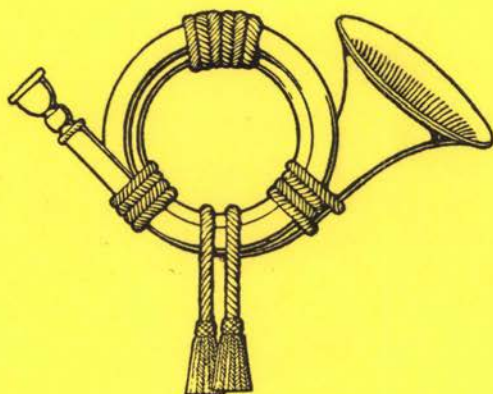


Vol. 30, No. 1, Whole No. 113, February 1973

The
POSTHORN
TM

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

THE POSTHORN

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The Póstafgreiðslur Or Secondary Postoffices of Iceland

By Robert Booman, SCC 980

It was mentioned earlier in this article (Posthorn: Vol. 29, No. 4, pg. 108) that more than one type of 23mm Secondary Postoffice postmark was used by certain postoffices. One such example of this is the ESKIFJÖRÐUR postmark which can be found with either two dots or an accent mark above the O. Sir E. A. G. Caroe, K. B. E., in his famous work² reported that "mixed figures" —i.e. partly antique, partly grotesque occur on most of these postmarks.

My attention has been directed to the use of the SAUDÁRKRÓKUR and STRANDASYSLA postmarks beyond the 1910 date mentioned previously as being the last date of usage. Indeed, my own collection contains an example of the SAUDÁRKRÓKUR postmark on a pair of Christian X 30 Aur issued in 1920 and a 20 Aur Landscape issued in 1925 with the STRANDASYSLA postmark. The last date on which these postmarks were used has become questionable and I would appreciate any further information which can clarify this point.

1899. The Swiss type postmarks

On May 1, 1899 the postoffice at Sveinsstaðir was downgraded to a collecting office. On that same date Blönduós, in the same province of Austur-Hunavatnssýsla, was upgraded to a Póstafgreiðsla. Since Blönduós was lo-



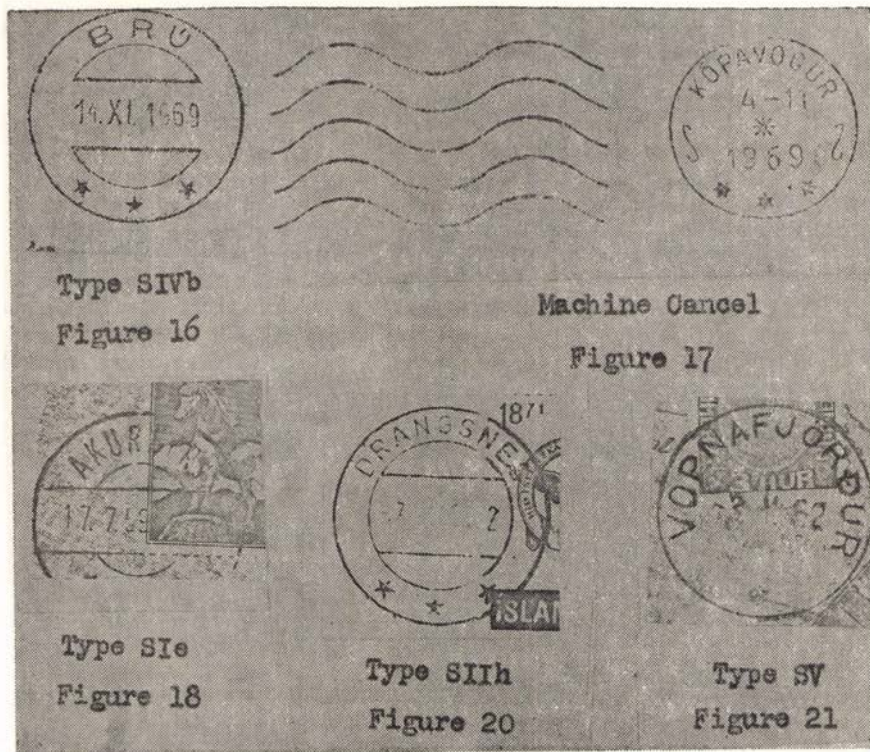
cated some 18 Km. away from Sveinsstaðir, the usual procedure of transferring the SVEINSTAÐIR postmark to Blönduós was not done. Instead a new type of postmark of the so-called Swiss type was issued. A similar type of postmark had been in use in Reykjavik since 1891. This postmark consisted of a double circle. The name of the postoffice was in grotesque letters between the upper halves of the circles. Three stars were in the lower half. The date, including the year, was on the central "bridge" which extended right across both circles (figure 10). It is designated by Norgaard³ as type SI. This postmark was in use at Blönduós for over 60 years or until about 1960 when it was replaced by a new type Swiss cancellor (type IVb). There were a total of four postmarks of this type given to secondary postoffices in the years through 1907. They were:

BLÖNDUÓS
FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR
KEFLAVÍK
PATREKSFJÖRÐUR

Budir, which is located on Faskruðsfjörður in Sudur Mulasýsla, received the FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR postmark on April 1, 1904 when it was upgraded from a collecting office. The postmark was used at Budir until 1971 when it was replaced by a new type Swiss postmark (type IVb).

Keflavík in Gullbringusýsla was promoted to a secondary postoffice on January 1, 1906 and at that time received a postmark similar to Blönduós. The postmark was used for a short time until about 1908 when it was replaced with a different type.

Patreksfjörður in Vestur-Bardastrandarsýsla received a similar type post-



Type SIVb
Figure 16

Machine Cancel
Figure 17

Type SIIc
Figure 18

Type SIIIh
Figure 20

Type SV
Figure 21

mark when it was upgraded to a póstaðgreiðsla on January 1, 1907. This postoffice used the postmark until about 1960 when it was replaced with a new type Swiss postmark (type IVb).

About 1908 Keflavík was given another type of Swiss postmark. It was similar to the previous one but the three stars were replaced by a scrollwork, the month was in Roman numerals and the year was shortened to the last two digits only (figure 11). The reason for this change is not clear.

In 1910 a major change in the type postmark used at the secondary post-offices was made. The older type postmark issued in 1873 was retired in most cases and replaced with a new type of Swiss postmark. This new postmark consisted of double circles as in the previous ones but the "bridge" did not extend across the circles. The day and last two digits of the year were in arabic numerals while the month was given in Roman numerals. This postmark has been designated as type SII by Norgaard. The ornamentation in the lower halves of the circles consisted of stars, scrollwork, rays or combinations of the three (figure 12). The replacement of postmarks in 1910 was as follows:

Old type 23 mm.	Replaced by	Type SII
AKUREYRI		AKUREYRI
BÆR		BÆR
BJARNARNES		HÓLAR
DJÚPIVOGUR		DJÚPIVOGUR
EGILSTAÐIR		EGILSSTAÐIR
ESKIFJÖRÐUR		ESKIFJÖRÐUR
HJARÐARHOLT		BORGARNES
HRAUNGERÐI		HRAUNGERÐI
ÍSAFJÖRÐUR		ÍSAFJÖRÐUR
SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR		SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR
STYKKISHÓLMUR		STYKKISHÓLMUR
STRANDASYSLA ?		STAÐUR ?
VESTMANNAEYJAR		VESTMANNAEYJAR
VÖLLUR		ODDI
Old type 25 mm.		
SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR ?		SAUÐÁRKRÓKUR ?
PINGEYJARSYSLA		HÚSAVÍK

Two additional postoffices were upgraded to secondary postoffices on January 22, 1910 and given Swiss type SII postmarks. They are:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Hafnarfjörður	HAFNARFJÖRÐUR	Gullbringusysla
Siglufjörður	SIGLUFJÖRÐUR	Eyjafjardarsysla

The years from 1910 to 1917 were stable ones for the secondary postoffices. That is, they did not move around and none of the older ones were discontinued. New ones were added, however, by promoting some of the collecting offices.

In 1912, five collecting offices were promoted to póstaðgreiðslur. They were all given type SII postmarks.

The postoffices were:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Akranes	AKRANES	Borgarfjardarsysla
Bolungarvík	BOLUNGARVÍK	Nordur Isafjardarsysla
Eyrbakkí	EYRARBAKKI	Arnarsysla
Olafsvík	OLAFSVÍK	Snæfellsnessysla
Þórshöfn	ÞÓRSHÖFN	Nordur Þingeyjarsysla

In 1914, seven more collecting offices were upgraded to secondary post-offices. All the new póstaðgreiðslur received Swiss type SII postmarks with the exception of Flatey which, for some unexplained reason, was given a Swiss

type SI postmark, with scrollwork. The new postoffices were:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Bíldudalur	BÍLDUDALUR	Vestur Bardastrandarsýsla
Flatey	FLATEY	Austur Bardastrandarsýsla
Flateyri	ÖNUNДАРÞJÖRÐUR	Vestur Ísafjardarsýsla
Hólmavík	HÓLMAVÍK	Strandarsýsla
Hvammstangi	HVAMMSTANGI	Vestur Hunavatnssýsla
Brekka	MJÓIFJÖRÐUR	Sudur Mulasýsla
Nes	NORÐFJÖRÐUR	Sudur Mulasýsla

In 1916, two more collecting offices were upgraded to secondary postoffices which made a total of 43 póstaðgreiðslur in operation at that time. The two new postoffices received Swiss type SII postmarks. They were:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Hofsós	HOFÓS	Skagafjardarsýsla
Búðareyri	REYÐARÞJÖRÐUR	Sudur Mulasýsla

A few of the secondary postoffices were moved in 1918 to new locations. The postoffice at Hjardarholt was moved 3 Km. southwest to Budardalur in Hnappadalssýsla. Budardalur was given the old DALASYSLA postmark which had been in use at Hjardarholt.

The postoffice at Oddi was moved on May 31 to Garðsauki in Rangarvaliasýsla, 9 Km. to the southeast. Garðsauki was given the ODDI postmark.

The postoffice at Bær was moved 6 Km. south to Króksfjardarnes in Austur-Bardarstrandarsýsla. Króksfjardarnes was given the old obsolete 23 mm. B²³R postmark until a new postmark could be prepared.

In 1920 there was not only the addition of more secondary postoffices to the postal system but another type of postmark was put into use. This postmark has been designated at Type SIV by Norgaard and is similar to the previous Type SII but the inner circle does not extend through the central bridge (figure 13). Some of the existing secondary postoffices received Type SIV postmarks as replacements for older type postmarks they had been using. These are:

Postoffice	Old Type Postmark	New Type Postmark
Borgarnes	Type SII BORGARNES	Type SIV BORGARNES
Bær	23 mm Type B ²³ R	Type SIV KRÓKSFJARÐARNES
Budardalur	23 mm Type DALASYSLA	Type SIV BUÐARDALUR

The postal department was not consistent however in issuing these new type postmarks because in the same year there were three more collecting offices promoted to Póstaðgreiðslur and each one received a different type of postmark. They are:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Borgarfjörður	Type SII BORGARÞJÖRÐUR	Nordur-Mulasýsla
Suðureyri	Type SIV SUÐUREYRI	Nordur-Ísafjardarsýsla
Þingvellir	Type SI ÞINGVELLIR	Arnarsýsla

On January 1, 1923, Raufarhöfn in Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla was upgraded from a collecting office to a secondary postoffice and given a type SII RAUFARHÖFN postmark. On July 1 of the same year, Borðeyri in Strandarsýsla was also promoted to a secondary postoffice and given a Type I BORÐEYRI postmark.

January 1, 1925 the secondary postoffice at Hólar in Austur-Skaftafellssýsla was moved to Höhn (on Hornafjörður) in the same province. Höfn was given a new Type SIV HORNAFJÖRÐUR postmark.

On January 1, 1926 three more secondary postoffices were made by up-

grading collecting offices. The postoffices and their postmarks are as follows:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Sandur	Type SIV SANDUR	Snæfellsnessysla
Kópasker	Type SIV KÓPASKER	Nordur-Pingeyjarsysla
Skagaströnd	Type SIV SKAGASTRÖND	Austur-Hunavatnssysla

March 1, 1927 Einarssadíur in Sudur-Pingeyjarsysla was upgraded to a secondary postoffice and given a Type SII EINARSSTADIR postmark.

On January 1, 1929 we find three more collecting offices were promoted to Póstafgreiðslur. They are:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Dalvík	Type SII DALVÍK	Eyjafjardarsysla
Haganesvík	Type SII HAGANESVÍK	Skagafjardarsysla
Olafsfjörður	Type SIV OLAFSFIÖRÐUR	Nordur-Pingeyjarsysla

From 1930 the postmark situation becomes more complicated. First, the numeral postmarks which had been used by the collecting offices up to this point in time started to be recalled and replaced with Swiss type postmarks. When a collecting office was promoted it did not necessarily get a new postmark but in many cases continued to use the Swiss postmark which was issued to it as a collecting office. The postmarks mentioned from here on are those used at the time a collecting office was upgraded. They may have been in use prior to that date while the postoffice was still a collecting office. Second, secondary postoffices were given new postmarks from time to time to replace older worn ones or for other reasons. These changes will not be noted in this article as the exact date of change has not been established in many cases. The types of postmarks used by the various secondary postoffices to date are summarized at the end of this article for those who are interested in collecting them.

On January 1, 1930 the postoffice at Prestsbakki in Vestur-Skaftafellssysla was moved back to Kirkjubæjarklaustur in the same province. The new upgraded postoffice used a Type II KIRKJUBÆJARKLAUSTUR postmark.

At the same time the collecting office at Ölfusarbrú (Selfoss) was promoted to a secondary postoffice when the office at Hraungerði was closed. Ölfusarbrú used type SI ÖLFUSARBRU postmark. It is in Arnessysla.

In the same year Grindavík in Gullbringusysla was upgraded to a Póstafgreiðsla. It used a type SI GRINDAVÍK postmark.

On June 26, 1936 a secondary postoffice was established at Djúpvík in Strandarsysla. It was given a type SII DJÚPAVÍK postmark.

Ölfusarbrú's name was changed to Selfoss on January 1, 1939 and a change in postmark was therefore required. The newly named postoffice was given a type SI SELFOS postmark.

On July 1st in the same year the postoffice on the island of Hrísey in Eyjafjörður, Eyjafjardarsysla was promoted to a secondary postoffice. It used a type SI HRÍSEY postmark.

We find two more collecting offices were upgraded to secondary postoffices on January 1, 1941. They were:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Breiddalsvík	Type SII BREIÐDALSVÍK	Sudur-Mulasysla
Fosshóll	Type SI FOSSHÓLL	Sudur-Pingeyjarsysla

On January 1, 1942 Sandgerði in Gullbringusysla was promoted to a Póstafgreiðsla. It used a type SII SANDGERÐI postmark. Note: It used a type SI SANDGERDI postmark from 11930 as a collecting office.

Two more changes occurred in 1944. On January 1st the collecting office at Kirkjuból on Stöðvarfjörður in Sudur-Mulasysla was promoted to a secondary postoffice. It used a type SII STÖDVARFIÖRÐUR postmark.

On June 15th the secondary postoffice at Gardsauki was moved to Hvolsvöllur in Rangavallasysla. Hvolsvöllur was given a type SIV HVOLSVÖLLUR postmark.

Iceland declared its independence from Denmark on June 17, 1944.

Changes in Póstafgreiðslur under the Republic

On October 1, 1945, five collecting offices were promoted to secondary postoffices. They are:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Bakkafjörður	Type SII BAKKAFJÖRÐUR	Nordur-Mulasysla
Grafarnes	Type SII GRUNDARFJÖRÐUR	Snæfellsnessysla
Hveragerði	Type SIII HVERAGERÐI	Arnessysla
Stokkseyri	Type SI STOKKSEYRI	Arnessysla
Súðavík	Type SII SÚÐAVÍK	Nordur-Ísafjardarsysla

In the instance of Hveragerði you will note that another different type of postmark appears. This postmark is similar to the type SIV postmark but the lower bridge line extends past the inner circle (figure 14). This type has been designated by Norgaard as type SIII.

On June 1, 1946 the collecting office at Eyri on Ingolfsfjörður in Strandarsysla was upgraded to a secondary postoffice. It used a Type III EYRI STRAND postmark

In the same year the postoffice at Olafsvík was closed.

On March 17, 1947 a secondary postoffice was opened at the airfield at Keflavík in Gullbringusysla. It was given a type SII KEFLAVÍK FLUGVÖLLUR postmark.

On December 1, 1949, Drangsnæs in Strandarsysla was promoted to a secondary postoffice. It used a type III DRANGSNÆS postmark.

On June 22, 1951 we find the postoffice at Borðeyri is downgraded to a collecting office. On the same date the postoffice at Staður in Strandarsysla was renamed Hrutafjörður (after the fjörð on which it is located). It was presumably given a type SII HRUTAFJÖRÐUR postmark but I have been unable to verify this. It may have continued to use the type SII STAÐUR postmark.

No further changes in the secondary postoffices occurred until January 1, 1958. On that date Hnífsdalur in Vestur-Ísafjardarsysla was promoted to a Póstafgreiðsla. It used a type SI HNÍFSDALUR postmark.

On January 1, 1959 the collecting office at Laugarvatn in Arnessysla was upgraded to a secondary postoffice. It used a type SII LAUGARVATN postmark.

Another change which occurred on the same date is in Gullbringusysla, where Gerðar was promoted to a secondary postoffice. It used a type SIVa GERÐAR postmark. Postmark type SIVa is one which has not been mentioned previously in this article. It is a type SIV postmark having thick vertical bars between the bridge and the inner circle as opposed to the thin ones in the regular type SIV (figure 15). Its use probably started in the early 1950's.

On August 1 in the same year the postoffice at Hrutafjörður (Staður) was moved to Brú in Strandarsysla. Again, another new type of postmark appears. Brú was given a postmark which is similar to a type SIV but the vertical bars between the bridge and the inner circle are omitted. I have designated this type as type SIVb. Ostergaard⁴ calls it "Ny Type 4" (figure 16). The postmark given to Brú was type SIVb BRÚ.

On January 1, 1960 another collecting office in Gullbringusysla was promoted to a secondary postoffice. This was Kópavogur. It used a type SII KÓPAVOGUR postmark.

On May 1, 1965 Hella in Rangarvallasysla was upgraded to a secondary postoffice. It used a type SII HELLA postmark.

January 1, 1969 we find five more collecting offices were made Póstafgreiðslur. They are:

Postoffice	Postmark	Province
Laugar	Type SII LAUGAR	Sudur-Pingeyjarsysla
Reynihlíð	Type SIVa REYNIHLÍÐ	Sudur-Pingeyjarsysla
Varmahlíð	Type SII VARMAHLÍÐ	Skagafjardarsysla
Þörlakshöfn	Type SIVb ÞÖRLAKSHÖFN	Arnessysla
Sveinsseyri	Type SIVb TALKNAFJÖRÐUR	Vestur-Bardastrandarsysla

No "SKRA um post- og simartöðvar á Islandi" has been issued since 1969 but information from the Icelandic Post and Telegraph Administration⁵ indicates that the secondary postoffices at Einarstadir in Sudur-Pingeyjarsysla, Eyri (Ingolfsfjörður) in Strandarsysla and Skagaströnd in Austur-Hunavatnssysla were closed in 1971.

Machine Cancels

In addition to the Swiss type postmarks, the postoffices in some of the larger towns in Iceland use machine cancels. These consist of a small circle containing the postoffice name, the month, date and year in Arabic numerals, scrollwork, three stars and an asterisk. The circle is preceded by a series of five wavy lines (figure 17). The towns having these postmarks are:

Akureyri	Kópavogur
Hafnarfjörður	Sauðarkrókur
Ísafjörður	Selfoss
Keflavík	Siglufjörður
	Vestmannaeyjar

Commemorative Postmarks

Special postmarks to commemorate unusual events have been used for short periods of time by secondary postoffices. Some of these are:

Akureyri	--	ÍPRÓTTAHÁTÍÐ 28 II 1970
Kópavogur	—	1. FRIMERKJASYNING 13 XI 1971
Sauðarkrókur	—	100 ARA BYGGD 4 VII 1971
Pingvellir	—	930-1930 (Althing Millenary)
Pingvellir	---	17 JUNI 1944 (Iceland Independence)
Pingvellir	—	LANDSMOT SKÁTA 28 VII 62

Numeral Postmarks

Numeral postmarks of the type used by collecting offices have been mentioned in literature⁶ as having been used by a few secondary postoffices. The reason for this use has not been explained. The numeral postmark and the postoffice which has used it is listed as follows:

Numeral	Postoffice
198	Keflavík ⁷
199	BÆR ⁷
215	Seyðisfjörður
246	Hölmavík
269	Hafnarfjörður
280	Djúpavík

Miscellaneous Postmarks

A postmark which has been given to a few secondary postoffices which has not been mentioned heretofore is a type I have designated as type SIe. This

is a type SI postmark without the bars between the bridge and the inner circle (figure 18).

Many of the postoffices have a stamp with the name of the postoffice on a single line. It is used in the registry label on registered letter or on postal forms. It can be occasionally found on a stamp but it is not intended for use as a cancellor (figure 19).

BLÖNDUÓS

Single Line

Figure 19

Another postmark which has appeared is a type SII without vertical bars between the bridge and the inner circle. I have designated this as type SIIh (figure 20).

A last type to be mentioned is one which Norgaard³ has designated as type SV. This is a postmark consisting of a single circle approx. 28 mm. in diameter having the postoffice name inside the upper perimeter and a single star at the bottom. The date in the middle has the day and last two digits of the year in Arabic numerals and the month in Roman numerals (figure 21).

Comments

The Swiss type SIVb postmarks are being issued in ever increasing numbers by the Icelandic Postal Department to replace the older Swiss type postmarks. There appears to be a program by the Department to standardize on this type of postmark for all postoffices; both the collecting and the secondary classes.

Although Norgaard³, pg. 112, listed Stadur in Vestur-Hunavatnssysla as having received a type SII STADUR postmark, the latest information from Iceland via Mr. S. H. Þorsteinsson is that this is very questionable.

The following check list includes only those postmarks which I have been able to verify as having been used by the secondary postoffices. It does not include postmarks which were used exclusively during the period that a postoffice was operated as a collecting office before being promoted or after being downgraded. I have tried to make the list as correct and complete as the information available to me permits at this time. Any further information concerning these postmarks or additional new ones will be most appreciated.

SECONDARY POSTOFFICE POSTMARK CHECKLIST

Postoffice and Province	Postmarks	Secondary postoffice dates
Akranes, Borg.	SII AKRANES SIVb AKRANES	Jan. 1, 1912—present
Akureyri, Eyja.	23 mm AKUREYRI SI AKUREYRI (2 types) SIe AKUREYRI SII AKUREYRI SIVb AKUREYRI Machine AKUREYRI	1873—present
Arnarholt, Myra.	23 mm HJARÐARHOLT	1880—1900
Bakkajörður, N. Mula.	SII BAKKAFJÖRÐUR SIVb BAKKAFJÖRÐUR	Oct. 1, 1945—present

Bíldudalur, V. Bard.	SII BÍLDUDALUR (2 ty.) SIVb BÍLDUDALUR	1914—present
Bjarnanes, A. Skaft. Blönduós, A. Huna.	23 mm BJARNARNES SI BLÖNDUÓS SIVb BLÖNDUÓS	1874—1894 May 1, 1899—present
Bolungarvík, N. Isa.	SII BOLUNGARVÍK SIVb BOLUNGARVÍK	1912—present
Borðeyri, Strand.	SI BORÐEYRI SIVb BORÐEYRI	Jul. 1, 1923—Jun. 22, 1951
Borgarfjörður, N. Mula.	SII BORGARFJÖRÐUR (2 types)	Jan. 1, 1920—present
Borgarnes, Myra.	23 mm HJARÐARHOLT SII BORGARNES SIV BORGARNES SIVb BORGARNES	Apr. 1, 1905—present
Borgir, A. Skaft. Breiðabólsstaðir, Ranga. Breiðdalsvík, S. Mula. Brú, Strand. Búdardalur, Hnapp.	23 mm BJARNARNES 23 mm VÖLLUR SII BREIÐDALSVÍK SIVb BRÚ 23 mm DALASYSLA SIV BÚÐARDALUR SIVb BÚÐARDALUR	1895—1905 Sept. 26, 1873-1890 Apr. 1, 1941—present Aug. 1, 1959—present 1918—present
Bær, A. Bard.	23 mm B ^Æ R SII B ^Æ R Numeral 199	1873—1917
Dalvík, Eyja.	SII DALVÍK SIVb DALVÍK	Jan. 1, 1929—present
Djúpavík, Strand.	SII DJÚPAVÍK Numeral 280	June 26, 1936—present
Djúpivogur, S. Mula.	23 mm DJÚPIVOGUR SII DJÚPIVOGUR	1873—present
Drangsnes, Strand.	SIII DRANGSNES SIIh DRANGSNES	Dec. 1, 1949—present
Egilsstaðir, S. Mula.	23 mm EGILSTAÐIR SII EGIŁSSTAÐIR SIVb EGIŁSSTAÐIR	1873—1876 1896—present
Eidar, S. Mula. Einarsstaðir, S. Þing. Eskifjörður, S. Mula.	23 mm EGILSTAÐIR SII EINARSSTAÐIR 23 mm ESKIFJÖRÐUR (2 types) ö and ó SII ESKIFJÖRÐUR SIVb ESKIFJÖRÐUR	1877—1877 Mar. 1, 1927-1971 1880—present
Eyrarbakki, Arn. Fáskrúðsfjörður, S. Mula	SII EYRARBAKKI SI FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR SIVb FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR	1912—present Apr. 1, 1904—present
Flatey, A. Bard. Flateyri, V. Isa.	SI FLATEY SII ÖNUNÐARFJÖRÐUR SII FLATEYRI	Jan. 1, 1914—present Jan. 1, 1914—present
Fosshóll, S. Þing.	SI FOSSHÓLL SII FOSSHÓLL	Jan. 1, 1941—present
Garðsauki, Ranga. Gerðar, Gull.	SII ODDI SIVa GERÐAR SIVb GERÐAR	May 3, 1918—June 15, 1944 Jan. 1, 1959—present
Grafarnes, Snæf.	SII GRUNÐARFJÖRÐUR SIVa GRAFARNES SIVb GRUNÐARFJÖRÐUR	Oct. 1, 1945—present

	23 mm	
Grenjadarstadir, S. Ping.	GRENJADARSTAÐUR	Jan. 1, 1873—Sep. 26, 1873
	25 mm PINGEYJARSYSLA	1880—1931
	SIII GRENJADARSTAÐUR	
Grindavik, Gull.	SI GRINDAVIK	1930—present
	SIVa GRINDAVIK	
Hafnarfjörður, Gull.	SII HAFNARFJÖRÐUR	1910—present
	SIVa HAFNARFJÖRÐUR	
	SIVb HAFNARFJÖRÐUR	
	Machine HAFNARFJÖRÐUR	
	Numeral 269	
Haganesvík, Skaga.	SII HAGANESVÍK	Jan. 1, 1929—present
	SIVb HAGANESVÍK	
Helgastadir, S. Ping.	23 mm	
	GRENJADARSTAÐUR	Sept. 26, 1873—1876
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Footnotes

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2. Carøe, E. A. G.: Icelandic Posts 1776-1919, pg. 57, 60.
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5. FRIMERKJASALAN letter dated 22 February 1972, their reference 1000.
6. Islenzk frimerki 1972, S. H. Þorsteinsson.
7. Covers in R. Helm collection.

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* S * C * C *

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SONEX '72

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND STAMP EXHIBITION

The Posthorn Index, authored by Carl W. Werenskiold (H-10) and printed by Harlan W. Miller (1619) won a bronze medal (inscribed with my name) at Sonex 72 APS Literature Exhibition. S.C.C. owes a huge debt of gratitude to these two members for the tremendous task of compilation, checking, and rechecking that was completed. (Ye Ed thanks them personally for making his job simple. Also, Helen Ann proof read galleys until we were both bleary eyed. Many thanks)

—R. Helm, L20

* S * C * C *

EDITOR'S ADDENDA

Vol. 28 #4 Nov. 71, p. 77ff, I Gildi Missing "I" article. Setting is a new one, labeled I A I by Sven Yort.

Vol. 28 #3 August 1972, p. 74ff. My apologies to Kauko Aro for leaving out his by line—without him, no article.

—R. Helm



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Compiled by Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

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How To Make Money From Stamps

(From a Club Talk in SCC Ch. 9; extension of remarks)

No matter how lofty our philatelic interest, few of us are probably averse to making some money on stamps once in a while. The question is, how?

One method that undoubtedly has something to be said for it has just come to light: strike oil first!

I can say this with some assurance today, not because I have struck oil, but because of a number of rather curious covers from Norway and Denmark that recently came my way. These covers, from the early 1920s, all have one thing in common: the name of the addressee has been removed with the help of some kind of erasing fluid. Fortunately for present purposes, however, the quality of the erasure is rather indifferent, to say the least. Examination of each cover individually may not give a conclusive answer, but when you have, as I was fortunate enough to have, a good half dozen to study, there can be little doubt of the name somebody wanted to conceal before putting the covers on the philatelic market.

The name, I have no hesitation in stating, was ROCKEFELLER.

Some of these letters were registered. Most were marked "Private" or some such. All of the addresses were hand-written. There can be little doubt that they were begging letters sent by hopeful mendicants in far-away countries to the man who at that time was supposed to be the richest man in the world, with the possible exception of the Gaekwar of Baroda or the Maharajah of Hyderabad—John D. Rockefeller, the founder of the Standard Oil dynasty.

One letter in particular, reproduced above, appears to offer conclusive proof of what happened.

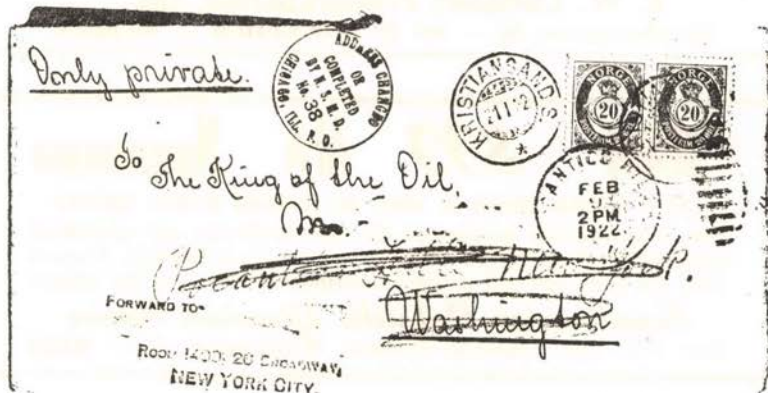
It was sent from Kristiansand in Norway on January 21, 1922, franked with a pair of the then newly issued 20 øre olive-green posthorn type stamps (Scott #86, Facit #112), and marked, for greater safety, "Only private".

It was addressed, in lovingly rounded script:

To

The King of the Oil,
Mr. (name erased).

But whatever the nature of the communication the writer wanted to advance, for the addressee's eyes only, he had the misfortune to misaddress his message. The letter to The King of the Oil, unnamed on the cover as it looks today but for the remainders of an "F" somewhere in the middle, was addressed to Washington.



In some way that I am unable to explain, it then landed in Chicago. There it received a circular marking in purple, "Address changed or completed by N. S. M. D. No. 38, Chicago, Ill. P. O."—and, here comes the clincher, a new pencilled-in address:

Pocantico Hills,
New York.

Latterday newspaper readers are familiar with the name Pocantico Hills. It is the name of the country estate of the present Governor of the State of New York, Nelson Rockefeller, grandson of the erstwhile "King of the Oil".

In spite of its vagaries, the January 21 letter from Kristiansand in Norway received a postmark at Pocantico Hills as early as February 9, not too unconscionable a delay.

But this was not the end of the line for our mystery letter. The Pocantico Hills address has been crossed out, also in pencil, and a new forwarding address stamped on in purple:

Forward to—
Room 1409, 26 Broadway,
New York City.

This was, fifty years ago, the address of none other than the Standard Oil Company, as you probably guessed already.

So, my recommendation tonight to those of you who want to make money from stamps is: strike oil first! This will attract letters from all corners of the world, giving you advice on what to do with your oil money. Ignore this advice, **do not remove** the stamps from the covers, but sell them as they are, only removing your name in order not to lay yourself open to charges of boasting, in case some letter-writer should try to confer royal honors on you . . .

—Sven Åhman



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Norwegian Military Postal Stationery

By Frederick A. Brofos (H-11)

"There is something about a soldier," goes an old song, "something about a soldier which is fine, fine, fine!" Also in the philatelic field anything connected with the Army has always been considered particularly fine, whether it be a cover opened by military censor, a fieldpostmark, or specially issued military stamps or postal stationery. Without attempting to make a psychological analysis, suffice it to say that this extra interest in things military is probably due to the old glamour, glory and excitement which surrounds the armed forces of all countries.

The collector interested in Norway finds eventually that the Norwegian Army, although small, has also left its mark on philately. Prominent are the fieldpostmarks. These have been dealt with in several articles in past issues of "The Posthorn" (Jan., Apr., 1956), which I later expanded into a comprehensive chapter on the subject for the Norwegian Handbook, volume III ("Norske Filatelistika").

Let us now take a look at Norwegian military postal stationery which, surprisingly enough, dates back to 1883. The earliest items are postage-free postcards printed in blue for general use by the army and in black for mobilization orders. These cards carry more instructions for their use and warnings against their misuse than one cares to read off-hand. Just one short, but effective, sentence has been used on similar material in America, namely, "Penalty for private use—\$300".



The illustration shows several of the later cards, from 1914/15. A list of most of the varieties may be found on pages 102-104 in volume 24 of the Billig Philatelic Handbooks. (I hope to make a revised list for "The Posthorn" at a later date.)

The postage-free military cards were apparently superseded by similar

cards, upon which an official postage stamp had to be affixed. Such a card has been noted, used in December 1928. It is a mobilization card, printed in black, with the text in country dialect. In the years following, other cards were probably also issued, but have gone unrecorded.

A new type of mobilization card was introduced sometime after World War II. It was a true postal stationery item, with imprinted 15 øre official postage stamp. The exact date of issue is uncertain, but a Post Office circular of October 1, 1952 mentions that the Defense Department has had a supply of these 15 øre "Krigstjenestekort" (War Service Cards) overprinted to 20 øre. My guess is that, rather than a surcharge, an additional 5 øre "O. S." official stamp (Scott type O5) was imprinted to the left of the old stamp. I imagine that another card was produced in 1955 for the postage increase to 25 øre and that this in turn was revalued with an additional 10 øre official stamp to meet the postage increase to 35 øre in 1962. Regular cards with a single 35 øre "OFF. SAK" stamp (Scott type O6) were issued in 1963. There are three main types of these mobilization cards Pink card (Mob. form 3-1)—exempted from reporting; blue card (Mob. form 3-2)—not to report for 1 or 3 months; green card (Mob. form 3-3)—not to report until further orders. The cards I have seen are listed as follows:



KRIGSTJENESTEKORT (KTK)

Mobblankett 3-3
(5-12. 1966)

NB! Ta omhyggelig vare på kortet. Det gjelder til nytt kommer.

Blir det gitt ordre om mobilisering etter ¼ 19..... skal De ikke møte for etter nærmere ordre. Etter mobiliseringen skal De fortsatt sørge for at Forsvaret kjenner Deres adresse.

		SVARKORT		
Nr/		Til		
Yrk				
Navn	Fra Nr/Årskl.....			
Adr	Navn.....			
			

(Avdelingen stempler og fyller ut)

VEND!

Date imprint 25.6.1963. State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across back of card.

C1. 35 øre green on green

Date imprint 28.12.1963. Rural language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across front of card.

C2. 35 øre green on green

Date imprint 5.12.1966. State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across back of card.

C3. 40 øre violet on green

Date imprint 5.12.1966. Rural language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across back of card.

C4. 40 øre violet on green

No date imprint. (Noted May 1965). State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across front of card.

C5. 40 øre violet on light blue

No date imprint. (Noted May 1968). State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across back of card.

C6. 40 øre violet on (darker) blue

No date imprint. (Noted May 1965). State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across front of card.

C7. 40 øre violet on pink

No date imprint. (Noted May 1968). State language. Colored rouletted dividing line printed across back of card.

C8. 40 øre violet on pink

These cards are actually double cards, but there is a stamp only on the reply card. When sent out at mobilization time, the card was enclosed in a military stamped envelope (described later on as E1 to E14). The first part of the card was retained by the recipient like a draft card, while the franked reply card was torn off, filled in and immediately returned to the military authorities. The cards carry the threat that, if these instructions were not fulfilled, the culprit would be punishable by the Military Penal Code, paragraph 46. In other words it wasn't healthy to hang on to that stamped reply card, even if you were a philatelist.

The difference between the two languages can be seen in the following examples from the card text. State language (Riksmål): Fra, tjeneste, stemp-ler. Rural language (Landsmål): Frå, teneste, stemplar. However, it is not always that words are so similar, and learning both languages is no simple task.

Unfortunately, these interesting stamp-imprinted cards were apparently superseded by postage free cards similar to the postage free military envelopes introduced in 1968.

M-skjema 2.

Militærsak, haster.

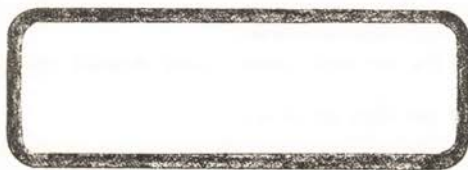


R 10

Mob.-55, P 6

Dette brevet ekspedieres Postverket uten portomerket når militær betingning eller avdeling er ført opp på konvoluttets bakside.

Senderen må være militær tjenestemann eller avdeling. Han skal sette navn og adresse på baksida, her. Postverket tar seg da av brevet uten portomerket.



Et adressaten sjekker eller hører, må huskholket hans åpne konvoluttet og sørge for at han får kjennskap til innholdet.

Militærsak, haster.

Må ikke sendes utenlands.

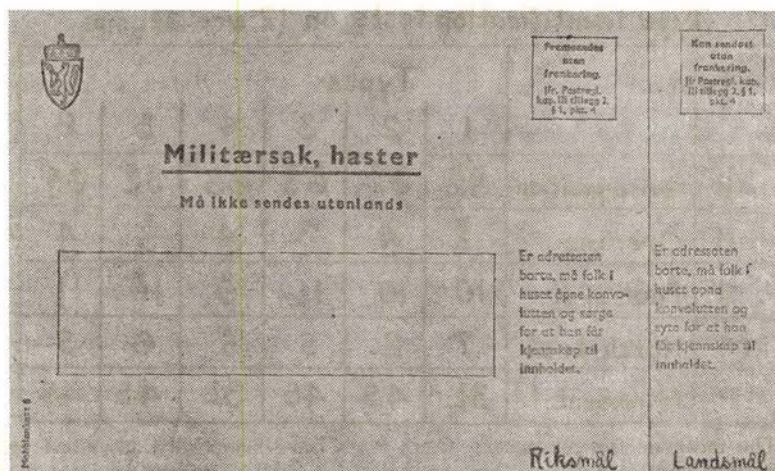
Military envelopes, to which adhesive official stamps had to be affixed for postage, were in use in Norway in the 30's. These (form 5 II) envelopes may be found with the old or the new coat of arms, as well as with or without an address-window. Another type was headed "Military matter, urgent". One printed in January 1940 (form 2) needed no stamp, while one from about 1954 (then called form F6) had a square space for an adhesive stamp.



Military envelopes with imprinted official stamp seem to have come into use in the 50's. The envelopes (all with windows) that I have seen, are listed as follows:

- 1952 (?) "Offentlig sak" stamp (Scott type O3). State language.
 E1. 25 øre red on brown
- 1952 (?) Similar, but Rural language
 E2. 25 øre red on brown
- 1954 (?) "O. S." stamp (Scott type O5). "Mob.-skj. F5" above stamp. State language.
 E3. 30 øre red on brown
- 1954 (?) Similar, but Rural language.
 E4. 30 øre red on brown
 a. 30 øre red on cream
- 1956 (?) Similar, but "Mobskjema 5" above stamp. State language.
 E5. 30 øre red on brown
- 1956 (?) Similar to E5, but with added stamp imprint in "OFF. SAK" type (Scott O6). Space between stamps varies considerably. State language.
 E6. 30 øre red + 5 øre lilac on brown
- 1956 (?) Similar to E4, but with added stamp imprint (Scott O6). State language.
 E7. 30 øre red + 5 øre lilac on brown
1956. "OFF. SAK" stamp (Scott O6) from now on. State language.
 E8. 30 øre red on brown
1957. "Mobskjema 5" at bottom left. State language.
 E9. 35 øre (darker) red on brown
- Similar, but with "Mobskjema 5" above shield at upper left, and additional imprinted stamp. State language. (Presumably also exists without the added stamp, but not seen).
- E10. 35 øre red + 10 øre grey on brown

1964. Rate increase. Rural language.
 E11. 50 øre red on pink
 1964. Similar. State language
 E12. 50 øre red on pink
 a. for Østfold infanteriregiment nr. 1
 b. for Transportregimentet Mysen
 1965 (?) Further rate increase. State language. Smooth paper. (A reissue in 1968 is on rougher paper and has typographical differences at lower left).
 E13. 60 øre dark red on pinkish brown
 1965 (?) Similar. Rural language. Smooth paper.
 E14. 60 øre dark red on pinkish brown.



These envelopes with imprinted official stamp were superseded in mid-1968 by envelopes which, instead of a stamp, had a printed box reading (in translation): "May be sent without postage. See Postal regulations, chapter III, supplement 2, par. 1, point 4". These latter envelopes were also printed in either of the two Norwegian languages.

As this review of the military postal stationery of Norway draws to a close, one realizes the possibility that other interesting units may exist which are not yet on the rolls. Reports of additional material will help to complete the picture of this little known but important field.

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Norway—Shaded Posthorn Øre Issues, Types

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H10)

Part 5

12 Øre — Norw. Cat. #26

The 12 øre shaded posthorn stamps, Norw. Cat. #26, were printed on paper with vertical watermark Posthorn I. The color of the stamps is a yellow green in a moderate range of shades. There are 6 engraving types, which can be distinguished readily by visual comparison of the stamps with the available illustrations¹ in conjunction with the control tests summarized in the following table.

Type identification tests on 12 øre stamps

Test		Types					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
AB	Period position	5̄2̄	6̄2̄	6̄3̄	6̄3̄	5̄2̄	6̄4̄
H	Opening	2̄	4̄	3̄	4̄	3̄	4̄
I	Foot of 2	10	10	11	9̄	10̄	11̄
M	Notch test	7	2	5	5	6	5
P	Alinement I	3L	4S	4S	3L	4S	4S

The methods for conducting these tests have been fully described and illustrated in parts 1 and 4 of this serial article². All measurements are in dmm as described before.

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

AB—Period position.

H—Opening in 2.

I—Length of foot of 2.

M—Notch test. The space between 1 and upper part of 2, at its narrowest, is divided into 10 parts from left to right, for estimating positions of the alinement line,

P—Center line of small 1, extended upwards, intersecting into shaded field as in Fig. 13 in part 4 of this serial article.

The illustrations of type 4 usually show a too short small figure 1 due to a printing accident.

The following secondary type characteristics are more or less constant:
Type 1—A slight rounding of the lower right corner.

Type 2—A break in inner frameline outside the middle of wing 3 (see Norw. Cat. 1972, p. 10 for wing numbering).

1. Norgeskatologen (The Norwegian Catalog). Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, I (1963), p. 241.
2. Posthorn 1972, p. 1-7, and p. 126.

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Part 6

20 Øre — Norw. Cat. #27

(Fig. 14 of this article was included by error in Part 4 of this series on p. 128 of the Nov. 1972 issue)

The 20 øre shaded posthorn stamps, Norw. Cat. #27, were printed on paper with vertical watermark Posthorn I. The color of the stamps is brown in a moderate range of shades from red brown to orange brown. There are 12 engraving types, some of which are rather difficult to distinguish by inspection alone. Very careful AB measurements for period positions on these stamps should first be made, and the position of the small zero, whether normal, low or slightly low in the oval band, should then be estimated, so that a preliminary sorting of the stamps into likely types can be done. The following more or less constant type characteristics and other observations will be helpful in this sorting operation:

Type 3—The foot of the small figure 2 extends toward the right somewhat beyond the notch in the adjacent wing.

Type 4—Close period, top of 2 is broad.

Type 5—Tiny break in inner frameline below lower right wheel.

Type 7—Close period, almost rectangular zero.

Type 8—Large, low period.

Type 9—The zero leans more strongly to the left than in the other types.

Type 12—Frequently a small color spot between second and third lines below large colorless part in the bell of the horn.

The other tests summarized in the following table should then be made for final type determinations.

Type identification tests on 20 øre stamps

Test		Types											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AB	Period position	5 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{3}$	5 $\bar{3}$	4 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{2}$	4 $\bar{2}$	6 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{3}$	5 $\bar{2}$	5 $\bar{3}$
C	Period to 2	7	7-8	8	8	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	8
K	Above 0	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5
L	Below 0	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	5
	Position 0	Sl. Low	Sl. Low	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Low	Low	Low	Normal	Low	Sl. Low
N	Alinement 2	See Fig. 14											

The methods for conducting these tests have been fully described and illustrated in Part I of this serial article.¹ All measurements are in dmm as before.

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

AB—Period position.

C—Left side of period to left side of lower part of 2.

K—Above the zero in oval band.

L—Below the zero in oval band.

Position of 0—Whether normal or low in the oval band.

N—Alinement upward of the center-line of the straight or nearly straight part (lower half) of the downstroke of small figure 2, to positions shown in Fig. 14.

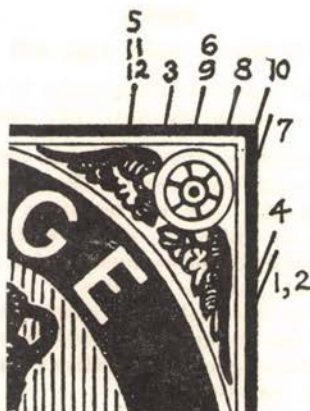


Fig. 14. Test N

Comparisons should, of course, always be made with available type illustrations.² Attention should be given, in these comparisons, to the general slant of the small figures, which varies from type to type, and to the width and shape of the upper part of the 2, which sometimes has a characteristic curl. The illustrations for type 2 usually show a more blunt lower left point, and thus a shorter footstroke, than in the stamps of that type.

References

1. Posthorn 1972, p. 1-7.
2. Norgeskatalogen (The Norwegian Catalog). Håndbok over Norges Frimerker, I (1963), p. 243.

* S * C * C *

S. C. C. CHARTER FLIGHT TO THE STOCKHOLMIA EXHIBITION IN 1974

The Scandinavian Collectors Club will have a charter flight to the Stockholm stamp exhibition in 1974. If 120 people are interested in this flight, the cost per person will be \$230. If the plane is filled the cost per person is reduced to \$190. The date for Stockholmia is Sept. 21-29. TENTATIVELY, we have suggested the following dates: Leave New York City Sept. 14 (Sat.), return Sept. 29 (Sun.) The dates are flexible. We can also schedule arrival in either Copenhagen or Stockholm depending on the views of the majority of the passengers. If you are interested, no firm commitment necessary at this time, send a note with the number of passengers and your choice of arrival cities with a stamped addressed envelope to Don Halpern, 10-31A Whitestone Parkway, Whitestone, N. Y. 11357.

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* S * C * C *

S. C. C. ELECTION RESULTS

As required by Article VI, Section 9(C) of the By-Laws of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, the following results of the December 1972 election of officers is reported:

President — Robert A. Frigstad

Vice-President — Donald F. Halpern

Secretary — Fred H. Bloedow

Treasurer — Ben DeLambert

Editor — Robert A. Helm

Directors — Gerald M. Knudsen, H. J. Schlueter, Alan Warren

—J. R. Day, Chairman, Elections Committee

* S * C * C *

Mr. Robert Helm

3rd November 1972

660 Marion Drive, East Meadow, N. Y. 11554, USA

Dear Bob,

With reference to Mr. Thorsteinsson's article on the Parliamentary issue of Iceland that appeared in the February '72 issue of the Posthorn, that I read with great interest, I was a little puzzled by his reference that "it was impossible to distinguish genuine stamps from the forged ones, as they were printed in the same printing office and on the same kind of paper," when he was referring to the clandestine supplies. I believe that it is well known that considerable quantities of the top value, the 10k. existed in imperforate condition and once it was realized that these came from an improper source it was necessary to have them perforated in order to sell them. Rather naturally the method chosen to perforate them was the one favored by most forgers and fakers, by the use of a line machine instead of the correct comb machine. In consequence there are large numbers of the 10 kroner value in line perforation, that are often offered in sets with the other values with the correct comb perforation (from either the original or clandestine supplies).

I understand that all other values of the set are known with this spurious line perforation, although I have only seen two or three and after looking for over 20 years have still not acquired any of them. The 10 kroner with line perforation is of course rather common.

Further comments from people who know more about this subject than I do would be of great interest.

Sincerely,

C. Angus Parker, Argyll Stamp Co., Ltd.

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