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# Danish West Indies Local Overprint "2 Cents 1902" on 3 Cents

By A. C. Schwarz, Jr. (968)

The subject of this article is the "2 CENTS 1902" St. Thomas overprint on the 3 cents bicolored stamp, including two unusual varieties of this stamp. Much of the information has been previously published but has not all been combined within a single article.

The need for a 2 cents stamp arose with an inland postal rate change from 3 cents to 2 cents, effective January 1, 1902. (Concurrently, the foreign letter rate was reduced, resulting in the "8 CENTS 1902" overprints of the 10 cents bicolored stamp.)

There are two known overprintings of the "2 CENTS 1902" stamp. The first occurred in December, 1901, when four hundred sheets (100 stamps each) were overprinted at the Government printing office at St. Thomas. The 3 cents stamps overprinted were of the March, 1898, printing, perforated 12¾x12¾. All had inverted frames except stamp No. 50 which had a normal frame.

A second overprinting of three hundred additional sheets occurred in March, 1902. Most were of the same March, 1898 variety of the 3 cents stamp, but a few April, 1895, sheets were also overprinted. The latter is perforated 14x13½ and all frames are inverted except stamp No. 91 which has a normal frame.

Both varieties of the 3 cents stamp have flaws which locate their positions in the sheet. These flaws are (1) the "white wedge," (2) a white line between the "S" of "CENTS" and the frame, (3) an error in "S" of "CENTS" which appears almost as a diagonal line connecting the open ends of the "S," and (4) a white line through the upper part of "R" in "ORE". These flaws occur in the following plate positions:

| Flaw No. | Position, April 1895 | Position, March 1898 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 48 | 48 |
| 2 | 31 | 85 |
| 3 | 79 | 27 |
| 4 | 55 | 68 |


Fig. 1

For each of the "2 CENTS 1902" overprintings (identified as Setting I and Setting II, respectively), the same type was used. However, it had been broken up after Setting I and then reset for the second. As a result of the type characters used, their position in the printing plate and the overprinting itself, there are innumerable differences in the overprinted letters and figurs,


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spacing of type and positions on the stamp.

The major distinguishing factor in the overprinting is a "2" with a straight foot in "1902." Mr. G. A. Hagemann, in his book **The Stamps of the Danish West Indies**, (Copenhagen, 1930), indicates that the straight foot "2" occurs in Setting I in plate positions 13, 16, 18, 58, 66, 71, 84 and 93; whereas, in Setting II, it occurs in plate positoins 6, 33, 47, 58, 74, 94, 95 and 98.

Another difference is that some stamps (from Setting I) were overprinted "1901" instead of "1902." The "1901" occurs both in large and small type. The large type is the same size as the "2" (value designation) of the normal overprint. The small type is the same size as the "1902" (date) of the normal overprint. Mr. Hagemann indicates in his book that the first four sheets of Setting I were overprinted "1901" and that this was quickly changed as the stamps were not to be used until 1902. However, Dr. T. Geill in an article (Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, March-August, 1970) indicates that only two sheets were overprinted "1901" and that they were for approval by the Governor. It is more probable that the two "1901" size type overprints were essays, as stated in Dr. Geill's article, and were sold inadvertently with the regular stock of overprinted stamps. These stamps are known genuinely cancelled in the proper period, a few on cover.

Finally, while both Setting I and Setting II were officially overprinted in black ink, one sheet was found in greenish-black ink from Setting II.

I have two unused and possibly unreported varieties of the "2 CENTS 1902" overprint. The first is an inverted overprint in grayish black ink. The 3 cents stamp is of the March 1898 printing, with inverted frame. It has a curved foot in the "2" of "1902" and does not have any of the known defects of the basic stamp, so that its sheet position cannot be determined. The overprinting is not solid, but has white portions of the paper of the stamp showing through. (Figure 1).

The second variety is a normal overprint in greenish ink. The 3 cents stamp is of the March 1898 printing, with inverted frame. It has a curved foot in the "2" of "1902" and does not have any of the flaws of the basic stamp. The ink application is not solid, but appears weak with the white portions of the paper of the stamp showing through. (Figure 2).


Fig. 2

A few years ago, I purchased these two stamps among others of the Danish West Indies from an elderly gentleman who, apparently, had held a responsible position in the school system of Puerto Rico. He told me that he had purchased the inverted overprint stamp "from the widow of the last colored Danish St. Thomas Postmaster" during one of his many trips there.

Several years after I purchased this inverted overprint, it was shown to Mr. Svend Yort of Chevy Chase, Maryland. Mr. Yort recalled an article about an inverted overprint of this variety (Nordisk Filatelistisg Tidsskrift, Vol. 43, No. 5, June, 1936). The article contained a report by Mr. G. A. Hagemann of his visit to the Third International Philatelic Exhibition in New

York, and included the following comment:

"The speaker sailed on the 1st of March with his wife via England to the West Indies. At St Thomas he was presented a philatelic sensation, inasmuch as an old employee of the print shop which in its day had produced the local overprints, showed him a copy of the 2 cents on 3 cents with inverted surcharge. Somewhat doubtful, Hagemann asked for an explanation. Yes, they were genuine stamps, and the overprint type was the original, but, the man admitted, they were printed somewhat later. — As a means of identification, the speaker said that the printing was weaker than on the original stamps."

Mr. Hagemann also referred to inverted overprints in other writings. In an article (Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift, Vol. 43, No. 6, June, 1939) he said:

"The good black printer in St. Thomas has apparently a good many sins on his conscience. (He has also made an inverted surcharge but has not dared to put it on the market.)"

And in his book, **Danmarks og Dansk Vestindiens Frimaerker** (Copenhagen, 1951, Volume IV, page 166) he stated:

"Lastly, the 1902 overprint is found inverted, made at the printing works (see N. F. T., 1936, page 111), but in private ownership."

These statements bring about the following conclusion and a new problem: (1) It is easy to conclude that the original source of the inverted overprint stamp which I purchased was not the "widow of the last Danish St. Thomas Postmaster," but actually the widow of "the good black printer" referred to by Mr. Hagemann. (2) It is difficult to prove that "the overprint type was the original" as stated by Mr. Hagemann in the accounts of his New York trip. The overprinting was apparently done to a full sheet at a time, requiring 100 overprint slugs of type. Four hundred sheets were first overprinted (Setting I) and the slugs were broken up. Then three hundred sheets were printed (Setting II) with the slugs rearranged. With possible wear and breakage during printing and the breaking up of the slugs after the second printing, it seems unlikely that the inverted overprint could be compared with any particular overprint in either of the two settings. Further, as the printer said that the invert was "printed somewhat later," it is logical to assume that he reassembled a slug with the type available and that the inverted overprint is probably a forgery.

Concerning the second stamp which I purchased, the initial discovery of an overprint with the weak greenish ink probably may be attributed to Mr. Yort. In 1956, a copy of this stamp with a "white wedge" flaw (Figure 3) was exhibited and seen by Mr. Yort. He was aware that the greenish-black variety overprint from Setting II with the "wihte-wedge" flaw (Figure 4) was in the possession of Mr. Lawson Stone. Therefore, this greenish variety could not have come from the sheet of greenish-black overprints.

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Mr. York compared the greenish overprint in the exhibit with stamps of the normal black overprint with "white wedge" flaws of Setting I (Figure 5) and Setting II (Figure 6) and observed that the spacing and small type defects did not agree with either. He also compared it with another copy of the greenish ink overprint, which he owned, (Figure 2) and determined they were similar.


Fig. 5


Fig. 6

While Mr. Hagemann does not make any mention of a "greenish" overprint variety in either of the articles referred to above, nor in his two books, one wonders whether they, too, may not have been the creation of "the good black printer," particularly in view of his comment relative to the inverted overprint that the printing was weaker than on the original stamps.

A ready means of identification of the greenish ink overprint variety exists without need for comparison. The white of the paper on these stamps shows through whereas the greenish-black ink overprints and the black ink overprints are solid.

I hope that the above information may be of interest or aid to fellow collectors of Danish West Indies stamps. I would appreciate notification, through the editor of "The Posthorn," of other articles concerning the unusual varieties of these overprints, or from collectors who may own copies of such stamps.

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## POST HORN—CHAPTER 17 WINTER AUCTION

### A Call For Lots

The auction list will appear in the November Posthorn, with a suitable closing to date to accomodate the vagaries of the Postal Corp.

Lots are to be sent to Martin Miroff, Auction Chairman, P. O. Box 57397, Los Angeles, Calif. 90057, to arrive prior to June 15.

Auction rules: 1. An unreserved auction as far as the seller is concerned. He may place a protective bid above his reserve to protect himself in case of second thoughts. No fee to seller if lot is returned to him or "purchased" by him, except postage and registration.

2. Minimum reserve per lot—$7.

3. Damaged stamps may have a reserve no greater than 10% (ten percent) of catalog value.

4. Auction committee has discretion of refusal of lots.

5. Highest bidder receives material at normal increment over second highest.

6. Sellers are responsible for their own insurance while lots are with Chapter 17, and for registration and insurance in transit. Normal precautions will be taken, but Chapter 17 and/or the auction committee cannot be responsible for loss of material.

# Norway—Shaded Posthorn Øre Issues, Types

## Part 2

### 3 ØRE — Norw. Cat. #23

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H10)

The rather pale appearance of these yellow stamps makes it quite difficult to study their details by ordinary light. A desk lamp with a dark blue (or green) bulb[1] should be used, whereby the yellow of the stamps becomes much darker and more distinct to the eye, so as to facilitate measurements and other testing.

The methods for conducting the type identification tests summarized in the following table have been fully described and illustrated in part 1 of this serial article.[2]

Type identification tests on 3 øre stamps

| Test | | Types | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| AB | Period position | 53 | 63 | 63 | 62 | 64 | 63 | 63 | 64 | 63 | 63 | 73 | 63 |
| C | Period to 3 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 |
| F | Part height | 15 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 |
| G | Width | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| H | Opening | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| K | Above 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| L | Below 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | Position of 3 | Low | High | Normal | Low | Low | Normal | Low | Normal | Normal | Low | Low | Low |
| M | Upper ball | 10 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 5 |
| M | Lower ball | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 6 |

All measurements are in dmm as explained in Part 1.

The following brief notations will serve as reminders and aids regarding the nature of the tests employed here:

AB—Period position.
C—Left side of period to left side of small 3.
F—Part height of 3, down from lower side of upper cuve.
G—Width of lower part of 3.
H—Opening in 3.
K—Distance above 3 in the oval band.
L—Distance below 3 in the oval band.
M—"Notch test." Line cuts both upper and lower ball of 3, except in type 9, where it passes slightly to the right of the balls. For record purposes, each ball is considered divided "horizontally" into 10 parts, with zero at left edge of ball, and 10 at right edge of same.

Type 10 is readily identified by its unusual shape, note particularly test H. The small numerals in the other types are fairly alike, except for small variations in positions, size and tilt. In order to distinguish these types, it becomes necessary to conduct the various tests, comparing the reults with the data in the table.

The "notch test" M is particularly valuable in pinning down the "horizontal" variation in the placement of the small 3, and the tilt (if any) of the numeral. Low numbers signify placements more to the right than do the higher numbers in the same line. The difference between the numbers in the two lines have some relation to th tilt (if any) of th small numeral.

The position of the small 3, whether high, normal or low, is of considerable value in deciding between similar types.

Comparisons should, of course, always be made with the available illustrations of the types.[3]

**References**

1. Westinghouse "Colortone" bulbs marked "Sign Service 25W," recently available in the stores, are quite serviceable.
2. Posthorn 1972, p. 1-7.
3. Norgeskatalogen (The Norwegian Catalog). Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, I (1963), p. 228.

• S • C • C •

# The Night That Stamps Blew Around Bergen

**By Frederick A. Brofos (H-11)**


People who were out early in Bergen, Norway, one December morning in 1943, may have noticed an unusual lot of paper blowing around the streets or just lying on the ground. Those awake enough to take a closer look found miniature sheets with startling new designs for Norwegian postage stamps. They were really clever political leaflets, which had been flown over by bomber from England and dropped that very night in the Bergen area.

There were four different designs of these Allied propaganda stamps for Norway and two sizes of each. Dropped at the same time were pictures of King Haakon, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, together with statements by them regarding Norway.

The general idea was to have patriots take these "stamps" with their biting anti-nazi cartoons and stick them up in conspicuous places around town. On streetcar windows or in telephone booths were just two of many places where ordinary people could safely enjoy them. Perhaps someone might even be bold enough to use them on letters of annoyance addressed to local party leaders . . . Anyway, the Germans and their N. S. helpers were furious and moved heaven and earth to destroy the embarrassing leaflets. Those not found

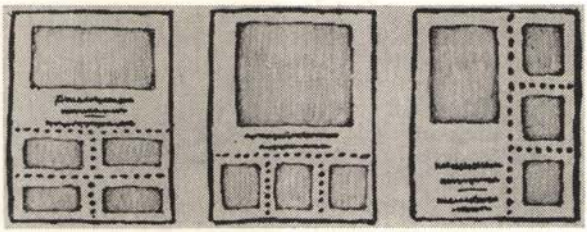
shortly by either patriots or nazis were probably ruined simply by lying in the snow. Unfortunately, very few of these interesting war mementos have survived. Another reason for this fact is that during the war it was downright dangerous to be caught in possession of "enemy propaganda." It didn't take much to be thrown into a concentration camp in those days.

Of the few miniature sheets that, in spite of all, were saved for posterity, most have since been subdivided and spread around as single stamps. A detailed description of the complete sheets should therefore be of interest.


A good job of printing was done, apparently from photogravure plates, either in England or the United States. White gummed paper without watermark was used. The size of the sheet was 5¼x8½ inches (about 133x216 mm.). All carried the text: "Utkast til den norske frimerkekonkurranse — Tre andre utkast fölger pr. luftpost" (i.e. essay for the Norwegian postage stamp competition—Three other trial designs follow by airmail). Each sheet had one large stamp and three (the 15 ore value with four) small stamps in the same design. They were called 1st to 4th essay and may be listed thus:

1. 15 ore green "Alt for Tyskland!" (i.e. All for Germany!). Design: SS trooper confiscating farm animals, etc.
2. 30 ore ultramarine "Wir fahren gegen Engelland!" (i.e. We travel to Angel land!). Design: Hitler, in armor and lifebelt, swimming.
3. 20+20 ore red "Lofoten 4 mars 1941. Bidrag til mulkten." (i.e. Lofoten 4th March, 1941. Contribution to the fine). Design: Giant Norwegian sailor lands and grabs nazis. (Refers to Allied commando raid on Lofoten Islands)
4. 30 pieces of silver (Judas money) Prussian blue "Vanaera og forakt her Quislings faerd ham bragt" (i.e. Quisling's actions have brought him dishonor and disgust). Design: Quisling's head in a hangman's noose.

The small stamps were line perforated, essay No. 1 with 11¾x10¼, No. 2 with 11¾x10, and Nos. 3 and 4 both with 9x11¾ (horizontal perf. listed first). The large stamps were imperforate, except on the right side of Nos.



Essay No. 1 No. 2 Nos. 3 & 4

3 and 4 which was line perforated 11¾. The small stamps were imperforate along the edges, that is to say on either one or two sides. The sheet composition appeared as shown.

About 47 different aerial propaganda leaflets were dropped over Norway by the Allies during the war, from a beginning of two in 1940 up to fifteen in 1945. However, only the four above mentioned were connected with philately. They were like a ray of sunshine in a time of darkness.

The intriguing question remains as to who accomplished the drop and who inspired the idea in the first place?

At the beginning of the war, it was the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) that flew over from England with leaflets to be dropped on Norway. Later on, in the course of the last 20 months of the war, a great part of this work was taken over by a section of the U. S. Army Air Force, namely the "406th Bombardment squadron, 8th U.S.A.A.F" This squadron, which was trained in night flying by the R.A.F., had the job of dropping leaflets over Europe, as well as various other "secret assignments" which are not divulged even today. The 406th bombed more than 7000 targets with a total of 1,800 million leaflets and news sheets in around 330 night flight missions. Unlike all other groups of U. S. heavy bomber planes, the 406th did not fly in formations but instead flew singly. They often met concentrated resistance from enemy fighter planes and anti-aircraft guns.

The propaganda stamps were dropped on Norway in December 1943, which would seem to indicate that the mission was accomplished by the 406th.

Some authorities believe that the leaflets were dropped over Bergen in the course of several nights. In that case one can imagine how angry the nazis must have been, after carefully cleaning up, to see loads of leaflets again pouring from the sky.

So much for who accomplished the drop. Now, who stood behind the whole idea?

The American propaganda departments at the time were the "Office of War Information" (O.W.I.) and the "Office of Strategic Services" (O.S.S.). The British equivalent, which originally had consisted of three independent agencies, was finally united in one "Political Warfare Executive" (P.W.E.).

Unfortunately, there was a continuous conflict between O.W.I. and O.S.S. about who should cooperate with P.W.E. and who should execute the various functions. Later on, an independent Anglo-American organization was formed, which came to be known as the "Psychological Warfare Division" (P.W.D.). With the formation of S.H.A.E.F. (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force), meetings were held between P.W.D., O.W.I. and P.W.E. as well as the Russian propaganda service to effect a better coordination of ideas. However, efforts at cooperation with the latter agency at least were without result.

Out of this maze of rival offices it has not been able to identfy the inspired originator of the four "Essays for the Norwegian stamp competition." That it was an "Allied" idea, and that the Norwegian government in exile in London had no connection with it other than perhaps giving its blessing, one would imagine from the old-fashioned spelling on the 4th design ("faerd" instead of "ferd" and "bragt" instead of "brakt"). Nevertheless, whoever originated them, they certainly liven up any war collection, as well as forming a rather unique chapter in the philatelic history of World War II.

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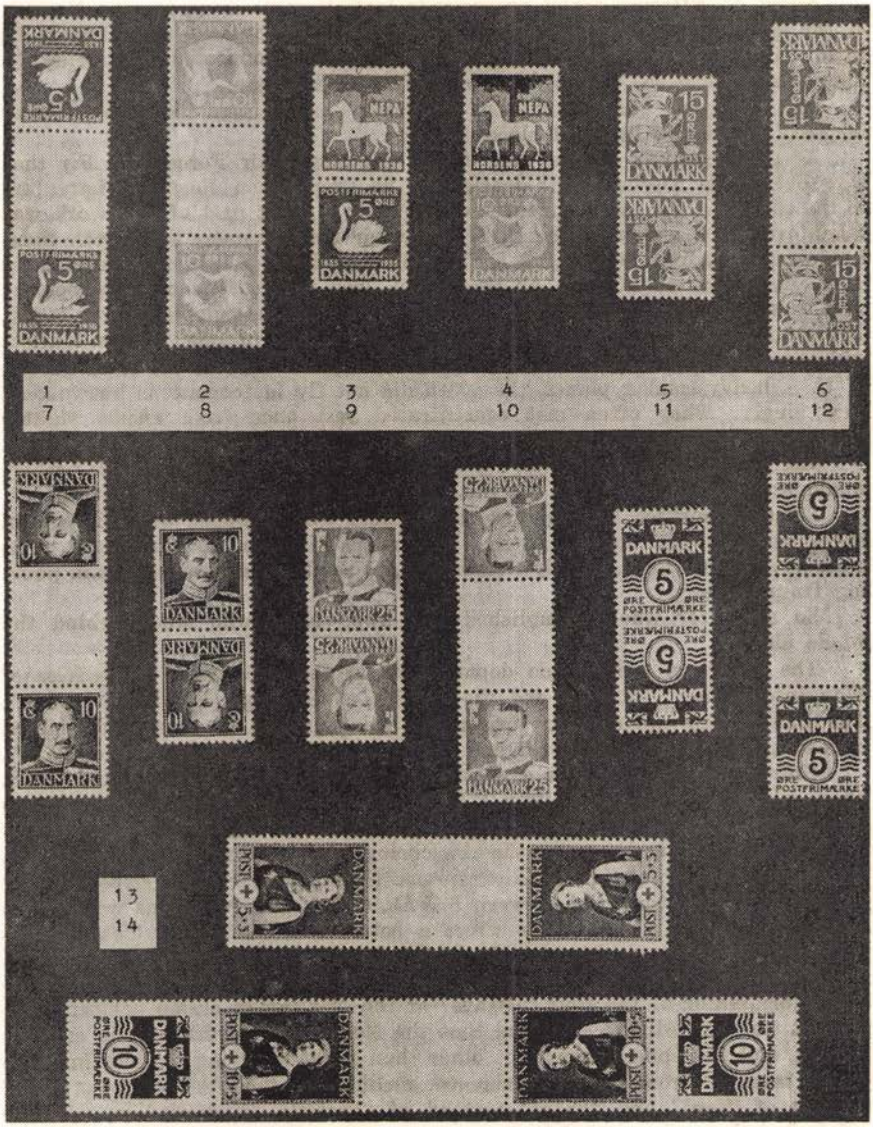
## DONATIONS TO SCC REFERENCE COLLECTION OF COUNTERFEITS

Thanks again to Gerald M. Knudsen of Boston. This time he has donated a counterfeit of the scarce Finland airmail, Facit 215, and two phoney AUNUS overprints.

# Danish Tete-Beche Expose Getting More Exciting

by the late Bibs Berner (1282)




Since my original story on the discovery of thirty new tete-beche pairs, Roland Rindshoj of South Laguna, Cal., and I have done considerable research on the matter. One of our first questions was, how can they exist used if they were hidden so many years? The answer, according to the Danish newspaper POLITIKEN, is that the still unnamed person who perpetrated this clever swindle had enough nerve to put a still unknown number of blocks on envelopes and by inserting them in a bunch of other covers, he had them cancelled at

the Copenhagen Philatelic Club's Exhibition in 1940. Whether they slipped through unnoticed or the man with the canceller was in on the deal is also unknown. In any case, some were legitimately cancelled. Another factor is that all engraved Danish stamps are still valid for postage and can be cancelled even now. The question of post office confiscation has been brought up. According to various legal minds, it is probable that this cannot be done because by purchasing the same booklets again from the Post Office, the culprit did not steal the stamps since the Post Office was paid in full.

In any case, through various telephone conversations with Copenhagen, the following statements have been made by, we believe, reliable sources— "Less than 100 complete sets exist. Probably closer to forty sets. Some of the values were found in full sheets (just how many was not disclosed) but the asking price on some sheets runs well into the hundreds of dollars per sheet." Each sheet contains two different AFA numbers, tete-beche pairs with and without gutters which makes a total of 15 different sheets. According to our information, only 12 types of full sheets were discovered and the others in less than full sheets, having been separated earlier. "These are the rare ones: 15 Ore Caravel (ship-type), the 10 Ore Brown (wavy line-type) and King Frederick IX 25 Ore in light violet. The AFA Catalog nos. are TB 13-14-15-16 and 39-40." If this information is correct, this is one of the most interesting discoveries in Scandinavian philately. No doubt outraged collectors who cannot acquire any of these stamps will try to belittle their philatelic value, but the fact is—they were printed by the government, they were and are valid for postage and some have actually been cancelled. Harry Paulsen, Publisher and Editor of AFA, the Danish Catalog, writes me—"The new Tete-Beche Stamps have been this year's sensation here at home. Prices in the Catalog are guided by the amount existing; of the highest priced, very few exist. Also, it is sure that there are relatively few of any of them." Yet, Paulsen does not seem to be able to quote a definite number. The Danish public is still up in arms about the whole thing. It has even been suggested that all these issues be reprinted ala Farleys or Hammerskjold, but according to my information, the presses on which at least some of these were printed are no longer in use. Furthermore, I don't believe the exact paper, colors, etc., can be duplicated.

Photograph shows #1-2 The Andersen Gutter pairs which created this entire story, #3-4 shows how NEPA used the blanks to print their ad for the stamp show in Horsens in 1936 which, in turn, made the Post Office forbid the sales of Tete-Beche sheets to the public, #5-6 are the Caravel type, among the rarest of the set, balance of the picture shows the various designs involved.

To my knowledge, and to date, five complete sets and some sheets have reached the United States and all were sold by Roland Rindshoj at Sescal in Los Angeles in October.

So far, FACIT has not listed any details on these stamps but on Page D-21 in the 1972 FACIT, just after #101, a note states "Of above pair combinations another 14 have appeared." It would be interesting to see what FACIT will do in the future. We have inquired of Einar Lundstrom but no reply has been received to date.

In conclusion, we must say that this is one of the most exciting events in Scandinavian Philately in quite some time.

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# Icelandic Skilling Cover #20

Still another skilling cover has joined the Icelandic collection of Skilling covers, and this one is out of Th. Krabbe collection. The letter is addressed to Lawyer Jon Gudmundsson in Reykjavik. It is stamped with two individual two-skilling stamps, which are cancelled with inked crosses (manuscript cancellations), one cross on each stamp, but the provisional cancellation VOLLUR, Jan. 15th is on the face of the cover. The envelope is also back-stamped in Reykavik, Jan. 20, but the year is missing in both cancellations. Here we are reminded of an old friend on another skilling cover from the possession of Sigurđer Guđmundsson, the abbreviation in hand script S. T. Sigurđer's cover accompanied a parcel, but this cover had no such companion to accompany, because there is only enough payment to dispatch a single letter, the normal postal rate of four skillings.

Is this abbreviation S. T. someone's postal abbreviation from that time? What does it signify? Are there numerous letters from that time, and perhaps from later time, with this marking?

Authentication information from Sven Gronland.

Translated from FIRMERKI TIMART, issue of Nov. 1, 1970.

George W. Sickels, SCC #1545

(Ed. Note: We must get George to write some more Icelandic nostalgia--especially "Goin' Courting").

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## NEWS RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTION IN SWEDEN, 13-14th of May, 1972

Some items are:

1. Four copies of 3 Skilling Banco, in superb condition and very beautiful. Price: 6,000, 5,500, 5,000 and 5,500 Sw. crowns.

2. A 6 skilling banco unused and in fine condition is one of the absolutely RAREST stamps of this auction and has the reasonable price of Sw.cr. 13,000.

3. You can also find the "pearl" of the auction, that is a very beautiful front of a cover with an exquisite pair of a 24-skilling banco. The owner wants Sw.crowns 21,000 for this fine lot.

(continued on page 68)

# Notes From Nils

**by Nils Stålhandske (299)**

## POSTAL HISTORY GETS FASHIONABLE

This year's issue of stamp catalogues is showing today's trend in stamp collecting more strongly than ever before.

Karl Erik Stenberg is beginning in Facit with the pre-stamp items which until now have been sadly neglected. And Einar Lunström himself presents current and realistic prices for stamps on covers and cards. From this autumn the demand for this has increased tremendously. Collectors have at last caught on to the fact that many stamps are more valuable and easier to "store" that way. The best way of switching over to postal history is to take up collecting first day covers. Once that being done, covers and cards "come naturally."

The clarity of the postmark is vital.

To buy new issues is simple. To buy earlier ones is much more difficult.

This year of 1971 at least ten collectors from Sweden have spent their vacations browsing through the stocks of dealers in Great Britain and North America. This has also made them take up collecting British covers to Europe. In the 19th century most contacts were by mail and old archives all over Europe have been turned over and searched. Mail carried by ships or by other unusual means of conveyance with special markings indicating these, carries tremendous premiums. Today's equivalent is the first day cover of a new issue, or of a new flight.

Recent items are not hard to get but historical flights of the earlier decades are getting really scarce and hard to find. They form integral parts of "One-Country Collections." Postmarks can be found on stamps but the top values of covers and cards depend on the little "addenda" made on the routes. Letters were franked with different value of stamps to prepay carriage by different routes. Special handstamps were introduced to cope with mail carriage by land and sea. Routes were changed and new post offices installed. The study of all this has been pursued for years and spread from country to country. The last two decades have made Postal History important and worth while. But the last year has increased the number of collectors who dedicate themselves more or less exclusively to this "new" field. Since in the past a tremendous number of covers has been destroyed, the available material is far too small in quantity to fill the strongly growing demand.

In Sweden it seems that most collectors think that at least every mint stamp should have the corresponding cover on he same page or opposite. This means in practice that prices are twice as high as six months ago on all covers and cards. A post card to Costa Rica, Chile, Australia or other minor countries far away—which you could buy a year ago "next to nothing"—this autumn of 1971 fetches 500 kronor or more. But then it must be securely "tied down" to the turn of the century or thereabouts.

The only Scandinavian whose archive has been kept and shown up at the auctions is Sven Hedin. His father and sister (Carl and Alma) were faithful assistants and recorders, dating and numbering the covers. His covers from registered letters exist with 10-15 different frankings to India as well as to Russia and China. At prices varying from 500 to 1500 kronor.

Until the end of 1972 public auctoins are run by a municipal monopoly in Stockholm City. When Frimärkshuset or anybody else wanted to hold an auction they had to go to the outer suberbs—situated outside the jurisdiction of the City Council—such as Lidingö or Saltsjöbaden. Out there the sur-

roundings are pleasant, but it takes half an hour to get out from the center of the town. This monopoly will be over and done with at the end of '72 and we can expect more activity on part of other auctioneers by and by. The City itself sells stamps at auctions but so far they have not quite been up to a very high standard. From January 1973 Stockholm itself will be the seat of more important auctions. Gunnar Norman, authorized dealer from Vancouver, has moved his half-time auctions to Stockholm and has been successful, because he has dedicated himself to only collections and selected material. He has been the only auctioneer in Northern Europe who has sold practically 100% of his objects.

CONTENTA, the new catalogue published by Frimärkskonsult AB in Stockholm, is the first catalogue in Sweden in modern times which has raised the price on some stamps from the "Facit level." They charge, for instance, for 110 and 140 öre Gustaf Vasa mint 60 SwKr each, while Facit puts it at 35, and they make drastic alterations with other scarce stamps too. The 4 öre Numerals perforation 14 cost 500 SwKr according to Frimärkskonsult but to Frimärkshuset, mint and used 110 according to Contenta and 60 in Facit.

It will be more interesting to see how this is going to develop—who will be able to sell at Contenta's prices, because these stamps are very scarce.

The most drastic prices have been realized this winter at the auctions of POSTILJONEN in Malmö. Some of them freaks in the opinion of most people but many just pure indications of the trend in the stamp market. Facit 421:II was estimated at 350.—and sold for 520 SwKr. The Facit quotation is 800 but it is sold at prices from 200 to 300 in the retail shops. The imperforated sheets were found in Gothenburg by Tom Wennberg—as much as 10 sheets and sold in Stockholm to unknown buyers the same year. This stamp perforated on four sides can still be had retail at less than 1 SwKr.

Covers were not as much appreciated as last year but this depends on that the prices have risen too much. The "Queen Letter" from 1858 was estimated at 28,000 but there were no acceptable bids. It was bought in Germany five years ago at just above 1000 DM. The Queen was at that time Crown Princess of Sweden and earlier Princess Louise of the Netherlands. The covers are from her letters to her ex-governess living in the Hague, Mademoiselle Wauthier. In Sweden she was called Kronprinsessan Lovisa and her memory lives sweet in our days because the Childrens' Hospital she founded was the first one of its kind in Sweden and still exists. The franking consisted of 6 and 24 skilling banco (two of each).

Nor was a cover with 17 öre Lion grey sold—the price was 13,500 and, however scarce, it was not worth that much. But the same stamp cancelled Kalmar 28.8.1886 was estimated at 400 and sold for 900, while others fetched the normal 30-40% above estimate.

"Postiljonen" gets very good prices for foreign stamps—this is about the first time this happens. Probably depending on the fact that Copenhagen is within easier shopping distance.

• S • C • C •

## ARTISTS—SCC NEEDS YOUR HELP!

SCC is proposing establishment of an award of excellence for competitive Scandinavian exhibits. The award will be made to all qualifying exhibits at qualifying exhibitions. Recognition will be an award of a medal and/or a certificate. A few of the suggestions for the design(s) include use of Posthorns, the five swans, a map of Scandinavia, and the flags of Scandinavia.

Send your design suggestions to W. J. Gaarsoe, 524 Forrest Ave., Drexel Hill, Pa. 19026, as Awards Committee representative.

## FRED H. BLOEDOW, SCC #975—SCC PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Fred was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, on 26 July 1935, but considers Waukesha, Wisconsin his hometown. He was graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha in 1958 with a BS in physics and mathematics. He started working in 1959 for the Mechanics Research Division of American Machine & Foundry Company in Chicago as an assistant engineer. This division was later sold to General American Transportation Corporation, becoming the General American Research Division. Fred is presently the Group Leader of the Computer applications and Data Processing Group ar GARD.

Fred has a fairly wide range of collecting interests, including selected British colonies (notably St. Helena), United States, local post issues (he is an avid collector of Lundy, seriously), as well as the Scandinavian areas of Greenland, Iceland, Denmark, and Finland. He has a fondness for used stamps, and particularly used blocks of four, as well as stamps on cover. In addition to philately Fred is an avid reader and sort of a bibliophile (look that up in your Funk & Wagnals). Fred's work and hobby overlap, in that he is forming a topical collection of mathematicians, physical scientists and the physical sciences and stamps and covers.

Fred is active in the Chicagoland Chapter of SCC (Chapter 4), the Combined Philatelic Exhibitions of Chicagoland (COMPEX), and the United Nations Collectors of Chicagoland. He s ia member of NSPS, APC, UNSU, ASE, AAMS, CSC, TMPS, UNCC, IFSC, PHS, SCC, WCPS, SAS, ASPP, APS, SPA, CISS, LSS, AP, and NAACP. (Twenty, count'em, twenty. A used block of four of my choice to the first person to make the most sense out of this alpabet soup). Fred is an inveterate joiner, and has difficulty in refusing to lend a helping hand for the good of philately. (I guess being a bachelor tends to bring more requests from those who assume that a bachelor has loads of time on his hands.)

Now for some comments regarding his SCC job. He says, "I try to get SCC activities publicized in the various philatelic outlets. This requires the preparation of press releases and mailing them out at least 4 weeks ahead of the desired date of publication (5 or 6 weeks ahead is better if possible). Sounds simple doesn't it, well it is provided I have something to publicize and the required lead time. I cannot get a press release out about anything unless someone feeds me the necessary information. I would like to compare mailing lists with some of the Chapters to see if I am missing any good outlets, how about it?? Also, if you readers ever write an article, review, etc., not for the POSTHORN, e.g., the way 'Bibs' Berner used to do, please include a plug for the SCC. By the way if you have the time to write something not for the POSTHORN, why not write something for the POSTHORN?

"Your Editor, bless his heart, requested this by 1 October 1971, and as usual I am a little overdue, sorry about that."

(Ed. note: To those who know both of us . . . . to complain to Fred strikes me as a case of playing in the Valley of the Jolly Green Giant.)

# The Posthorn

Sponsored by the
**Scandinavian Collectors Club**
of NEW YORK, N. Y.

Editor, Carl E. Pelander, 505 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

Vol. I November 1943 No. 1


## A RARE OPPORTUNITY

The Scandinavian Collectors Club presents a rare opportunity to collectors of Scandinavian philatelic material or of philatelic literature to obtain volumes 1-12 of the premier philatelic journal of Scandinavian philately, THE POSTHORN. Under the guidance of Chicago Chapter Four, SCC will reprint these twelve early volumes, on 25% rag content paper, making available this vast storehouse of information on a broad scale for the first time.

Perhaps the most astonishing fact is that these volumes can be yours for as little as $14.50! Binding service is also available. Bound in two books, six volumes of Posthorns in each volume, the additional cost is $6.50; in three books, with four volumes of Posthorns in each volume, the added cost is $9.50.

For those who have some of the Posthorns, individual volumes are available, priced, except for Volume 4, at $1.50 per volume. Volume 4 is $2.25 (96 pages).

## Limited Time Offer

This offer to sell the reprinted POSTHORN at these ridiculously low prices is open only until May 31, 1972. After that date prices will be the same as they have been or $1.00 per issue! THERE ARE 47 ISSUES in the first twelve volumes, so don't miss out on this fantastic deal.

There is only one catch, and that applies only if you are not a member of SCC. Then we apply a $2.00 surcharge to each set or partial set you order.

## An Index! An Index!

"Contents lists" for volumes 1-12 exist. But SCC is publishing a full and complete index of volumes 1 through 28 of the POSTHORN! Details on the purchase of this index will be sent to all non-member purchasers from the Reprint Project.

## Orders For Later Volumes

Later volumes of the POSTHORN are still available, although some are held in small quantities only. Price is $1 per number or $3.00 per volume for volumes 13-15, 17-23. Volume 16, one number only, is $1.00 only. PLACE ALL ORDERS FOR LATER VOLUMES ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER AND ENCLOSE A SEPARATE CHECK PAYABLE TO "SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB."

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# Survey of Scandinavian Semi-Postal Stamp Programs

By Henry T. Hettger (#1518)

In January 1971, I decided to make a survey of the Semi-Postal Stamp Programs of nations throughout the world that currently had such programs in progress or had issued semi-postal stamps in recent years. This article, however, will be directly concerned with the Scandinavian Semi-Postal Stamp Programs. Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden were contacted by means of identical survey questionnaires. Only three replied, Denmark, Greenland and Norway. Although only 50% of the Scandinavian countries that received questionnaires responded, the information gained is of value.

Denmark was the first nation to issue a Christmas Seal, the first appearing in 1904. However, the Scandinavian countries were not the first nations to issue semi-postal stamps. Among the earliest issues are New South Wales and Victoria, 1897; Queensland, 1900; and the Netherlands, 1906. The first semi-postal stamp in Scandinavia appeared with the territorial defense issue of Sweden in 1916. Denmark followed with an issue in 1921; Finland in 1922; Norway in 1930; Iceland in 1933; and Greenland in 1958.

Mr. Lejf Nielsen of the Ministry of Public Works, General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs forwarded the reply for the Kingdom of Denmark. He states that semi-postal stamps are issued only to a very limited extent and solely for particularly important purposes.

The Danish Red Cross is the only institution for which semi-postal stamps are currently sold. The General Directorate makes the decision in each individual case as to what themes or charities will be recognized for a particular issue. The surcharge is always fixed at a small amount—so far it has never been more than 10 öre.

Regarding the question concerning payment to the specific charities, the funds collected from sales of a semi-postal stamp are transferred monthly by the General Directorate to the charity in question. Queried as to the attitude of the public towards semi-postal stamps, he maintained that by far the majority of such stamps are bought by philatelists, and that among people in general, there is no particular interest in these stamps.

When asked "Has your government found the issuance of semi-postal stamps to be financially feasible? How does the administration cost compare with sales?", he replied, "It's impossible to specify the administration and sales costs of semi-postal stamps." Common sense would tell you that as in the case of most stamps production costs are minimal compared with sales volume and that administration costs are most likely low as the amount of funds to be transferred to the charity can be readily determined by figuring the total number of sheets sold of an issue during a month.

Mr. Nielsen indicated that no important changes in semi-postal stamp issues or administration was planned for this year or in the next five years. In reply to the question "What advantages does your government see in continuing (or discontinuing) the semi-postal stamp program?", he held, "It is not intended to discontinue the issue of semi-postal stamps, but the number of such issues will still be limited to one or possibly two stamps a year." He indicated no difficulteis in the issuance of semi-postal stamps as particularly bothersome or insurmountable.

Mr. J. A. Hansen of the Royal Greenland Trade Department (Den Kongelige Grølandske Handel), Grønlands postvaesen, states that Greenland issues very few semi-postal stamps. He states that in all instances the surcharge will be to the benefit of a charity or for other purposes of general in-

terest. The amounts will frequently take the form of a supplement to public funds or may be used in cases where support is required, but where support from public funds is not authorized.

It is the experience of Grønlands postvaesen that the semi-postal stamps are to a great extent bought by stamp collectors, whereas the ordinary user of stamps does not usually buy semi-postal stamps. For that reason the number of semi-postal stamps printed is comparatively small. Recent issues include a semi-postal stamp in 1968 with a surcharge of 10 öre to the benefit of the cause of child welfare in Greenland and in July 1971 an issue for the benefit of the cause of church building in Greenland.

Mr. E. Døving replied for the Norwegian Director General of Posts. He states that in Norway there is no law regulating the issuance of semi-postal stamps. Based on a decision made by the General Directorate of Posts in May 1957, the general rule has evolved that semi-postal stamps shall not be for sale more than two years and at the same time that there cannot be more than one series for sale. There is no regular issue of semi-postal stamps but a rather restricted line of policy is followed in their issuance. There have been 25 issues since 1930. None have been issued since 1965. Proposals concerning the issuance of semi-postal stamps are advanced by charity organizations, and then put before the consulting organ for stamp issues. The decision rests with the Director General of Posts. The income represented through the surcharge is transferred directly from the Post Office to the organization proposing the issuance. This organization is then free to dispose of the entire amount.

It is evident that the Scandinavian nations have not abused their Semi-Postal Stamp Programs by an overabundance of new issues. Denmark and Finland appear to be the regular issuing countries and the others are sporadic in their issues. No changes are forecast for the next 5 years in any of the respondents' Semi-Postal Stamp Programs. Nevertheless, one should not conclude that innovations or improvements should not or will not occur. The general impression one receives from the survey is that the Scandinavian Semi-Postal Stamp Programs are running and have been running for quite some time like well-oiled machines.

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(Ed. note: Henry has kindly included a list of Scandinavian Sales Offices for those who are in doubt about who, what, where and how. Thank you, Henry.)

FINLAND—Sales Office: The Philatelic Section of the GPA, POB 10 654, Helsinki 10. Sale of valid and unvalid Finnish current stamps, commemorative stamps, charity stamps. FDC and special cancellations. Stamp orders should be accompanied with payment plus postage.

ICELAND—Sales Office: Head Post Office, 2nd floor, Postal Address: P. O. Box 1445, Reykjavik. All stamps are sold at face value with the addition of postage and registration fee and sent at buyers risk. Valid stamps can be ordered cancelled or mint but obsolete stamps cannot be cancelled. Payment can be sent by International Money Orders or by checks certified or issued by a bank.

NORWAY—Sales Office: The Postal Philatelic Agency (Postens Filatelitjeneste), 20, Kirkegaten, Postboks 1085 Sentrum, Oslo 1. Sale for mint stamps only. First Day cover service. Ask for catalogue.

SWEDEN—Sales Office: The Post Office Section for Philately PFA, Fack, S-101 10 Stockholm 1. Ask for catalogue in English. Sale of new and old mint stamps. At each issue of new stamps First Day Covers (FDC) are sold. They have a special cancellation. Subscription to mint stamps, booklets and

First Day Covers is possible. Ordered stamps and First Day Covers are supplied free of postage.

DENMARK—Sales Office: The Postal Philatelic Agency, 59, Raadhuspladsen, DK-1550 Copenhagen V. Ask for catalogue. Sale of new and old Danish and Greenland postage stamps in mint condition. At the issue of new stamps a first-day cancellation usually takes place by means of a special cancellation stamp. In the case of written orders the amount plus postage for a registered letter must be remitted in advance.

* S * C * C *

# Iceland Cancels Amended

**By Robert Booman (#980)**

It has been most gratifying to learn of the enthusiasm with which the article "Cancels Currently In Use In Iceland" published in the August 1971 issue has been received. Since that time further information has come to my attention which I wish to pass on.

A. Addtiional Postmarks:
   1. Laekjamot has postmark type SIa LAEKJAMOT

B. Changed Postmarks:
   1. Hveragerdi now uses a postmark type SIVb HVERAGERDI
   2. Höfn i Hornafirdi now uses postmark type SIVb HÖFN I HORNAFIRDI
   3. Drangsnes now uses a postmark type SIVb DRANGSNES
   4. Faskrudsfjördur now uses postmark type SIVb FASKRUDSFJÖRDUR
   5. Gerdar now uses a postmark type SIVb GERDAR
   6. Holmavik now uses a postmark type SIVb HOLMAVIK
   7. Hnifsdalur now uses a postmark type SIVb HNIFSDALUR
   8. Kopasker now uses a postmark type SIVb KOPASKER
   9. Kroksfjardarnes now uses postmark type SIVb KROKSFJARDARNES
   10. Skagaströnd now uses a postmark type SIVb SKAGASTRÖND
   11. Þorshöfn now uses a postmark type SIVb ÞORSHÖFN

C. New Postmarks:
   1. The Philatelic Sales counter (Frimerkjasalan) now has its own postmark which is similar to type SIVb REYKJAVIK but with -F- in the lower segment.
   2. There is a postmark similar to type SIVb REYKJAVIK but with -7- in the lower segment.
   3. The postoffice at Seltjarnarnes (Reykjavik) is again in operation and is using a type SIVb SELTJARNARNES postmark.

D. Corrections to the Original Article:
   Some typographical errors appeared in the original article which should be corrected as follows:
   1. Postmarks listed under SEa—page 50
      ANARSTAPI should be ARNARSTAPI
      STRÓND should be STRÖND
   2. Postmarks listed under SId—page 51
      FLATEL should be FLATEY
   3. Postmarks listed under SIIa—page 51
      SKJÖLDÓLFSTAÐIR should be SKJÖLDÓLFSSTAÐIR
      ÞÓRRODSSTAÐUR should be ÞÓRODDSSTAÐUR
   4. Postmarks listed under SIIc—page 52
      NESKAUPSSTAÐUR should be NESKAUPSTAÐUR
      VARMILAEKUR should be VARMALAEKUR
   5. Postmarks listed under SIVa—page 54
      REIRHÖFN should be LEIRHÖFN
      OLUSTÖDIN should be OLIUSTÖDIN

6. Figure 24a—page 55 should be deleted (that was my error, Bob—ye ed)
7. Postmarks listed under SIVb—page 55
   FLATEL—HFN should be FLATEY—HFN
   FLUIDIR should be FLUDIR
   GARDAKAUPTON should be GARDAKAUPTUN
   HOFSÖS should be HOFSÓS
   HÖLAR should be HÓLAR
   KOPVOGUR should be KOPAVOGUR
8. Machine cancels—page 56
   KOPVOGUR should be KOPAVOGUR
9. List of Active Postoffices—pages 57-61
   Ahbyrgi should be Asbyrgi
   Brekka i Mjoagirdi should be Brekka i Mjoafirdi
   BAEER should be BAEIR
   BAEIR should be BAER
   KLFAFELL should be KALFAFELL
   Patrewsfjördur should be Patreksfjördur
   Ytri—Holl should be listed as a collecting office (C)
   Þingeyri should be listed as a provincial postoffice (P)

* S * C * C *

## THE PHILATELIC WRITINGS OF FREDERICK A. BROFOS (H-11)

Several articles were inadvertently omitted from the list appearing in the February 1972 issue of "The Posthorn," pages 22-23, as follows:

"Imperial German Fieldpost Office, Helsinki, 1918." The Posthorn, July, 1960.

"The Postmarks of the Local Posts of Norway." American Philatelic Congress Yearbook 1957. Reprinted as a SCC Booklet, 1957.

"The Night that Stamps Blew Around Bergen." COMPEX Directory, May, 1971.

In the previous list, the title of the next to last article should read "record" instead of "redcord." (Ed. Note: Sorry Fred . . . You and Carl wrote so much, I got bleary eyed proofing galleys. Another of Fred's Norwegian Adventure stories apears elsewhere in this issue.)

* S * C * C *

# Chapter News Notes

## Chapter 1

### Roed's Norway takes Grand Award at SEAPEX '71

The Grand Award at SEAPEX '71, sponsored by the Collectors Club of Seattle, went to Botha D. Roed for Plating of Norway #4 and the Shaded Posthorn Issue of Norway. The top exhibit also received the APS Certificate of Award.

The Collectors Club of Seattle (S.C.C. Chapter 1) is located at 7212 East Green Lake Drive North. Meetings are held each Tuesday from 1-9 p.m. and each Friday from 7:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

### SCC Chapter 4 Officers Elected

Officers for Chapter 4 of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, Chicago, were elected at a recent meeting:

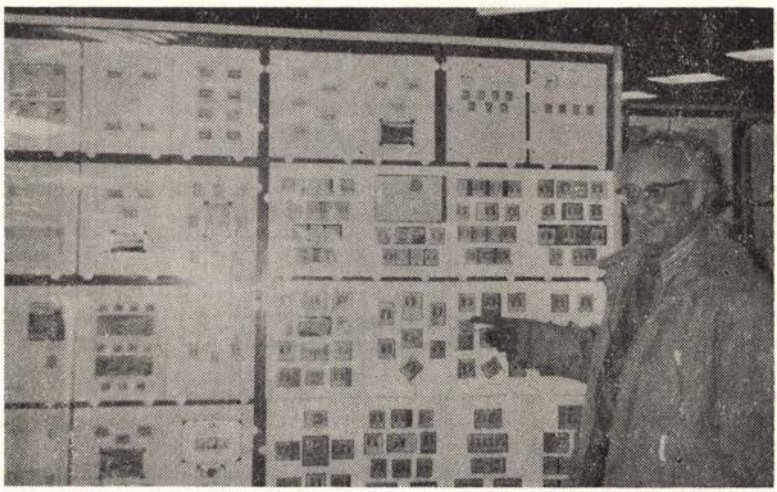
President ---------- Burt Brownyer
Vice President ---------- Fred Bloedow
Secretary-Treasurer ---------- Robert Stevens

SCC Chapter 4 will hold a 63 frame exhibition of Scandinavian philately as a part of Compex 1972 on 26-28 May 1972 at the Hotel Lasalle, Chicago, Illinois.

The Chicagoland Chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the First Federal Savings and Loan Building, 7 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Visitors are always welcome to attend. Further information concerning SCC Chapter 4 or the SCC national organization may be obtained from Fred Bloedow, 5065 N. Wolcott Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60640.

## Chapter 7

1971 was a year of progress for Chapter 7 of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. After a slow start, members attending meetings almost doubled when we moved to our well lighted, air conditioned room at 33 West 60th Street, courtesy of Art Silverstadt and Gellert Publishing Company.



Chuck Sage at ASDA Scandinavian Exhibit, which he mounted


**Don Halpern at ASDA SCC Lounge**

We have formed a nucleus for a new study group for Foreign Postmarks on Scandinavian Stamps, and we hope it will blossom during this new year.

One of the high points of the year was the privilege of hosting the S.C.C. Lounge at the A.S.D.A. Show where S.C.C. received 17 new membership applications. Our dinner during the Saturday evening of the A.S.D.A. Show was enjoyed by the members of Chapter 7 and guests, including Vic Engstrom, President of S.C.C., Fred Bloedow, Publicity Chairman of S.C.C. and Rolf Gummesson, the internationally famous dealer.

Our plans for 1972 include hosting the A.S.D.A. Show, continued progress of our Study Group, and possibly expanding to two meetings per month.

---

Dr. Donald Halpern November 23, 1971
10-31A Cross Island Parkway, Whitestone, N. Y. 11357

Dear Don,

This letter is to commend you, George Koplowitz, and all of your co-workers of Chapter Seven for the exemplary manner in which you hosted the SCC National Meeting in conjunction with the ASDA Show, November 19-21, 1971.

The results, first for new membership applications, second, for the SCC favorable publicity, and third, for the convenience of the members of SCC, fully warrant the time spent by you and the cost to SCC for the hospitality lounge. I, alone, was able to conduct, in a few hours, SCC business that might have extended over months with less favorable results. New contacts and associations were made, all to the best interests of SCC.

SCC does not ordinarily request reports from Chapters, but for the record, I would appreciate having in writing some of the statistics developed, including new members for SCC, new members for Ch. 7, application blanks distributed, POSTHORNS sold or given away, man hours manning the lounge, numbers of SCC members who stopped by and signed the register, and any other

information that you consider valuable.

Additionally, your recommendations on the conduct of future National meetings would be appreciated.

The SCC would be delighted to again be invited to hold its National meeting in New York, in conjunction with the ASDA show in 1972.

Please express my personal thanks to your Chapter for the unselfish manner in which all phases of the preparation for SCC were handled. The success of the experiment reflects credit on all concerned. The dinner meeting was a relaxing delight.

Sincerely yours, Victor E. Engstrom

* S * C * C *

## Editor's Mailbag

Dear Sir,

I should very much appreciate if you could find to me some collectors interested in exchange Scandinavian stamps for USA. I have recently started collecting American stamps and I can give Scandinavian but not Iceland.

I thank you in advance for your kindness.

Kind regards, Roland Silwerborn,

P. O. Box 72, S-43034 ONSALA, Sweden

Member of Göteborgs Filatelistiska Förening.

In account your report from "Philympia" in London 1970, I have to communicate that I was winner of Vermeil for my collection "Sweden Cancellations 1685-1885." I am since many years good standing member of the SCC of New York'

Sincerely Yours, Holger Olsson

Lillgatan 28, Jönköping

(Ed Note: My apologies, Holger, . . . I overlooked this in the Awards list.)

Dear Mr. Helm,

I should be very grateful if you could print the following request for information in the Posthorn, when you have space available. I need this as a result of a short article I wrote in Scandinavian Contact, the results from which lead me to doubt the accepted explanation of the C.P.R. marks.

For study purposes information is required from all those collectors who have pre-adhesive covers from Norway to France.

Details of all covers bearing the C.P.R. 3 transit mark which were NOT routed through Hamburg and Givet. Details of all covers bearing C.P.R. 4 and C.P.R. 5 marks. Full details of transit marks and manuscript markings.

Please send information to R. G. Jones, National Westminster Bank House, Penmaenmawr, N. Wales.

I should be very grateful for your help. I must say I enjoy "The Posthorn" very much indeed. I hope you will carry on with the good work.

Yours sincerely, R. G. Jones

(Ed Note: Ladies and Gentlemen: Can you assist Mr. Jones?)

Dear Bob,

I received my Posthorn yesterday. We are, as I have said before, indeed lucky to have you as our Editor. Fine job again, as we have now come to expect from you. Many thanks for mentioning the '72 dues payment. I am going to furnish 1000 envelopes, addressed to me, for inclusion with the February Posthorn along with a strong plea to those who have not then paid their '72 dues. Will this be OK with you, or does it present a problem? I will donate the envelopes to save SCC money and me a lot of time.

Ben

(Ed Note: This is another reminder to pay your dues.)

# SOJEX Report

Our National Convention has come and gone, and those of us who were lucky enough to have been there won't forget the fabulous display of Scandinavian material in a hurry. There were twenty-five exhibits in the various classes (not counting the chapter competition—which was won by Chapter 12) and there were twenty-two awards presented to these exhibitors.

SOJEX Bronze awards went to: Lillian Daubert, Frank Shaug, Gerhard Wolff, John Peterson, Robert Frigstad, and George Sickels.

UPSS Certificates went to Kauko Aro, George Sickels, and John Peterson, while Victor Engstrom won the Marcus Whit trophy.

SOJEX Silver awards went to: Reidar Norby, Svend Yort, Victor Engstrom (twice), and Robert Helm.

SOJEX Gold Award went to Botha Roed.

SCC Best in Open Competition went to Botha Roed.

SCC Best in Postal Stationery went to Victor Engstrom.

SCC Best in Championship Class went to Christine Blinn.

SOJEX Best in Show went to Christine Blinn, along with an invitation to show in the APS Champion of Champions class at New Haven in the Fall. (Congratulations, Christie, that DWI is fantastic!)

(Ed. Note: In the Championship challenge, there were five exhibits. They won four Sojex silvers, one SCC Best in Class, and the Best in Show. That is pretty good shooting.)

The Board of Governors had a quorum (at long last) and three hours was spent on reports, awards, and the new by-laws. All previous actions by various members of the Board and its appointees were approved. The new by-laws were approved with only four changes from the committee's recommendations. These will be sent to you very soon for your ratification, and the Editor urges a Yes vote. Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Carl Emil Buyer, SCC #42, and the Carl Pelander award was voted upon for the first time in a long time. Until the wording can be worked out by Wally Garsoe and a suitable plaque prepared, the recipient will not be identified.

All in all, even with the rain, our National Meeting was a hugh success, and we are looking forward to a repeat at COMPEX in 1973.

* S * C * C *

## PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

**April, 1972**

RESOLVED, that the officers of the Club be and they hereby are authorized and directed to organize a Delaware corporation under the name "Scandinavian Collectors Club," to be a non-stock (not-for-profit) corporation with by-laws in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and with provisions in its Articles of Incorporation consistent with such By-Laws; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Club be and they hereby are authorized to enter into an agreement with the said Delaware corporation to be formed transferring all of the assets of the Club to said Delaware corporation in exchange for assumption of all liabilities of the Club, said agreement to provide that the existing officers and members of the Club shall become officers and members of the new corporation with all of the rights and privileges they now have as members of the Club and containing such other terms and provisions as the President and Secretary shall, in their discretion, deem proper for inclusion in such agreement for the purpose of carrying out the transfer of the functions of the Club to the new corporation; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Secretary be and they

hereby are authorized to execute and deliver any and all documents and certificates, and to record or file with any appropriate public official any such papers as may be necessary to carry out and effectuate the aforesaid resolutions; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Robert Brandenberry be and he is hereby designated as the registered agent of the new corporation in Delaware.

Approved 4/16/72, unanimously by B. of G.

* S * C * C *

The Librarian, Robert Booman, 24 Amby, Plainview, N. Y. 11803, wants to "beg, borrow, or buy" the following Icelandic cancels: Type S2, Bær-Bard, Holar, Stadur, and Stödvarsjödður; Type S1, Kirkjudæjarklaustur.

* S * C * C *

If you want your collecting specialties listed in the forthcoming Directory, send them at once to the secretary, Frank E. Shaug, 10 Continental Drive, Middletown, Rhode Island 02840.

**(Fourth in a Series)**

# Sweden—Skill B:co Forgeries

**By Sven Åhman (#936)**

There are a number of forgeries of Sweden #1, the 3 Skill. B:co, described in philatelic literature. But various less known fakes, of varying quality, also exist of #3-5, the 6, 8 and 24 skilling values. The following is a necessarily spotty summary of what one collector has been able to learn about the skulduggeries committed against Sweden's first stamp issue.

### 3 Skill. B:co

A full color page with excellent reproductions of the dangerous Jean Sperati forgeries of the 3 and 24 skilling values can be found in "Sveriges Frimärken 1956," a catalogue-handbook published by the Harry Wennberg firm in Stockholm on the occasion of the centenary of Sweden's first stamps and edited by the late Dr. Irme Vajda.

Signed "plate proofs" of both values illustrate the gall of the gallic master-forger, and there is even a forgery of the famous color error 3 Skill. B:co in yellow!

Two of the five 3 skillings reproduced can be recognized by white dots on each side of the "3" in the upper right hand corner. But there are also products of Sperati's cunning hand lacking this tell-tale characteristic.

### The "Paris Forgeries"

As difficult to distinguish from the real article as the Speratis, in spite of recent assurances to the contrary by the foremost authorities on the matter in Sweden itself are what were known for decades as the "Sparre proofs" of the 3 Skill. B:co. They have now been pronounced out and out forgeries, having no connection whatever with Count Per Ambjörn Sparre, the creator of Sweden's first stamp issue, who later moved to Paris and died there as late as in 1921. They are at present known as the "Paris Forgeries."

These much-discussed stamps were fully described for the firt time in **Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift** in its first issue of 1934 by the noted Danish philatelist John Spohr. His article bore the heading "Count Sparre's first proofs of Three Skill. B:co" and was dated Paris, September 1932.

On a visit to the French stamp dealer Th. Lemaire, Spohr had seen, and been allowed to borrow for study, several hundred 3 skilling stamps which the veteran French dealer said he had bought from Sparre himself. Spohr found that they could not be originals, but accepted Lemaire's statement that they were "first prints."

Spohr claimed to have found that the stamps he examined were printed from an original die different from that of the definitive stamps, although very like it.

He was flatly contradicted in this contention in 1950 by Dr. Hugo Olsson and the well-known collector Franz Benzinger, when these two well-regarded experts published a monograph on Sweden's first stamp issue based mainly on the Benzinger collection. They said that the so-called Sparre proofs stemmed from the same original die, now lost, of which the definitive matrix is preserved in the Postal Museum in Stockholm.

But the latest Sweden Handbook, published in 1964 by the Swedish Philatelic Association (SFF) makes short shrift of both explanations, Spohr's as well as Olsson-Benzinger's. The handbook chapter on the 1855 isue, written by three well-known specialists, Dr. Georg Menzinsky, Mr. Per Sjöman and

Mr. Cven Åkerstedt, contains a report on their renewed study of the problem under the laconic and uncompromising sub-heading "A Forgery."

Space precludes the reproduction of their full analysis. Their conclusion is, in brief, that the primary material for the "Sparre proofs" was an original stamp, and that the method used must have been to photograph the stamp, retouch it and then makes the clichés. Since the art of photography was in its infancy in the 1850s, they dismiss as inconceivable that the forgeries date back that far. In the 1890s, however, the procedure they believe to have been used was entirely possible. Sinc Lemaire appears to have sold some copies at that time—but was forced to take them back—they regard them as tied to that decade, when many skilful forgers were active in Paris.

The Swedish experts consider one point particularly telling. In the word "Frimärke" running vertically along the left and right hand sides of the original stamps, the two dots over "ä" have been made by interruptions in the lines delimiting the left and right sides of the center part of the design with its coat of arms and spandrels. But the person who retouched the word in the material that turned up in Paris, clearly did not understand the real significance of the dots. He mistook them for accidental breaks in the line and proceeded to reinforce it, at least partly. In other words, whoever did it had no knowledge of the Swedish language or the Swedish alphabet. As a result, the dots over "ä" on the right hand side are invariably missing. Over the same letter on the left, one can sometimes distinguish one dot and, given good will, in a few cases even two.

Messrs. Menzinsky & Co. write:

"While the stamp design of the forgery . . . is very like that of the genuine stamp both in size and details, the finished product is easily distinguished from the originals."

It may have been easy for them. It was demonstrably not so for Spohr or for Olsson-Benzinger, which should be a warning to all of us lesser lights. For what help it can render, here is what the three Swedish experts say in support of their contention that the distinction is easy:

"The forgeries are characterized by a somewhat uneven print in a dull yellowish green color which no originals have. The paper is rather like that of the originals, but on being held up against a strong light, it shows a structure in the form of pores which was never used for Swedish stamps. The stamps are line-perforated 14x14, but only stamps and blocks which have very symmetrical corner perforations have been preserved. All the same, it is possible in some cases to establish that they must have been line-perforated."

### A Market for Forgeries?

Flying in the face of the view of many collectors that the sale of forgeries as collector's items at elevated prices should not be tolerated, a pair of the 3 Skill. B:co "Paris Forgery," designated as such, fetched Sw. Cr. 700 (abt. $140 U.S.) at an auction arranged in Stockholm by Frimärkshuset in April 1971.

There are undoubtedly numerous other forgeries of Sweden #1. A couple of years ago I myself was offered, I am sure in good faith but by a more than somewhat near-sighted old dealer, a different 3 Skill. B:co, which was easily identified under the magnifying glass as being nothing but a color photograph of a printed color reproduction, with the lattic-work grille clearly visible.

The Norwegian philatelist Abr. Odfjell has even reported the existence of forgeries manufactured out of the 5 öre green of the second "arms type" issue, with the value figures at upper right and left changed from "5" to "3" and the bottom line "FEM ÖRE" replaced by "TRE SKILL.B:co".

### 6 Skill. B:co

Of the 6 Skill. B:co, I have seen crude forgeries on very thick paper, quite different from the real thing. The figure "6" in the upper left and right hand corners is much thicker than in the originals. Since the perforation, very irregular, is about 11½ instead of 14, I am tempted to conclude that they may in reality be reproductions more intended as play-things than produced with sinister purpose.

In addition to a copy in my possession, I have however seen one a couple of years ago offered at auction as an original, forged cancellation and all. It was immediately withdrawn by the auctioneer when his attention was called to its nature.

### 8 Skill. B:co

There are also forgeries of the 8 skilling stamp, recognizable by the design being too high and too narrow. Here, too, the paper is not the same as in the originals. When shown to Per Sjöman, the Swedish expert, he said this forgery was not previously known to him.

According to Odfjell, a forgery of the 8 skilling was mentioned in N.F.T. 1897, p. 158. I have not had the opportunity to check this reference.

### The 24—Skill or No Skill?

In addition to the ominous Speratis, a very curious forgery of the 24 skilling value pops up now and then. I have seen it offered at auction twice in the last decade, by quite respectable New York houses.

On the first occasion I had the temerity to point out its nature to one of the experts of the firm, only to have him get out his little magnifying glass and, after a moment's inspection, telling me rather haughtily:

"I don't agree with you, but if you don't think it's genuine—don't buy it!"

I must confess I was not unduly shaken by this pronouncement and its implicit reprimand. For in this particular case I was really on very firm ground.

Because of the length of the word for 24, "TJUGUFYRA" in Swedish, the legend at the bottom of the top value on the real stamps reads "TJUGUFYRA SK.B:co", while for the 3, 4, 6 and 8 skillings it reads " . . . SKILL B:co".

What had alerted me to the spuriousness of the copy on auction display was no sixth sense, eagle eye or superior expertise. It was the simple fact that the legend read "TJUGUFYRA SKILL. B:co".

Nonetheless, this was not to be the last time for me to observe this rather primitive mistake. Another auction a couple of years later contained a similar, perhaps the same, item. And quite recently, in the spring of 1971, the same type of forgery was offered for sale over the counter by a New York dealer.

I have no way of knowing if it was the same copy that turned up again, or another one. But the advice of the man with the magnifying glass should surely stand—don't buy it!

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### NEW MEMBERS

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Sweden, USA by F. E. Shaug #796
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Scandinavia, Portugal, Israel, Art by F. E. Shaug #796
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Scandinavia, General by F. E. Shaug #796

## DECEASED

H4 HAGEMANN, G. A., Bergsjoholm, Ystad, Sweden
692 PONTENSTEIN, Nils, 1821 Whittier, Springfield, IL 62705

## RESIGNED

787 BOYER, E. O., 10337 Bayshore Rd., Sun City, AZ 85351

## REINSTATED

287 BULLARD, Wm. E., c/o E. L. McCawley, 210 N. E. Laurelhurst Place, Portland, OR 97232
565 ANDERSSON, H. A., Sodermalmsgatan 12, Vastervik, Sweden
879 BIEBER, Clifford F., 77 Maple Ave., Collingwood, NJ 08108
1026 JAFFEE, Sidney L., 608 Martense Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666
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1318 OTT, John T., 1331 Cedar Dr., Birmingham, MI 48009
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## ADDRESS CHANGES

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504 PETERSON, John D., 2400 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073
675 WESTBERG, Carl E., 23 North Row, London W. 1. R. 2DN Gt. Britain
827 GROSS, Robert C., 1623 Shore Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32952
845 CULLEN, T. J., 1117 Wheeling, Oregon, OH 43616
850 GILLINSKY, Theodore George, P. O. Box 19050, Washington, DC 20036
984 LEE, Peter I., 619—5th Ave., So., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
1083 MILLER, John C., 1090 Robin St., Reno, NV 89501
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1470 HILL, Vernon R., P. O. Box 1414, Torrance, CA 90505
1580 WINTHER, Bertil A., Fogdegatan 29, S-58239 Linkoping, Sweden

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The catalogue, which is printed in 11,500 copies, will be ready the latter part of April and is sent free on request to interested collectors and dealers.