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1968—A Good Year for S. C. C.

1968 is coming to a close, and a retrospective look at the year shows that SCC had a very good year. It started with the adoption of the new by-laws which permit the SCC to be run on a broad national basis and the SCC to run activities which will benefit all members, regardless of residence. Shortly after this, Chapter 9 presented us with its SCANDINAVIAN STAMP MART, a system which immediately "took hold" among the chapters and individual members who use it to buy and/or sell Scandinavian stamps.

And we made substantial gains in membership, as well as created a new chapter (No. 16, South Mississippi) and re-activated an old one (No. 5, Boston).

We held several regional meetings, at which officers and members were able to meet and plan and work for the future of SCC. Many of our members exhibited in local and national shows, and captured major awards.

In the fall, SCC acquired Chapter 9's SCANDINAVIAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE SERVICE—another giant step forward. And the various chapters held regular meetings and offered members and guests in their respective areas a variety of Scandinavian philatelic information and education—and friendship.

THE POSTHORN completed the first year in SCC's history with a publishing schedule of six issues, a schedule which will hopefully continue for the benefit of all members. And preparations were well advanced for a new membership directory, soon to be distributed.

Indeed—1968 was a good year for SCC!

We look forward to 1969—with confidence and hopes of further advances.

Notice to all members: Enough of the voting results is known at press time to announce that the proposed slate of officers for 1969-70 has been approved by a great majority. This means that **Robert W. Lang** is our new Treasurer, to whom the 1969 membership dues (\$3.00) should be sent. See details on page 117.

NORWAY No. 1

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H10)

(continued from page 97)

Official reproductions of Norway #1 (sometimes popularly, but incorrectly called reprints) were printed by Emil Moestue A/S, Oslo, on the occasion of the NORWEX exhibition in 1955 in Oslo. The printing was done from 4-blocks of line cuts made photographically²⁹ from illustrations of normal stamp "double foot," "cracked plate" and "reengraved corner." The clichés are obviously related to those used for "Katalog over Norges Frimerker 1955" and later editions, and can be traced back to the Jellestad and Odfjell sheet reconstruction articles¹⁹, in which most of the illustrations show a too short horizontal white line from the upper right corner of the shield. The clichés for the NORWEX 4-blocks are thin zinc plates, line cuts, mounted on a metal base to provide type height (0.918"), and are now in the custody of the Postmuseum in Oslo. The printing is coarser than in the reprints described above. Original plans evidently called for the production of actual reprints³⁰ of the normal stamp, while the other three stamps in the block were to be reproductions. However, it must have proved more practical to prepare all four clichés for the block in a uniform manner, in this case as ordinary line cuts for mounting on a metal base. The misunderstanding that the normal stamp in the block is not only an actual reprint, but also that it was printed from the original die, is nevertheless encountered repeatedly in the literature³¹. It stands to reason that it would have been most irregular to use the original die, an irreplaceable museum piece, for the printing of the fairly large quantity of blocks (42,635) involved in this case.

One of the four plates of NORWEX 4-blocks now at the Postmuseum is shown in fig. 8.



Fig. 8. Printing plate 1 for NORWEX blocks.

This printing plate, here called plate 1 (see below), was employed for the printing of the NORWEX block on art paper in Jellestad's jubilee monograph "4 Skilling 1855" and for part of the issue of the same block on red carton. At least two of the other three similar plates in the Postmuseum were also used for the printing of NORWEX blocks on carton, plates 2 and 3 (see below).

5585 copies of the NORWEX block were printed on art paper. 5000 of these were incorporated in the Jellestad jubilee monograph. Of the remaining 585 copies only a very few (less than 25) are now at the Postmuseum³², and my several inquiries elsewhere³³ as to the fate of the other copies have so far been unsuccessful.

In order to distinguish between the four NORWEX plates, I have measured the distance between the stamps in these blocks in eight locations, A to H, as indicated in fig. 9.

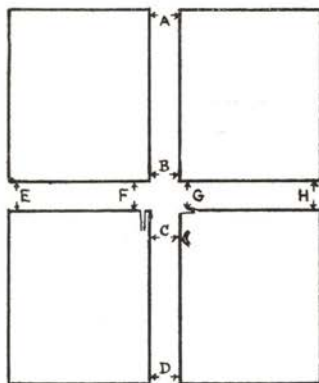


Fig. 9. The measurement locations.

The measurements were made about 1 mm from the stamp corners, except at C, F and G, where special allowances had to be made.

Table 1. Measurements as characteristics of the NORWEX plates.

Plate	On	Millimeter							
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Art paper and carton	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.7
2	Carton	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.65	3.4	3.5
3	Carton	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.95	3.6	3.75
4*	—	4.15	4.15	4.2	4.25	3.85	3.65	3.6	(4.1)

* Measured on photograph of the plate.

The differences are not great, and may even vary a little on account of possible small sliding, or shifting out, of a cliché. Plate 4 has possibly remained unused, I have at any rate not seen any corresponding printed block, which would likely be on carton, if it exists. I have carefully scrutinized a number of blocks in the hope of determining other more easily seen characteristics, but the small variations in the printing make it difficult to set up characteristics that can be relied upon to be constant. Table 2 shows the best characteristics I have found, and which appear to be reasonably constant. In the determination of plate number for a block, one should, of course, preferably rely on more than one characteristic.

Table 2. Characteristics of NORWEX blocks.

Characteristics	Plate			
	Stamp	1	2	3
Tiny color "wart" on the left side of the stamp in line with 4th colored line down from upper edge of shield	u. l.	yes	no	no
Last line at right in the shield	u. l.	whole	broken near top of tail	weak higher up
Lower two leaves in lower left corner of stamp	u. l.	barely separate	joined	barely separate and tiny white dot
Color spot in upper part of 2nd R in FRIMAERKE	u. r.	no	small	no
Break in short line between heel and tail	u. r.	tiny	none or tiny	long
Short line below neck of lion	u. r.	broken	whole	broken
White dot over middle of N	l. l.	yes	yes	no
Color dot in long white flaw right of E	l. l.	yes	no	yes
Break in 2nd line from left in shield, below axe handle	l. l.	yes	yes	no
Color dot in ornament left of 4	l. l.	yes	no	no
Upper right part of K in SKILLING	l. l.	small dot	small dot or missing	missing
"Splinter" on white line below crown	l. l.	yes	no	no
Tiny white dot near lower edge of stamp, below G	l. r.	yes	yes	no
White dot above edge of shield, above axe blade	l. r.	yes	yes	no
Tiny white dot to the left of 2nd white line from above, left of shield	l. r.	yes	yes	no
White dot right of the cut in upper left corner	l. r.	yes	yes	no

Table 3. Other characteristics.

Characteristic	Plates			
	1 — on monograph	1 — on carton	2 — on carton	3 — on carton
Lower edge of upper right stamp is, as compared with that of upper left stamp	a little higher	a little higher	a little higher	about same height
Upper edge of lower gold frame has small dents under	LL in lower left stamp	first L in lower right stamp	LL in lower left stamp	N in lower right stamp

Since the gold frame was not printed simultaneously with the block, it is quite possible that the positions given for the dents in the gold frame in table 3 may not be entirely constant.

Reprint Proofs

As already mentioned, a foot of typemetal was soldered onto the original steel die to make it type-high. I have been unable to uncover any absolutely certain information as to when this was done. It seems most reasonable to assume that it was done about 1914 at the same time as the electrotyped clichés were prepared for the printing of the first reprints (afterprints). It is interesting to note, in this connection, that Anderssen wrote in 1929 to Goodfellow¹⁷: ". . . I am happy in possessing one of the two prints taken directly from the steel die. This was made in 1914 when Dethloff and I published *Norges Frimerker 1855-1914*, and had the opportunity to see both the original die and the copper matrice." Grundtvig¹ stated, in the same connection: "Dethloff received the gracious permission of the postal authorities to have 4 impressions taken in black of the original matrix (original die) and these were given to Dethloff, Justus Anderssen, Mossin and the undersigned." (The expression 'matrix' was of course, due to a little misunderstanding). Mossin³, in his article of 1922, also shows an illustration entitled "Avtryk fra Staalstemplet" (Impression from the steel die). Two of these impressions are now in the Postmuseum in Oslo.

These impressions were not taken before the printing of the stamps, and are therefore not proofs in the ordinary sense. Boggs³⁴ uses the terms "reprint proof" and "post contemporary proof" for items of this nature.

Size of Original Die

I have not had the opportunity to measure the size of the face of the original die directly. Corrected measurements from the film of a photograph, however, shows a height of 22.70+or-0.03mm and a width of 18.45+or-0.03 mm.

Size of Stamps, etc.

I have measured (to the nearest +or-0.03 mm) all stamps in the D-block of a friend's collection, a small number of reprints, and some 25 NORWEX blocks with the following partial results:

Table 4. Measurement of stamps, etc.

	Height, mm			Width, mm		
	Largest	Smallest	Average	Largest	Smallest	Average
50 D-block stamps	22.35	21.80	22.22	18.27	17.63	17.89
D16 (2 copies)			22.17			17.83
Reprints 1914, 1924, 1962	22.63	22.50	22.54	18.67	18.27	18.44
NORWEX plate 1	22.83	22.75	22.78	18.73	18.60	18.67
" " 2	22.90	22.75	22.82	18.73	18.55	18.65
" " 3	22.83	22.73	22.78	18.70	18.57	18.66

That the stamps are smaller than the original die and quite variable in size, may be due to several circumstances: Possible excessive contraction during cooling of clichés in the casting, as a result of low content of (expensive) antimony in the stereo metal; variable aftertreatment (filing, etc.) of the clichés; and possible use of moistened paper in the printing. The size of the so-called "cracked plate" (D16) is quite normal, actually slightly smaller than the average, and the cliché cannot therefore be cracked, as explained above. That the reprints (afterprints) vary from larger to smaller than the original

die points to the possible use of lead matrices³⁵ during the preparation of the electrotyped clichés in 1914. The size of the line cuts for the NORWEX plates is arbitrary, has no connection with the original die, and the variations are due to small disparities between the 4 clichés in each plate.

Forgeries and Counterfeits

A distinction is sometimes made between these two terms: forgeries to designate imitations aiming at depriving the postal services of revenue, and counterfeits for imitations to deceive the collector. The necessity for this distinction is not very convincing, and the broad term forgery will be used in this article for any form of stamp falsification.

Earée³⁶ has described two forgeries:

"First forgery"—Lithographed, unwatermarked, 37 horizontal lines in the circle and 21 vertical lines in the shield; genuine stamps have 39 and 24

"Second forgery"—Lithographed, unwatermarked, 35 horizontal and 22 vertical lines.

Brofos³⁶ has discussed the same two forgeries, including the second forgery with fake 3-ring cancellation 541, and also shows a

"Forgery 3"—Lithographed, 56 horizontal and 24 vertical lines, more rounded (less squarish) lower part of shield and with an imaginary blue square cancellation with dots.

Dr. E. G. Jacobsen (Oak Park, Ill.) has shown me two forgeries, which I shall refer to here as forgeries 4 and 5.

"Forgery 4"—Lithographed, unwatermarked, bright ultramarine on soft white paper (vs. usually yellowish in genuine stamp). The number of lines in circle and shield is correct. This forgery has obviously been prepared via tracing from a genuine stamp, but corner ornaments and letters are too wide. The three upper right corner ornaments are joined and show a colored dot. The Cross is much too open. The right part of the lion's crown is missing and the tail very badly drawn. No shading on legs of lion.

"Forgery 5"—Lithographed, unwatermarked, dull blue on rather stiff and smooth grey, machine-made paper. The number of lines in circle and shield is correct. Designwise, this is a very dangerous forgery, obviously prepared by photography of genuine stamp, as the design and mottled appearance are exceedingly close to those of the genuine stamp. The first line from left in the shield goes all the way down (which is not the case in the genuine stamp). The corner ornaments, particularly those of the lower right corner, are a trifle thinner than in most of the genuine stamps. This forgery bears part of a fake 3-ring cancellation, apparently too large and with part of a somewhat misdirected numeral 1. Lines, mostly in somewhat darker color, have been drawn along the edges of this particular copy to give it a smoother outline.

Anderssen³⁶ wrote about "second forgery" with fake 3-ring cancellation 424, and also described a genuine stamp with genuine 4-ring cancellation 195 over a partially removed ink cancellation, a combination amounting to fraud.

Moldenhauer³⁶ has illustrated forgeries with fake 3-ring cancellations 424 and 480, and also a lithographed forgery with entirely too many horizontal lines. He has also described a number of recent cases of fake steamship and other cancellations on Norway #1.

The Philatelist 1868, page 70, mentions a lithographed forgery, stating "the words FRIMAERKE and SKILLING are smaller and very indistinct: the color ultramarine."

Nordisk F. T. 1899, page 21 contains the following statement about a forgery: "Close to the original, to a hair, but the more elegant execution and lack of watermark gives it away."

Frimerke-Kontakt³⁶ mentions a stamp with a 7-ring cancellation over a washed-off ink cancellation.

The forgeries are usually lithographed, and lack watermark, of course. The collector must also constantly be on guard against more or less cunningly repaired stamps, which if the repair be considerable, will border on forgeries.

Cancellations

In view of the extensiveness and manysidedness of the subject of cancellations on Norway #1, the reader will have to be referred to the literature^{37,28}.

Acknowledgments

It would hardly have been possible for me to write this article if I did not have the good fortune of receiving the valuable assistance of my good friend J. Richter Salvesen (of Wausau, Wis.), who during his recent vacations in Norway took the time to visit the Postmuseum in Oslo on numerous occasions. With the permission of the personnel of the Postmuseum, he has, at my request, photographed (in natural size) many objects of interest in connection with Norway #1, and has also, with unending patience, sought to obtain, through personal contacts, useful information on many subjects related to this article. (His name was unfortunately misspelled in my earlier article in *Norsk F. T.* 1964, p. 211.)

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many others who assisted me with advice and/or loan of material for examination, particularly E. Tommelstad and A. Aarak of the Postmuseum, H. Durban-Hansen, A. Steudel (of Emil Moestue A/S) and D. G. Thuesen (all of Oslo, Norway); and V. E. Engstrom, Dr. E. G. Jacobsen, H. Pollak and T. J. Cullen (all in U.S.A.).

Conclusion

I fully realize that some of the readers will feel somewhat disappointed when they find that many of the "dear old ideas" must now be considered untenable for reasons stated in this article. I will hope, however, that the feeling will wear off and give way to the satisfaction of knowing a little more today than we did yesterday. The comprehensive list of literature references should prove helpful to students of this interesting postage stamp.

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SCC and APS-68, Rochester, N. Y.

September 19-22, 1968. APS's annual convention and exhibition. Rochester, N. Y. One of the major philatelic events of the year. And SCC was there.

A separate Scandinavian section in the competitive exhibition. And all five entries earned major awards (Vic Engstrom: Gold Medal, SCC's Trophy, and DeVoss Award; Charles Orgel and Ray Norby: a Silver Medal each; Roy Johnston and Robert Helm: a Bronze Medal each). Chapter 9's "Scandinavian Scribe" won the 1968 APS Chapter Publications Contest.

The SCC Regional Meeting, hosted very ably by Chapter 15 Rochester, drew attendance from practically the whole continent, and saw the establishment of Chapter 16 (South Mississippi) and the re-activation of Chapter 5 Boston. And as mentioned in our last issue, SCC purchased Chapter 9's SPLS—another major step forward in SCC's goal of offering as many and varied services to its members as possible.

The SCC gathering at Rochester became another constructive get-together—in addition to serving as vehicle for bringing together members from many parts of the country, to know each other, to benefit from each others' ideas and information, and to establish friendships, in many cases of a lifetime's duration.

* S * C * C *

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* S * C * C *

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).

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An American Academy of Philately?

At BALPEX 1968, the American Philatelic Congress launched its concept for an institution of national scope beyond existing societies and devoted to serving the philatelic needs of everybody. The project received wide publicity in the philatelic press, and has been (temporarily) named the American Academy of Philately.

Every national society represented at the APC meeting at BALPEX voiced approval. Speaking for SCC, Board Member William Stericker (who was elected the new APC President, by the way) expressed his belief that SCC certainly would want to back the enterprise, and in the name of all forward-looking SCCers, we echo his belief . . .

* S * C * C *

SCC Chapter 2 at SEPAD 1968

Chapter 2 entered one frame in the SEPAD 1968 (Philadelphia, Pa.) club competition. The frame contained examples of hard-to-get items from all Scandinavian collecting areas, and was put together by several Chapter 2 members. The entry won the first award!

Chapter 2 also arranged a meeting at SEPAD (Oct. 2), at which Chapter President Preben Johnston gave a very interesting talk on the stamps of Denmark. We hope to bring a written version of this talk in the near future.

* S * C * C *

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Your 1969 SCC membership dues

of \$3.00 should be sent to SCC Treasurer

Robert W. Lang, 23 The Horseshoe, Newark., Delaware 19711

(Please make check or M. O. payable to Scandinavian Collectors Club)

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 SCC

CHAPTERS

 SCC

Chapter 1—Seattle Washington

Meets every first Wednesday, Collectors Club, 7212 E. Green Lake Dr., N. Seattle Wash.

Secretary: Miss Harriet Hintze, 1312 University Street, Seattle, Wash. 98101

Chapter 2—Philadelphia

Meets every third Monday, Kendrick Rec. Center, Ridge Avenue and Pensdale St., Philadelphia, Pa. (Except June, July, August at members' homes.)

Secretary: Mrs Christine Blinn, P. O. Box 730, Woodbury, N. J. 08096

Chapter 3—Detroit, Michigan

Meets every third or fourth Saturday, at homes of members on a rotation basis.

Secretary: Oscar E. Mittelstaedt, Jr., 4145 So. Fulton Pl., Royal Oak, Mich. 48173

Chapter 4—Chicago, Illinois

Meets every fourth Thursday, Room 216 at LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

Secretary: Alanson C. Schwarz, 744 S. Washington St., Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Chapter 5—Boston

Meeting schedule being organized.

President: Arthur Anderson, P. O. Box 941, Framingham, Mass. 01701

Chapter 7—New York

Meets every 2nd Wednesday, Freedom House, 20 West 40th St., New York City.

Secretary: Donald F. Halpern, 148-25 89th Ave, Apt. 3-R, Jamaica, N. Y. 11435

Chapter 8—South Jersey

Meets every third Tuesday, 405 North 8th Street, Vineland, N. J.

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

Chapter 9—North Jersey

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

Secretary: **Charles G. Sage**, 519 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, N. J. 07006.

Chapter 10—Toronto, Canada

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

Secretary: **William A. Daubert**, P. O. Box 43, Station H, Toronto 13, Ont., Canada

Chapter 11—Iceland

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

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

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

Chapter 13—Delaware

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

Secretary: **John R. Day**, 8 Stones Throw Rd., Wilmington, Del. 29803

Chapter 14—Twin City

Meets every second Wednesday, Northeast State Bank, Marshall St., N. E., Minneapolis, Minn.

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

Chapter 15—Rochester, New York

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

Secretary: **Mrs. Mary Morison**, 103 White Village Drive, Rochester, N. Y. 14625.

Chapter 16—South Mississippi

Meets every first Saturday at homes of members, thus:

Bay St. Louis: March, June, Sept., Dec.

Gulf Port: Jan., April, July, Oct.

Biloxi: Feb., May, Aug., Nov.

President: **Powell Glass, Jr.**, 112 So. 2nd St., Bay St Louis, Miss. 39520

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