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## Norwegian "Local" Stamps—On Madagascar!

By Reidar Norby, Assistant Curator  
Division of Philately and Postal History  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The story of Norwegian local stamps cannot be complete without including everything about the "outpost" stamps of the Norwegian Missionary Society on Madagascar during the last decades of the 19th century.

The local stamps of the Scandinavian countries, including those of Norway, have been intensely studied and their production, number, and usage amply recorded in the Scandinavian philatelic literature. But why have the "Madagascar Locals" been almost forgotten? Is it because they might be considered privately issued stamps, or that they are unofficial? Or does the name "Mission Post" tend to exclude them from Scandinavian philately? They have never been listed in any of three different Norwegian handbooks, which ought to include everything having to do with the mail, "regular" or local.

They were listed in the bi-annual *Norgeskatologen* (the "Norway Catalog") but were dropped many years ago. They are, of course, included in the *Norges Byposter og annen lokalpost*, a catalog devoted to Norwegian local stamps (but relegated to the end of the listings, just ahead of "Miscellaneous"), and similar catalogs of local stamps. But a thorough search for information elsewhere has been fruitless, except for the Swedish *FACIT Catalog* (1967) and an article in *THE POSTHORN* (1944) by the late Carl E. Pelander.

Much of the published information appears in non-Scandinavian literature. However, references to dates are conflicting and most of the information is either incorrect, misleading, incomplete, hazy—or all.

Therefore, the two-fold purpose of this report is (1) to add to what information already exists and try to put it all in proper order in an effort to come closer to completeness, and (2) to attempt to gain for these stamps their rightful place among Scandinavian issues. This, I believe, is the least we can do for these stamps which have, perhaps by far, the most interesting background and a record of having served a legitimate postal need—something which cannot be said for many stamps now enjoying "full listing"!

To appreciate this, I invite the reader to join me in a retrospective journey to Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island. During the last century, a great number of European nationals resided there among the native Malagasians. They were engaged in different occupations, but perhaps mainly in commerce and missionary work. The capital city of Antananarivo (now Tananarive) was located in the middle of the island, and other population centers were mostly found along the coast. It was important to the Europeans to maintain contact with each other for the exchange of mail and transportation of supplies, scattered as they were in smaller groups practically all over the vast land area.

But this was a problem because communications were extremely poor. We understand this better when we know that the capital and the chief port of Tamatave were separated by more than 200 mountainous and roadless miles! And the native Malagasy Government never had a postal system of any kind. Connections with the rest of the world were maintained by the French.

Under these circumstances, the various trading and missionary groups had to make their own arrangements for communications, and this was done mostly by runners. In the 1870's, for example, the British residents of Antananarivo would elect a "postmaster," whose duty was to collect the mail from his countrymen and send it by native runners to Tamatave. There, the postal charges for further transportation were debited to the British Consulate by the French Post Office, which in turn forwarded the mail to England via the then-existing mail routes. This system was improved in 1884 when the British Consular Mail service was established, complete with rates for the runner service (2d. for each 15 grammes) and the issuance of locally printed postal franks. In 1895, these labels were replaced with stamps of the "British Inland Mail," printed in London.

Madagascar became a French protectorate in 1885, but the French were apparently active mostly in their trading posts at Diego-Suarez, St. Marie, and Nossi-Be. After several years of triangular disputes between the French, the British, and the Malagasy Government, the island was finally recognized as a French claim by the treaty of 1891 between England, France, and Germany. In 1895, the French sent a military expedition to remove the Malagasy Government, and in 1896 the entire island became a French colony with its own postal system, which put a natural end to all local posts.

During all these negotiations and events, the Norwegian Missionary Society ("Det Norske Missionselskab") was very active on Madagascar, headquartered in Antananarivo. It operated many mission stations spread in all directions and over a wide area, the first being established at Betafe in 1867. As early as 1875, the Mission established a private parcel post. In 1888, this service was expanded to include not only letters, but also mail and parcels from the public, the British Consulate, and other residents. In addition, the Mission Post was recognized and used by the Malagasy Government, and for a whole year, 1888-89, it was the only available postal system on Madagascar!

The Mission Post was originally created to serve the needs of the personnel of the Mission, and the service was free. It continued to render free service even after it took on the mail and parcels of the general public. But its popularity and increased use grew to such proportions that in 1894 the Mission decided to charge a fee, except for Government mail. And in that year, two stamps were issued for prepayment of postage.

These were printed in Antananarivo on the printing press owned by the Mission, and the values were expressed in the Malagasy currency of "vari" (vari dimy venti) and "era" (eranambatry), 10 vari to the era. The lower denomination was 5 v. (Fig. 1), equal to 1/3 of a British penny. This was the postage for letters, regardless of weight. The higher denomination was 1 e. 5 v. (Fig. 2), which was equal to one British penny, and represented the prepayment for parcels.

Philatelic writers disagree on who did the printing, but it appears that the pastors Borchgrevink and Lønø were the "printers."

It is interesting to note that the over-all design, only slightly different in the two stamps, is strikingly similar to that used on the locally produced British Consular Mail stamps of 1884-86 (Scott Nos. 1-15), as well as the stamps of the French Offices in Madagascar of 1891 (Scott Nos. 8-13), the latter also appearing to have been produced locally. All of these stamps are rather crude and obviously made with somewhat primitive printing material, testifying to the general conditions on the island at that time. It is difficult to visualize several printing shops in Antananarivo, and it does not seem likely that every nationality group had its own printing press, considering the weight and bulk of such equipment and the distances and modes of transportation. In view of the apparent atmosphere of cooperation between the different groups on the island—but not the power-greedy governments of the European countries—it is conceivable that the same press was used to produce all of these stamps, and since we know that the Norwegian Mission did have a printing press, it is intriguing to theorize that perhaps the Norwegians printed both British and French stamps, in addition to their own!

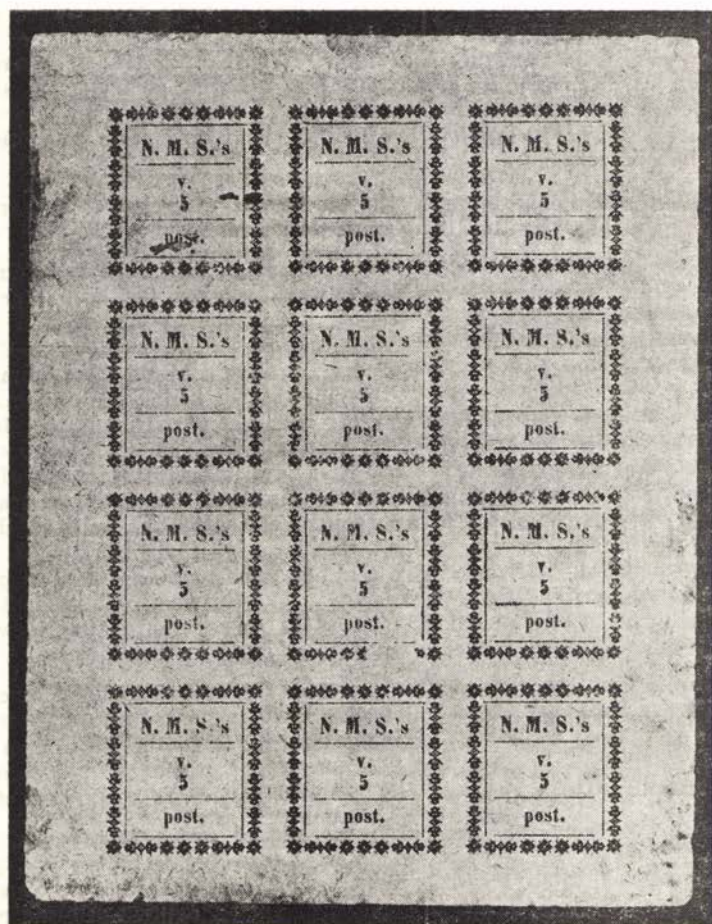
In any event, the time of the issue of the stamps remains uncertain. Authors refer to many different dates, ranging in years from 1889 to 1898, the year 1894 being the most creditable, although even the Norwegian references conflict on dates! But for the purpose of cataloging the stamps, it seems sufficient at this time to place the issuance at the early part of 1894.

The stamps were typographed from printing forms (not plates, as described by some of the writers) which were made up from regular type-set printing material. Since all of the subjects (not clichés, as they are sometimes termed) are slightly different as a result of employing this printing method, we can speak of different types of a number equal to the stamps in a complete sheet.

## The 5 "vari" stamp (Fig. 1)

The printing form for the 5 v. stamp was so arranged that 4 rows of 3 subjects each gave a total of 12 stamps to the sheet. Accordingly there are 12 types of this stamp. It also seems that different printings took place: one on firm bluish-white paper; another on fairly thick yellowish-white (almost light buff) paper; and a third on thin white paper. It is most likely impossible to ascertain the chronological order of these printings, unless enough used copies with clear date markings were available, thus enabling the establishment of a probable sequence.

Furthermore, the printing form must have been taken apart after one printing, and then re-assembled for the other two printings, because the impression on the bluish-white paper shows a greater distance between stamps than do the impressions on the other 2 paper varieties, the latter being exactly 3 mm. Misleading measurements of 3½, 7, and 11 mm as found in the



—Smithsonian Photo

Fig. 3

literature are obviously the results of incorrect measuring (such as from a right frame line inside the outside border of one stamp to the similar left frame line of the opposite stamp). The distance can only be measured from, for example, the extreme right side of the entire design of one stamp to the extreme left side of the entire design of the opposite stamp.

I have not had the opportunity of inspecting a complete sheet of stamps from the wide-spaced setting, but would offer some 6-7 mm as a probable measurement. However, a complete sheet of stamps from the narrow-spaced setting and printed on the yellowish-white paper (Fig. 3) was recently lent to the Smithsonian Institution (Division of Philately and Postal History) by Mr. Hans O. Elm-Gren (Canada), and this enabled me to record the characteristics of the sheet and each stamp. In the following description, the stamps are referred to as types, each type being numbered in the order of its position in the sheet.

The overall size of the sheet is 8.7 x 11.5 cm, and the impression (of all 12 stamps) measures 6.7 x 9.95 cm. The distance between stamps, both horizontally and vertically, is exactly 3 mm. The accuracy with which the subjects are placed in the printing form is almost unbelievable. Because of different pressure and inking during the printing, the extreme outside borders of the stamps do not lend themselves well to exact measuring, but the straight horizontal and vertical frame lines are ideal measuring points, and show the neatness of the setting of the form. The distance, for example, between the left and the right frame lines is exactly 15.25 mm on all stamps, and the distance between the upper and lower frame lines is exactly 17.50 mm on all stamps except No. 7 which shows 17.38 mm. On the sheet examined, the following over-all measurements of the individual stamps were recorded (in mm):

Type 1	20.25x22.75	Type 5	20.25x22.75	Type 9	20.40x22.75
Type 2	20.25x22.75	Type 6	20.25x22.75	Type 10	20.30x22.75
Type 3	20.25x22.75	Type 7	20.25x22.50	Type 11	20.50x22.70
Type 4	20.25x22.50	Type 8	20.25x22.75	Type 12	20.50x22.75

In describing the various stamps—or types—I have grouped them in 4 categories of easily detected similarities (Fig. 4).

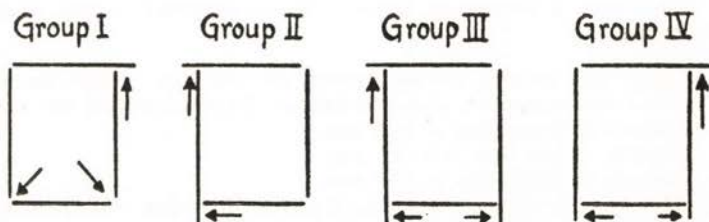


Fig. 4

The border ornaments are useless for accurate description and identification due to the many apparent differences caused only by varying pressure and inking during the printing process. This leaves us with the horizontal and vertical straight frame lines as the only reliable means of identifying the types. Group I consists of only Type 1, it being the only type with both vertical lines not extending below (an imaginary extension of) the lower

frame line. Group II comprises those types (2, 5, and 8) which have the upper frame line extended beyond (an extension of) the left frame line, which in turn extends below the lower frame line. Also, the right line does **not** extend below the lower line. Group III includes those types (3, 9, and 12) on which the upper line extends beyond the left line, and **both** vertical lines extend below the lower line. Group IV is formed by those types (4, 6, 7, and 10) on which the upper line extends beyond the right line, and **both** vertical lines extend below the lower line.

The following details will enable the reader to determine the specific type(s) of his stamp(s), and for the sake of simplicity, I have abbreviated the description of the lines as "upper line" referring to the horizontal line immediately below the upper ornamental border, and "left line," "right line," and "lower line" referring to the similar lines on the immediate inside of the left, right, and lower ornamental borders. Also, my expression "extending beyond" means of course that the line in question extends beyond an **imaginary** extension of another line. There is no case of a line **actually** crossing (and extending beyond) another.

#### Group I

Type 1 Left line almost reaches (misses by 0.2 mm) an imaginary extension of the lower line. Right line reaches (an extension of) the lower line. Upper line extends 0.5 mm beyond (an extension of) the right line.

#### Group II

Type 2 Upper line extends 0.35 mm beyond the left line. Right line meets the upper line, and is 0.25 mm short of reaching the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.3 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.3 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.25 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 5 and 8, differing mainly in measurements.

Type 5 Upper line extends 0.3 mm beyond the left line. Right line does not reach the upper line, and just barely (0.1 mm) misses the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.2 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.25 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.2 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 2 and 8, differing mainly in measurements.

Type 8 Upper line extends 0.25 mm beyond the left line. Right line just barely (0.1 mm) extends beyond the upper line, and is 0.25 mm short of reaching the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.25 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.25 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.3 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 2 and 5, differing mainly in measurements.

**Group III**

- Type 3** Upper line extends 0.5 mm beyond the left line. Both left and right lines extend 0.4 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.2 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.3 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.3 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 9 and 12, differing mainly in measurements.
- Type 9** Upper part of left line slightly bent to the right. If straight, an extension of this line would meet the left end of the upper line.  
Left line extends 0.35 mm beyond the lower line.  
Right line extends 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.25 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.3 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.25 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 3 and 12, differing mainly in measurements.
- Type 12** Upper line extends 0.35 mm beyond the left line. Both left and right lines extend 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.25 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.35 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.3 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 3 and 9, differing mainly in measurements.

**Group IV**

- Type 4** Upper line extends 0.35 mm beyond the right line, and just barely (0.1 mm) misses the left line.  
Both left and right lines extend 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.5 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.0 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.25 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 6, 7, 10, and 11, differing mainly in measurements.
- Type 6** Upper line extends 0.35 mm beyond the right line. Both vertical lines extend 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.25 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.25 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.3 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 4, 7, 10, and 11, differing mainly in measurements.
- Type 7** Upper line extends 0.25 mm beyond the right line, and just barely (0.1 mm) misses the left line.  
Left line extends 0.3 mm beyond the lower line.  
Right line extends 0.4 mm beyond the lower line.  
Length of upper line is 15.35 mm.  
Length of left line is 17.25 mm.  
Length of right line is 17.0 mm.  
This type is similar to Types 4, 6, 10, and 11, differing mainly in measurements.

- Type 10** Upper line extends 0.4 mm beyond the right line. Both vertical lines extend 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
 Length of upper line is 15.25 mm.  
 Length of left line is 17.35 mm.  
 Length of right line is 17.3 mm.  
 This type is similar to Types 4, 6, 7, and 11, differing mainly in measurements.
- Type 11** Upper line extends 0.3 mm beyond the right line. Left line meets the lower line, and the right line extends 0.25 mm beyond the lower line.  
 Length of upper line is 15.2 mm.  
 Length of left line is 17.25 mm.  
 Length of right line is 17.25 mm.  
 This type is similar to Types 4, 6, 7, and 10, differing mainly in measurements.

In addition to this, I understand that stamps of Type 10 and 12, but printed on the white paper, show damages, but I have not been able to verify this. The existence of such damage— if caused by wear and not by accident— could lead to the conclusion that these stamps originated from the third printing, and that the second printing would be that on the yellowish-white paper, the setting being the same. Accordingly, the printing on the bluish-white paper would be the first, the setting having been taken apart judging from the different spacing of the stamps. This, however, is only conjecture at this time, since many copies would be needed to prove such a theory.

## CATALOGING

1894

- No. 1 5 v. Black on differently toned paper without watermark. With or without (yellowish) gum. Imperforate. Typographed (type-set) in Antananarivo by the Norwegian Mission Press in sheets of 12 (3x4). 12 types. Quantity unknown.  
 (a) On firm bluish-white paper with wide-spaced setting.  
 (b) On thick yellowish-white paper with narrow-spaced setting.  
 (c) On thin white paper with narrow-spaced setting.

### The 1 "era" 5 "vari" stamp (Fig. 2)

The printing form for this stamp consisted of 3 rows of each 3 subjects, giving a total of 9 stamps per sheet, each stamp measuring 20.2 x 22.5 mm. Accordingly, we have 9 types of this stamp. The paper is thin and white, and no other paper variety has been reported.

Much too little material has been available to me to study this stamp in detail, but other writers refer to a strange variety on stamps from position (type) 9. The spiral scrolls in the upper left and lower right corners have been replaced by a rosette-type ornament similar to that used in the border of the 5 v. stamp, which would indicate that the printer ran short of printing material.



## CATALOGING

1894

No. 2 1 e. 5 v. Black on thin white paper without watermark. With or without (yellowish) gum. Imperforate. Typographed as No. 1, but in sheets of 9 (3 x 3). 9 types. Quantity unknown.

The  $\frac{1}{3}$  penny and 1 penny stamps (Fig. 5)

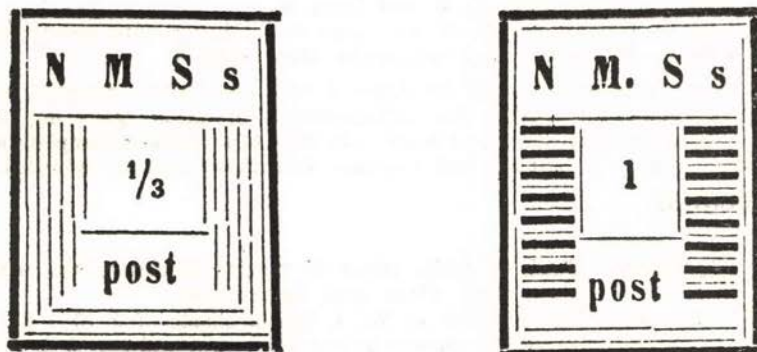


Fig. 5

These stamps depict their value in British currency, the  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. being equal to 5 vari, and the 1 d. being the same as 1 era 5 vari. The reason for expressing the value in British currency has been a mystery, judging from the literature. But it seems obvious that this was a natural consequence of the use of the Mission Post by the British Consulate and British residents. The time of their issue seems uncertain, as is the case with the Malagasy currency stamps. Authors seem to favor the second half of 1894. If this is correct, however, it would seem that the Mission made an error in judgement, first issuing stamps in Malagasy currency and then, after some experience and usage, realizing that British currency should have been considered as well, issued the  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. and 1 d. stamps. Considering the Mission's knowledge of Malagasy conditions, and its experience with its mail system, I am inclined to disagree. I would rather suggest that perhaps all of the stamps were carefully planned and deliberately issued in two currencies, the Malagasy for use by the natives and the Malagasy Government, and the British for use by the British subjects and the British Consulate. Indeed, they might all have been printed at about the same time, for that matter.

Anyway, these stamps are only somewhat different in general design from the Malagasy currency stamps, but were printed from printing forms of a rather unusual arrangement. The sheets contain 9 stamps (3 rows of 3 each) of both denominations! The top row contains the 1 d. stamps, and the second and third rows contain the  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. stamps. Accordingly, we have 3 types of the 1 d. stamp, and 6 types of the  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. stamp. The paper is white and of somewhat varying thickness.

The stamps measure about 17 x 22.5 mm, although I have not been able to confirm this with actual stamps, but rather have relied on photographic illustrations which appear to be in the same scale as stamps of the Malagasy currency. Likewise, the stamps seem to be spaced about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm horizontally and about 6 mm vertically.

The absence of actual sheets prevents me from giving a detailed description of the many characteristics of each position, but the following listing from existing literature seems to be correct:

- 1 d. Type 1 No period after the large S.  
 Type 2 Period after M only, and apostrophe after large S.  
 Type 3 Period after N only.
- $\frac{1}{3}$  d. Type 1 Period after N, M, and large S.  
 Type 2 No periods, but apostrophe after large S.  
 Type 3 Period after N and M.  
 Type 4 Period after N, M, and large S.  
 Type 5 Period after N, M, and large S, the latter with apostrophe.  
 Type 6 No periods, but apostrophe after large S.

The description is the same for Types 4 and 7, and Types 5 and 9, of the  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. stamp, and this makes the differentiation of these types impossible without having further details. I hope to be able to examine a complete sheet sometime, so that a complete and accurate description may be recorded.

## CATALOGING

1894

- No. 3  $\frac{1}{3}$  (penny) Black on white paper of varying thickness and without watermark. Clear gum. Imperforate.
- No. 4 1 (penny) Typographed as No. 1, but in sheets of 9 (3 x 3) with three 1 d. stamps in one (top) row, and six  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. stamps in two rows. 6 types of No. 3 and 3 types of No. 4. Quantity unknown.

## GENERAL

As far as quantities are concerned, the literature states that they are unknown, but were "quite small." This, of course, is subject to discussion. Naturally, the quantities would be "small" if compared with regular Norwegian postage stamps, but if we consider the extensive service the Mission Post rendered, and over quite some period of time, I would not be surprised if the actual quantity were, relatively speaking, quite considerable. The fact that few copies are available in today's stamp marts and among collectors does not necessarily reflect a small quantity. Let us remember that these stamps were only valid for mail within Madagascar, and while a few have undoubtedly "escaped" beyond the island on envelopes and parcels, a far greater number probably remained there. I base this opinion on the use of the British postal franks. They were gummed on one corner only, and on arrival (at Tamatave), these labels were detached and the mail handed to the French Post Office. This was the practice for several years, and it seems logical to assume that mail carried by the Mission Post—with its stamps affixed—was handled the same way. If so, an unknown, but probably a considerable number of copies reached Tamatave—and remained there!

I would like to direct an appeal to any reader who might possess mint or used copies, single or multiples, on or off cover, to consider lending such material to the Smithsonian Institution, Division of Philately and Postal History, Washington, D. C. 20560, so that perhaps all details may be recorded about the most fascinating and previously neglected stamps of Scandinavian origin, and about which Messrs. Graveson and Stocken wrote in 1935: "These are quite as legitimate as, and entitled to be ranked with, the British issues, especially as at the time it was the only available mail service, being recognized and used by the Malagasy Government, as well as all British and other residents." (The Regent Encyclopaedia of Empire Postage Stamps, p. 185).

The material for this report is based on my own observations, as well as general consultation with the references listed in the bibliography. However, and as indicated, previous writings are so conflicting that none can be singled out as fundamental to this report.

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## SOJEX 1967 Was Tops!

(SCC Participation a Farce!)

On the whole, SOJEX 1967 was a tremendous success!

And in the exhibition was a "Scandinavian Section." But why a separate section for a handful of exhibits? Why single us out as a group—and then show so few of **hundreds** of exhibits we could have shown?

We ask the many SCCers (with known and good exhibit pages)—**where were you?**

But let these comments, however, in **no way** distract from the excellent **quality** of what was displayed!

The (Ntl.) SCC Trophy was awarded **Herbert Bernstein** for his comprehensive Faroe Islands. **Robert Lang** won the Vineland Memorial Trophy for best single-frame exhibit (regardless of section) for his Icelandic Postmarks. 3rd Award went to **Hans Windfeld-Hansen** for his Danish postal history (he also showed Danish airmail and aerograms in the Airmail Section). The Apfelbaum Award (best on commercially printed pages) was won by **Lawrence Fralick**.

In addition, **Svend Yort** showed his "First Issues of Denmark" but non-competitively (Svend was one of the judges). **Helen Rocco** displayed Swedish commemoratives and **Milt Hershberger** his "Famous Men of Scandinavia."

At the Eastern Regional Meeting, **Svend Yort** brought everybody up to date: that Chapter 13 (Delaware) has been formally accepted, and that he has appointed **Vic Engstrom** the Chairman of a By-Laws Committee charged with coming up with proposals for a new set of By-Laws more in realistic accordance with SCC's activities and return a preliminary report to our meeting at NOJEX. **William Stericker** and **Frank Shaug** were also appointed to this committee, with other appointments to be announced at COMPEX.

## COMPLEX 1967

The 10th Complex was largely dominated by the Germany Philatelic Society, which had made it their annual convention, but the Scandinavians also had their usual enjoyable, if somewhat more quiet, "fest." Complex had been selected for our Midwest Regional Meeting following a Board meeting at which the new Twin City (Minneapolis-St. Paul) club was recognized as Chapter 14. Officers of the new chapter are Willard S. Johnson, President, W. R. Pieper, Vice-President, and Robert A. Frigstad, Secretary-Treasurer. The Regional Meeting was devoted principally to a discussion of the problems of running the S. C. C. on a decentralized basis, and the need for a thorough revision of the By-Laws. Many good suggestions were received, which will be given further consideration by the officers and the By-Laws Committee. Bob Stevens was also named to this committee, in addition to those appointed at Sojex.

The S. C. C. exhibits were very interesting, and included some fine material. The Chicago chapter had put together a composite showing of the No. 1's of Scandinavia as the key-note of the show. The Grand Award went to Roger Swanson for his exhibit of Iceland Aurar Issues, 1876-1901. The "Facit" Cup, donated by Frimärkshuset, was won by Carl Malmberg with his Sweden, City Postage and Lion Type, 1856-66. Jack Banks received a "gold" award for his Faeroe Islands Provisionals, 1919 and 1941-42. Certificates of "silver" awards went to the following:

- Stanley Gustafson—Norway from 1854.
- Earl Jacobson—Danish Tete-Beche, Setenant, Exhibition and Advertising Labels.
- A. C. Schwarz—Danish West Indies Bicolors.
- Reidar Norby—Norway Coat-of-Arms Issues.
- Robert Frigstad—"Norway and the Seas."

We also want to give "honorable mention" to Fred Bloedow, Greenland Postal Issues, and Robert Stevens, Finland.

A drawing of 4 items of Scandinavian Philately contributed by Jens Nyboe was held with the following winners:

1. Stanley Gustafson, Homewood, Ill.
2. R. P. Stevens, Chicago, Ill.
3. Nils Pontenstein, Springfield, Ill.
4. James R. Baker, Chicago, Ill.

The customary open-house "kaffe-klatsch" was held on Sunday with a capacity crowd. We were honored by the unexpected attendance of Assistant Postmaster General Richard Murphy, the new U. N. Postal Chief, Robert Maxwell, and Stanley Hodziewich, Chief of the Philatelic Staff of the P. O. Dept. Many other visitors from far and near also enjoyed the hospitality of the Chicago Chapter, which has become a traditional feature of Complex. To all the hard workers there, a hearty vote of thanks!

\* S \* C \* C \*

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

## Scandinavian Post Office Letter Seals

By Frederick A. Brofos (H-11)

In the April 1967 issue of THE POSTHORN, I reviewed the various paper postal seals that I have encountered from Norway. I have also seen a number of similar adhesive seals from the other Scandinavian countries and these are the subject of this article. There have undoubtedly been numerous other postal seals in use over the years, but if I were to wait until I got them all, this article would probably never be written. The accompanying illustrations will probably be clear enough to reproduce the seal inscriptions in their original language, so I shall limit myself to translations. All the seals are printed in red and embossed on white paper, unless specifically described otherwise.



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Of the old Finnish postal seals from the days of Russian rule, I have two attractive examples. Both show the Czarist double-headed eagle enclosing the shield of the "Grand Duchy" of Finland. The first (Fig. 1) was used by the Postal Administration of Finland and shows (at the bottom) the interesting double posthorn which was emblematic of postal service during the Empire. It is printed in light blue on glossy paper. The second (Fig. 2) was used by the Traffic Section of the Postal Administration and is printed in emerald green, also on glossy paper. Both of these are without embossing.



Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Moving on to Denmark, we find a number of seals used by various rail-

road post offices. First, there is the one shown in Fig. 3 from "ØSTIFTERNE", which means "Island Districts." However, it may possibly be an error for "ØSTSTIFTERNE", in which case it would mean "Eastern Districts." Figs. 4, 5, and 6 show the seals used by the Northern Jutland, Fyen, and Nyborg railroad post offices. The posthorns of the latter two have odd "pig-tail" loops, while those of Figs. 3 and 4 have cord tassels attached. Those shown



Fig. 5

Fig. 6

in Figs 7 and 8 were used by the Postal Administration of Denmark and show different sizes of the shield of the Danish coat of arms. I have also seen a seal from Vesterbro post office, Copenhagen. The text is within a double circle and there is a crowned posthorn in the center facing right. It is not embossed and printed in red on square-shaped paper.

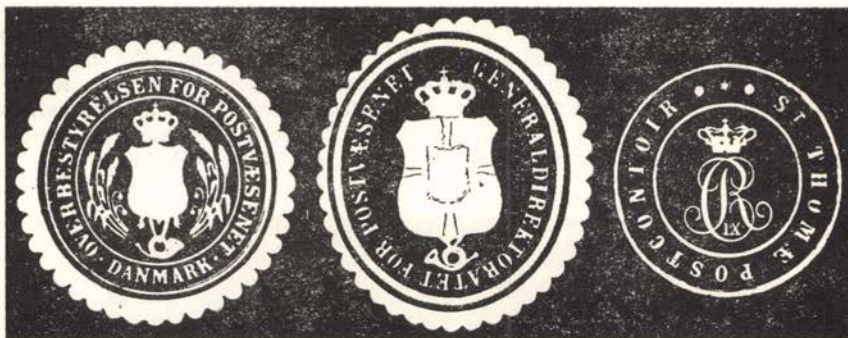


Fig. 7

Fig. 8

Fig. 9

The royal monogram of King Christian IX appears in Fig. 9, a seal used by the postoffice at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. Interesting archaic language is used in the inscription.



Fig. 10

Fig. 11

A fancy blue seal with French text (Fig. 10) was used by the Directorate General of Posts and Telegraphs of Iceland, before she became a republic. For the story about the strange creatures hanging around the shield, see "The Posthorn," April 1958, p. 24. The post office of Hafnarfjörður also had its own seal (Fig. 11).



Fig. 12

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

The Royal General Postal Administration of Sweden used a blue seal as in Fig. 12, while the Royal Administration of the Postal Savings Bank used a seal as shown in Fig. 13. Of special interest is the seal with French text, (Fig. 14) reading "Correspondance of the Postal Service. Sweden—Foreign". It is said to have been in use from around 1876 until 1900 and exists in various shades of blue, indicating several printings. It was used on official mail from Swedish to foreign postmasters. There has indeed been some controversy over whether to classify it as a postal seal or a postage stamp. According to an article in "Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift" (vol. 51, 1950, pp. 203-204) postal clerks sometimes cancelled it as a stamp. One occasionally sees them in auctions, for instance Pelander's sale of September 17, 1953—lot 1487. Paper seals have been used as franking stamps elsewhere, too: I have one from the German Reichspostamt affixed in the upper right corner of a postcard from 1894.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Some unusual diamond-shaped seals printed in black without embossing have also been used in Sweden by the Postal Inspectors of the Western District (Fig. 15) and show an ancient train puffing across a bridge, this scene contained within the loop of a posthorn. Gothenburg post office used a seal as seen in Fig. 16 and a similar design was used by the post office at Örn-sköldsvik.

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#### LAST MINUTE (GOOD) NEWS!

SCC's and SCC Chapter 11's travelling ambassador to Europe, Iceland's Sigurdur Thorsteinsson showed Lis Icelandic material at NORDEN 67 in Copenhagen and captured a Gold Award—then went on to AMPHILEX 67 in Amsterdam and earned a Bronze Award there!

In addition, he announces that SCC Chapter 11 Iceland has been recognized by F. I. P. at its 36th Congress as the Icelandic representative in that international organization! "Siggi" certainly lives up to his nickname, the "Fireball from Iceland"! Well done—and we'll have details in our next issue.

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## Icelandic Stamps With Danish Numeral Cancellation 73

By Lorentz W. Hinrichsen (804)

Your attention is called to a warning by F. Østergaard in the March 1967 issue of N. F. T. (Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift) about the appearance of suspicious Danish numeral cancel 73 (LEMVIG) on Icelandic stamps, both the regular stamp and the 3 Aur official stamp. This cancellation was declared a fraud as early as 1935 (Kohl handbook).

Lemvig is a coastal town on the Limfjord on the west coast of Jutland, having a substantial fishing fleet and it is therefore not impossible that Icelandic letters could have been sent with Danish fishing vessels returning to Denmark. (Ed's note: Numeral 73 was originally assigned to TØNDER, later re-assigned to Lemvig RR PO. Tønder is a small town in South Jutland, close to the German border, and also on the west coast.)

Icelandic stamps are known with VEJLE or HORSENS cancellations. Both are coastal towns on the east coast of Jutland. It has been explained that following World War I large shipments of the small Icelandic ponies were imported for use by the German and Polish coalminers, and that letters could have been sent with these transports.

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### Members' Bulletin Board

Have something to sell your fellow-members? Something you would like to buy? Information you'd like to secure? Or anything else you'd like to tell the membership?

Then our MEMBERS' BULLETIN BOARD is the place! THE POSTHORN will accept ads of limited size, and for SCC members only, for \$1 per ad per insertion. These "boxes" have a text area of about 2x7/8" and are limited to 6 lines (fewer lines with heavier type).

Please make note of the fact that if you want an ad in the next (Sept.) POSTHORN, you must submit the text (and \$1) to the Editor no later than August 10.

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### BACK-ISSUES OF THE POSTHORN

We have had numerous requests for back-issues, and find that an inventory of our stock will permit the following offers, subject to a new count in the fall:

**1961 to 1966 Issues:** 75c each issue, or \$2.00 per volume (of 4 issues).

**1960 and earlier:** \$1.00 each issue, or \$3.00 per volume (of 4 issues) where available. Note, however, that there are no complete volumes prior to 1954.

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## CHAPTER REPORTS

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### Chapter 1—Seattle Washington

Meets every first Wednesday. Collectors Club, 908 East Madison St., Seattle, Wash.  
 Secretary: Miss Harriet Hintze, 1312 University Street, Seattle, Wash. 98101

### Chapter 2—Philadelphia

Meets every third Monday, Liberty Federal S. & L. Bldg., 202 N. Broad St., Phila.  
 Secretary: Mrs. Christine Blinn, 132 Progress Ave., Woodbury, N. J. 08096

Our meetings this spring have primarily dealt with various peace-keeping forces of the League of Nations and the U. N., as well as the study of Swedish military mail.

As yet, we have no definite plans for our fall program, but hope to continue our schedule of a study group at one meeting and a speaker at the next. Whenever you are in the neighborhood, please check with one of our officers—we welcome your visit!

## Chapter 3—Detroit, Michigan

Meets every third or fourth Saturday, at homes of members on a rotation basis.  
Secretary: Vacant since death of William Sarenius—duties handled by Chapter  
President **Verner Andersen**, 12120 Payton, Detroit, Michigan 48224

The May 20 meeting closed the 1966-67 year for the Chapter with the election of officers for the coming year. **Verner Andersen** was elected President (his second term) and **Oscar E. Mittelstaedt, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer. **Nels Otterson** will carry on as Sergeant in Arms and **Ken Brown** will again handle Publicity.

This meeting was held at the home of **Paul Sarenius** and a delicious meal was prepared by his wife preceding the meeting. Another new member, **George Barreis** has joined our chapter, bringing our total up to 15.

We will resume our meetings in September after the usual three months summer vacation.

## Chapter 4—Chicago, Illinois

Meets every fourth Thursday, Hotel LaSalle, Chicago, Illinois  
Secretary: **Alanson C. Schwarz**, 744 S. Washington St., Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

The big news from Chapter 4 is of course COMPEX, and all the SCC activities in that connection. As host for the affair, we were delighted to have so many out-of-towners attend, headed by SCC Pres. **Svend Yort**, **Jack Banks** from Canada, members of the new Twin City chapter: **Whitey Johnson**, **W. R. Pieper**, and **Bob Frigstad**; **Bob Brandeberry** from Delaware, **George Gilinsky** from Washington, **Wally Gaarsøe** from Texas (ex-Michigan), **Charlie Orgel** from Ohio, as well as many mid-West "local" members.

We were also pleased to have **Svend Yort** inform us about future plans for SCC, and hope that our ideas and suggestions will help in the over-all picture.

After our June meeting we will recess until September, and wish all SCC'ers a pleasant summer.

## Chapter 7—New York

Meets every 2d Wednesday, Norwegian Seamen's House, Hanson Pl., Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Secretary: **George Koplowitz**, 25 Stratford Road, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218

After years of meeting in Brooklyn, Chapter 7 has moved to a new (and it is hoped better) location in Manhattan: The Freedom House at 20 West 40th Street, N. Y. C. The first meeting there was in June, and as is customary, the chapter will close for the summer, the first "fall" meeting being in September.

The chapter has had a lively season, with interesting programs and the attendance is improving. We look forward to all the activities ahead and invite all SCC-members in the area to visit us in our new meeting place—right in the middle of New York City!

## Chapter 8—South Jersey

Meets every third Tuesday, 405 North 9th Street, Vineland, N. J.

Secretary: **Mrs. Helen Rocco**, 405 North 8th Street, Vineland, N. J. 08360

We have held regular meetings throughout the season, and in spite of our small membership, we were host to the SCC activities at the SOJEX annual exhibition in Atlantic City. We look forward to an active fall and winter. In the meantime, we would welcome summer vacationing SCC-ers to drop in at any of our meetings!

## Chapter 9—North Jersey

Meets every third Thursday, Commonwealth Club, 551 Valley Rd., Upper Montclair, N. J.

Secretary: **Angus Todd**, 850 Broad Avenue, Ridgefield, N. J. 07657

Our activities since the last POSTHORN are too numerous to report in detail, but we have been very busy with various programs, our club auctions every other month perhaps being the most spectacular. Our membership is steadily increasing and we expect to assign membership number 100 in the fall! Being SCC-host for the coming NOJEX, we hope to see many of you there. Whenever you are in New York or North Jersey, do make an effort to attend our meetings—we think you'll like them!

## Chapter 10—Toronto, Canada

Meets every fourth Wednesday, 1224 Broadview Avenue, Toronto, Canada

Secretary: **William A. Daubert**, 8 Park Vista 206, Toronto 16, Ont., Canada

## Chapter 11—Iceland

Meets every first Monday, Cafeteria Main Post Office Building, Reykjavik.

Secretary: **Bjorn Gunnarsson**, Fjolsnisveg 13, Reykjavik.

Our meetings are planned so that we have a short business meeting and devote most of the time to lectures by guests and members. Thus, we have had the following presentations: Numeral cancellations and counterfeits (**Robert Helm**, New York), Scouting on stamps (**Sigurdur Agustsson**), Stamps and cancellations of the Faroe Islands (**Helgi Gunnlaugsson**), The origin of the postage stamp design (**Bjarni Gudmundsson**), Icelandic postal history (**Jon Halldorsson**), Sweden (**Sigurdur Gestsson** and **Adalsteinn Sigurdsson**), Round-the-world-trip by post routes by cancellations (**Adalsteinn Sigurdsson**), The Bern Issues (**Ernst Jensen**).

In addition, we always have "lightning sales" with material brought in by members. Plus swaps and browsing with lively discussions.

We now have a library of some 200 slides on Icelandic philately and two lectures on tape. These are meant for meetings, and can also be borrowed by other groups. Next winter we will work with the schools, having our members give talks on how stamps can be used as illustrations for a number of subjects taught in school.

Our President **Sigurdur Thorsteinsson** has represented us at meetings in Denmark, as well as at AMPHILEX in Holland. We look forward to a very active fall and winter season!

## Chapter 12—Washington, D. C.

Meets every fourth Tuesday, Museum of History & Technology, Smithsonian Institution, Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Secretary: **Wade H. Beery**, 115 Amelia Drive, Manassas, Virginia 22110

Our meetings have seen presentations by members on a variety of subjects, as well as offered swap, buying, and selling opportunities for everybody. The attendance is increasing, and since we don't "close down" for the summer, we invite all Washington-bound "tourists" among the members to drop in and say hello—we're easy to find: right in the new Smithsonian building on Constitution Avenue!

## Chapter 13—Delaware

Meets every fourth Tuesday, at homes of members on a rotation basis.

Secretarial duties handled temp. by President **Robert W. Lang**, 23 The Horseshoe, Newark, Delaware 19711.

We always have a program by guests or members designed to have us learn from each other. In addition, we have swap and browsing sessions which keeps everybody busy. We expect a busy fall season, perhaps with an excursion to Washington to visit Chapter 12 and the Smithsonian's Hall of Philately.

## Chapter 14—Twin City

Meets every fourth Tuesday, Minneapolis YMCA, Minneapolis, Minn.

Secretary: **Robert Frigstad**, 2181 Lakeaires Blvd., White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110.

This newest of SCC chapters was recognized at COMPEX, and we expect to get reports of many and wonderful things as the chapter gets established. We wish it luck!

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### LIFE MEMBER PAID

L-20 **Helm, Robert A.** (S22) — Iceland, Greenland, U. S.  
2451 Webb Avenue, Bronx, N. Y. 10468

### RE-INSTATED

1150 **Simon, Mrs. Margaret M.**, 430 Indianola Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44512

### NEW MEMBERS

- 1195 **Adams, Robert W.** — All Scandinavia and U. S.  
P. O. Box 276, Hobart, Indiana 46342
- 1196 **Allen, Miss Sonia E.** — Iceland, Scandinavia and Switzerland.  
210 W. Victoria St. (Cotg. 10), Santa Barbara, Calif. 93104
- 1197 **Buss, Frederick C.** — Greenland.  
1526 S. 44th Street, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53214.
- 1198 **Daubert, Mrs. Lillian S.** — Iceland, Greenland, Denmark, Germany.  
1224 Broadway Ave., Toronto 6, Ont., CANADA.

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- 1217 **Christensen, Torben** — Denmark, Greenland, Iceland  
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- 1218 **Davis, Dr. Arthur E., Jr.** — Iceland  
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- 1219 **Freeman, Jack A.** — Finland, Canada, Iceland, U. S.  
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- 1220 **Herlevsen, Fred** — U. S., Denmark, Iceland, Great Britain  
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- 1222 **Hoff, Alfred A.** — Greenland, Papua and New Guinea  
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- 1223 **Korelitz, Mrs. Melvin** — Japan, Scandinavia  
582 Abilene Trail, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215
- 1224 **Nilssen, N. Matthew** — Norway  
484 Demarest Ave., Oradell, N. J. 07649
- 1225 **Sanders, Carl W.** — Sweden  
4 Gilmore Lane, Newark, Del. 19711

- 1226 **White, Miss Helen Serjeant** — Iceland, Denmark, Greenland, U. S.  
2 Gibney Street, Hawthorn E2, Victoria, AUSTRALIA
- 1227 **Wiitala, Matt** — Finland  
5865 N. 42nd St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53209

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 120 **Steeffel, Lawrence D.**, 3549 Irving Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55408
- 773 **Kjelling, Edgar**, 86 Contant Ave. Apt. 5-A, Lodi, N. J. 07644
- 834 **Bookhout, Hamilton H.**, The Lodge, St. Agnes School, Albany, N.Y. 12211
- 944 **Yates, Norman K.**, Rt. 2, Box 288, Fort Bragg, Calif. 95437
- 954 **Fraser, Edwin W.**, 35 Willis Ave., Floral Park, N. Y. 11001
- 1003 **Malmberg, Harry**, 314 N. 74th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103
- 1057 **Peterzen, Conrad B.**, 2147 First Ave., Hibbing, Minn. 55746
- 1038 **Shaw, H. Walter**, 58 Elston Road, Upper Montclair, N. J. 07043
- 1092 **Jensen, Pier Sjorslev**, 750 Beta Avenue, Burnaby, B. C., CANADA

#### "CLOSED ALBUMS"

- 876 **Osborne, Dr. Roland H.**, 13336 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, Calif. 90049.  
October 29, 1966
- 1014 **Kent, Prof. John H.**, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt. 05401.  
September 27, 1966
- 1168 **Vallance, Derwent B.**, 16 Torrington Place, Canterbury E 7, Victoria,  
Australia — March 17, 1967

#### RESIGNATIONS

- 877 **Swift, Mrs. Ethel E.**, Garrison Road, Vineland, N. J. 08360
- 977 **Sharp, Karl H.**, 1336 White Oak Drive, Verona, Pa. 15147
- 1065 **Ruud, Miss Emmy**, 1056 West 10th St., San Pedro, Calif. 90731
- 1124 **Nielsen, Axel H.**, P. O. Box 82, Kinnaird, B. C., CANADA

#### DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- 100 **Lewis, Malcom**, 1002 W. Trinity Ave., Durham, N. Car. 27700
- 761 **Lunt, Howard P.**, 420 Court St., Auburn, Maine 04210
- 902 **Olsen, Aage**, Box 125-A, Rt. 1, Emerson Ave., Vero Beach, Fla. 32960
- 930 **Lewis, John D.**, 902 Main St., Riverton, N. J. 08077
- 950 **Klibonoff, Marvin**, 27 Van Orden St., Spring Valley, N. Y. 10977
- 998 **Greenberg, Nat**, 49 East 95th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11212
- 1004 **Hagen, Alfred M.**, 501 Cherry St., Grand Forks, N. D. 58201

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