dusk is approaching and we have all the glory of Northern sunset before us. A mountain looms up out of the sea and we find to our astonishment that it is Snaefellsjokull, not less than 75 miles away yet so clearly visible that one has the impression of a hill just over the bay. Reykjavik (Smoky bay) has belied its name and shown us another stamp or two life-size (#R49 and R82).

The tour just described is a product of my imagination, as we saw the sights of Reykjavik gently, but it is quite possible to carry it through in an afternoon.

We were able to bring to life many other well-loved stamp designs during our stay in Iceland; the might of Gullfoss which we saw in the only two minutes of sunshine of the day; Geyser placid in its old-age; the lovely new Cathedral at Skalholt consecrated the day before we arrived yet with so much of the old still remaining; Akuneyri one degree from the Arctic Circle where we ate breakfast in the open in shirtsleeves after an overnight coach drive of 280 miles from Reykjavik (the ink is hardly dry on its stamp, but Matthias Jochumsson (#K203-6) lived there and his memory is preserved in a museum).

But I'm sure someone else has written something for "The Posthorn."

*All numbers from Thorsteinsson catalog—prefixes, K—Kingdom, R—Republic.

IN MEMORIUM

Mr. Bruno Strauss, a member of S. C. C. and the Vineland Chapter, passed away May 25, 1964. As one of his fellow members of Chapter 8 said: "He was a very good man; it is a shame that it had to happen to him at such an early part of his life. He was only going on 57."

New and Recent Issues DENMARK



On August 24th Denmark will issue a 35 ore and 60 ore both with a surcharge of 10 ore. The color: red, and blue with a red cross, respectively. Paper: fluorescent only. The design by Viggo Bang, the artist, on the basis of the photographer Elfelt's photographs of their Royal Highnesses, the successor to the throne Princess Margrethe, Princess Benedikte and Princess Anne-Marie. Engraving: Czeslaw Slania.



On October 10th Denmark will issue a new postage stamp, the value 35 ore. The paper, ordinary as well as fluorescent. Issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Day of the Stamp.



On September 7th Denmark will issue a 60 ore postage stamp the color blue. Issued on the occasion of the conference in Copenhagen of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The design by Rasmus Nellemann, the painter and engraving by Czeslaw Slania.

On June 19th 1964 Denmark issued a 35 ore postage stamp, the color red. Paper: ordinary as well as fluorescent. Type: The Primary School—issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Decrees concerning the school system for common people. The design by Henry Thelander, the artist. Engraving: Czeslaw Slania, the engraver.

ICELAND



On June 17th 1964 on the 20th anniversary of the Republic, Iceland issued a 25 Kr. postage stamp. The design is the Icelandic Coat of Arms.

NORWAY

On August 17th the Norwegian post office will issue two new postage stamps in the values of 25 ore (green) and 90 ore (blue) to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Norwegian Seamen's Mission. The design by Fredrik Matheson is a Harbor Motive.

SWEDEN



800th Anniversary of the Institution of the Archbishopric of Uppsala

To celebrate the anniversary, Sweden will issue two new postage stamps of the values 40 ore (green) and 60 ore (brown). The design of the stamps which is the same for both of them has been inspired by the seal of archbishop Stefan and has been made by the architect Sven Ake Gustafsson. The inscription on the seal is an abbreviated form of *Sigillum Stephani Dei Gratia Upsalensis Archiepiscopi* (seal of Stefan by the Grace of God Archbishop of Uppsala). Engraved by Czeslaw Slania.

In 1164 the Cistercian monk Stefan was appointed as Sweden's first archbishop, with his seat in old Uppsala. He was installed by Archbishop Eskil of Lund, and Uppsala was subordinated to Lund. It was not until the end of the Middle Ages that the archbishop of Uppsala became independent from that of Lund. For four decades the same man held the archbishopric: the cautious Laurentius Petri (1531-1572). During subsequent centuries the arch-

bishops were very active in politics in general, the reason being that they acted as the principal spokesman of the clergy. During the present century, however, more emphasis has been placed upon the spiritual aspects of the office. When the synod, or church council, was created, the archbishop was appointed its chairman, and during the last fifty years or so his duties have come to involve not only the diocese but State ecclesiastical and ecumenical affairs.

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DECEASED

Olaf Nagel, died April 17, 1964 in Biloxi, La.

Detroit S. C. C. Chapter Elects Officers

The Detroit chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club elected Wallace Gaarsoe, formerly of Chicago, Illinois, and now of Birmingham, Michigan, its new President. Joseph Kay will be the Vice-President, Vernor Andersen the Secretary-Treasurer and Petter Poppe the Sergeant of Arms.

The election was held during the May meeting at the home of Petter Poppe's mother, who prepared a delightful dinner. This was followed by another of Albert E. Anderson's enjoyable travel films, in color of his latest trip through Denmark and down to Italy and Rome.

—Ken. Brown

Dr. Sneller, perennial president of the Peoria Philatelic Society, is still for 1965.

His beautiful photographs as usual was a feature at Compex. S. C. C. personalities, handsome boys and girls all filled half the frames of his exhibition.

The editors have not called for help for a long time now, but now we do. So if you have a manuscript lying around, finish it and get it off to us as soon as you can.

THE POSTHORN

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