

The

POST HORN

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The Postafgreidslur Or Secondary Postoffices of Iceland

By Robert Booman, SCC #980

When the Icelandic Postal System was established in 1873 there were four distinct classes of postoffices created. They were:

- 1) Póstafa—Main Postoffice
- 2) Póstafgreidsla—Secondary (Postal Delivery) postoffice
- 3) Briéfhirðinga—Collecting Office
- 4) Vidkomustaður posta—Calling Place

This article deals with the second of these, the Póstafgreidsla, with emphasis on the postmarks they used and the periods of time that they were in operation.

The Póstafgreidsla is sometimes called a Provincial Postoffice but this is not quite true since more than one secondary postoffice can be in operation in a single Iceland province (sysla) at the same time. These postoffices are major postoffices in the Icelandic Postal System through which mail from or to local Collecting Offices (Briéfhirðing) must pass for transportation to other parts of Iceland.

1870-1873

The story of the póstafréidslur or secondary postoffices can be said to have begun in Iceland with the extension of the Danish Postal System to include that country. Starting from March 1, 1870, secondary postoffices (as



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

it applied to the Danish Postal System), were opened at Reykjavik on the West coast and Seydisfjörður on the East coast. The warship "Diana" was assigned the task of conveying the mail between these ports, the Faroes and Denmark. Reykjavik was given the then current Danish three-ring postmark with number 236 (Figure 1). Seydisfjörður was given a similar one with number 237 (Figure 2). In addition to the numeral postmark which was used to cancel Danish stamps, postcards and envelopes; Reykjavik was also given a 22mm circular Danish name and date postmark with the name REYKJAVIK on it which was to be used in the lower left corner of the envelope or on the back of letters being delivered. Theoretically, Seydisfjörður should have also received a name and date postmark but no known example of this has been found to date. The secondary postoffice at Seydisfjörður remained in operation for only one year. It was closed at the end of 1870 and a collecting office was opened at Djúpivogur on the East coast. As a collecting office, Djúpivogur did not have the privilege of using a postmark to cancel stamps but was given a name and date postmark BERUFJÖRD (Figure 3) to be applied to the envelopes. Examples of this postmark have only recently come to light.¹

The postmark 236 was used by the Icelandic Postal System even after Iceland was no longer under the authority of the Danish Postal System. Information indicates that it was in use through the 1890's. In the 1890's it was used as an incoming mail (ship) postmark at the quayside in Reykjavik.

It is known that the 236 postmark was erroneously issued in 1929 at Vatnsleysa in place of the regular numeral postmark in use at that time. It was used there for a period of time before the mistake was discovered and the old postmark recalled.

As a recap for cancellation collectors; the Danish three-ring numeral postmark with number 236 can be found as valid usage on Danish stamps of the Crown and Sceptre issue of 1864 or the two-color Skilling issue of 1870. It can be found on the Skilling and Aur issues of Iceland. Usage on Christian X stamps is probably due to the mistake causing it to be used at Vatnsleysa. Danish three-ring postmark with number 237 had valid usage on only the aforementioned Danish stamps. The Danish name and date postmark is found on Iceland Skilling stamps.

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1873. The 23 mm Secondary Postoffice Postmarks

The true Icelandic secondary postoffice did not come into existence until Iceland was given its own postal system in 1873. The Postal Law of 1872 established Iceland's first true internal postal system under a postmaster-general who was responsible to the Governor of Iceland. In this Law, Reykjavik was upgraded to the main postoffice (Postofa) and fifteen other secondary postoffices (Póstafgreiðslur) were listed. The Iceland Postal System was made completely independent of the Danish Postal System.

The fifteen secondary postoffices were: (see Figure 4)

Akureyri	Kirkjubærjarklaustur
Bær	Miklibær
Djúpivogur	Miklaholt
Egilsstaðir	Seydisfjörður
Grenjadarstaður	Stykkishólmur
Hjardarholt i Stafholtstunga	Sveinsstaðir
Ísafjörður	Vestmannaeyjar
	Völlur

Sixteen postmarks were issued; one for Reykjavik and fifteen others to the other secondary postoffices. The postmarks were approximately 23mm in diameter with the postoffice name in circular form along the periphery. The day is over the month in numerals in the center. The lettering was in antique (seriffed) type. Three of the postoffice names were misspelled; Egilsstaðir and Sveinsstaðir each had one "S" missing. Kirkjubærjarklaustur had the second "K" omitted as well as the "UR" on the end (see Figure 5).

While the agreement between the Icelandic and Danish postoffices was effective from January 1, 1873, the practical functioning of the postoffices did not occur until the end of March 1873 when the necessary Icelandic stamps were distributed and the Danish steamer sailed.

Changes in secondary postoffice locations occur frequently in the first years of the Icelandic Postal System operation. Even before the formal system started functioning the High Sheriff announced that the póstaðgreiðsla would be located at Prestsbakki instead of Kirkjubærjarklaustur. Kirkjubærjarklaustur did not become a functioning postoffice until it was transferred there from Prestsbakki in 1897.

The history of usage of each of the original postmarks that were issued is as follows:

AKUREYRI—In use from 1873 until about 1910 at Akureyri.

BÆR—In use from 1873 until about 1910 at Bær. The "Æ" in the postmark was light when it was issued and completely disappears in later cancels.

DJÚPIVOGUR—In use from 1873 until about 1910 at Djúpivogur.

EGILSSTAÐIR—Used at Egilsstaðir from 1873 until the end of 1876. The postoffice was then moved 12 Km North to Eidar which was given the postmark and used during the year 1877. At the beginning of 1878 the postoffice was moved to Kollstaðir, which is 2½ Km South of Egilsstaðir. The postmark was transferred to that location. At the beginning of 1880 the postoffice and postmark were again moved. This time it was to Höfði, which is 4 Km South of Egilsstaðir. The postoffice remained here until the end of 1895. Starting in the year 1896 the postoffice and postmark were again returned to Egilsstaðir where the postmark continued to be used until about 1910.

GRENJADARSTAÐUR—Used at Grenjadarstaður only until Sept. 26, 1873, when the postoffice was moved 6 Km South to Helgastaðir. Helgastaðir was given the postmark and used it until the end of 1876 when the postoffice

LOCATION OF SECONDARY POSTOFFICES IN 1873

At Start of Icelandic Postal System

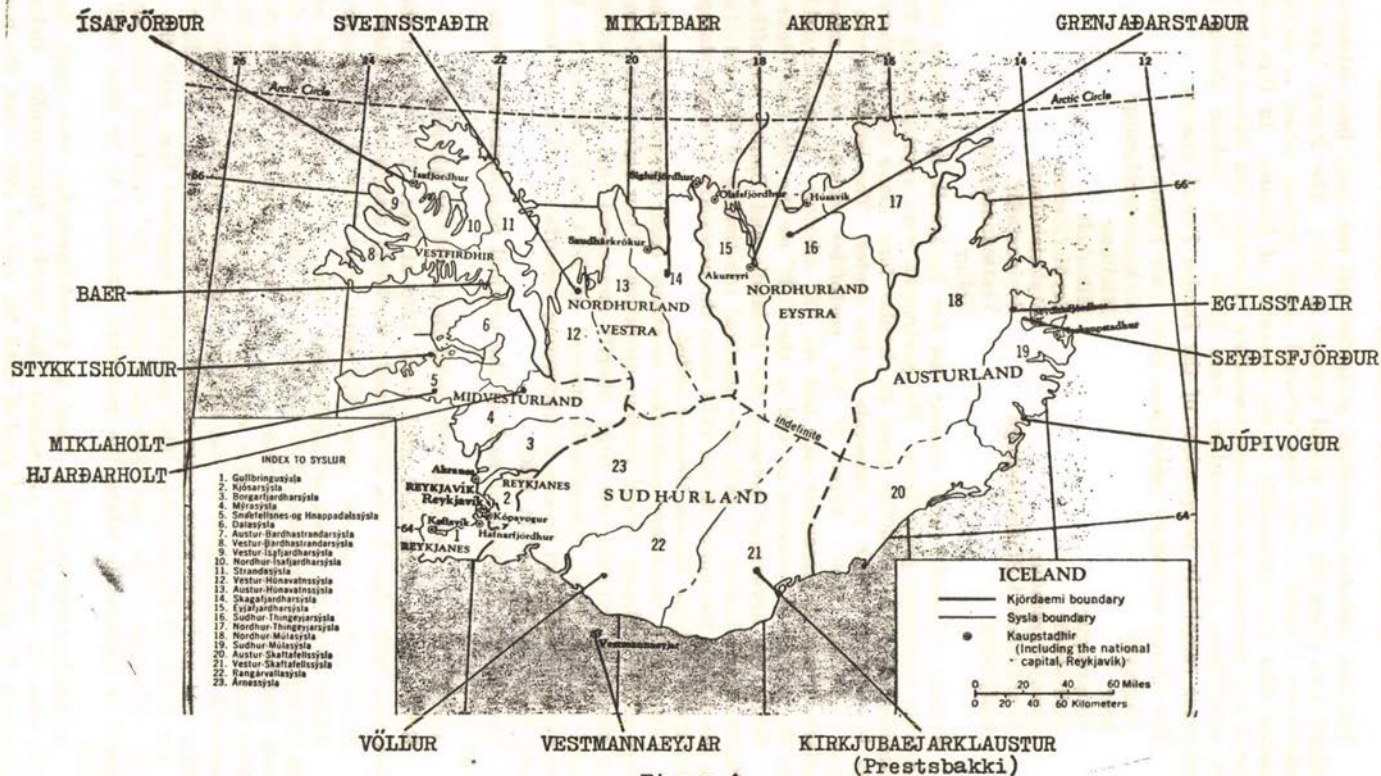


Figure 4

and postmark were again moved to Múli, 1 Km West of Grenjadarstaður. Múli used the postmark until 1880 when the postoffice was returned to Grenjadarstaður. Grenjadarstaður continued to use the postmark until 1896 when it was replaced with the ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA postmark. The GRENJADARSTAÐUR postmark again was put into use at Grenjadarstaður in 1906 when the ÞINGEYJARSÝSLA postmark had to be transferred to Húsavík. It remained in use at Grenjadarstaður until it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark about 1930.

HJARÐARHOLT—Used at Hjarðarholt from 1873 until 1880. In 1880 the postoffice and postmark were moved 5½ Km Southwest to Arnarholt. Arnarholt used the postmark until April 1900 when the postoffice was moved to Norddtunga 10 Km Northeast of Hjarðarholt and Arnarholt was downgraded to a Collecting Office. Norddtunga used the HJARÐARHOLT postmark until 1905. In that year the postoffice and postmark were again moved to Borgarnes on March 31. Borgarnes is approx. 36 Km Southwest of Hjarðarholt. The postmark continued to be used at Borgarnes until about 1910 when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

KIRJUBÆJARKLAUST—Used from 1873 until 1897 at Prestsbakki which is located 5 Km North of Kirkjubæjarklaustur. In 1897 the postoffice was moved to Kirkjubæjarklaustur along with the postmark. The postmark was used there until 1907 when the postoffice was moved back to Prestsbakki. Prestsbakki continued to use the postmark until 1930 when it was discontinued and the Prestsbakki postoffice was closed.

ÍSAFJÖRÐUR—In use at Ísafjörður from 1873 until 1910 when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

MIKLIBÆR—In use during 1873 and 1874 at Miklibær. Starting in 1875 the postoffice and postmark were moved to Vídimýri which is approx. 9 Km Northwest of Miklibær. Vídimýri used the postmark until 1877 when the postoffice was moved 3 Km North to Krossanes. The postmark was used at Krossanes until 1879 when the postoffice returned again to Vídimýri. The postmark was in use at Vídimýri until 1882 when the postoffice again moved. This time it was to Vallholt 3½ Km to the East. After using the postmark at Vallholt for only a year and a half, the postoffice was moved and re-established on July 1, 1883 at Miklibær. Miklibær used its postmark for only two years or until July 1885 when the postoffice was again returned to Vídimýri. The Miklibær postmark was again pressed into service and continued to be used at Vídimýri until 1896 when it was replaced with the SKAGAFJARÐARSÝSLA postmark.

MIKLAHOLT—In use during 1873 and 1874 at Miklaholt. In 1875 the postoffice and postmark were moved to Raudkollstaðir which is 6 Km East of Miklaholt. Raudkollstaðir was demoted to a collecting office in 1876 and use of the postmark was discontinued for a time. In 1881 Raudkollstaðir was again upgraded to a Póstafgreiðsla and resumed then use of the MIKLAHOLT postmark and continued to use it until 1889 when the postoffice closed.

SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR—In use at Seyðisfjörður from 1873 until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

STYKKISHÓLMUR—In use at Stykkishólmur—from 1873 until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

SVEINSTAÐIR—Used at Sveinstaðir from 1873 until 1903. The postoffice was downgraded to a collecting office in May 1899 but continued to use the postmark until given a Numeral type postmark in 1903.

VESTMANNAEYJAR—Used from 1873 until about 1910 at Vestmannaeyjar when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

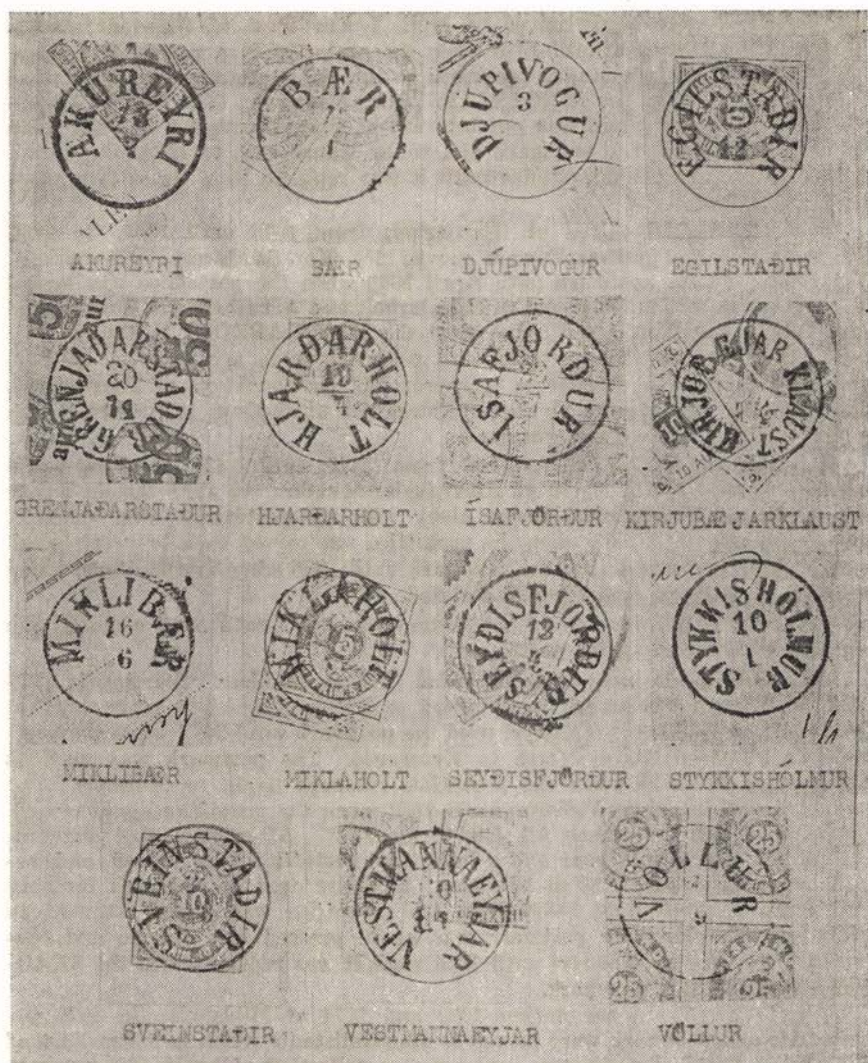


Fig. 5

VÖLLUR—Used at Völlur from 1873 until September 26, 1875. At that time the postoffice was moved 25½ Km Southeast to Breidabólstaður. The postmark was in use at Breidabólstaður until January 18, 1889 when the postoffice was moved 15 Km Northwest to Oddi. Oddi used the postmark until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

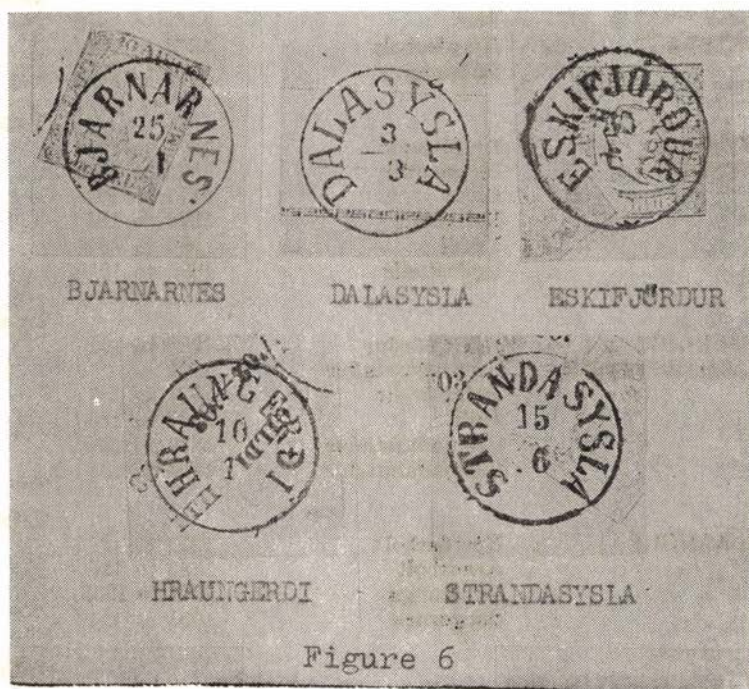
In addition to the fifteen original secondary postoffices which were established in 1873, additional postafreidslur were created as the need arose in later years. In the years up through 1880, five more secondary postoffices were opened. Each one received a 23 mm postmark similar to the ones given to the original postoffices. The postmarks are as follows: (see Figure 6)

BJARNARNES
DALASYSLA
ESKIFJÖRDUR
HRAUNGERÐI
STRANDASYSLA

The history of usage of each of these postmarks follows:

BJARNARNES—This postmark was issued in 1874 when a secondary postoffice was established at Bjarnarnes in Austur-Skaftafellssýsla. It was used at that location until 1895 when the postoffice was moved ½ Km South to Borgir. Borgir used the postmark until the end of 1905. At the beginning of 1906 the postoffice was again moved. This time to Hólar which is 2½ Km East of Borgir. The postmark continued to be used at Hólar until 1910 when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

DALASYSLA—In 1876 the secondary postoffice at Raudkollstaðir was transferred to Hjarðarholt in Dalasýsla. This created a problem for the Icelandic Postal System because Hjarðarholt was a considerable distance from Raudkollstaðir and in another province. It was therefore not reasonable to give Hjarðarholt the MIKLAHOLT postmark that Raudkollstaðir had been using. Hjarðarholt in Mýrasýsla was still in operation so the issuing of another HJARÐARHOLT postmark would only cause confusion. The Postoffice Department solved this dilemma by giving the new Hjarðarholt a postmark with DALASYSLA on it. This also solved the problem of the relocation of postoffices since the DALASYSLA postmark could be used by any postoffice in the province. Hjarðarholt used this new postmark until 1918 when the postoffice was moved to Búdardalur. Búdardalur continued to use the DALASYSLA postmark until 1920 which was at that time replaced with a Swiss type postmark.



ESKIFJÖRÐUR—This postmark was issued when Eskifjörður was made a secondary postoffice on April 17, 1880. It was used at Eskifjörður until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

HRAUNGERÐI—Shortly after the start of the Icelandic Postal System, Hraungerði in Arnessysla was made a secondary postoffice on September 26, 1873. This postoffice was given the HRAUNGERÐI postmark. Hraungerði used the postmark until about 1910 when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

STRANDASYSLA—In 1876 a secondary postoffice was established at Melar in Strandasysla. As with Hjardarholt, Melar was given a postmark with the province name STRANDASYSLA on it. In 1879 the postoffice and postmark were moved to Staður which is 4 Km North of Melar. It continued to use the postmark until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

It has been mentioned by some philatelists that more than one type of 23 mm postmark was used at certain postoffices. So far I have not been able to confirm this.

23 mm postmarks are found on stamps that were issued beyond the period of usage indicated in this article. These must be considered as "favor" cancels since the official usage of the postmarks had ended.

The 23 mm Postmarks—Summary

Name of Postmark	Postoffice	Period of Use	Yrs. in Use
AKUREYRI	Akureyri	1873 to 1910	36
BJARNARNES	Bjarnarnes	1874 to 1895	20
	Borgir	1895 to 1906	10
	Hólar	1906 to 1910	4
			Total
BÆR	Bær	1873 to 1910	36
DALASYSLA	Hjardarholt	1876 to 1918	41
	Búdardalur	1918 to 1920	2
			Total
DJÚPIVOGUR	Djúpivogur	1873 to 1910	36
EGILSTAÐIR	Egilsstaðir	1873 to 1877	4
	Eiðar	1877 to 1878	1
	Kollstaðir	1878 to 1880	2
	Höfði	1880 to 1896	15
	Egilsstaðir	1896 to 1910	13
			Total
ESKIFJÖRÐUR	Eskifjörður	1880 to 1910	29
GRENJADARSTAÐUR	Grenjadarstaður	1873	6 mos.
	Helgastaðir	1873 to 1877	3½
	Múli	1877 to 1880	2
	Grenjadarstaður	1880 to 1896	15
	Grenjadarstaður	1906 to 1930	25
			Total
HJARÐARHOLT	Hjardarholt	1873 to 1880	6
	Arnarholt	1880 to 1900	20
	Nordtunga	1901 to 1905	4
	Borgarnes	1905 to 1910	4
			Total
			Total

HRAUNGERÐI	Hraungerði	1873 to 1910	36
ÍSAFJÖRÐUR	Ísafjörður	1873 to 1910	36
KIRJUBÆJARKLAUST	Prestsbakki	1873 to 1897	23
	Kirkjubæjarklaustur	1897 to 1907	9
	Prestsbakki	1907 to 1930	22
			Total 64
MIKLIBÆR	Miklibær	1873 to 1875	2
	Vídimýri	1875 to 1877	2
	Krossanes	1877 to 1879	2
	Vídimýri	1879 to 1882	2
	Vallholt	1882 to 1883	1½
	Miklibær	1883 to 1885	2
	Vídimýri	1885 to 1896	9½
			Total 21
MIKLAHOLT	Miklaholt	1873 to 1875	2
	Rauðkollstaðir	1875 to 1876	1
	Rauðkollstaðir	1881 to 1889	7
			Total 10
SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR	Seyðisfjörður	1873 to 1910	36
	Melar	1876 to 1879	3
	Staður	1879 to 1910	30
STRANDASYSLA			Total 33
STYKKISHÓLMUR	Stykkishólmur	1873 to 1910	36
	Sveinsstaðir	1873 to 1903	29
	Vestmannaeyjar	1873 to 1910	36
	Völlur	1873 to 1875	2½
	Breidabólstaður	1875 to 1889	13½
	Oddi	1889 to 1910	20
SVEINSTAÐIR			Total 35
VESTMANNAEYJAR			
VÖLLUR			



Fig. 7

LOCATION OF SECONDARY POSTOFFICES IN 1880

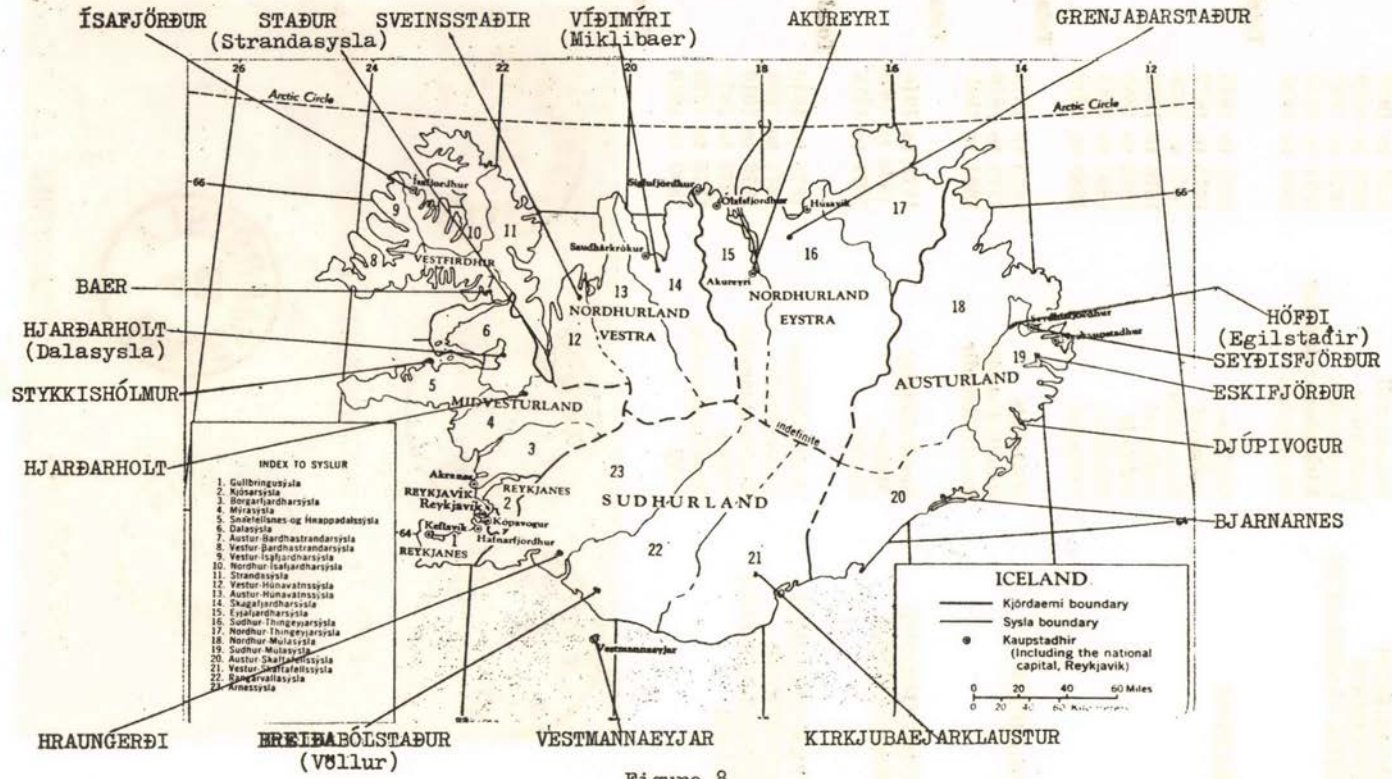


Figure 8

1888. The 25 mm Secondary Postoffice Postmarks

On February 27, 1888 the collecting office at Vopnafjörður was upgraded to a Póstafgreiðsla and with this change came the introduction of a new type of postmark for the secondary postoffices. This postmark was 25 mm in diameter with the name of the postoffice in Grottesque (sanseriffed) letters. The day over the month in similar type numerals was in the center. The main postoffice at Reykjavík had been using a postmark of this type since 1883. A total of five postmarks of this type were issued to secondary postoffices during the next eight years. They are: (see Figure 7)

DYRAFJÖRÐUR	SKAGAFJARÐARSYSLA
SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR	VOPNAFJÖRÐUR
	PINGEYJARSYSLA

The history of usage of each of these postmarks is as follows:

DYRAFJÖRÐUR—In April 1892, Þingeyri in Vestur-Ísafjardarsýsla was promoted to a secondary postoffice and given the DYRAFJÖRÐUR postmark. Þingeyri is located on Dyrafjörður. The postmark was used until 1930 at Þingeyri at which time the postoffice received a Swiss type postmark with its name on it.

SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR—On September 3, 1890, the collecting offices at Sauðárkrökur in Skagafjardarsýsla was upgraded to a secondary postoffice and given the SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR postmark. The postmark remained in use at Sauðárkrökur until about 1910 when it was replaced by a Swiss type postmark.

SKAGAFJARÐARSYSLA—In 1896, the secondary postoffice at Víðimýri, which had been using the MIKLIB²R postmark, was given a new postmark SKAGAFJARÐARSYSLA. The reason for this is not clear. Perhaps the older postmark had become broken or worn to the point where it had to be replaced. The new postmark was in use at Víðimýri until it closed on Dec. 31, 1931. (Allegedly, this postmark includes the year in the date from 1897.)

VOPNAFJÖRÐUR—On February 27, 1888 the collecting office at Vopnafjörður was upgraded to a Póstafgreiðsla and given the VOPNAFJÖRÐUR postmark. It was used at Vopnafjörður until 1939 when it was replaced by a newer type of postmark.

PINGEYJARSYSLA—In 1896 the secondary postoffice at Grenjadarstaður in Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla had its older GRENJADARSTAÐUR postmark replaced with the PINGEYJARSYSLA postmark. The reason for this change is not clear. The new postmark was used by Grenjadarstaður until 1906. In that year Húsavík was upgraded from a collecting office to a secondary postoffice and the PINGEYJARSYSLA postmark was transferred there. Grenjadarstaður, which was still in operation, then resumed using the old GRENJADARSTAÐUR postmark. Húsavík used the PINGEYJARSYSLA postmark until about 1910 when it was replaced with a Swiss type postmark.

The 25 mm Postmarks—Summary

Name of Postmark	Postoffice	Period of Use	Yrs. in Use
DYRAFJÖRÐUR	Þingeyri	1892 to 1930	37
SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR	Sauðárkrökur	1890 to 1910	19
SKAGAFJARÐARSYSLA	Víðimýri	1896 to 1932	35
VOPNAFJÖRÐUR	Vopnafjörður	1888 to 1939	50
PINGEYJARSYSLA	Grenjadarstaður	1896 to 1906	9
	Húsavík	1906 to 1910	4

Total 113

1) Caroe, Sir EAG; Icelandic Skilling Covers, The London Philatelist, Vol. 81, #951, p. 56, March 1972.

(To be continued)

LOCATION OF SECONDARY POSTOFFICES IN 1906

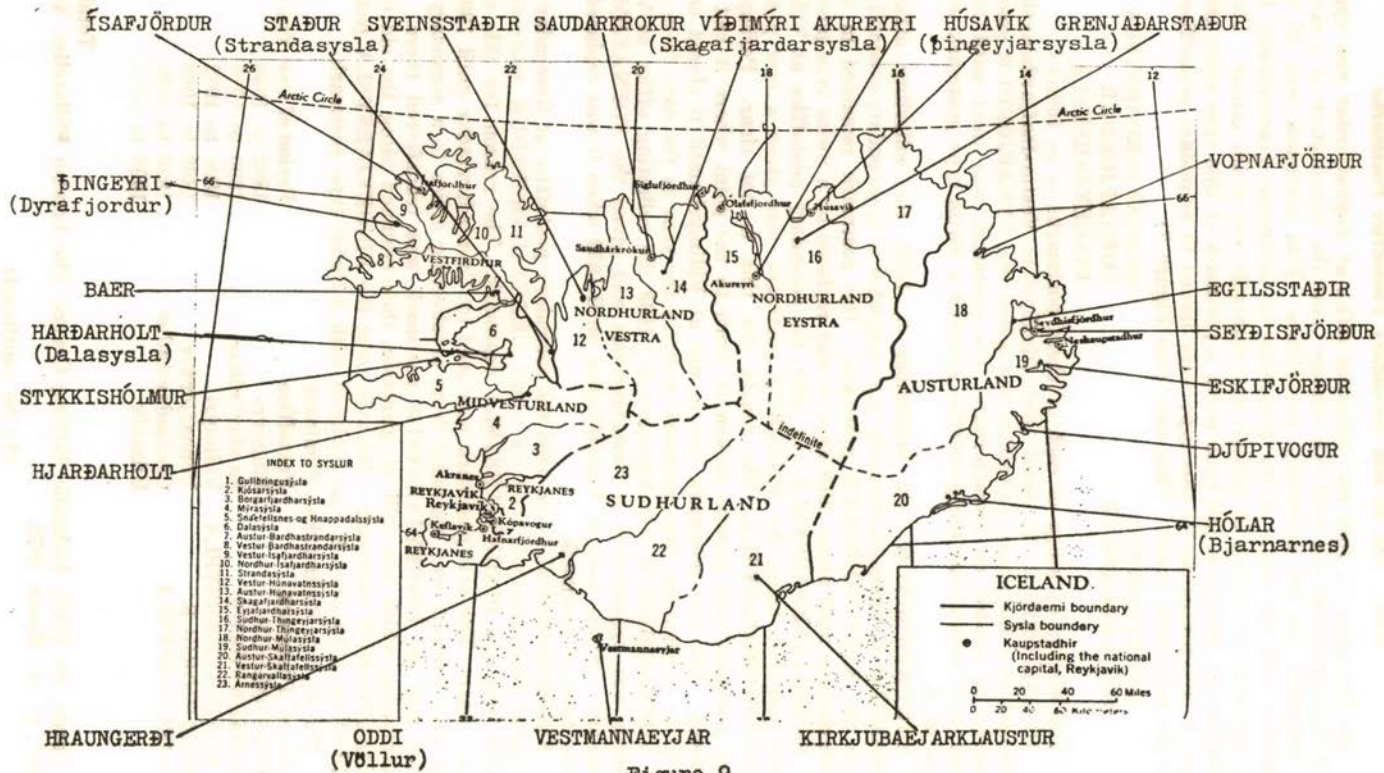


Figure 9

Those D. W. I. Color "Essays"

As I had hoped, I was able at "Belgica" to examine at first hand the much-discussed bicolored stamps of the Frederik VIII issue. The dealer, Jørgen Junior of "Skandia," had a booth there, and had nine of the 14 copies with him—the other five having already been sold.

Of course, it is difficult to tell much about such things from a purely visual examination, under somewhat constrained circumstances. The stamps did not appear to have been tampered with, although there was a certain fuzziness about the portraits. The frames of the 5 bit and 10 bit appeared to be a little lighter than normal, but without copies of all printings to compare with, this is not conclusive. The paper also appeared somewhat discolored, but no more than many other stamps that have been subjected to a tropical climate.

One little correction should be made to my report in the last "Posthorn": there was only one stamp cancelled St. Thomas and one cancelled Christiansted—all the rest were Kingshill, which makes the circumstances of their use even more curious.

The important news, however, is that two people have been working on the chemistry of this problem, with surprising results. Don Halpern, S.C.C., has produced color changes in stamps of these denominations by the use of heat alone, and the results, which I have seen, are remarkably like those in the Danish "find." Then a chemical engineer, in Denmark, Henning Kaaber, member of the Copenhagen Philatelist Club (KPK), has also produced similar changes by the use of ammonium sulphide. These I have not seen, but they have been reported to us by Torben Geill, an S.C.C. member living in Copenhagen, and a serious student of D.W.I. stamps. He has also researched the State Archives in Copenhagen, as he reported in the last issue of the "Posthorn" and can find no mention of any such "essays," nor are there any in the Danish Postal Museum.

The matter is being pursued further in Denmark, and an official Government testing laboratory has been asked to investigate the question. In the meantime, all 14 copies have been sold, but the dealer has notified all the buyers that they may return the stamps for full refund if they are not satisfied as to their genuineness.

All of this brings me back to my original opinion: that there probably was no deliberate tampering with intent to deceive on anybody's part, but that the stamps were exposed to degrees of temperature and humidity, and probably sulphur contamination in the air or in the paper of the album, during the fifty years or more that the collection lay undisturbed, and that these conditions brought about the changes in the colors. It will be interesting to hear what the official laboratory report has to say; I doubt that it will be any more conclusive than what we have already discovered, but we will bring a report on it as soon as we hear.

—Svend Yort, H12

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NORWAY "POSTHORN STAMPS 100 YEARS" EXHIBITION— COMMEMORATIVE BLOCK

A commemorative block with three so-called reprints of Norwegian posthorn stamps was available to all visitors at the stamp exhibition "Posthornet 100 År" in Oslo May 6-14, 1972. The block was advertised in Norsk F. T., where the three items unfortunately were described as reprints. Close examination has disclosed, however, that they are not reprints in the proper sense of the word, but reproductions, all executed in relief printing (letter press),

since it would obviously have been highly impractical to produce simultaneously one "stamp" in relief printing, one in photogravure, and one in line-engraving.

Reprints proper are normally produced from the original printing form or plate. If neither the original die nor the original printing form is available, a stamp can be reproduced, e.g. photochemically via line or half-tone clichés, as undoubtedly has been the case in this commemorative block. For further details, see definitions in *The Posthorn* 1968, p. 96-97, *Norsk F. T.* 1968, p. 206-207, *SPA Journal* 1969, p. 423-425, and *Stamp Monthly* (Gibbons) 1972, p. 175. The items in the commemorative block are discussed individually below.

1 skilling green, Nk 16. As far as I know, both the original die and the printing clichés in this issue were lost long ago, and would therefore not be available now for reprinting. Irregular spacing of the vertical background lines in this item in the block, e.g. near the mouthpiece, also show that the item is definitely a reproduction.

3 ørange yellow, "Nk 199." The item is in half-tone, and therefore a reproduction, since the original was in photogravure. Since there is no watermark, this item should be labeled more appropriately Nk 239.

5 øre dull lilac, "Nk 617." The item is in relief printing, and therefore a reproduction, since the original was in line-engraving. The item does not phosphoresce, and should therefore be labeled more appropriately Nk 513.

The correct description of the items in the commemorative block will thus be that they are reproductions of Nk 16, 239 and 513, and they should be referred to as such in foot-notes under these numbers in the Norwegian catalog.

It should be emphasized, on the other hand, that this commemorative block is a very handsome object which, no doubt, will be enjoyed by many collectors.

—C. H. W.

* S * C * C *

The Answer Men

Where should a member of SCC direct questions regarding a philatelic problem?

Recognizing that we all have questions about our stamps and the philately of our particular interests, The Board of Directors of SCC set up a program of Scandinavian Area Specialists, and have named the following as the men to call on for advice and answers:

Danish West Indies — Victor E. Engstrom

Denmark — Svend Yort

The Faroes — Herbert Bernstein

Finland — Kauko Aro

Finland, Assoc. Areas — Lawson Stone

Greenland — Earl Jacobsen

Iceland — Sigurdur Thorsteinsson

Norway — Carl Werenskiold

Sweden — Eric Kindquist

The addresses of these specialists are listed in the 1972 Directory, which was distributed with the August POSTHORN.

It must be understood that while the above collectors are quite knowledgeable about their special field, they must not be expected to know everything. They probably know where to find the answers, if answers exist.

These men are ready and willing to help as much as they can, and all have extensive reference libraries of their own. They wish to be questioned, and are deeply attached to our hobby. A few common-sense steps for members asking for information will bring the best results.

Don't expect these men to spend their valuable time answering questions that you are too lazy to look up in your own catalog.

Please type your letters, and English is spoken here. (Unless you know that the specialist handles another tongue.)

INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE!

If you send a philatelic item for inspection, include sufficient postage for registration, preferably affixing proper franking for your purpose. Normal care will be given your material, but do not overlook the hazards of the postal system, and always consider sending a photostat or a photograph.

These Area Specialists are not substitutes for the expertizing committee. For answers to questions about forgeries, continue to use the expertizing committee, in accordance with procedures set up in the directory information pages.

In addition to serving the membership by answering questions, the Area Specialists will also be alert to providing the POSTHORN editor with articles suitable for publication, and will provide feature-type articles periodically so that the POSTHORN will continue to have balance, giving proper coverage to all of the Scandinavian countries.

—VEE

* S * C * C *

SCC At the ASDA Show November 17-19

In addition to a members' lounge where fellow S. C. C. members can meet and rest their tired feet, there will be a dinner held at the SKANDIA restaurant Saturday evening at 8 p.m. Those interested in joining us at dinner please drop a line to: Don Halpern, 10-31A Whitestone Parkway, Whitestone, N. Y. 11357.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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Scandinavian Collectors Club by F. E. Shaug, Secretary

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Sales thru dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter	0	0
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Copies distributed to news agents but not sold	0	0
Total distribution	794	776
Office use, left over, spoiled, etc.	306	324
Total	1100	1100

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Scandinavian Collectors Club, by F. E. Shaug, Secretary

SELLING?

Getting the best price for your Scandinavian collection means selling to a dealer who knows the value of your stamps. Being Scandinavian specialists, we pay proper value for specialized material. When we appraise a collection, there is no guessing at market value as our Scandinavian auctions are an international market place for general and specialized Scandinavian stamps.

The rapid growth and success of our auctions allows us to be very competitive as cash buyers. We are small enough to be interested in better single items, and large enough to professionally and financially handle large collections. We will travel for important properties.

SCC

DANAM STAMP COMPANY



P. O. Box 273

Springfield, Pa. 19064

Iceland Skilling Cover—#22

Once again, a skilling cover has joined the group of Icelandic skilling covers. It is number twenty-two of the select group. This cover was discovered in the collection of letters of Tryggva Gunnarson, which he willed to the Icelandic National Memorial Museum after his death.

This cover is franked with a pair of two skilling stamps and is cancelled at Egilsstadur July 22nd and backstamped at Akureyri on July 28th.

It is very pleasant to know that we have to date ten skilling covers in Icelandic possession; three are retained in the National Collection of Iceland, and seven in the Hals Collection, which is in the possession of the Ministry of Communications.

Translated from FRIMERKI TIMART, issue Nr. 1, 1971.

—George W. Sickels, SCC 1545

Iceland Skilling Cover—#23

By Robert A. Helm, L20



WOW! That is the only word to describe this fantastic find . . . A strip of 20(!) plus a pair of the 8 skilling lilac official stamp and a single 4 skilling green (perf. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$) on a cover addressed to the Member of Parliament from Arnessysla.

The cover is cancelled at Reykjavik on 10/22 and backstamped Hraungerdi 10/26. The cover has a price tag of \$20,000 U.S. and I only wish I had that much to spare. It is a beautiful piece!

10/31/72

Dear Bob—

Reference Skilling Cover #23—Our combined opinions (Thora's and mine):

It is addressed to: The judge and revenue officer of the district of Árnes.

We have no explanation as yet to the numbers immediately below on the next line (10 ? 82 Kr).

"Accompanies the enclosed money package with 75 kronur in 10's; 5's; 2's; and 1 eyrir— The money equals 37 Rigsdalur and 48 Skilling. [last line is unclear as to meaning.]"

Obviously the denominations indicate coinage, which also implies the weight of the package to cause the enormous amount of 180 Skilling on the face. Therefore, this becomes a type of accompanying parcel notice rather than a regular letter cover.

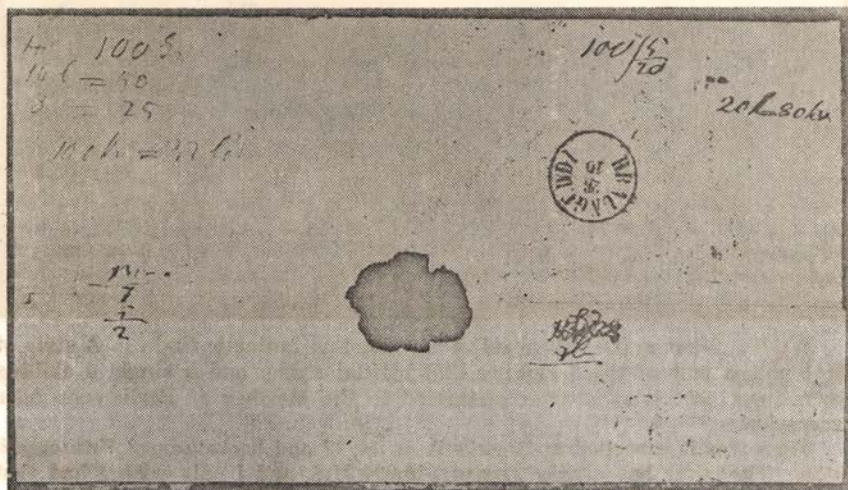
The third line seems to be an explanation of the Kronur amount in the old monetary unit (same as the stamps). This suggests to me the date of the cover to be October 1875 which was the year of the money conversion, while the aurar stamps were issued in July of 1876. With 96 Sk=1 Rigsdalur it seems to be an even 2 kronur to 1 rigsdalur conversion. My personal library does not verify this, but it should be easy to track down.

Concerning the ciphers on the reverse side, we are not certain. Perhaps 100 kr=32 lód is the representation of the rate of stamps affixed to the cover in relation to the weight of the package. Lód is an old measurement of weight according to Thora. At any rate, if we take the 100 kr on the left and the 80 kr on the right we add up to 180—the amount of the stamps, but to add to the confusion, then we have 180 kronur equivalent to 180 skilling— No way!!! So you are on your own for the back side.

Regards,

George N. Sickels

P.S.: I won a Bronze at NOJEX with one frame of Iceland.



* S * C * C *

RAY NORBY IN HOSPITAL

Mr. Ray Norby, SCC member and owner of SPLS suffered a heart attack on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1972 and is now in Georgetown Hospital in Washington. His business affairs will be handled by Mrs. Norby and Mr. Joe Frye of Memphis. All are requested to be patient. SCC wishes Ray a speedy recovery.

AUCTION RULES

The usual auction rules are to prevail, with all lots sold to the highest bidder at a slight advance over the second highest bid, with the reserve being used as the starting bid.

Lots will be mailed to bidders after the close of auction to chapter members; all others to be notified and lots mailed upon receipt of payment. All lots guaranteed genuine; except as noted, and returnable within 5 days. Bid in increments of 10c up to \$2.00; 25c from \$2.00 to \$10.00, and at 50c thereafter. Cash payment or checks made payable to cash only.

1972 Facit Catalog used primarily; Scott Nos. and catalog value in () when furnished by lot owner; other catalogs as noted.

Please send auction bids to Auction Chairman, P. O. Box 57397, Los Angeles, CA 90057. The auction will be 7 Feb. '73, at 8 p.m. PST, closing date for mail bids, with the phone number the night of the auction 213-483-8274.

Lot #	Catalog #	Description	Cat. Val	Reserve
DANISH WEST INDIES				
1	*2	Mint, clean and bright with good margins ---		12.00
2	*5	Mint, centered to left but very fine -----		3.00
3	5	Used, lightly cancelled, fine to very fine ----		3.00
4	8	Nice used copy, fine to very fine -----		3.00
5	10	Condition as above -----		3.00
6	*16	Very fine mint copy -----		2.50
7	19-21	1 and 5 Mint, 2 cts. used -----		3.50
8	*24b1	Very fine mint copy, centered to right -----		1.50
9	26	Fine to very fine mint copy -----		3.00
10	28	Fine to very fine mint, centered to bottom ----		3.00
11	*29-31	Fine to very fine mint copies -----		6.50
12	32-37	Fine used copies; #35 with slight thinning --		5.00
13	*39	OG mint copy, very fine -----		5.00
14	*45	OG mint copy, very fine -----		10.00
15	*49-56	Fine to very fine mint copies -----		2.50
16	L1 & L4	L1 mint—L4 used; fine to very fine -----		5.00
17	*L5-L8	Mixed set with L6 used, fine to very fine --		2.50
18	Higgins & Gage #9a, 17, 18	Mint postal stationery and postal cards	3.00	
19	" #52 and B5	Mint postal stationery -----		2.00

DENMARK

20	2C on cover	Very nice small cover with #47 cancel --		15.00
21	7 on cover	Fine cover w/#2 Hamburg cancel+KDOPA cfs.		5.00
22	27	Fine copy with inverted watermark -----	150.00	40.00
23	34v (31b)	Fine to very fine used copy, missing perf. --	4.00	1.00
24	68	Average copy, multiple cancels -----	6.00	1.50
25	69-75	Fine to very fine used copies -----	2.85	1.00
26	131/174	29 used copies, fine to very fine -----	7.70	2.25
27	177 I	Centered to left with inverted watermark --	180.00	65.00
28	182,6,8,90,3	#186, 188, 190 mint plus 5 copies used ----	15.00	2.50
29	*195-8(159-60)	F-VF Mint set; has jumped twice in Scotts	9.00	6.00
30	301-12	Fine to very fine used copies -----	8.00	2.50
31	*278 I(223b)	Mint booklet pane -----	5.00	1.25

Lot #	Catalog #	Description	Cat. Val	Reserve
32	246-55	Fine to very fine used copies -----	4.00	1.00
33	*289 I	Complete booklet -----		1.50
34		57 different PERFINs -----		3.00
35		13 different Newspaper, Gebyr and Dues, used -----		1.00
36	*RE 30,46,50	Mint booklet panes with advertising labels -----		3.50
37	*AFA #40	Mint advertising pair, centered to bottom --	20.00	20.00
38	RE21,24,30,52	Used advertising pairs -----	1.85	1.00
39		Pair of Rm4 Return to Sender stamps, mint -----		2.50
39A		Strip of 3 Return to Sender stamps, RM3b -----		5.50
40		Pair of Rm5Aa, single Rm5Ab mint as above -----		4.25
40A		Block of 8 Return to Sender stamps, #Rm2c -----		6.50
41		Strip of 3 Return to Sender stamps, Rm5Ba Mint, NH, OG on Pergamyn paper variety. -----		4.00
42	Hurt-Williams	Mint Aalborg locals in 3 blox of 4, 2 colors 29 and 32 for #32 -----	5.80	5.00
43		Danish locals, 38 different from 8 towns -----		3.00
44		1947 Xmas seals in block of four, mint -----	1.00	1.00
45	Higgins & Gage,	betw. 1 & 114a 18 different mint postcards -----	18.00	7.00
46	"	Betw. A21 & A73 16 different mint lettercards -----	15.95	6.00
47	"	Betw. B13 & B50 7 different mint envelopes -----	4.40	1.75
48		Aerogrammes, not listed recent issues like H&G F26; 5 different with 4 diff. control nos. -----		1.50
48A		Airpost semi-official, complete sheet of 4 5Kr for Copenhagen-Malmo flight July 17, 1930. Mint, Nh and OG—Sanabria catalog listing -----		23.00
49		196 different used Danish revenues -----		18.00
50		225 different mint and used Danish RR stamps -----		18.00
51	Higgins & Gage #A1, 2, 11b, A12a, 21; also B5c & B12a	Mint postal stationery and letter cards -----		5.00
52	H&G D3,7,8	Mint postal cards -----		6.00
53	H&G 7,8,9a,10a,12,15,24a,25,28, 29,52,98a	Mint postal cards -----		6.00
54	H&G F1 plus unlisted shade; plus F1 with 1st day cancel	2 mint plus 1 used aerogrammes -----		5.00
55	H&G F2	Mint aerogramme -----	10.00	5.00
56	H&G F3&4	Mint aerogrammes -----	8.00	4.00
57	H&G F5,6,7	Mint Aerogrammes; 2 control nos. on F5 -----	8.50	4.50
58	H&G F8,9,9a	Mint Aerogrammes -----	9.00	4.50
59	H&G F10&10a	Mint aerogrammes -----	16.00	8.00
60	H&G F12,13,14,15,16,17,18	Mint aerogrammes -----	16.00	8.00
61	H&G F19 to 23 plus unlisted variety	Mint aerogrammes --	10.50	5.00
62	H&G F24 to 29	Mint aerogrammes -----	5.60	2.50

FINLAND

63	1940 issues	Assortment of no gum odds and ends -----	3.00	1.00
64	plus Sweden	Never hinged recent issues ----- face	2.00	1.00
65	329 I (B76a)	Missing "red cross" variety; centered to right -----	600.00	90.00
66	M7	Military mail cover with field post stamp. Mailed to active war front Finno-Russ war. -----		4.00
67		Field post cover mailed from active war front -----		5.00
68	H&G A1-2;B36	2 mint postal cards plus 1 envelope -----		1.50
69	H&G #25 to 31	Mint postal cards -----		3.00

Lot #	Catalog #	Description	Cat. Val	Reserve
70		"Mourning" stamps in block of 6 plus 1 attached, Black with coat-of-arms in red and yellow --		3.00
71	H&G F1-2 plus unlisted variety of F2	Mint aerogrammes -----		2.50
72	H&G F5 to F8	Mint aerogrammes -----		2.00

ICELAND

73	British Military post in Iceland; FPO 2 plus censor marks— stampless cover to England -----	15.00	7.50
74	as above but FPO 3 -----	17.00	8.50
75	as above but FPO 304 -----	13.00	6.50
76	as above but FPO 306 -----	13.00	6.50
77	FPO 306 with censor mark on Gov. printed Active Service envelope—stampless -----	13.00	6.50
78	like lot 76 but FPO 307 -----	40.00	20.00
79	H&G F1 Mint aerogramme -----		2.00
80	H&G F1 Similar lot -----		2.00
81	H&G F3-4 Mint aerogrammes -----		2.25
82	H&G F10 plus unlisted shade Mint aerogrammes -----		2.00
83	H&G F11 Mint aerogramme -----	7.00	3.50
84	H&G F12 Mint aerogramme -----	15.00	7.50
85	H&G F14 Mint aerogramme -----	15.00	7.50
86	Omitted		
87	125 Used with #42 cancel -----		1.00
88	170 Used with #156 cancel -----		1.00
89	170 Used with #183 cancel -----		2.00
90	81 Used with #199 cancel -----		5.00
91	79,68,169 Used with FRA Island cancel on #79 and 169, Edinburgh cancel on #68 -----		1.00
92	*200-3 Fine to very fine mint copies -----	3.00	1.00
93	*204-9 Fine to very fine mint copies -----	11.00	4.00
94	*256-8 Fine to very fine margin pairs -----	32.00	12.00
95	362 Very fine used copy -----	2.60	1.00
96	9 mint postcards, 3 lettercards -----	43.50	32.00
97	10 different revenue stamps, scarce ----- 1970 Facit		10.00

KARELIA

98	N8 to 15 on cover Complete set on cover with Aanislinna Petroskoi cancel -----		5.00
----	---	--	------

NORWAY

99	*453 I Complete booklet -----		1.50
100	*184-5 Fine to very fine mint set -----	2.55	1.25
101	*247-50 Fine to very fine mint set -----	Kr. 3.24	1.00
102	TJ56-8,60,63-6 8 fine to very fine used copies -----		1.50
103	9 different mint RR stamps -----		1.00

SWEDEN

104	H&G F1	Mint Aerogramme	7.00	2.00
105	H&G F3	Mint aerogramme		1.25
106	H&G F5	One mint, one used aerogramme		1.00
107	H&G F6-7	Mint aerogramme		1.00
108	H&G F10 to 12	Mint aerogramme		2.00
109	H&G F13, 15	plus 5 unlisted recent Mint aerogrammes		2.00
110	9 on cover	Small neat cover with RR cancel		5.00
111	9 on cover	Clean neat cover with Wernamo cds.		6.00
112	9 on cover	Small neat cover with ABY cds.		5.00
113	9 on cover	Neat blue cover with RR cancel		5.00
114	11b	Used early shade, centered to top	10.00	4.00
115	29 & 32 on cover	Cover to London with Stockholm cancel		10.00
116	30 on cover	As above	30.00	15.00
117	32 on cover	Cover to London with "T" (postage due) marks		3.00
118	290B(297a)	Fine to very fine used copy	8.00	3.00
119		55 stamps with RR cancels		1.50
120	SFF #1	Type IVc envelope, back slight stain	25.00	5.00
121	SFF #4	Type C1 and A1 post card	5.00	11.50
122		Withdrawn		

The following lots are complete booklets, unexploded and numbered by Facit booklet listings.

123	H58	-----		6.00
124	H64a & 68	-----		6.00
125	H65	-----		20.00
126	H90, 91	-----		2.00
127	H90-91	-----		2.00
128	H115 & 122	-----		5.00
129	H132 & 134	-----		3.00
130	H142 & 155	-----		3.00
131	H170c, 171, 179	-----		4.50
132	H176a & 176b	-----		1.00
133	H180a, 180b, 180c, 182b	-----		2.00
134	H183 & 184	-----		3.00
135	H190 & 191	-----		2.25
136	H202, 203, 204	-----		3.00
137	H205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210	-----		5.00
138	H213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219	-----		5.00
139	H220, 221, 223, 224, 225 226	-----		6.00
140	H227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232	-----		6.00
141	H233, 234, 235, 236, 237	Two booklets—different shade for #234	7.00	
142	H238, 242, 243, 244	-----		4.50
143	HA2r & HA2o	-----		3.00
144	HA3r & HA3o	-----		1.50
145	HA4br & HA4bo	-----		3.00
146	HA6rv	-----		4.50
147	HA7rh, rv & ov	-----		1.50
148	HA12(Aoh), Crh, Crv, Foh, Fov	-----		2.25
149	HA8ov, HA9br, HA9bo, HA13, Aov, HA14 Fr & Fo	-----		2.25
150	HA15A r & o, HA15D r & o	-----		2.50
151	HA16A O, HA17 A & B, HA19	-----		1.50

The End — Thank You

To the Editor:

Recently in the philatelic press there appeared two contradictory articles concerning watermark detection fluids.^{1,2}

In an attempt to put this matter to rest, the following data has been taken from *Handbook of Dangerous Materials*.³ Information which is listed as a "NOTE:" is the result of my calculations based on reference 3.

The choice of an 8x8 foot room is academic. A philatelist using watermarking fluid works fairly close to the watermarking fluid and its vapors. The question of ventilation is also ignored, since "good" ventilation would require an exhaust fan capable of moving several cubic feet of air per minute.

Carbon Tetrachloride (CCI-4): The maximum allowable concentration in air is 50 parts per million (ppm) and only a 10 ppm exposure is allowed for an 8 hour work day. It is toxic via inhalation or repeated skin contact which results in liver, kidney, heart and nervous system damage. It is extremely dangerous to the eyes. The first symptoms may be headache, depression, fatigue, nausea and/or vomiting. NOTE: In an 8x8 foot room the evaporation of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a fluid ounce will result in a concentration in excess of 50 ppm since CCI-4 evaporates rapidly, but diffuses slowly.

Chloroform (CHCl-3): The maximum allowable concentration in air is 100 ppm and 50 ppm for an 8 hour work day. The toxicity is the same as CCI-4. The first symptoms are a feeling of warmth over the face and body, feeling of irritation of the mucous membranes, then nervous aberration.^{3b} NOTE: In an 8x8 foot room the evaporation of $\frac{1}{2}$ fluid ounce will result in a concentration in air in excess of 100 ppm. In addition, CHCl-3 is a very strong polar solvent which has caused the cancellations on some of my stamps to bleed.

Benzene (C-6H-6): The maximum allowable concentration in air is 100 ppm and 25 ppm for an 8 hour work day.⁴ It is toxic and the first symptoms are similar to the lightheaded feeling of alcohol, then dizziness. Its explosive limits are 1.5-8.0%.^{3c}

NOTE: In an 8x8 foot room over 1 fluid ounce would have to evaporate to result in a concentration in excess of 100 ppm. To reach the explosive limits in that room well over 1 quart would have to evaporate. If there is a spark source close by (cigarette, pilot light on a stove), the benzene in the watermarking tray could ignite. Therefore, don't use the stove as a table. Don't smoke while working with benzene.

Petroleum Ether (30-60): The maximum allowable concentration is 1500 ppm with the explosive limits set at 1.4-5.9%.^{3d} NOTE: Pet. ether, 30-60 is not a single compound. It is a mixture of compounds that boil from 30-60° C. Twelve oz. of Pet. ether would have to evaporate in an 8x8 foot room to result in a concentration of 1500 ppm. See the note for benzene about flammability. The J. T. Baker reagent grade Petroleum Ether has a residue after evaporation of less than 0.001%. This would mean that the average definitive stamp, weighing 0.03 grams, being subjected to 25 drops of petroleum ether would acquire a residue of 0.000001 gram if ALL of the petroleum ether evaporated on the stamp and none evaporated on the watermarking tray.

I find that Ronson lighter fluid, which is a skin irritant, can be used as a watermarking fluid. Water is the best watermarking fluid for the patient philatelist. It should be further noted that the effects of all solvents on stamp gum has not been considered.

Sincerely yours,

Donald F. Halpern, Ph.D.

Dept. of Chemistry, Queens College, CUNY.

cc V. Engstrom
R. Booman

C. Werenskiold
R. Norby

References

1. The POSTHORN, Vol. 28, p. 84 (1971).
2. The SCANDINAVIAN SCRIBE, Vol. 8, p. 86 (1972).
3. N. Sax, *Handbook of Dangerous Materials*, Reinhold, N. Y. 1951, 3a), p. 83, 3b) p. 96, 3c) p. 41-3, 3d) p. 300.
4. *National Safety News*, 1969, p. 77.

Dear Mr. Helm,

In the December issue of the Danish publication, *Frimærkesamleren*, there is a most interesting article on page 286 relative to the Danish tete-beche scandal. The officers of DFU (Danmarks Filatelist Union) received a communication from the General Directorate of the Danish P. O. which states among other things, that these items came out "in an irregular fashion that the post and telegraph authorities are without responsibility for."

DFU goes on to say: "After this official confirmation that the tete-beche items were issued in an irregular fashion, the Union intends to request FIP that these stamps should be placed on FIP's 'black list'—that these stamps must not have any influence on the judging of a collection in either national or international exhibitions."

On page 279 of the same issue, there is another article that these labels (the article stresses the use of "mærker" rather than "frimærker"!) may NOT be shown at the PHILA-MIK exhibition.

In view of the above, I should urge SCC members to think twice before investing excessive sums in these items. (I have recently heard figures of the order of magnitude of \$600!).

Gerald S. Silberman, SCC #1502

Scandinavian Collectors Club
Secretary Frank E. Shaug

April 11, 1972

Dear Mr. Shaug,

I am a Norwegian stamp collector, for the time being a student at the University of Wisconsin, and I am very interested in getting into contact with American stamp collectors in order to exchange stamps. I will be going back to Norway in June this year and I should appreciate very much if you could get me either some names and addresses, or some other place to write in order to get some American stamp friends.

I collect among many other countries USA, and I can give in return Scandinavian stamps. After June 1st, I will be at my home in Norway: Mr. Paal Romdahl, Tollef Gravs vei 62, 1342 Jar, Norway.

Thank you very much,

Paal Romdahl

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Scandinavian Philatelic Literature Service
Box 175, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044

THE SCOTT CATALOG

Scott Publishing Company
604 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10020
Gentlemen:

February 22, 1972

The Scandinavian Collectors Club congratulates The Scott Publishing Company for the new, bold, but very correct changes in listings of the Scandinavian countries contained in the 1972 Catalogs.

The inclusion of the Greenland Parcel Post stamps is a service to all collectors. Serious Greenland specialists were familiar with these stamps, but the vast number of general collectors, without foreign catalogs, were sadly uninformed. A future slightly more detailed listing is indicated, and if you wish our views on this, I will be glad to have one of our specialists make further suggestions.

The listings and prices of the Danish West Indies in U. S. Specialized, is superb. The revised listing of Postal Stationery is now realistic and a contribution to philately.

The Scandinavian Collector's Club will be pleased to provide you with additional suggestions from time to time, if desired.

Sincerely yours,

Victor E. Engstrom, President

SCOTT PUBLISHING CO.
Mr. Victor E. Engstrom, Pres.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
132 Haddon Place
Upper Montclair, N. J. 07043
Dear Mr. Engstrom:

February 23, 1972

We thank the Scandinavian Collectors Club cordially for its encouraging praise of the changes effected in the Scandinavian listings of the 1972 Scott Catalogue.

Yes, we would be pleased to receive the SCC's suggestions from time to time. Please write proposed changes on separate sheets for each country. Thank you again for your kind letter.

Sincerely,

James B. Hatcher, Editor

Editor's Note: Anyone having suggestions for the improvement of the Scott Catalogs or to any of the Scandinavian catalogs, should route them to President, Victor Engstrom, 132 Haddon Place, Upper Montclair, N. J. 07043, so that he can have the suggestions checked, and that the SCC gets recognition for such suggestions.

* S * C * C *

SCANDINAVIAN STAMP MART NEEDS HELP!

ONE CAN RECEIVE ONLY IF ONE GIVES

For a long time now most of us have received pleasure from looking at Mart books that others prepared for us. Most of us never really consider how Wade Beery gets the books. We only concern ourselves with the fact that they're usually at our meetings waiting for us. Right now is the time to be concerned because Wade is terribly short of books. Therefore, if each POSTHORN reader and Mart user will send in ONE book, just one, we will all be assured of at least another year of the pleasure of thumbing through Mart books. (See August 1972 Directory for details.)

* S * C * C *

DONATION TO THE SCC REFERENCE COLLECTION

Thanks to Gerald M. Knudsen for a Danish West Indies forgery.

Norway—Shaded Posthorn Øre Issues, Types

Part 4

10 Øre—Norw. Cat. #25

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H10)

The 10 øre shaded posthorn stamps, Norw. Cat. #25, were printed in three stages:

#25I, first printing period, in 1876, paper with vertical watermark Posthorn I.
#25II, second printing period, in 1876, paper with horizontal watermark Posthorn I.

#25III, additional printing, in 1877, paper with horizontal watermark Posthorn I, reengraved clichés.

The color of the stamps varies considerably in shades of carmine and rose.

The collector's first step in dealing with these 10 øre stamps will obviously be a test for vertical or horizontal watermark, as in the case of the 5 øre stamps. When occasionally the watermark is difficult to see, recourse must be had to the indirect determination by testing for fiber direction as explained in Part 3 of this article.¹ The normal stamps of #25I and II have a more or less clear white engraving line below the posthorn and above the right part of same. To qualify for #25III the engraving must be considerably more extensive, usually above the shaded field, under the crown, and in the posthorn, particularly up under the bell, etc.

The methods for conducting most of the type identification tests summarized in the following table have been fully described in Part 1 of this serial article.² The engraving types may be separated into two broad groups based on the off-hand appearance of the small 10:

Group X: The small zero is narrow and/or short (see illustrations in Norw. cat.).

Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 10.

Group Y: The small zero is wider and rounder than in the types of Group X.

Types 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12.

The small figures have, however, been engraved with such skill that it is somewhat difficult to distinguish positively some of the types within each group. Two additional tests, O and P, are therefore introduced here to aid in the separation of types.

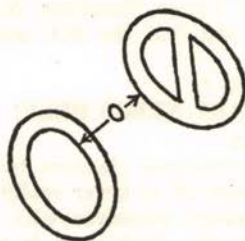


Fig. 12. Test O

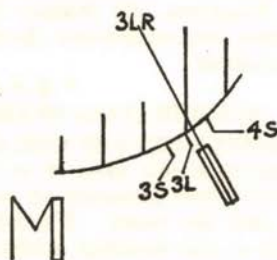


Fig. 13. Test P

Test O involves the distance, at its narrowest, between left contour of right part of the small zero and the left contour of Ø (Fig. 12).

Test P involves the intersection of the upwardly prolonged center line of the small figure 1 with the lower part of the third vertical shading line right of M, or with the third or fourth space adjoining that line (Fig. 13).

Type identification tests on 10 øre stamps

Test		Types											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AB	Period position	$\overline{6}2$	$\overline{5}2$	$\overline{5}2$	$\overline{6}2$	$\overline{6}3$	$\overline{6}3$	$\overline{6}2$	$\overline{6}2$	$\overline{6}3$	$\overline{5}4$	$\overline{6}2$	$\overline{5}2$
C	Period to l	$\overline{9}$	10	$\overline{11}$	10	$\overline{11}$	$\overline{11}$	11	10	$\overline{10}$	$\overline{12}$	11	$\overline{11}$
F	Part height O	$\overline{12}$	$\overline{12}$	$\overline{12}$	12	$\overline{13}$	13	13	14	$\overline{13}$	$\overline{12}$	13	$\overline{13}$
G	Part width O	7	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{8}$	9	$\overline{8}$	8	$\overline{8}$	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{8}$	9
J	Part width 10	14	$\overline{14}$	13	$\overline{14}$	$\overline{15}$	16	$\overline{14}$	$\overline{15}$	15	$\overline{13}$	$\overline{15}$	15
M	Notch test	9	7	8	9	6	7	6	9	5	6	6	6
N	Alinement l	N5	N6	N5	N5	N3	N3	N5	N5	N1	N6	N5	N5
O	O to ø	$\overline{12}$	12	12	12	$\overline{10}$	10	$\overline{10}$	11	10	$\overline{11}$	10	10
P	Alinement l	3S	3L	3LR	3L	3LR	3L	3LR	3L	3LR	4S	3LR	3LR

All measurements are in dmm as explained before.

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

AB—Period position.

C—Left side of period to left side of foot of small figure 1.

F—Part height of small zero, down from lower side of the upper part, to the lowest contour of the zero.

G—Modified to part width, between the left contours of the left and right parts of the zero.

J—Left contour of figure 1 to left contour of right part of zero.

M—Notch test. Space between right side of I and left side of O divided into 10 parts from left to right, for the record.

N—Numerical 1 alignment test. Diagonal line of N in NORGE is divided into 10 parts from upper to lower corners, for the record.

O—Left contours zero to ø as in Fig. 12.

P—Center line of small 1 intersecting into shaded field as in Fig. 13. The following symbols have been recorded in the table for test P:

Symbol	Explanation	Occurs in types
3L	To lower end of third line right of M.	2, 4, 6, 8
3LR	Slightly to the right of lower end of third line.	3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12
3S	About centrally into lower part of third space (left of the line).	1
4S	About centrally into lower part of fourth space (right of the line).	10

There are a few more or less constant and helpful secondary type characteristics, as follows:

Type 8—Usually a more or less distinct about 1 mm long rounded dent on outside of outer frame, below middle of wing 5.

Type 9—The white engraving line under the horn is broken by color in several places, particularly by a color spot merging into the shading line above the right leg of M. A similar smaller color spot is frequently seen in types 5 and 7, and occasionally in other types, but in those cases the engraving line is broken only at the color spot. The period in type 9 is usually very small and is occasionally covered by color (so-called "variant" no period).

The general procedure for determining types in these 10 øre stamps will first involve watermarking and then a preliminary sorting of the stamps available into groups X and Y as described above. The appearance of the small 10 will then usually suggest one or several likely types for consideration

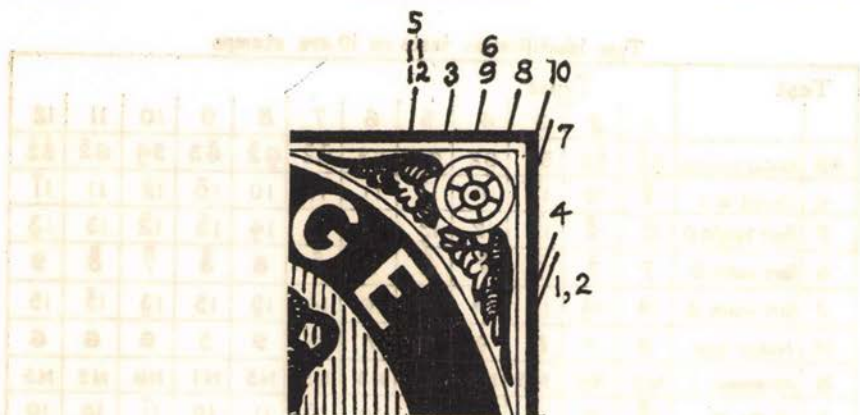


Fig. 14

within each group. In group X the small zero thus appears taller and flatter in type 2 than in types 1, 3 and 4, and type 10 can be spotted immediately by the very high period. In group Y type 6 has the widest zero, 7 and 8 the narrowest. Type 8 has a fairly reliable dent in the lower frameline. Type 9 has the pronounced color spot (but check for 5 and 7), and in type 11 the small figure 1 extends too far down (more so than on certain other types). When a tentative choice of likely types has been made, the more promising tests shown in the table are then made for final positive identifications.

The slant of the small figure 1 is important in preventing errors. As soon as a reasonable number of types have been identified positively for one's master type collection, it is well to put later stamps on top of the typed stamps in such a way as to line up the direction of the small figures 1. If after careful alinement of the figures 1 the bottom frames of the stamps are not parallel, the stamps cannot be of the same type. This test is a valuable corroboration in connection with test P and the more difficult (less reliable) test N. Comparisons should, of course, always be made with the available illustrations of the types.³

It will be realized that these 10 øre stamps are, on occasion, quite difficult to type. The serious collector, who is not satisfied with guesswork, must therefore be willing to do the necessary careful testing for positive type identifications.

Norw. Cat. #36I, 10 øre shaded posthorn, has a differently shaped upstroke on the large 1 in figure 10 (see Norw. cat. 1972, p. 13 and 17) and is therefore easy to distinguish from #25.

References

1. Posthorn 1972, p. 78.
2. Posthorn 1972, p. 1-7.
3. Norgeskatalogen (The Norwegian Catalog),
Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, I (1963), p. 237.

* S * C * C *

SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB ANNOUNCES 1973 CONVENTION SITE

SCC President Victor E. Engstrom announced that the 1973 Annual Convention of the Scandinavian Collectors Club will be held in conjunction with COMPEX 73 in Chicago, Illinois. This convention will be hosted by SCC Chapter 4 of Chicago and the Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland (COMPEX). It is planned that a large exhibit of Scandinavian material will be on display as part of the 1000 frame COMPEX Exhibition.



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Svarslösen

by Rolf Gummesson

Recently Sweden has adopted a new kind of postal sticker, "Svarslösen," which is the equivalent to the "Return Postage Paid" imprint on many of the envelopes passing through the U. S. Mails.

These are applied to the back of mail by the sender of printed matter, as an invitation for a mail reply. In fact, it was the Swedish branch office of the American magazine "Reader's Digest" which was responsible for the introduction of these reply labels. These were followed by Lundquist Snickerier (Sweden's biggest carpenter firm), Bonniers (bonds) and the brand new stickers for Sweden's Labour Party (Socialdemokraterna). Many Swedish and foreign collectors add these to their Scandinavian collections—just like more and more are collecting likewise privately printed military reply stamps distributed by the army and navy for reply-mail back to the soldiers.

In spite of the fact that the Swedish Post Office prints the "Svarslösen", they cannot supply them. As a matter of fact, the Swedish Post Office is presently being swamped with correspondence concerning requests for the "Svarslösen" which it does not sell.

They undoubtedly belong to a new kind of mail franking and postal history, and are considered as such by some philatelists; and in fact, as more collectible than hundreds of officially accepted stamps from sheikdoms. Here, as always, it is up to the individual collector to collect what he considers collectible. However, it is my belief that probably such items will be sought by many collectors. I think this is especially true of the very first trial issues of the "Svarslösen" which were used on very small quantities of mail and consequently may become rather scarce and costly.

By some luck you can find them in the Swedish kilos now and then and may wonder what they are.

* S * C * C *

Mr. C. Nieuwland, (SCC #1073), editor of Scandinavian International Philately, is attempting to start a card index of Scandinavian philately, using a format similar to the abstracts which appear in Sc. I. P. This will be fairly broad coverage since the contents of over 25 philatelic magazines are regularly screened for articles. The cost will be less than 2c per card. Further information concerning Sc. I. P. and/or the card index can be obtained from P. O. Box 8042, Rotterdam, Holland.



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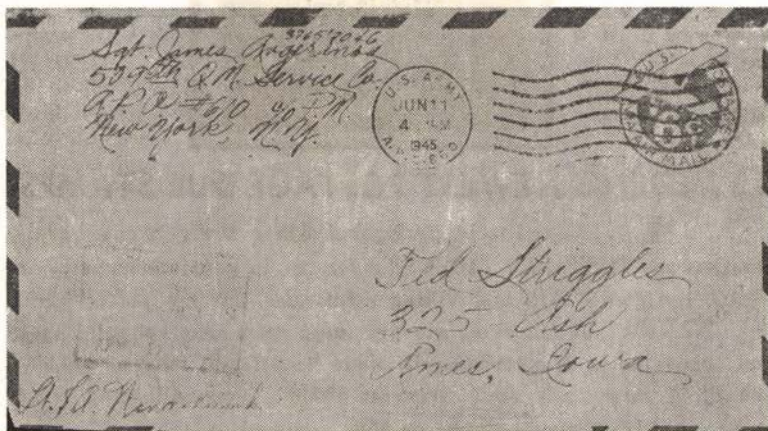


Fig. 1

In our last communication, I speculated about whether or not any of the some 200 pieces of APO mail I must have written might survive somewhere. Since then I have wondered about the potential number of APO covers which might have been written during wartime. I have found a partial answer to this question in an informational booklet prepared by the Iceland Base Command. The section on APO activities quotes the following: "In the first 12 months of operation, the APO in Iceland handled . . . outgoing mail to the States consisted of more than 3 million letters . . ." According to Facit Catalogue, APO's operated from July 27, 1941 to March 27, 1947, a span of almost six years of continuous postal flow.

A SOJEX last spring, I located an APO 860 machine cancel (Fig. 1) in a dealer's miscellaneous cover box labeled "All Covers 25 cents". A Facit ten dollar catalogue value for a quarter! Of nostalgic interest is that the cancel is APO 860, while the return address is APO 610. This is not unusual philatelically. (I have seen others.) However, it takes me back though to the letter writing practices of the military in Iceland where one dropped the letter

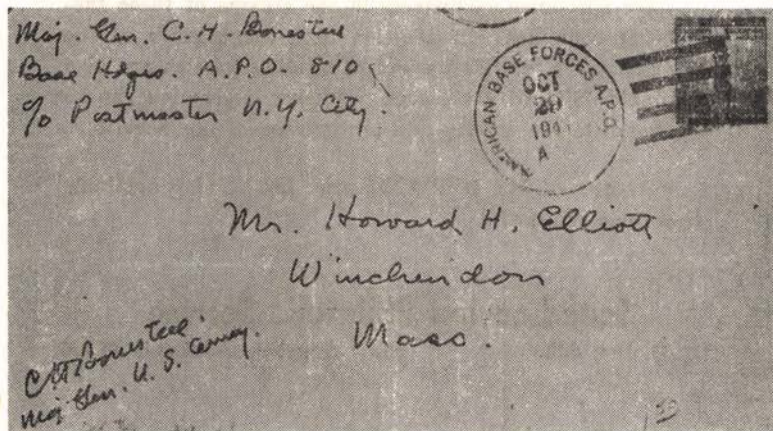


Fig. 2

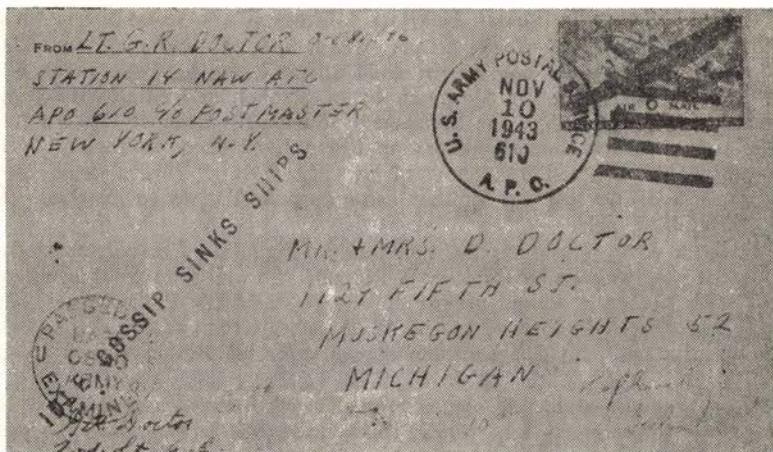


Fig. 3

in the box of whatever camp you were in at the moment.

SOJEX's next offering (Fig. 2) was a handstamped APO 810. The writer was Major General C. H. Bonesteel. "When Major General Charles H. Bonesteel arrived with the September 16, 1941 convoy, he immediately assumed command of the Iceland Base Command." He was still the Base Commander when I arrived in Iceland in March 1943. This cover was written only a month after the General arrived. I left the price on the cover's illustration: another satisfaction of philatelic diligence.

A man who has supplied me with much nostalgia is Lt. George Doctor, whom I never knew, writer of the APO 610 handstamped cover (Fig. 3). Someone apparently saved all George's mail, and the letters accompanying the cov-

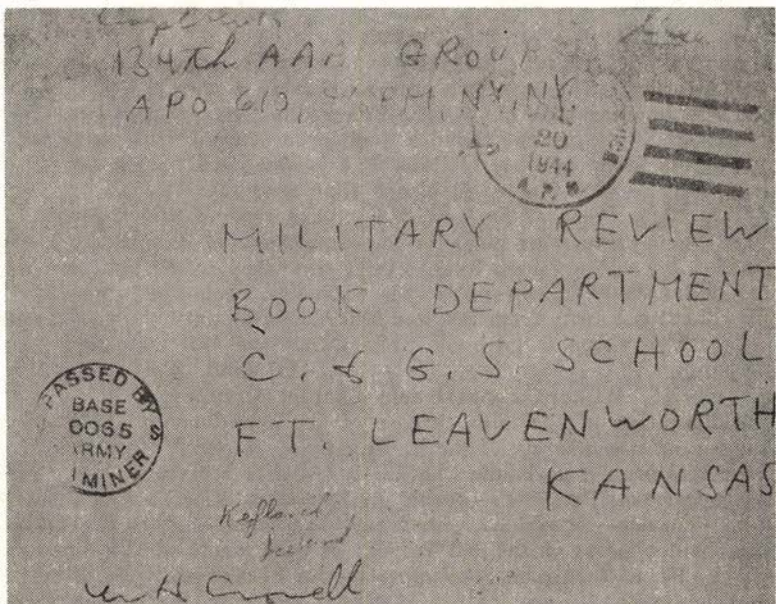


Fig. 4

ers give many quick glimpses of American Military life in Iceland. For example he writes about the high velocity winds (which took off roofs and turned over jeeps), the casualties arriving on the C-54 hospital planes, observation of the lonely military searching for the company of alcohol, and finally listening to the radio all day on D day (the Invasion of Europe). Each of these scenes I re-lived through these letters almost as I had lived them in reality over 25 years ago. Curiously enough some of my "Lt Doctor" covers came from a Massachusetts dealer and yet another came from a Tennessee auction. It's a small Philatelic World.

Finally a cover closer to me personally (Fig. 4). I have acquired this cover which was written by Captain William H. Crowell who went overseas to Iceland with me as a fellow officer in the 378th AAA BN. Later both of us were transferred in Iceland to the 134th AAA Group where Capt. Crowell served as adjutant. My file contains several military letters signed by Capt. Crowell.

So, another nostalgic trip comes to a close with the conviction that many more APO's will come to light to add to my nostalgic journey into the past.

—George W. Sickels, #1545

(Ed. Note: George, where is "Goin' Courtin', Icelandic Style?")

* S * C * C *

Chapter News

Chapter 2 — Philadelphia

An unusually large number of members and their spouses turned out at the Viking Inn in Ardmore in June for our semi-annual smorgasbord dinner. We were particularly happy to welcome our guests, President Vic Engstrom, Bob Brandeberry from Wilmington, and Ray Norby and his wife from Washington. Although few of us were on hand during the summer months, we managed to get together for informal gatherings at the "country estates" of Bob Rogers and Dick Nurnberg in July and August respectively.

—Alan Warren

Chapter 7

In spite of vacation time for many of us the July turnout at Bob Booman's was well attended. The evening's program was to afford us a chance to peruse and get familiar with the S.C.C. library and that was a success in that just about all of us present found a book or a journal that we've not seen before or even knew existed. I think Bob Booman will get a few more inquiries about the literature available as time goes on.

A few minor items of business were taken care of and a report of the efforts of finding a meeting place for the coming season was made. There are glimmers of hope along those lines. After the "shop talk" there was the delightful bull session interspersed with coffee and cake and the like. You know we didn't get away from Bob and Muriel's house until the now customary late hour. Who wants to go home while things are still humming.

—Art Lind, #724

Western Pennsylvania Chapter Organized

The formation of the 20th chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club was announced recently by Victor E. Engstrom, National President of SCC. This new Western Pennsylvania Chapter is based in Pittsburgh, Pa. Officers of the chapter are: President—Ronald A. Brightsen, Vice President—O. Allan Johnson, Secretary—Ronald A. Nadler, and Treasurer—Robert H. Shellhamer.

The chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 725 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. at 8:00 p.m. Collectors in the Pittsburgh area, interested in Scandinavian philately, are invited to attend meetings, or to contact Ronald Brightsen, 1725 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15241, for more information.

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