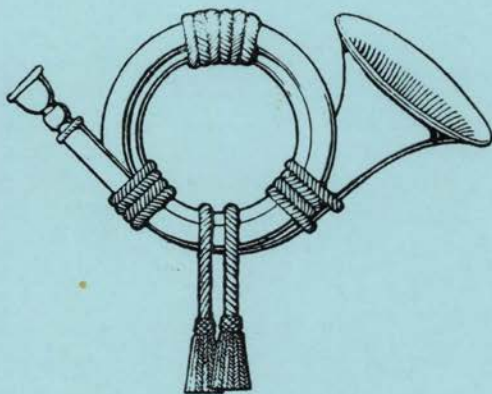


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The
POSTHORN
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Denmark Number One	Page 29
Carl H. Werenskiold Wins Anderssen-Dethloff Award, and Postal Automation in Scandinavia	34
Mystery from the Caribbean, 42, and Solved	51
Where Are These Covers?	43
International Reply Cards	45
Swedish T. P. O. Cancellations	48
Delaware Chapter Auction	Centerfold

Denmark, Number One

By Steffen Arctander (SCC 1433)

The philatelic literature on the subject of the two earliest Danish stamps is very rich. Entire books describe in details the history and events surrounding the first printing of stamps in Denmark.

It is not the purpose of this article to repeat what has already been written and published. Interested readers are referred to such literature, but certain basic facts have been included in this article in order to support additional viewpoints.

It is also common knowledge, that foreign catalogues, including many European ones, do not properly describe the first issue as "No. One" and the second stamp (in chronological order of appearance) as "No. Two." In fact, the 2 RBS is almost commonly known outside of Scandinavia as "Denmark No. One," while it was indeed not the first stamp issued in Denmark.

Some excuse for this confusion exists in the fact, that the main printings of the very first stamp—4 RBS—were made AFTER the early printings of Denmark No. Two (2 RBS Ferslew printing). Other catalogues have probably listed the 2 RBS as "No. One" because it represents a lower denomination of what was believed to be a "series" of two stamps. The RBS then becomes No. Two in such catalogues.

Peculiar and interesting results of this confusion will be commented upon in a separate article ("Denmark No. Two"—and "Certificates or No Certificates").

4 RBS—Denmark Number One

Foreign catalogues will mention one or two printings or color shades, while a few catalogues may mention that there are several printings, or two burelage types.

Recent studies (after 1959) by Danish experts have revealed that there are not just two types of burelage, and not just a Ferslew and three Thiele printings, and not just two types of Thiele II, but there are two IMPORTANT types of the Ferslew printing, now classified as Ferslew-I and Ferslew-II. To further "complicate" matters, the most critical experts can distinguish between an UNRETOUCHED Ferslew-I and a RETOUCED Ferslew-I. The foremost Danish expert on this subject, J. Schmidt-Andersen, calls these: Ferslew-Ia and Ferslew-Ib.

In the following, the writer will try to outline as briefly as possible the facts that justify such fine discrimination and thus have caused an enormous increase in the interest for 4 RBS (Ferslew in particular)—not to speak of an intense hunt for the "early Ferslew" printings.

Retouching of the Printing Plates

The printing plates for the 4 RBS were retouched prior to printing of the first actual sheets. It seems beyond doubt that both plate-sets 1-2 and 3-4 were retouched before the first use. Plate-set 1-2, however, was subject to a total of THREE kinds or periods of retouching:

- 1) before the plates were taken into use
- 2) while the plates were in use
- 3) certain cliches in plate 1-2 were retouched before use, and then again while in use.

Of the "original" retouches, the one known as "Kranhold" on plate II No.

5 (second half of plate-set 1-2), sometimes called I-105, is among the best known and most popular among specialist collectors. Along with plate numbers I-13 and I-45, these are the only clichés from plate-set 1-2 which can be found throughout all 4 RBS printings (Ferslew, Thiele I and Thiele II) unchanged, i.e. without further retouches. The Thiele III was printed with plate-set 3-4 and therefore does not show a Kranhold retouch.

Plate-set 3-4 has a considerable number of "prominent" retouches, all in the category of 1) above=retouch before the plates were taken into use. Details on this subject have been published in many separate articles in "Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift" or in "Danmarks Kataloget" by J. Schmidt-Andersen and Flemming Rønne, also in many books by J. Schmidt-Andersen or by R. King-Farlow.

The Very First Printings of 4 RBS

In the period between the 3rd March and 5th May 1851, a total of nearly 4 million copies of 4 RBS Ferslew printing were made and delivered to the Postal Comptroller for distribution. It is among these 3.8 million stamps that we must try to find the "early" and the "very early" Ferslew printings. An educated guess and a fair calculation based upon clues from the books that Ferslew kept on his work, seems to indicate that there were printed less than 120,000 copies of the "early Ferslew" (Ferslew-I). Some collectors and experts find this estimate far too high, particularly based on the hitherto very rare findings of these stamps. More conservative figures are perhaps "under 100,000 copies." These figures refer of course to actual production 122 years ago, and we must therefore consider the losses of stamps during the century after the printing. In other words, it is fair to claim, that the "early Ferslew" copies are rare, perhaps even more scarce than the 2 RBS Ferslew printing—a stamp which today commands a price of not less than U.S. \$700 for VF or better quality. No wonder that the hunt for these early printings is intensifying every month. Yet, one must bear in mind that the true printing figures for a stamp cannot be used as a guide for the future market value of this stamp. Just think of the 16 Skilling rouletted Denmark 1863, printed more scarcely than the 2 RBS Ferslew, yet it never has arrived at prices more than about one-third of the 2 RBS.

FERSLEW-I: A temporary stop in the printing of the Ferslew issue has given basis for the theory, that retouches were undertaken exactly at that time and required several days of work, during which no stamps were printed. Worksheets and books indicate that the stop took place approximately on March 17, 1851. Stamps printed prior to that date, belong in the so-called Ferslew-I category. Those stamps which were not even retouched, are classified as Ferslew-Ia (Ferslew I, UNRETOUCHED), while the others are Ferslew-Ib (Ferslew-I, RETOUCHED). It is of course necessary here to take the retouches of the UNUSED plate-set into consideration, and any analysis of these early printings must therefore include a study of the proof prints and the black/white proofs made prior to printing. Retouches made after these, but before the March 17 stop, are the "early retouches," and stamps UNRETOUCHED in that period, are the rare Ferslew-Ia. Needless to add, that very few people can do this analysis with accuracy.

Very, very few of the unretouched (Ferslew-Ia) are known, while the retouched Ferslew-Ib today appear now and then as fine rarities on exhibit or at auction sales, commanding higher and higher prices as the interest in possessing the "very first stamp" increases among specialist Denmark collectors. A complete envelope carrying the 4 RBS Ferslew stamp with a separate date

cancellation of 1st April 1851 (Denmark's first FDC) was recently sold for well over U.S. \$1500.00. Yet, this date is still no guarantee that the stamp is an "early Ferslew," since no Ferslew stamps were released for sale to the public until 1st April 1851—a date when hundreds of thousands of Ferslew-II were already printed.

FERSLEW-II: Stamps printed after the 18th March 1851, until the end of the Ferslew printing (about 5th May 1851) are classified as "Ferslew-II." A bit confusing is it to see these classified as "Ferslew-I²" in an attempt to name this second part of the first printing of stamps in Denmark.

It requires—as briefly mentioned above—more than average expertise to distinguish between Ferslew-I and Ferslew-II, or even more for Ferslew-Ia and Ferslew-Ib, and it is most unfortunate that the foremost expert in the world on this subject, Mr. J. Schmidt-Andersen in Denmark, is presently unable to undertake any such analysis. The expert must have at his disposal a (copy of the) color-proof sheet of the 4 RBS from the Museum of Postal History in Copenhagen, and he must also have a considerable number of (enlarged photos of) retouched and unretouched matching plate numbers of cancelled or actual stamps. Enlarged photos are used to study in detail the nature of the retouches after the plate number has been established. Chances of making an accurate analysis yourself as to whether or not you have a copy of the "early Ferslew" are minimal. Here, again, the writer would like to refer to a future article dealing with certificates. A few clues can be mentioned here: the CROWN in the 4 RBS is one detail where retouch apparently has been most needed. Unretouched, "early Ferslew" printings may have an identifiable unretouched crown, while the same plate number with clearly retouched crown from another "early Ferslew" printing can confirm this first step in retouches (during the printing period). A close study of the crown on two matching plate numbers can thus give some indication as to the exact type of Ferslew we have under investigation, but, as above mentioned, only an expert of outstanding qualifications may be able to determine for certain whether or not it is an "early Ferslew." A few dubious collectors base their thoughts mainly on the fact that we still do not know why the printing was temporarily stopped in March 1851, but we have only reason to believe it was to give time to a very needed retouch. For the same reason, we do not know how many sheets were made of Ferslew-I and how many of Ferslew-II. We only know for certain that the total Ferslew printing was 38,000 sheets of 100 stamps=3,8 million stamps.

Although the "early Ferslew" on whole letter are extremely rare, a date cancellation in addition to the prescribed mute ring cancellation on the stamp itself, may give some clue to the type of Ferslew. Theoretically, an "early Ferslew" can occur on letters dated as late as 1852 or even later, but if the date is earlier than 10th April 1851, chances are about 3 times better that the stamp is of the early printing, since nearly 65% of the entire Ferslew printing was completed AFTER the 10th April 1851. Letters dated earlier than 4th April are extremely rare.

Some collectors believe that the color of the 4 RBS Ferslew can give an additional clue to this mystery. There is some indication that most of the "early" Ferslew stamps have a more reddish-brown color, and rarely are of the common chocolate-brown nuance. But experts warn against using the color as a sure criterion.

BURELAGE: The Ferslew printings are generally recognized by the clear and slightly raised burelage made by the copperplate, and imprinted before the brown stamp design was transferred to the sheets. Some collectors see

this burelage clearly with the naked eye, but other clues are the "embossed look" where the burelage catches the cancellation ink and reveals the burelage here and there on the stamp (and not just in the margin).

The use of the watermark detector with petroleum ether (pure hexane) and viewing the stamp first from the back side, then from the front side, will usually reveal the burelage as wavy greyish lines, much clearer than the lithographed burelage on the Thiele printings.

Long-wave UV light analysis lamps are also useful in enhancing the pattern of the burelage because the color of the burelage shows up different from the paper under such light.

A very common error, particularly noticeable at foreign auctions or sales, is that of identifying a Ferslew printing solely by the mute cancellation. Although the mute cancellation indeed is the most common on the Ferslew printing, it is certainly not a safe clue to a Ferslew, or an unambiguous proof of this. Thiele I and II with mute cancellations are quite common and, for that matter, Ferslew printings with numeral cancellations are also quite common.

Ferslew printings with inverted watermark do exist, but are extremely rare.

4 RBS Thiele Printings

Due to the great variety of colors, particularly in the Thiele III, these printings have become quite popular among collectors, and often achieve higher market prices than the Ferslew (common) printings, although the two were made in the same amount.

THIELE-I: The printing of another 4 million 4 RBS stamps was initiated on March 3, 1852, and this stamp, known as Thiele-I, received a lithographed burelage, which is hardly visible and extremely difficult to use as a clue for plate I and II analysis. Most collectors will have little difficulty in determining this printing, however. The reddish-brown color, the very weak burelage, the use of plates I and II (difference from Thiele III), the numeral cancellation (only as an auxiliary criterion), the date on an envelope if the stamp is on letter, all can contribute to solid identification. At this time, between 4 RBS Thiele I and II, the Thiele printing of 2 RBS was undertaken.

THIELE-II: The 4 million copies of Thiele-I were soon used up and a year later, between 16th June and 20th August 1853, another 4 million stamps were printed. These are known as Thiele-II.

The 4 RBS Thiele-II received a stronger, more visible burelage, perhaps as a result of complaints, that the burelage in Thiele-I was barely visible. It had been pale orange-yellow, and since the paper on these stamps rarely remains white, the burelage has become even weaker or less distinct with age. In the Thiele-II printing a stronger nuance of orange-yellow color was used, and the burelage on this printing is usually clearly visible to the naked eye.

Due to the wear and tear of the printing plates (plates I and II were still used), experiments with the printing color resulted in the existence of two "sub-types" of Thiele-II, known as Thiele-IIa and Thiele-IIb. The former being dark brown, showing a very coarse, irregular printing, while the latter being dark reddish-brown shows a more distinct, clear and legible printing. The two types are almost equally common. The writer is somewhat puzzled by the statement that the sharp, clear and distinct printing is supposed to be Thiele-IIa, while the irregular printing, showing very perceptible signs of "worn plates" should be Thiele-IIa. It would be more logical if the most worn printing would show up on the latest copies, Thiele-IIb—the last to be

printed with plates I and II before these plates were maculated. The writer would be very grateful for any additional comments to clear up this question, and he appeals to readers to submit such information if possible.

THIELE-III: The increased use of postage stamps in Denmark shows clearly in that the 4 million Thiele-II copies were used up in about 6 months, and a new printing took place between 18th March and 16th May 1854. This was the last printing of the 4 RBS, and it is known as Thiele-III. It was made with the hitherto unused plates III and IV, and therefore shows a clearer print, neat and distinct. Here, again, the burelage was very weak, and appears in a dull, orange-brown nuance. However, the fact that the Thiele-III was made with plates III and IV makes it fairly easy to confuse these stamps with the other "weak-burelage" stamps of Thiele-I printing, which was made with plates I and II. The burelage in plates I and III shows "points up" in the wavy lines, while it shows "points down" in plates II and IV. Only the great color variety of Thiele-III is a helpful clue in distinguishing this issue from the Thiele-I printing. Naturally, a date cancellation on an envelope, if the date is earlier than June 1853, is a safe clue that the stamp is NOT a Thiele-III.

Thiele-III is famous for its wealth of color nuances, and even foreign catalogues often make mention of the so-called "chestnut-brown" variety, which commands a price of almost ten times of that of the ordinary color (yellowish brown). However, experts and collectors continue to argue about what "chestnut-brown" really is. One explanation which appears fairly acceptable to the writer is that this rare nuance closely matches that of the 4 Skilling rouletted 1863, a stamp which appears in almost any Denmark collection and thus can be used for comparison. However, such comparison again suffers from the fact that the 4 Skilling has nuances, and it can bleach, or it does not always have the color, described as "chestnut-brown." Another nuance is the "nut-brown," almost as rare and desirable, and even more disputed. An article, such as this one, cannot contribute much to the problem, unless we could show a range of superb color-reproductions of typical nuances, but the specialist-collector will undoubtedly have a few dozens of Thiele-III in his Denmark collection, and this is often the best basis for a color study "in Natura."

As a result of the Thiele-III being made with the plates III and IV, the "Kranhold Retouch" is of course not found in this issue.

Summary

4 RBS—DENMARK No. One was produced in a total of FOUR printings, of which the first and the third by interruption can be subdivided each into two further printings. There are distinguishable differences between unretouched and retouched stamps of same plate numbers of the "early Ferslew," thus adding another "printing" to make a total of SEVEN identifiable types of the 4 RBS. Of these, only the "early Ferslew"—retouched and unretouched—are rare and have become highly desirable objects for collection by specialists.

The writer would welcome additional comments serving to further enlighten the above subject, and hopes that research work on "Denmark Number One" will continue to expand as various collectors and specialists supply new findings, corrections to this or other publications, etc.

—Steffen Aretander, Box 228-B, R. D. Olyphant, Pa. 18447

Carl H. Werenskiold Wins Anderssen-Dethloff Award

11 Febr. 1974

"The Anderssen-Dethloff Medal"

We have the great happiness and honor to report to you that the Committee for the Administration of the "Anderssen-Dethloff medal" has, at its January 21st meeting, decided to confer this medal upon you.

We cite from par. 2 of the by-laws: "The medal may be conferred upon Norwegians as well as foreign philatelists, and is to be a reward for outstanding contributions in the field of philately."

Presentation of the medal will take place in conjunction with OFK's summer meeting, May 27, at 19.30 o'clock in Lektorenes Hus, Vergelandsveien 15 (Oslo). If it be at all possible for you to be present, the committee will appreciate this very much.

The following have already received the medal:

Johs. Jellestad, Bergen	(1949)
Abraham Odjell, Bergen	(1949)
Sir John Wilson, London	(1961)
Nils Strandell, Stockholm	(1961)
Arnstein Berntsen, Oslo	(1966)
Per Gellein, Oslo	(1966)
Dan Thune-Larsen, Oslo	(1966)

Oslo Filatejistklubb congratulates you upon this the highest honor the club can bestow for service to philately.

Sincerely

Oslo Filatelistklubb

(sign.) Jan. M. Claussen, President

Postal Automation in Scandinavia, Using Luminescent Stamps

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

The postal administrations of various countries have long felt the need of more or less automatic processing of mail in order to lower costs and to increase speed of handling. Much experimentation has been going on in various countries to develop suitable procedures and equipment. Several approaches have been tried, and some later abandoned, with the result that installations now under consideration or in operation are in part based on the use of luminescent postage stamps.

The term luminescence refers to a number of natural processes, in which an emission of light occurs from a substance under the influence of an exciting agent. One subgroup is photoluminescence, in which the excitation is produced mainly by ultraviolet and/or visible light rays. Photoluminescence is again divided, for practical reasons, into fluorescence, the emission of light ceases almost instantly, when the excitation is discontinued. In phosphorescence, on the other hand, there is a definitely noticeable continued emission of light, an "afterglow," which is visible in the dark for seconds or a much

longer time. For details, refer to the literature.¹

The examination of objects, such as stamps, exhibiting luminescence, i.e. fluorescence or phosphorescence, is ordinarily done with the aid of a lamp emitting ultraviolet "light" of mainly either long or short wavelength, about 320-400 or 200-280 nanometers (millionths millimeter), resp., or both. The lamps are provided with suitable filters to exclude visible light as far as possible, and the examination is, of course, done in the dark. A long-wave ultraviolet lamp is adequate and preferred for examination of Scandinavian luminescent stamps, while a short-wave lamp is necessary for the study of U. S. stamps.

The paper under the stamps being examined should not be luminescent, but should merely show a neutral grey response under ultraviolet, so as not to interfere with the appearance of the luminescence of the stamps. The gum on mint stamps and on hinges luminesces strongly. This makes mint stamps look unduly bright under ultraviolet, and also calls for complete removal of gum in the washing of used stamps. It is often informative to examine both front and back of a stamp.

Glasses should always be worn when working with short-wave ultraviolet light, to protect the eyes from harmful radiation. Light from an ordinary incandescent light bulb may be used as an exciting agent in certain cases, but it is much less effective than ultraviolet rays.

Highly sophisticated automatic installations for the processing of letter mail are available from a number of engineering concerns. While these installations vary considerably in constructional detail, they generally involve the following essential functions:

1. Preliminary separation of outgoing letter mail of standard sizes from oversize letters, parcels, etc.
2. The standard size letters carrying luminescent stamps are passed on to a Facer-Canceller unit, where the letters are turned, whenever required, so that the stamps will be located in the upper right corner of all letters, after which they are cancelled automatically. These operations are triggered by the radiation emitted by the luminescent stamps, when excited by an ultraviolet source in the unit. The construction may vary according to whether fluorescent or phosphorescent stamps are employed.
3. The cancelled mail is then passed on to Coding Stations, where a number of operators convert the postal numbers ("ZIP") into printed luminescent code markings by means of specially designed "typewriters."
4. The thus coded mail is next passed on to a Code Reader and Sorter Unit, which sorts the mail by the luminescent code, distributing it to appropriate bins, ready for transportation. Incoming mail may be processed in a somewhat similar manner.
5. Parcels and oversize letters are processed manually.

The early, largely experimental work on automation was carried out chiefly in Great Britain (1957 graphite lines, 1959-60 phosphorescence), Germany (1958 fluorescence), Canada (1962 phosphorescence) and United States (1963 phosphorescence). Phosphorescent stamps are sometimes called "tagged," particularly in U.S.² The phosphor coating may be applied to the paper before printing, or to the printed stamps.

While a certain stability has now been attained in the construction and operation of automatic equipment, the broad subject is still under active study in the various countries.

The production of luminescent stamps involves a choice between fluores-

cence and phosphorescence in accordance with the automatic equipment to be used for the processing of letter mail. Each of these two alternatives has its advantages and disadvantages. The fluorescent substances are usually organic dyes in more or less liquid or paste form. They can either be incorporated conveniently in the paper pulp in the manufacture of the stamp paper, or they can be applied as coatings on the paper. Among the disadvantages are the usually yellowish tint visible on the printed stamp (fluorescence in daylight) and the tendency of the fluorescent substance to dissolve when wet and to rub off, even when relatively dry, onto other objects in contact therewith, such as album pages. The phosphorescent substances, on the other hand, are solids and can be applied effectively as coatings only. They do not ordinarily discolor the paper, and do not usually dissolve or rub off to an objectionable extent, whether wet or dry. The coating process is, however, relatively expensive. The phosphorescent solids tend to be somewhat gritty, and therefore subject the needles used in perforating the stamp sheets to extra wear. Weighing the various pros and cons of fluorescent vs. phosphorescent stamps, some postal administrations have chosen fluorescence, and others phosphorescence, as the basis for their automatic equipment and the stamps to be used therewith.

The paper of most older stamps and envelopes usually shows little or no fluorescence under ultraviolet light, at most a brown or weak violet response, the latter largely due to reflection of the residual visual light from the ultraviolet lamp. Better grades of white paper, however such as that of some envelopes and stamps, contain an "optical brightener," a fluorescent dye added to the pulp in the manufacture of the paper. Such products are known by many names, such as optical brightener, optical whitener, optical bleach, fluorescent bleach, and Brancopher (trademark). Such paper, also known as "hybrite",² shows a bright blue fluorescence, which would, offhand, be objectionable in a fluorescence installation, in that it would act as a false alarm on the light-sensitive device in the facer-canceller unit. This blue fluorescence can be removed, however, by a suitable color filter, and the fluorescent or phosphorescent substances in the stamps are also usually so formulated as to respond in a different color, such as yellow, green or red. The blue fluorescence is of no consequence in installations based on phosphorescence, since the fluorescent emission of the blue does not continue into the "afterglow" period, while the emission from the phosphorescent stamps remains active.

It will be noted that there is some looseness and confusion in the customary terminology in the luminescence field. The term fluorescence is thus often used to signify either fluorescence proper or phosphorescence. Conversely, the term phosphor is often used for luminescent substances regardless of whether they produce fluorescence or phosphorescence. The following terms, being concise and free from ambiguity, are preferred for the sake of clarity in this article:

Luminophor, a substance producing fluorescence or phosphorescence.³

Phosphor, a substance producing phosphorescence (noticeable afterglow).⁴

Fluorochrome, a substance producing fluorescence (substantially no afterglow)⁴

Brightener, a substance producing blue fluorescence, merely for the purpose of whitening the paper.⁴

It should be noted that the blue fluorescence from envelope paper and stamps containing brighteners is actually unwanted in the automatic equipment and is therefore rendered inoperative in the facer-canceller, for reasons stated above.

Information on postal automation in the Scandinavian countries is not

plentiful, probably because the installations may still be considered as being in the more or less experimental stages. The information that I have been able to gather, as reported in the following, is therefore necessarily somewhat fragmentary.

Postal Automation in Denmark

A "brevvendemaskin" (facier-canceller) was inaugurated on May 4, 1963 at the Aarhus C post office for experimental use with fluorescent stamps. A number of fluorescent stamps were issued in November 1962 in order to have them in circulation in time for the experimental operation. The equipment was installed by the German firm Telefunken in Konstanz. The paper is manufactured in Germany. The fluorochromes used, "Lumogen UV Yellow Orange," and modifications thereof, are made by Badische Anilin- und Soda-fabriken. They are either incorporated in the wet paper pulp, or coated on the paper, and exists in a highly viscous form in the finished paper.

Many Danish stamps of 1962-1966, and nearly all from 1967 to date, are on fluorescent paper, and are listed in a catalog by Rasmussen⁵ together with a short description of the installation in Aarhus. These stamps are also identified by an F in the AFA catalog.⁵

The following early dates are of interest:

Sept. 1, 1962. First sale of postal card with fluorescent stripe.

Nov. 15, 1962. First issue of fluorescent stamp, 10 öre wavy lines.

The fluorescence colors of the stamps vary, in the different stamps, from chrome yellow to light yellow and white as listed in the Rasmussen catalog.⁵ Some stamps show fluorescence on both front and back, others on front only, depending on the method used in applying the fluorochrome in each case, whether in or on the paper. Danish fluorescent stamps should normally be examined under a long-wave ultraviolet lamp. Short wave may be used, if so desired, but the fluorescent color shades may not be quite the same.

In a cursory examination, I have noted the following typical responses under long-wave ultraviolet:

Yellow front and yellow back: The usual response, signifying that the fluorochrome had been added directly to the wet paper pulp. Example: AFA #318-F—10 öre Wavy Lines.

Yellow to white front and white back: Coating only. Examples: AFA #481F Frederik IX and #402F—25 kr.

Yellow to white front and blue back: Coating on paper containing brightener. Examples: AFA #471F—Koldinghus and #498F—Elephant.

Blue front and blue back: Paper containing brightener, but no active fluorochrome. Example: AFA #452—Music Conservatory.

Brown front and brown back, or other non-luminous responses: Ordinary paper, no brightener, no active fluorochrome. Examples: Issues before 1962.

Sheets containing fluorescent stamps have an L (for Lumogen) and a serial number in the margin. On Danish postal stationery, a fluorescent stripe about 5 mm wide is placed next to the normal stamp impression.

Frimerkeårbogen 1971-1972⁶ contains a chapter on an electronic letter coding-sorting installation in Copenhagen, by Standard Elektrik Lorentz, Berlin. It was operated experimentally Oct. 20-Dec. 18, 1970 and officially thereafter. The capacity is about 40,000 letters per hour.

The four-digit numerical code numbers are printed on the letters in short

lines with fluorescent ink, according to the following system:

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
0											0
1											1
2											2
4											4
7											7

It will be noted that there are two code lines for each number, and that their values add up to the number in each case, with the exception that 4+7 has arbitrarily been assigned the value zero.

Postal Automation in Norway

After an initial planning and experimental period, it was decided to operate with phosphorescent stamps, and a number of such stamps were issued on Dec. 1, 1967, so that they would be in circulation in time for use in a projected facer-canceller at Oslo post office. All Norwegian stamps issued after that date are likewise on phosphorescent paper.

A segregator-culling machine of English manufacture (Elliot), for separating mail of formats different from normal envelope sizes, was installed in 1967. A facer-canceller from AEG-Telefunken was installed and operated in 1968. A letter-sorting installation, also by AEG-Telefunken, was in place Dec. 17, 1971, run experimentally Jan. 26, 1972 and operated continuously from a short time thereafter. It consists mainly of 15 coding stations and 2 code-reader-sorting machines. The combined installation has a capacity of about 40,000 letters per hour.

The phosphor-coated paper is delivered by Borregaard A/S. It is pure white in daylight, and is said not to be materially damaged by reasonable washing in water. The phosphor employed until recently was an activated zinc sulfide from Radium-Chemie Teufen, Switzerland, and was applied at 2 grams per square meter of paper. Under the preferred long-wave ultraviolet, the paper with this phosphor shows a strong yellow phosphorescence, with an afterglow visible for several, say 10, seconds in a dark room. An afterglow of much shorter duration can be observed after exposure of the stamps to strong light from an ordinary electric bulb. Care must be taken, of course, to adapt the eyes to darkness, before attempting to observe the afterglow. Lately a new phosphor is being used, zinc sulfide from Farmwerke Hoechst. "Leuchtpigment N—Feinkörnig 3," which exhibits a light green phosphorescence under long-wave ultraviolet. On Norwegian postal stationery, a phosphorescent stripe about 5 mm wide is imprinted next to the normal stamp impression.

I have noted the following typical responses on Norwegian stamps under long-wave ultraviolet:

Yellow front and brownish back (with some translucence from the front):
Teufen phosphor on ordinary paper. Example: Nk (Norw. cat.) #617,
5 öre Posthorn.

Light green front and brownish back (with some translucence from the front):
Hoechst phosphor on ordinary paper. Example: Nk #722—Geographic Survey.

Blue front and blue back: Paper containing brightener, but no active luminophor. Only case: Nk 570—Rondane.

Brown front and brown back, or other non-luminous response: Ordinary paper, no brightener, no active luminophor. Examples: Issues before 1967

The code system is the same as in Denmark, as described above, with the exception that the ink is phosphorescent.

Further information on the Oslo installation is contained in an illustrated folder entitled "40,000 brev i timen"⁷ and in a recent article by Evensen.⁸

Postal Automation in Sweden

Fluorescence was chosen, mainly because of the prospects of the convenience of adding the fluoro-chrome directly to the wet pulp in the manufacture of the paper. The first fluorescent Swedish stamp, Facit #592—The Mountain, was issued in 1967, and most Swedish stamps issued thereafter are likewise fluorescent. There has evidently been much experimentation, however, since the stamps show many variations in fluorescence colors and shades when viewed under long-wave ultraviolet. In a cursory examination I have for example, noted the following typical responses:

Yellow front and yellow back: The usual response, signifying that the fluoro-chrome had been added directly to the wet paper pulp. Example: Facit #592—The Mountain.

Yellow front and blue back: Fluoro-chrome coating on paper containing brightener. Example: Facit #708—FN.

White to light blue front and blue back: Coating of chalk and fluoro-chrome on paper containing brightener. Examples: Facit #733—Mail Coach and #787-792—Gustaf VI.

Blue front and blue back: Paper containing brightener, no other fluorescence. Example: Facit #652—Europa.

Brown front and brown back, or other non-luminous response: Ordinary paper, no fluoro-chrome, no brightener. Example: Facit #621—Riksbank.

Short-wave ultraviolet may be employed if so desired, but the fluorescent color shades may not be quite the same as with the preferred long-wave ultraviolet.

Swedish stamp paper is ordinarily made at Klippans Finpappersbruk, but a special paper with a mixed chalk and fluoro-chrome coating produced by Harrison & Sons in England, is occasionally used.

A facer-canceller based on fluorescence, from Standard Elektrik Lorentz, Berlin, was installed at Stockholm Ban post office. It was test-run in Jan. 1970 and came into regular use in March 1970. A similar installation is being considered for Marmö 1 post office. Stockholm Ban also has an automatic coding-sorting machine intended to be in use in March 1974. It was constructed by AEG-Telefunken for phosphorescent coding.

Postal Automation in Finland

The General Direction of Posts and Telegraphs in Finland ordered its first facer-canceller and sorting unit from AEG-Telefunken in Feb. 1973 for delivery early 1974 and installation in Tampere (Tammersfors), to work with phosphorescent stamps. For a period prior to 1972 a considerable

number of fluorescent stamps appeared, it is said in 5 varieties.⁹ Apparently this fluorescence was intended for brightening purposes only. A few stamps have since 1972 been issued on phosphorescent paper,¹⁰ so as to be on the market in time for the testing of the automatic equipment. The Church of Lammi (Facit #574) was the first of these stamps. The coated paper for the phosphorescent stamps has so far been delivered from Borregaard, Norway.

Contamination from Luminescent Stamps

The danger of contamination, when fluorescent and non-fluorescent stamps are allowed to come into contact, such as in the washing operation, has been pointed out by Plovst.¹¹ Since the fluorochromes are present in highly viscous fluid form in the stamps, they easily rub off on other stamps and album pages, even under relatively dry conditions. Being water soluble, they also contaminate other stamps during the washing operation. We can distinguish between the following two general conditions:

1. Contact between fluorescent stamps and other collection material under relatively dry conditions. The fluorochrome bleeds off readily onto other stamps, album pages, plastic covers and interleaving, stock books, envelopes and the like. Fluorescent stamps should therefore be kept in separate albums, stock books, etc., safely away from non-fluorescent collection material. Album pages, interleaving, etc., used for fluorescent stamps, should not be re-used for non-fluorescent material. This applies to the stamps of Denmark and Sweden, and also those of Germany and other countries employing fluorescent stamps. It thus becomes necessary to test all incoming stamp material under ultraviolet light, so that the fluorescent items can be kept separate both prior to and after washing.

2. Contact between fluorescent stamps and other stamps during the washing operation. The fluorochrome bleeds off readily onto the other stamps. It is therefore obvious that the fluorescent stamps should be washed separately from the non-fluorescent ones, to prevent contamination. I find the following washing procedure most practical for the separate washing of fluorescent and non-fluorescent stamps.

Cut around the stamps with scissors, leaving a paper margin of about 3 mm to minimize washing of useless paper. Place the stamps, face down, into a generous volume of lukewarm water. After a few minutes, remove the soaked-off paper, using a tweezer. This minimizes the discoloration of the water. When all paper has been removed, stir the stamps very gently to promote solution of the gum. It is important that substantially all of the gum be removed, as it may otherwise mislead the collector by its unwanted fluorescence, and for other reasons, but do not soak the stamps any longer than necessary. If the water shows more than a trace of yellowness, it should be drained off and replaced with fresh water. Using the fingers of one hand as a sieve, scoop up some 4-5 stamps at a time, remove them with the tweezer, and place them face down, on "blotting paper" (paper towels or the like), gently pushing them flat against the paper to counteract the curling tendency. Drying stamps between blotters under pressure is not good practice, as it retards drying and may cause mildewing. Do not under any circumstance reuse the blotter for the drying of non-fluorescent stamps, but discard it after use. When the stamps are dry, place them in an envelope marked "Fluorescent" or "Non-Fluorescent" (as the case may be), where the stamps will lose most of their curl before album time. Discard the water after each washing operation. Much innocent-looking white paper may contain water-soluble brighteners, another possible source of contamination. Stamps on strongly colored

paper should, of course, be washed separately. Since the fluorescent stamps of various countries may not contain the same fluorochrome and show the same fluorescence color, it is obvious that the collector should not wash fluorescent stamps from different countries together, but rather handle the stamps of one country at a time.

Contaminated stamps usually show a blotchy distribution of low-grade fluorescence. They are neither genuinely fluorescent stamps, nor properly non-fluorescent ones, but actually defective items. It is obvious that the conscientious collector should study carefully the problem of contamination and take all steps necessary to prevent such degradation of his stamps.

There is also a certain, although much smaller, danger of contamination with phosphorescent stamps. The phosphor on these stamps is present as a rather adherent layer of solid particles, usually not very prone to rubbing off. If contamination does occur, it may show up as a few tiny phosphorescent specks under ultraviolet light. The prudent collector will therefore, to be on the safe side, also keep phosphorescent stamps separate from the ordinary ones.

The introduction of luminescent stamps is a great step forward in postal history. While the collection and study of these stamps is philatelically fascinating, they also present serious complications in the mechanics of philately, as outlined above. These complications must be expected to increase in the future as luminescent stamps gradually become more numerous. The wise and conscientious collector will realize that this situation is here to stay, and that he will have to face it and revise his collecting manipulations accordingly. He will also realize that the ultraviolet lamp has now become a very valuable and necessary accessory that he can ill afford to be without.

I am much indebted to the following persons, who have assisted me by providing information, or in other ways:

H. Stensrud, Postal Direction, Oslo, Norway.

Arne Almquist, General Directorate of Posts, Stockholm, Sweden.

Ib Eichner-Larsen, Berlingske Tidende, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Kauka Aro, New Jersey, U.S.A.; and

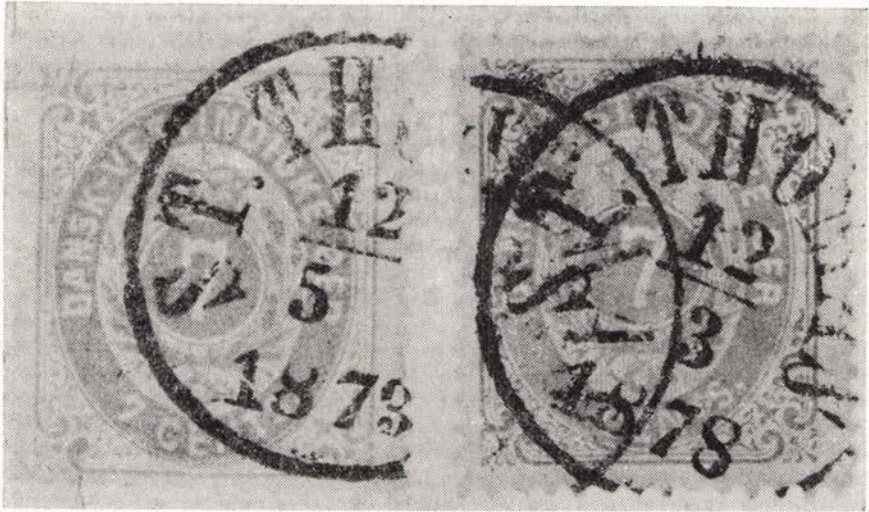
Arthur Lind, Gordon Nielsen and C. P. R. Dahlstrom, all of New York, U.S.A.

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- Kirk-Othmer: Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, vol. 8, p. 541.
- Eastman Kodak Co.: Ultraviolet & Fluorescence Photography (Publ. M-27), p. 12, 27, 29.
- J. Rasmussen: Danmarks Fluorescerende Frimærker. Aarhus Frimærkehandel: AFA Skandinavien Frimærkekatalog.
- Ib Eichner-Larsen: Frimærkeårbogen 1971-1972, p. 122-125.
- Available presumably from Postdirektoratet Informasjonskontoret, Postboks 1051 Sentrum, Oslo 1, Norway.
- Norsk F. T. 1974, p. 3-5.
- Facit 1974, p. F-61, 62, 71.
- Facit 1974, p. F-62, 63, 69, 71, 106.
- T. Plovst, in Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift 1963, p. 115-118; and Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift 1964, p. 3-6.

A '3' Is A '3' Is A . . . ?

Thrilling Mystery from the Caribbean



Trompe l'oeil is the word learned art historians use for a flat image that is painted to look so three-dimensional as to deceive the eye—which is literally what *trompe l'oeil* means to our French cousins.

Here is a philatelic *trompe l'oeil* which is a little different.

It came to light when Victor Engstrom, the field-marshal of Danish West Indies philatelic research, recently marshaled his world-wide field of foot soldiers and sent out word that now was the time for all good men to have a look at their collections to see if they could find earlier cancellations of the various stamps of all issues than those so far recorded.

Out of an overseas collection in far-away Sweden came the report that the bi-colored 7 cent stamp had been found with a cancellation as puzzling as it was clear: May 12, 1873.

That the cancellation was clear enough from a look at the left-hand picture above. What made it puzzling, not only to the field marshal, but also to the humble minion who reported it, was that the 7 cent stamp according to all published information was not issued until more than a year later, in June 1874.

Could the "3" of the year possibly be an "8", Engstrom (and the minion) wondered.

It could not. Not with the distinct knob on the bottom "horn" of the suspect figure and the more blurred suggestion of the same kind of end to the upper "horn." A comparison with an actual 1878 St. Thomas cancellation on another copy of the same stamp provided further visual proof, if anybody needed it.

So what was the solution? Have Hagemann and all the rest of the authorities been dead wrong all these years? Was the D.W.I. 7 cent bicolored stamp really in existence more than a year earlier than anybody knew?

For the solution of the riddle turn to page 51.

Sven Ahman

Delaware Chapter 13 Auction

17	○	245 (B5) 25 ö semipostal, F -----	13.60
18	★	267, 9 (246, 8) with NEPA (Horsens) privately printed label se-tenant on gutter, plus news clipping -----	E 8.00
19	○	— fifty different "perfins" -----	E 7.50
20	★○	— Xmas seals, 1904-59, incl. 9 cpl. sheets recent issues, sou- venir sheets, etc. -----	E 25.00

FINLAND

21	☒	259 (214) tercentenary Delaware colony, 1638, regis. FD cover to USA plus cachet -----	6.00
22	○	36A (41) 20 penni with STOCKHOLM cancel -----	E 5.90
23	★○	140//401 (83//299) 1918-50 35 stamps, most comm. 22★ -	11.57
24	★○	233//396 (B14//B101) 35 semi-post., most ★, many sets ----	11.74
25	★○	344, 416, 445, 501, 516, 523, 590P (265, C4-7, C9, B111) seven blocks, all ★ exc No. 416 (B111) w. Olympic cane. -----	33.80
26	○	A2 (N2) Aunus, uncommon used, VF -----	1.90
27	○	O1-7 (N1-7) Östkarelen/Eastern Karelia, mostly F-VF -----	5.40
28	—	Postal Issues of Finland, by Carl Pelander, 1940 ----	E 10.00

GREENLAND

29	★	10-14 (8-12) short set, VF -----	25.00
30	★	19 (17) overprint, 1 ö, VF -----	7.00
31	★	21 (19) same, 7 ö, VF -----	7.00
32	○	35, 44, 52, 56, 58 (31A, 34, 48, 51, 53) 7 stamps on pieces, canc Godthab, Narssarssuaq, Umanak (2), Julianehaab -----	E 3.00
33	★	38 (37) 60 ö overprint, VF -----	8.00

ICELAND

34	○	8 IV (15 var) "double 3" var., F -----	40.50
35	○	21 (22) 3 aur, F -----	4.50
36	○	22 (23) 4 aur, F -----	4.40
37	★	76 III (71 var) broken frame var., no gum, F -----	13.00
38	○	98 (130) lt. cancel, centered, VF -----	7.00
39	○	101 (137) 30 aur opt., F -----	4.60
40	○	110 I, 116 II (88, 94) inverted wmk, F -----	6.30
41	○	117 (95) 50 aur Fred. VIII, VF -----	6.90
42	○	118 (96) same, 1 Kr. yellow, VF -----	8.00
43	○	118 (96) another copy, 1 Kr., F -----	8.00
44	○	123 II (141 rev.) Tollur revenue cancel, F-VF -----	20.00
45	○	129-142 (113-126) complete through 1 Kr., F ave. -----	18.17
46	○	159 (150) EIN KRONA opt., F -----	4.00
47	○	169 III (145 var) hook on M var., F -----	3.00
48	★	188 (C3) part of sheet margin attached, F -----	9.00
49	★	204-9 (C15-20) complete set, VF -----	14.00
50	★	221-3 (B5) souv. sheet, minor gum crease UR, F, NH -----	35.00
51	○	242, 251, 260, 282, 284, 296, 302, 306, 314, 378 (219, 227, 229, 247, 249, 256, 265, 268, 328, C29) 10 used blocks, F ave. -----	10.40
52	★	245A (221) 10 aur green, perf 14x13½, F -----	6.00
53	★	248A (224a) 25 aur red, perf 14x13½, F-VF -----	9.00
54	★	265-7 (237-9) cpl. set, VF -----	4.20
55	○	311, 353 (273, 305) 25 Kr. vals., 2 VF used copies -----	5.10
56	★	321-5 (278-82) Manuscript issue cpl., VF NH -----	6.00

Delaware Chapter 13 Auction

57	☒	350-2 (302-4) Vatnajökull Expedition cover, unnumbered, registered to USA 15/VI/1959	E 10.00
58	★	361-2 (313-4) 40th anniv. Icel. flag, VF LH	3.80
59	★	Tj3 (O3) 4 sk. green, 1873, F, no gum	25.00
60	★	Tj4a,b (O4) 3 aur, both printings, F-VF	31.00
61	○	Tj59 (O53) 3 aur Millenary issue, Thingvellir canc., VF	10.00
62	○	Tj60 (O54) same, 5 aur value, F-VF	10.00
63	○	Tj61 (O55) same but Reykjavik canc., 7 aur val., VF	8.00
64	○	Tj63 (O57) same, 15 a val., faint blue canc., F-VF	8.00
65	○	Tj65 (O59) same, 25 aur, Thingvellir canc., F-VF	10.00
66	○	Tj68 (O62) same, 40 aur, faint ironed-out creases	8.00
67	○	Tj68 (O62) same, 40 aur, VF	8.00

Cancellation Lots (Letters in parentheses do NOT appear on stamp)

68	○	54 (55) (HRA)UNG(ERDI) provincial cancel, stamp VF, cat. \$7.00, PM in Islenzk Frimerki cat. \$17.00	24.00
69	○	171 (147) clear (B)ERGEN cdc, VF	E 3.50
70	○	79 (74) light EDINB(URGH) cdc, F	E 2.50
71	○	65 (36) clear (ED)INBURG(H) cdc, VF	E 3.50
72	○	81 (76) str. line FRA ISLAND, cpl. strike on pair	E 10.60
73	○	26 (26) clear (FRA IS)LAND	E 3.00
74	○	27 (27) clear (FRA I)SLAND on 16 aur brn., stamp F, cat. 13.00	
75	○	76, 8 (71, 3) A ISLA and FRA on two stamps, last thin	E 3.00
76	○	115 (93) clear FRA IS(LAND), VF	E 4.00
77	○	170 (146) numeral cancel No. 22, VF strike	18.00
78	○	81 (76) numeral cancel No. 98, clear strike	4.00
79	○	65, 7 (36, 8) numeral cancels No. 105, 115, clear strikes	3.40
80	○	132 (116) numeral cancel No. 177 on pair, alm. cpl. strike	3.00
81	○	67, 81, 169, 170 (38, 76, 145, 146) 7 diff. num. cancels, Nos. 8, 42, 52, 59, 95, 107, 110 all clear strikes	5.60
82	☒	Air-letter No. 2, 1950, FDC flown to USA	7.00

The following lots of postal stationery are listed by Scherer's detailed catalog in () after the Facit number. Estimates are net, however, based on auction realizations. They are NOT reserves.

83	★	1 (PC1a) postcard, frm. ornament inv., VF	E 4.00
84	★	2 (PC2a) postcard, first ptg., small stains	E 3.00
85	★	2 (PC2b) postcard, second ptg., F	E 4.00
86	★	2 (PC2c) postcard, third ptg., prtd adv. on face and back, VF	E 4.00
87	★	12 I (24c TyIb) I GILDI postcard, minor bends, still F	E 9.00
88	★	12 I (24b TyIb) I GILDI postcard, VF	E 10.00
89	★	12 I (24b TyIb) another similar lot, F	E 9.00
90	★	12 II (24b Ty IIe) I GILDI PC, prtd adv on back, VF	E 10.00
91	★	12 II (24b Ty IIe) another similar lot, F	E 9.00
92	○	17 (25b) postcard, 3 aur, used in Reykjavik, F	E 5.00
93	★	1 (4) double card, 5a+5a, sl. aging, F	E 4.00
94	★	1 (4) a similar lot	E 4.00
95	★	2 (5a) double card, 8a+8a, sl. aging, F	E 4.00
96	★	3 (6a) double card, 10a+10a, some discolorat. fr. age	E 3.00
97	★	4 (9) double card, 5a+5a, F-VF	E 4.00
98	★	5 (10a) double card, 8a+8a, some tiny stains yet F	E 4.00
99	★	6 (11a) double card, 10a+10a, VF	E 4.00
100	★	19 (40) double card, 8a+8a, VF	E 2.50
101	★	20 (41) double card, 10a+10a, VF	E 8.00
102	★	11 (10b3) letter card, 20a, inv. wmk., sl aging, F	E 12.00

Delaware Chapter 13 Auction

NORWAY

103	○	20 (20) 6 sk., 1875, F	32.00
104	○	100//121 (74//95) posthorns, 16 diff used blocks, F ave.	10.24
105	★	109 H I (83a) complete booklet, F	35.00
106	★	120 (94) 50 ö lilac brown, fresh, VF cent., hinge remn.	10.00
107	★	156 (109) 20 ö Amundsen, VF, lightly hinged	10.00
108	★	426-8 (340-2) cpl. set Norwex, NH, VF	7.00
109	○	345//653 (272//570) 1945-71, 66 diff. used com:ems, F-VF	6.35
110	⊗	Alxy Lottery stamp (series B), 10/8/64, on cv., VF	17.00
111	○	Tj14 (O14) 20 ö red, 4 ring numeral canc. No. 656, stamp G E	5.00

SWEDEN

112	○	12 (12) 1858, 50 ö carmine, F	18.00
113	○	67 (66) 1903, 5 Kr postoffice, VF centering, some aging	13.00
114	○	67 (66) a similar lot, good color, F	13.00
115	○	139 V (115 var) plate marking dot in lower rt. margin, well centered but stamp has crease, G	8.00
116	★	162 (148) 60 ö perf 10 coil, F-VF	6.00
117	★	171 (156) 120 ö black, perf 10 coil, LH, F	30.00
118	★	176C (191) 15 ö Gustaf V, perf 10 all around. VF	9.00
119	★	183a (175) 25 ö Gustaf V, perf 10 coil, LH, F VF	5.40
120	★	83 H 10 (81a) Cpl. booklet, 2 panes, gum creases, G-F	4.00
121	★	187a (181) 35 ö Gustaf V, perf 10 coil, VF	8.00
122	★	195 (188) 145 ö Gustaf V, perf 10 coil, F	3.00
123	○	197cx (212) 10 ö Congress, wmk lines, 1924 cancel, VF centering, usual rough perfs	8.00
124	★	240-45 (239-47) 500th Ann. Parliament, cpl. set (9), F-VF	47.00
125	○	306 (328) 120 ö St. Bridget, VF	4.40
126	★	323A, B, 324A, B, 325-7 (351-7) 1944 Navy set cpl., NH, VF	9.95
127	★	Four cpl. sets, Press, Tegner, UPU, Lenngren (1945-54) all LH or NH, one stamp (cat. 12c) thin. Mostly VF	7.54
128	★	335A, B, 336A, B, 337 (369-73) Lund Cathedral set, the 90 ö value is "paste-up" single, NH, VF	3.50
129	★	45A, B, 436A, B, 437, 433-4 (492-3, 494-8) Nordic and Rail Centenary sets, lightly hinged, VF	4.00
130	★	226-30 (B32-36) 70th birthday, Gustaf V, cpl. set, F-VF	14.00
131	○	Tj18 (O19) 133 stamps on sheet showing minor, unlisted plate vars., interesting study, cat. \$5.20	E 4.00
132	○	Cancel accumulation, approx 115 stamps, includes types of 19th Cent. towns, railroads, sea post, Fra Sverige	E 5.00
133	○	Common Sweden stamps, 1560 stamps off paper, 1891-1961, 14 vars., useful for study, cancels, etc.	E 3.00

CABOOSE

134	★○	Misc. lot in envelope, several hundreds all Scandinavia, cpl and part sets, covers, cancels, booklets, etc., a fine and useful lot	E 60.00
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END OF SALE — THANK YOU

Send bids in on any piece of paper, and be sure to list Lot No. and Bid, and name and address, and if SCC member, your number. Please type or print clearly.

Where Are These Covers?

By George W. Sickels, SCC #1545



The covers referred to in the title would be mail sent by Norwegian troops stationed in Iceland during World War II. That Norwegian troops were stationed in Iceland is a fact of personal knowledge. As a student of the APO 860, Military Tactical School in Reykjavik during 1943, I shared classes and many leisure hours with one Sgt. Tor Hellisen of the Royal Norwegian Forces. A registered letter of inquiry to the sergeant about such mail unfortunately was returned whereabouts unknown.

In addition to the personal contact, I have in my possession three pieces of documentary evidence of Norwegian Troops as well:

1. There was an informational booklet printed by the U. S. Iceland Base Command in Reykjavik in December 1942 which mentions the Norwegian troops.

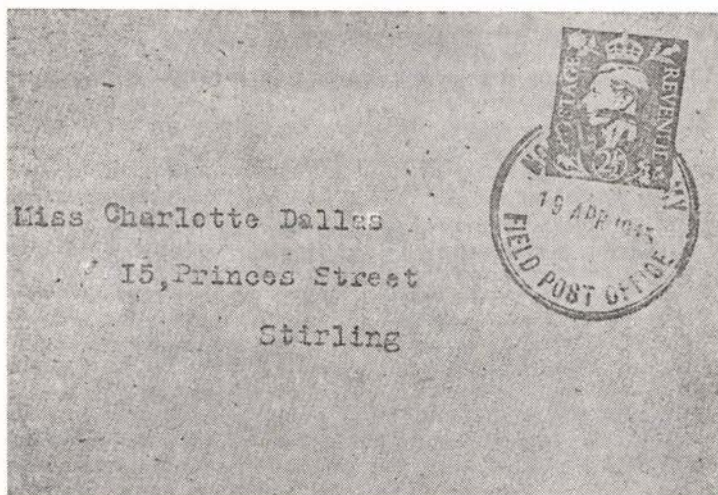
2. I have a Military Christmas Card from Iceland which has the insignia of Norway as well as those of the United States and Great Britain. The card was distributed in 1942.

3. I have a 1972 pamphlet written in Norwegian by Postmaster Hilmar Eriksen, who was postmaster of the Norwegian Field Post in Great Britain during WW II. This pamphlet recognizes the existence of "norske marine depoter i Reykjavik . . ." among other locations.

Also, in searching U. S. Unit histories, I found that the 118th Infantry, stationed in Akureyri (APO 612), conducted a Ski School with Norwegian Army Instructors.

Wherever troops are stationed, troops write letters. (An obvious fact), so mail must exist from Norwegian servicemen written from Iceland during





WW II: Now the problem is where to find them!!! What are the possibilities of postal procedures? I hypothesize the following four:

1. There was an actual Norwegian Field Postoffice operating in Reykjavik.
2. Mail was processed through Norwegian FPO's in Great Britain and cancelled there after being carried on a Norwegian or British ship. Tracing could be difficult, perhaps in the return address, although wartime could obscure this as well, and then only if the letter reveals the source. I suppose covers could be traced through Norwegian Unit histories, although I find that difficult for United States Army units from my own experience. With this procedure, covers could be cancelled possibly with a Norwegian Ship Cancel, also discussed and listed in Eriksen's booklet. This method is a logical application of military chain of command.
3. Mail was processed through APO's or FPO's of a superior force, either US or GB origin. It seems more likely to be the latter based on information from the Eriksen pamphlet which cites a letter from British Forces to the Norwegians outlining such a plan for a particular combined forces maneuver to be staged in Great Britain.
4. Mail was sent directly through Icelandic civilian post subject to military censorship at the country of transit or destination. This is least likely, because it is highly unorthodox military procedure. However, I cannot rule it out because I have a Norwegian Ship Cover in my collection franked with Norwegian stamps, cancelled with the numbered ship cancellation addressed to the U.S.A. with a Reykjavik transit back cancel (Swiss type) dated January 31, 1945, with a US censor marking.

Additional note: Numbers 1 and 2 above might appear identical on the covers except for what stamps might be affixed. Illustrations pictured in Eriksen's booklet show the Norwegian FPO cancellation on stamps of Great Britain, and all illustrated Norwegian FPO's seem similar without any identifying markings.

So much for my search and research. I don't think there is any question that such material belongs in a WW II Icelandic Military Post Collection if it can be detected. So I repeat: WHERE ARE THESE COVERS?

International Reply Cards

By Frederick A. Brofos (H-11)



A rare forerunner. Norwegian inland reply card used from London, England, June 18, 1883.

The Universal Postal Union Conference held at Lisbon, Portugal in March 1885, laid down the rules and adopted the regulations providing for the exchange of reply postal cards among U.P.U. member countries. Previously, reply cards for inland use had proven successful in many countries and the general idea was to extend their use into the international mails.

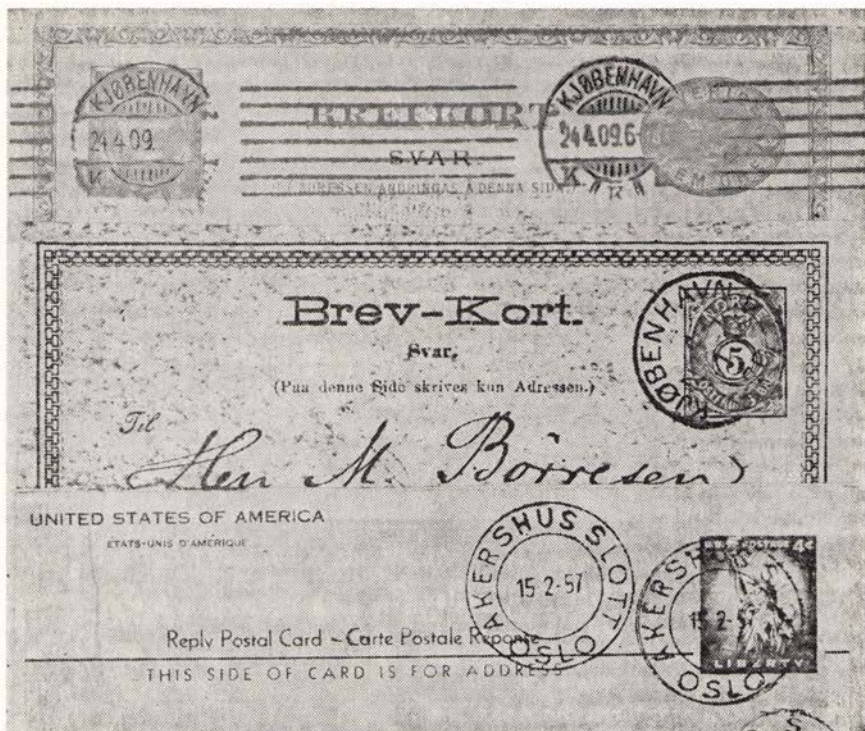
The international postal card with paid reply consisted of two cards joined together—one for the original message, the other for the reply. Each half was to be franked by adhesive or imprinted stamps of the nation of origin and at the U.P.U. postal card rate. The originating country was to retain the full postage value of both halves. The return of such cards was obligatory. However, the issuance of reply cards was not made obligatory until the U.P.U. Convention held at Berne, Switzerland, in 1891.

Although the various member nations gradually issued international reply cards, the idea never became popular with the general public and the cards saw little use. This was partly due to poor publicity by the post office. Most people simply didn't know the cards existed.

Fortunately, wide-awake philatelists have from time to time seen the possibilities contained in the little-known regulations of the Universal Postal Union. In fact, some things can be done legally in the international mails which are prohibited in our domestic mails. For instance, foreign stamps are not valid for postage on mail sent internally within the United States or on mail sent from here to a foreign country. There is one exception, however, and that is when the foreign stamps are used on these international paid reply cards.

U.P.U. reply cards have, of course, been a great boon for the postmark enthusiast. Not only do they furnish a means of securing legitimate U.S. postmarks on foreign stamps, but they also permit legitimate foreign postmarks to be applied to stamps of the United States.

U.P.U. regulations required that reply cards could only be returned to the country of their origin. For example, one couldn't send the reply half of a French card to any country other than France. Furthermore, all cards had



Swedish card used from Copenhagen, 1909. Norwegian card used from Copenhagen, 1887. U.S. card used from Oslo, 1957.

to have the wording in French in addition to the native language. On the message card: "Carte Postale avec Réponse Payée" (Postal card with paid reply). On the reply cards "Carte Postale Réponse" (Reply postal card).

In spite of all rules being complied with, many cards were returned to their senders marked "Postage due." This was owing to the fact that many postmasters did not know the extent of the U.P.U. regulations and didn't bother to look them up for the sake of an occasional card.

International reply cards have been used even less in the United States than in Europe and most small U.S. post offices didn't stock them at all.

The first 2 cent plus 2 cent reply card was issued by the U.S. on March 1, 1893. The original printing of less than two million cards lasted for more than thirty years! The 2 cent U.P.U. postcard rate continued until October 1925, when it was raised to 3 cents. It was further raised to 4 cents in 1953, to 5 cents in 1958, to 7 cents in 1961, to 8 cents in 1967 and to 10 cents in 1971.

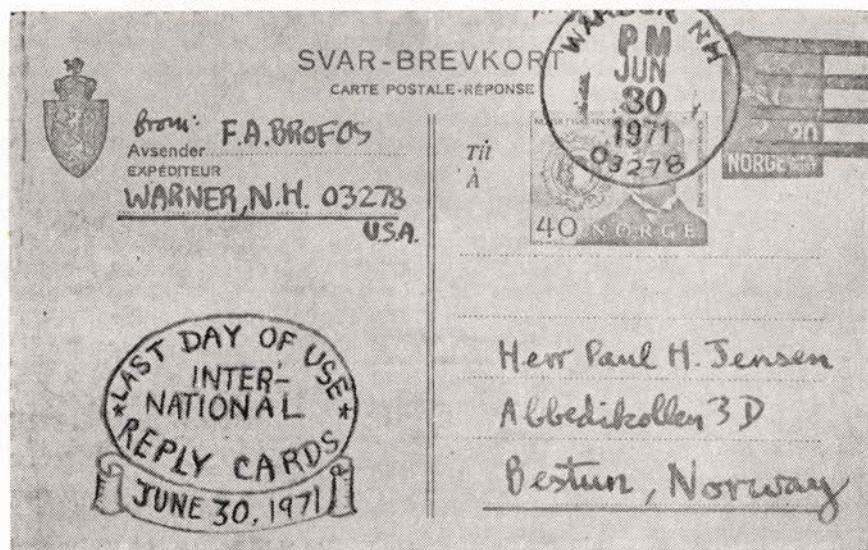
Quite a bizarre-looking collection could be formed of these cards showing stamps of one country legitimately cancelled in another country. They all make interesting collectors items and many of those used before the turn of the century have a considerable value.

Unfortunately for the postmark collector no more of these cards can be produced, as they have now been discontinued all over the world. At the XVIIth Universal Postal Congress of the U.P.U. held at Tokyo in November 1969, it was decided among other things to delete from Article 16 of the Convention the category "Postcard with paid reply," due to lack of usage. The

last day of use of international reply cards was June 30, 1971, as the new regulations became effective on July 1st of that year.



French card used from Bergen, Norway, 1896. Danish card used from Tromsø, Norway, 1885. Norwegian card used from Germany, 1933.



Norwegian card used in U.S. on Last Day of Use.

Swedish Traveling Post Office Cancellations

An Initial Study of Railroad Cancellations Within the T. P. O. Category

By Richard S. Wahlberg (SCC 694)

(Preface: This is a report on "research" in progress. It cannot be termed a definitive write-up—not only because space does not allow, but because much data has yet to be found. In fact, one "mystery" weaves through the entire story. This is written for the novice cancellation collector by a novice and you will see how many "giants" of SCC and others in the philatelic fraternity have helped to turn this study into an adventure. Any comments, corrections and additional information from Posthorn readers will be sincerely appreciated by the author.)

It all started with a visit to Vic Engstrom about two years ago. While viewing his marvelous collection of Sweden, he mentioned Swedish Traveling Post Office cancellations. T.P.O.'s. Stamps cancelled aboard railroad trains, coastal ships, old-time mail coaches and modern-day mail buses.

Every collector of Swedish stamps has early issues bearing cancellations such as PKXP Nr. 2 or recent issues reading PKP No. 422 or other letters and numbers. They are quite common. But, a whole saga began for me when I asked what route does each number represent?

My first inquiry was to Bob Booman, our SCC Librarian. Bob referred me to pages from the Swedish Handbook of Cancellations. Of its 396 pages, forty-four contain details about railroad cancellations: 7 basic types and 60 sub-types of Järnvägspost (railway coach mail) cancels. Each circular cancellation is shown in exact size, each type face is identified and dates are given for each route's first use. But, the actual routes? Only a relatively few are identified. Before pursuing this mystery, let's examine some of the basic types of cancellations.

The first railroad cancellation appeared in 1862. (Type 1) and was used to cancel mail from Stockholm to Göteborg. (Vestra stam Banan=Western Main Line). Two years later (fig. 1) a second line cancelled mail aboard its coaches (Södra stam Banan=Southern Main Line).

From 1882 to the early 1900's no fewer than 364 routes cancelled their mail with postmarks which showed the names of the connecting towns. (Fig. 2). The Handbook includes these within the Type 1 classification and no research is needed except to FIND stamps and covers which traveled from Askers to Lerbäck or Eskilstuna to Flen or Falun to Orso—just to name a few.

The second type (fig. 3) was employed on board about thirty-four different railroads from 1866 to 1891. In these cases the railroad's initials appear in the cancellation. In the example shown, G.D.J. stands for Gefle-Dala Järnvägen (Railway; literally, ironway). Other initials, for example, were N.S.B. for Norra stambanen (trunk line) and O.H. for Örebro-Hallsberg. These are fairly common—particularly on the 12 öre Coat of Arms stamp. Harry Wendberg's catalog of 1948 lists 14 of these railroad's initials cancellations and gives their relative value at that time.

Type 3 introduces the famous PKXP numbers (fig. 4). There are twelve different sub-types of the PKXP (Postkupeexpeditioner) cancellations which were used from 1868 to the early 1920's. The Handbook lists 114 such routes, from No. 1 to No. 114, inclusively. But, only eleven have their routes identified: PKXP No. 1 to No. 7, No. 9 to No. 12. A few examples are: PKXP No. 1=Stockholm-Göteborg; PKXP No. 2= Falköping-Malmö; PKXP No. 3=Stockholm-Uppsala; PKXP No. 5=Hallsberg-Göteborg; PKXP No. 7=Laxå-Karl-



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

stad; and PKXP No. 12=Eslöf-Ystad. The principal mystery of all Swedish T.P.O.'s is the identification of the route for PKXP No. 8 and from PKXP No. 13 to PKXP No. 114! From the Handbook we know the first year of use for each route and even the type of cancellation, but the towns so connected by these railroad routes are not yet known.

The use of PLK numbers (Postiljonskupeexpeditioner) started in 1900. These cancellations (fig. 5) were applied to mail handled by coach and mail bus routes throughout Sweden up until the late 1930's. The numbers run from No. 118 to No. 452.

The more modern PKP cancellations (fig. 6), classified as Type 5 which includes twelve sub-types, were introduced in 1914. These numbers run from No. 1 to No. 452 and many are in use today. Is it simply a coincidence that, according to the Handbook, both PLK and PKP numbers go up to and stop at No. 452? This is the type of question which remained unanswered.

My search continued and the SCC Library next produced photocopies of two articles which appeared in STAMPS magazine in 1949. These articles, published three months apart, read like a debate. The first author cited as his principal reference, "Forteckningar Över Sveriges Postanstalter" by Astlev Levin. Apparently this book contains much the same data as the Cancellation Handbook. Descriptions of the various cancellations appeared in the first article, but the author wondered the meaning of "UPP" and "NED" as suffix to many PKXP numbers. The second author explained their meaning as "Up" and "Down" along the same route. He also gave several examples to better describe the first author's material. But, did either author know the illusive routes represented by each PKXP number? No. But, one asked those readers of twenty-five years ago if such a list was ever compiled.

Eric Kindquist, our SCC area specialist for Sweden, suggested that the Postal Museum in Stockholm might help me find data about the various PKXP routes. Unfortunately, no response. I also wrote to several U. S. philatelic publishers. Again, no luck.

Bob Booman, SCC Librarian, then provided me with another lead: an article from a 1964 issue of THE SCANDINAVIAN CONTACT, published in England. This and subsequent issues listed numerous PKP numbers and their actual routes, by year. From this material we learn that the Swedish Post Office annually issues a list of the PKP routes in use. Interestingly, some routes are used and identified by PKP number for one year, but not necessarily the next. Some routes, too, are open only during the summer months.

Correspondence with Martin Böstrom of Örebro, Sweden gave me proof that the Post Office publishes its route list each year . . . he sent me a 1925 newspaper advertisement which featured a map of Sweden and showed each railroad postal route and its number. Mr. Böstrom and I now have inquiries about the "missing" PKXP routes lodged throughout Sweden. We hope the Postal Archives of the General Post Office in Stockholm may provide more information.



fig.4



fig.5

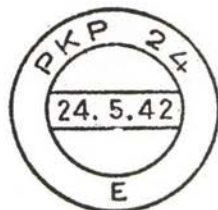


fig.6

Russell Christenson (SCC 813) suggested that I contact Capt. K. Jahr of Dumfries, Scotland, publisher of THE SCANDINAVIAN NEWSLETTER. Result: more lists of PKP and PLK numbers and their routes. Capt. Jahr's data showed some numbers, in use in January 1970, as high as No. 953 (Sundsvall-Stockholm). The NEWSLETTER also contained announcements of the discontinuance of certain lines. For instance, Nos. 221, 223 and 232 were withdrawn on June 1, 1969.

In POLAR POST Bertil Ihage of Sweden wrote about Railroad Post Offices in Arctic Sweden. He identified the routes PKP 53 (Boden to Kiruna) and PKP 308 (Boden to Gällivare) and listed the five route numbers used on trips from Stockholm, past Polcirklen, to Kiruna. Mr. Ihage also explained the code letters (A, B, C, D) which follow these and other PKP numbers as being the codes assigned to the carriage supervisors, known as "compartment masters."

From these various references one can probably complete lists, by year, of all PKP numbers and their routes and perhaps most of the PLK numbered routes. The question remains, however—where are the lists of the PKXP routes of the past? Did the Post Office issue PKXP route lists from 1868 to 1925 or so? They must have. It seems strange that T.P.O. collectors in Sweden and England, where this philatelic side-line is more popular than in the U. S., have not identified more than eleven of the 114 PKXP routes. A reader might speculate that the recent vintage PKP numbered routes were "created" from the first 114 PKXP numbers. This seems unlikely as a 1963 route list shows PKP No. 1=Stockholm-Nassjö; PKP No. 2=Nassjö-Malmö; PKP No. 5=Örebro-Stockholm. Not one of the first PKXP routes shown in the Handbook coincides with these current PKP routes.

Perhaps as my search continues, this report will eventually be termed the "first installment" of the PKXP mystery and a second installment will have all the answers. In the meantime, while searching, I uncovered information about other T.P.O. cancellations such as ÅBXP numbers (angbats), FKMP and FKMB routes. But, those are other stories best written by someone who has done his research—unlike the author who is still searching.

* S * C * C *

March 8, 1974

Dear Bob,

I refer to George Sickles letter to you published in the February POSTHORN, about a "thin" paper postal card of Iceland. Perhaps the following will be of interest.

Between 1888 and 1901, Denmark printed for the Danish West Indies the set of Postal Stationery single cards known as the "Five Line Text," in five separate printings.

Some of the card stock used for this issue will separate into 3 or 4 sheets of paper if subjected to extreme moisture or soaking. I state this on page 23 of my published work DANISH WEST INDIES POSTAL STATIONERY.

I have an example of this condition with a partial delamination into 3 sheets at one edge of the card, while the other edge is intact. The center sheet is unglazed, as is the inner surfaces of the outer sheets.

It seems to me that the same card stock could have been used for the Iceland card in question.

Sincerely, Victor E. Engstrom

* S * C * C *

The Caribbean Mystery Solved



Here is the solution to the mystery of the D.W.I. 7 cent bicolored stamp presented on page 42.

The year shown in the St. Thomas cancel is NOT 1878, as conclusively proved by the true cancellation of 1878 published beside it.

But it is not 1873 either. It is 1879. The truth becomes apparent if one places the stamp against a **black** background, as the overseas minion turned Sherlock finally did. Then it became evident that the illusion of a "3" in the year was created by a truly cunning accident, as one would call it if accidents could be cunning: the final "9" in the year had been placed exactly across one of the perforation indentures in such a way as to transform it into a "3" to any but the most suspicious eye.

Moral: be suspicious of early cancels.

Sven Ahman
(minion)

I GILDI FORGERIES



Mr. Robert A. Helm
660 Marion Drive
East Meadow, N. Y. 11554

Dear Mr. Helm,

Maybe it will be of interest to the readers of The Posthorn to learn about forgeries of Iceland I GILDI overprints, which in my opinion are hitherto unrecorded.

I therefore enclose a photo of the 6 Aurar, perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ black overprint, and the 5 Aurar, perf. $12\frac{3}{4}$, black overprint, Facit #s 38A and 51 respectively. Both of them are rather easily detected as fakes from the position of the second apostrophe. The letters and digits differ distinctly from the originals. May I remind that of the 6 Aurar only one genuine copy is recorded?

Please let me know if you are interested in similar material from Denmark and Iceland. I used to inform Vic Engstrom about the forgeries of DVI.

Truly yours, Arno Debo

Ed. Note: All of this material is gratefully accepted.—RAH

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- 1842 PETERSON, A. Delbert, Rt. 2, Box 358W, Forest Grove, OR 97116
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A Swedish 'Tea Party'?

By Sven Ahman (SCC #936)

The Swedish parliament has put an end to a measure that was well on its way to finishing all stamp swapping by collectors with their colleagues abroad. After prolonged pressure by stamp collectors and dealers, a law was passed abolishing the inordinately heavy state sales tax—17.65 per cent, no less—on most philatelic items.

Until the stamp tax was lifted, customs authorities could, and in many cases did, stop parcels and registered letters from abroad, exacting sales tax at 17.65 per cent on all billed merchandise and, what was much worse, on swap material listed according to the prices in some agreed catalogue, either *Facit* for Scandinavian stamps, *Zumstein* for European or *Yvert* for overseas. Particularly in the beginning, it was very difficult to convince the customs people that these prices were used only to establish relative values in an exchange transaction and really had no monetary significance. It was not easy to convince customs that no precise taxable value could be placed on such material.

Even more absurd consequences of applying the sales tax rule occurred when, for instance, valuable Swedish and other Scandinavian stamps arrived from abroad to some Swedish expert for expertizing. It has happened that the expert in question could get the treasures out of bond only by depositing thousands of Kronor as security that the stamps would be returned to their owner after examination—when, of course, the deposit was refunded.

Not only the stamp collecting fraternity—and the dealers—are relieved at the reform, but also the customs men, who have encountered enormous problems and at times almost snowed under with these unwanted chores.

According to the new rule, all trading in stamps, and consequently also imports from abroad, enjoys freedom from sales tax since Jan. 1, 1974, with the exception only of "bulk merchandise packaged for sale in stores in the form of 'kilo ware' or packets."

Since these exceptions and certain remaining obscurities in the practical application, as well as book-keeping complications for the dealers, mean some added operating costs, the entire amount of the vanished sales tax, which would have been 15 per cent., has not been taken off net sale prices for instance by *Frimärkshuset AB*, publishers of the *Facit* catalogue. While prices for delivery to customers abroad were always free of the sales tax included in *Facit* prices and thus automatically reduced by 15 per cent. even before the new years, prices in domestic sales have been reduced only by 10 per cent.

Initially, some technical doubts have arisen about the applicability of the new system to pre-stamp material, since here there are no stamps involved. Franked covers, however, must be assumed to be free of the sales tax, even though the language used in the government proposal speaks of "first day covers and entires." *Nordisk Filateli*, a monthly journal for collectors which still has to include the full amount of sales tax in its price per monthly copy of Sw. Kr. 2.75, assumes in its January issue that the Secretary of the Treasury, in speaking of "entires" did not have in mind the narrow sense of the corresponding Swedish word *helsaker*, which was the one used in the government bill now enacted—meaning "postal stationery"—but rather "stamps on cover and postal stationery." In the same way, the publication assumes that speaking of "first day covers" the law means to refer both to "first day covers and first day letters."

There will always be a lawyer . . .

(Welcome back to these pages, Sven.)

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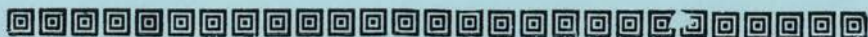
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