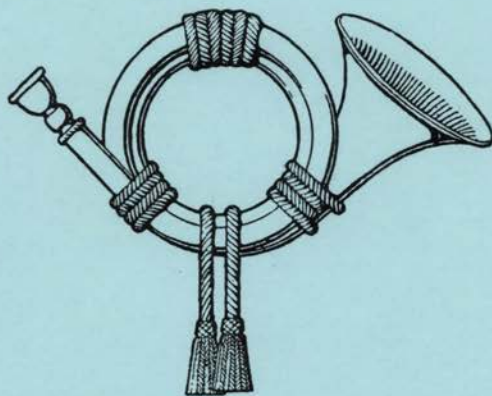


Vol. 31, No. 3, Whole No. 119, August, 1974

The
POSTHORN
TM

"The Bank of Scandinavian Philatelic Knowledge"



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

THE POSTHORN

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SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

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An Issue Is Born

1100 YEARS OF A NATION'S LIFE

by Sigurdur H. Thorsteinsson (SCC, RPSL, AIJP)

In the year 874 the first settler, Infolgur Arnarson of Norway, came to Iceland, and settled in Reykjavik, now the capital of the country. This year the Icelanders celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the settlement.

Among other things, this is being celebrated by a set of 11 stamps, one for each century of the life of the nation.

Late in 1971 the Festival Committee met with Icelandic Postal Authorities to discuss the possibility of an issue, and still another meeting was held early in 1972. At these meetings the idea of the stamps began to take shape. In mid 1972, the Postal Authorities consulted Dr. Selma Jónsdóttir, the curator of the National Art Museum. She recommended the artists Jóhannes Jóhannesson and Steinthor Sigurdsson for the work, and since then they have been the art consultants for the issue. It was decided that the stamps should show extant artworks explaining the main theme of each century, and that each stamp should have a roman number designating the century to which it belonged in the Icelandic Saga.

The Festival Committee decided the theme for each century, and the next part of the work was to choose the picture relating to each theme. This task was given to the art consultants and the Icelandic Stamp Advisory Committee, which is appointed by the Minister of Communications. (The members of this committee are: Mr. Jon Skulason, General Director PTT; Rafn Juliússon, Manager of Posts; Gisli Sigurbjörnsson, Director; Höskuldur Ólafsson, Bank Manager; and Sigurdur Thorsteinsson.

The printing was given to the firm Courvoisier of Switzerland, to be printed in Heliogravure.

The stamps issued from the 12th of March to the 16th of July 1974 are:

- I. The settlement.
- II. The establishment of the Parliament (Althing).
- III. Conversion to Christianity.
- IV. The Age of Writing.
- V. The Age of Sturlungar.
- VI. The Book of Flatey.
- VII. The woman in the Icelandic Saga.
- VIII. The Bible in Icelandic.
- IX. Stained glass window from Hallgrimskirkja. (Age of Poetry).
- X. 18th century woodcarving.
- XI. Curing the Catch.



Fig. 2



Fig. 11

Let us now go into further details about each stamp and take them in denominational sequence.

The Settlement. Ingolfur and the High Seat Pillars. Tapestry by Vigdis Kristjansdottir. Original by Johann Briem (b. 1907). (10 Kronur—Fig. 1.)

Ingolfur was a Norseman, who is said to have traveled to Iceland, for the first time, in the year when King Harald the Fairhead was sixteen years years of age, and for the second time a few winters later. He settled in the south, in Reykjavik. Where he first landed there is a headland called Ingolfshöfði, east of Minthakseyri, but in the land which he claimed west of Ölfusa river, there is Ingolfssjall.*

Ingolfur Arnarson and Hjörleifur, who were blood-brothers, decided to emigrate to Iceland with all their men and household. It is said that, when Ingolfur saw land rise above the horizon, he took his High Seat pillars—the totem pillars standing on each side of the high seat in the dining hall—and threw them overboard, saying that he would build a farm, and settle where they came ashore. The pillars were found in a bay by Ingolfur's scouts. He built a farm there, near some hot springs which emitted smoke. Therefore Ingolfur named his farm Reykjavik (reykur=smoke).

The establishment of the Parliament and a Republic in Iceland. Grimur Geitskor at Thingvellir. Painting by Johannes Johannesson (b. 1921). (13 Kronur, Fig. 2.)

About 920, people had settled in most of the inhabitable parts of Iceland. The first generation of settlers was disappearing, and the earliest generation of true Icelanders, people born and bred in Iceland, was at its height. The people sent a man named Ulfljotur to Norway to study law. "Ulfljotur returned and brought the law at the time when many parts of Iceland had been settled."* This was about 930, Grimur Geitskor, Ulfljotur's blood-brother, made a survey of Iceland to find the most suitable location for the Althing and to interest people in the idea of a general assembly. The location was found at Thingvellir on the Öxará river. On the decision of Ulfljotur and all the people, Althing was summoned at Thingvellir. All Icelanders were united in both law and government, marking the beginning of the Icelandic Republic.

Gudbrandur Thorláksson. Painting by an unknown painter in the National Museum of Iceland. (15 Kronur, Fig. 3).

Gudbrandur Thorláksson was a Bishop at Holar for fifty-six years, 1571-1627. At the beginning of his episcopal career, the reformation had not yet



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

gained much ground with the nation even though the new organization and the church had been in existence for some time. Bishop Gudbrandur wanted to improve matters by publishing books for the benefit of the common people. He also wished to improve peoples' taste in spiritual verse and guard the purity of the language. Books had been printed in Iceland before, i.e. The New Testament translated in 1540 by Oddur Gottskalksson, son of the bishop at Skalholt. This is the oldest known printed book in Icelandic. A printing press owned by the Holar Diocese had been bought and imported by Jon Arason, the last Roman Catholic Bishop at Holar. This press was much improved by Bishop Gudbrandur who had a large number of books printed, among them the Holy Bible in 1584, The Book of Hymns in 1580, and the Missal in 1594. His publication of books marked a turning point. It paved the way for the idea of the reformation, that the common people should be instructed in religious matters. It encouraged poets and scholars to preserve the purity of the language and warded off the danger of written Icelandic suffering permanently in the upheaval of the sixteenth century.

The Age of Sturlunger. Drawing by Thorvaldur Skulason, b. 1906. (17 Kronur, Fig. 4).

The old social structure of Iceland started to disintegrate in the 12th century. A great deal of property came into the possession of a few families, mainly because the farmers owned the churches they built and they received half of the tithes. Earlier, the distribution of power was arranged through the division of the country into chieftainries, and in the 13th century, all the chieftainries had come into the possession of a few chieftains who struggled among themselves for supremacy. Some of these sought support from the kings of Norway. Hakon Hakonarson the Old, King of Norway 1217-1263, appointed a few of the Icelandic chieftains as his courtiers, sending those in whom he confided on his errands to Iceland, while he kept others in Norway. The chieftains' struggle for power and the king's intervention gave rise to more fighting in the 13th century than had ever been known before.

During the winter of 1233-1239, Snorri Sturluson stayed with the Duke Skuli Bardarson in Nidaros. That spring, while he was preparing his ship for return to Iceland, letters were brought to him from King Hakon. "But there it stood," according to the Sturlunga Saga, "that the King forbade all Icelanders to sail to Iceland that summer." The messenger showed the letters to Snorri, who replied: "I am going to Iceland."

Stained glass window from Hallgrimskirkja in Saurbaer, done by Gerður Helgadóttir, b. 1930. (20 Kronur, Fig. 5).



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

Hallgrímur Petursson, 1614-1674, is one of the most prominent of all Icelandic poets even though much and often excellent poetry was produced, especially in the 16th century. Hallgrímur was a clergyman for 25 years, first at Hvalsnes in 1644, then at Saurbaer, Hvalfjardarströnd, 1651-1659. During the last years of his life he was afflicted with leprosy. His most famous work, Hymns of the Passion of Christ, was composed during the years 1656-1659. No other Icelandic literary work has been so beloved by the nation nor has exercised such influence. The hymns were recited and sung in every home during the period of Lent every year. The first prayer of the child and the last prayer at the deathbed were invariably taken from these hymns. Most people were familiar with them, their advice, aphorisms and comforting words, and often made use of them in their daily life. No other book has been published so often in Icelandic as the Hymns of the Passion. Hallgrímur's hymn on "Death's Unknown Arrival" has been sung at almost every funeral in Iceland for three centuries. The three hundredth anniversary of Hallgrímur's death is the 27th of October 1974.

The book of Flatey. A Manuscript in the Icelandic Institute of Manuscripts. (25 Kronur, Fig. 6).

In the 12th and 13th century literature developed in Iceland which is claimed as the greatest cultural achievement of the nation and which is well known throughout the world. During this era, contemporary tales were written about bishops and worldly chiefs, about Norwegian and Danish kings, about the Nordic people in the Orkney Islands, The Faroes, and in Greenland, about the discovery of Wineland, etc. Many other subjects were also recorded in books. Ancient poems about gods and heroes were compiled in a book later to be called the *Sæmundar Edda*. Other well known literary works dating from this period are: Snorri Sturluson's *Heimskringla*, and *Brennu Njals Saga* by an unknown author. These works are preserved on skin books.

Icelandic book making was at its height in the 14th century. Many large manuscripts of elaborate parchment and handwriting, some of which were adorned with pictures and illuminated capital letters were written then. The Book of Flatey is the biggest of all Icelandic skin books. Its main subject matter covers tales of Norwegian kings, to which Icelandic Sagas, (called *thættir* or short tales) as well as other subjects were added. The manuscript is very elaborate and beautifully illuminated. On this stamp there is a part of a capital letter in the first chapter of *Sverris Saga*.

Conversion to Christianity and establishment of the See of Skalholt. An Altarpiece in Skalholt church done in mosaic by Nina Tryggvadóttir, 1913-1968. (30 Kronur, Fig. 7).

Gissur the White lived at Skalholt. His grandfather was Ketilbjörn the Old, the settler of Mosfell. Gissur contributed greatly to the adoption of Christianity as a lawful religion at Althing in the year 1000. He built the first church at Skalholt. He accompanied his son, Isleifur, abroad and sent him to study in Germany. Isleifur became a priest at Skalholt and established a school there. In 1056 he was made Bishop of Iceland. Gissur, his son, was Bishop after him, and bequeathed Skalholt, his estate, to the church. It then became the center both of the church and the nation, along with Holar, from 1106 until the end of the 18th century.

The renaissance of Skalholt began about the middle of this century. The new church was consecrated in 1963. The altarpiece by Nina Tryggvadóttir was a Danish gift, and was mounted in 1966. It shows Christ the King, whose subjects the Icelanders became in the year 1000.

18th century woodcarving from the National Museum of Iceland. (40 Kronur, Fig. 8).

About the 18th century the first organized industries were established in Reykjavik, and the man mainly responsible for this was Skuli Magnusson, Comptroller of Finances. Improvements both in agriculture and fishing were also instigated.

The industries were generously subsidized by the Danish crown, and work was begun in the spirit of an 18th century benevolent monarch. However, many factors contributed to the failure of the project. The progressive ideas existed only in the minds of the crown officials. No attempt was made to open peoples' eyes to progress. Furthermore, during this period many natural catastrophes occurred and the "years of mist" in the last decade of the 18th century put an end to all hopes of turning it into a period of progress in Iceland.

Reykjavik emerged as a small village, yet large enough to attract the most important officials, and thus it became the administrative center of the country.

Curing the Catch. A concrete relief of Sigurjon Olafsson, b. 1908. (60 Kronur, Fig. 9).

For centuries Icelanders have caught fish to add to their means of living. However it was only with the introduction of deck ships that fishing became an independent industry. Deck ships were used for fishing throughout the 19th century mostly in the Vestfirðir and in Eyjafjörður. In Reykjavik, the age of deck ships began when a merchant by the name of Geir Zoega received his first vessel. Reykjavik became the largest fishing station in the country and a center of trade and commerce.

Deck ships could fish further out than open boats and consequently they could fish for a longer period each year. This made full time employment of fishermen possible. At the same time, a labor force ashore came into being, employed in processing the catch.

Deck ship fishing requires a large initial investment and therefore came into the hands of merchants and other large employers. A class of employers was formed, employing a vast number of workers. The fishing industry earned foreign currency and contributed to great increases in foreign trade. Today it is the foundation of modern society in Iceland.

The age of writing. Sæmundur on the Seal, a bronze sculpture by Asmundur Sveinsson, b. 1893. (70 Kronur, Fig. 10).

The priest Sæmundur Sigfusson, the Wise, is considered the first Icelandic writer. He was the first Nordic man to study in France. A chieftain, he established a school on his family estate, Oddi on Rangarvellir. Sæmundur



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

compiled: "Annals of the Norwegian Kings," a record of the reign of Kings in Norway in the 10th and 11th centuries, with short biographical notes. He is believed to have written in Latin, but his book is now lost. Later writers include his material in their writings.

The story goes that Sæmundur asked the Devil to take him from France to Iceland on the promise that Satan could have him if Sæmundur arrived without wetting the hem of his cassock. The Devil agreed to this. Turning himself into a seal, Satan swam with Sæmundur on his back towards Iceland. Sæmundur read in the Psalterium the whole way, and then, when they came close to the shore, he smote the seal on the head with the book so that he went under. Sæmundur fell into the sea and swam ashore.

Altar frontal from the church of Statafell in Lon, now preserved in the National Museum of Denmark. (100 Kronur, Fig. 11).

It has always been considered fitting for women to do needlework. "We present in tapestries / what men play / and in needlework / the subjects of kings," says Guðrun Gukadottir in an old Edda poem. Women rarely dealt with matters of land and nation in such a way that their names were recorded in books. Men were in charge of assemblies although they, at times, followed the counsel of women. (These women sometimes furthered reconciliation, and sometimes urged their husbands and sons to seek revenge and killings, as referred to in the proverb: "Cold are the counsels of women.")

Audur the Wise was an original settler and is said to have settled Dalalönd and been a chief there since then. Almost six centuries later English sailors killed Björn Thorleifsson the Mighty, who was a governor at Skard. Björn's wife was Olof Loftsdottir. It is said that: "She was then at Helgafell when she received the news of the death of Björn, her husband." She said: "Let us not weep over Björn but gather troops," which she, in fact, did. The names of these women who had a share in significant events have been recorded in the tales. On the other hand, nothing is known about the name of the woman who embroidered the altar frontal (antependium) illustrated on the stamp. It is considered to date from the middle of the 14th century, embroidered with laid and couched work, almost exclusively with colored woolen yarn on whitish linen. The frontal is from the church of Stafafell in Lon, now in the National Museum of Denmark, Nationalmuseet, No. CXCVIII, (1820). (Sic.)

These are the stories that lie behind the stamps that have been issued to commemorate the 1100th anniversary of the Icelandic nation.

*—Ari Thorgilsson, "The Wise."

(Editor's Note: Someday a good translation of these literary works mentioned by Sig will come my way and I, too, will enjoy his heritage as much as he does.)

* S * C * C *

Letter.

Dear Bob,

Regarding the question of George W. Sickels in The Posthorn Vol. 31, No. 1: The cardboard used by Thiele to print the Danish as well as the Icelandic stationery was a multiply cardboard. As George suggested, the paper sometimes separates in two layers.

About ten years ago I bought on a London auction a lot of Danish Postal Stationery of the same time and quite a few of the cards had been separated completely or nearly completely. A part of those are still in my collection. I guess they must have been stored over years in a closed and humid chest or so, then the ink on the separated backsides was still legible.

Dr. Arno Debo (SCC 1657)

Letter From Copenhagen

On a recent visit to Copenhagen, not unconnected with a stamp auction, of which more later, I had occasion to attend a meeting of the extremely active K. P. K. (Københavns Philatelist Klub), which brought a welcome greeting for me personally from S. C. C.

Circulated along the rows of tables filling the Great Hall of the K. P. K. building—yes, this club has a building all its own right in the center of town, the 16th century house of the former Carpenters' Guild—was the just arrived May 1974 issue of *The Posthorn*, which had not yet reached me when I left my home in Göteborg, Sweden, the day before.

The treasurer of K. P. K. told me that, of the many foreign publications regularly received by the club and put at the disposal of members for perusing at meetings, *The Posthorn* was among the most appreciated. Another member put the matter somewhat more crudely, and I hope not to be doing permanent damage to Danish-American relations by repeating his words, "It is among the most frequently snitched." Both acknowledged the wealth of information it regularly gives.

In this particular case, getting a look at the latest issue was particularly welcome to me. It brought me the first confirmation that a little illustrated philatelic anecdote/puzzle which I had sent to Bob Helm, our editor, had arrived properly although I had sent it to the wrong address! The issue brought me the first information that *The Posthorn* is now edited from Old Greenwich, Connecticut, and not from East Meadow, Long Island, where I had sent the piece entitled, Gertrude Stein fashion, "A '3' is a '3' is a . . . ?" with the answer to the question to be supplied on a later page of the same issue. I was particularly gratified to see that the accompanying illustrations came out so well and had not been mixed up!

Another who nodded in recognition when leafing through the *Posthorn* copy across the table from me was no less a potentate than Mr. H. Buntzen, who heads God knows how many groups in Danish philately, including the august Council of Exhibition Judges. At the meeting a month earlier, when I had also been present, I had given him a set of the photographs of the cancellations of the Danish West Indies 7 cent stamp showing how a 9 in the year date had come out looking like a very convincing 3.

In giving the photographs to Mr. Buntzen, I had asked him not to publish them, since I intended to do so myself, and here now was the proof that *The Posthorn* had actually produced a "scoop" on my little discovery—and, a comfort to an often disillusioned old newspaperman, with commendable speed.

Mr. Buntzen told me that he had shown and commented on the cancellation photographs both in the Council of Exhibition Judges and in the exclusive Københavns Philatelistiske Selskab, where the cream of Danish philatelists meet in sessions closed to ordinary mortals every month.

K. P. K. holds well attended meetings on Wednesday night every week, when in addition to talks, exhibitions and swapping sessions small club auctions are arranged. This time the last of three sections of the annual large Spring Auction took place. For three Wednesdays running, 60,000 Danish Kroner's worth of material changed hands, most of it of course Danish, but in this final session also quite a bit of British Commonwealth and other overseas.

Mr. Steffen Arctander, who wrote about the Danish 4 RBS stamp in the May *Posthorn*, would have felt at home at the auction session. Both the quantity and the calibre of the 4 RBS stamps auctioned singly was truly remarkable, not only to a visiting dabbler in this difficult field, but, according to the testimony of Messrs. Buntzen & Co., also to real connoisseurs. In quality, they said, it measured well up to what had been sold earlier in the day by

the Skandia auction firm, which had some ninety lots of Denmark's first stamp both off an on cover for sale, well over a hundred copies in all.

At both auctions, the floor battles of bidders showed that not only supply but also demand is brisk. Interestingly enough, of all the ninety Skandia lots only seven were of the Ferslew printing, all "luxury" copies averaging Dkr. 170.00 in price realized, except for one sheet margin copy at twice that amount. The highest price in the whole group was realized by the only chestnut shade of Thiele III, Dkr. 425.00.

But the real feature of the Skandia auction was something entirely different. Of nearly 250 lots of Iceland, well over a hundred consisted of numeral cancellations, and of these no fewer than 56 were covers. It was a long time since anybody could remember seeing so many numeral cancels on cover offered at a single sale.

What was even more remarkable, however, was that practically all the covers were bought by a single buyer from Hamburg, who said he was acting as an agent for a German collector. He bought every cover he bid on, if necessary at five times the estimate or more, spurning only three or four.

The highest price realized, Dkr. 750.00, was noted, not unexpectedly, for the numeral cancel "90" on cover. The "35" on cover, another rare number, fetched Dkr. 700.00, and for covers with "117" and "130," both given an estimated price of only Dkr. 100.00 in the Skandia catalogue, the man from Hamburg spent Dkr. 600.00 each without batting an eyelid—but then what he spent was not his own money. The numbers "31" and "61," probably the rarest of all Iceland numerals, were represented at the auction neither on cover nor on loose stamps.

As striking as the high prices paid for the covers was the difficult time some of the numeral cancels on loose stamps had in coming up to the estimates, and some were not sold at all. High prices off cover included Dkr. 520 for "163," 550 for "165" and 280 for "210."

It is reported from Stockholm that the Facit catalogue in its 1975 edition this fall plans to revise the pricing of both numeral and crown-and-posthorn cancellations in its Iceland section. Particularly the crowns, it is said, will go up.

—Sven Åhman (SCC #936)

* S * C * C *

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This is election year for SCC; the following officers are to be elected to a two year term: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and three (3) Directors-at-large.

President Robert A. Frigstad has appointed a nominating committee consisting of Roger Swanson, Robert Brandeberry, and Willard Johnson. Members or Chapters may also present nominations for any or all offices as specified in Article VI, sections 6 and 7 of the SCC by-laws.

* S * C * C *

POSTAL AUTOMATION IN SCANDINAVIA, USING LUMINESCENT STAMPS — CORRECTIONS

In the May issue, the sentence beginning with "Photoluminescence" on 5th line from bottom of page 34 should read:

Photoluminescence is again divided, for practical reasons, into fluorescence and phosphorescence. In fluorescence, the emission of light ceases almost instantly, when the excitation is discontinued.

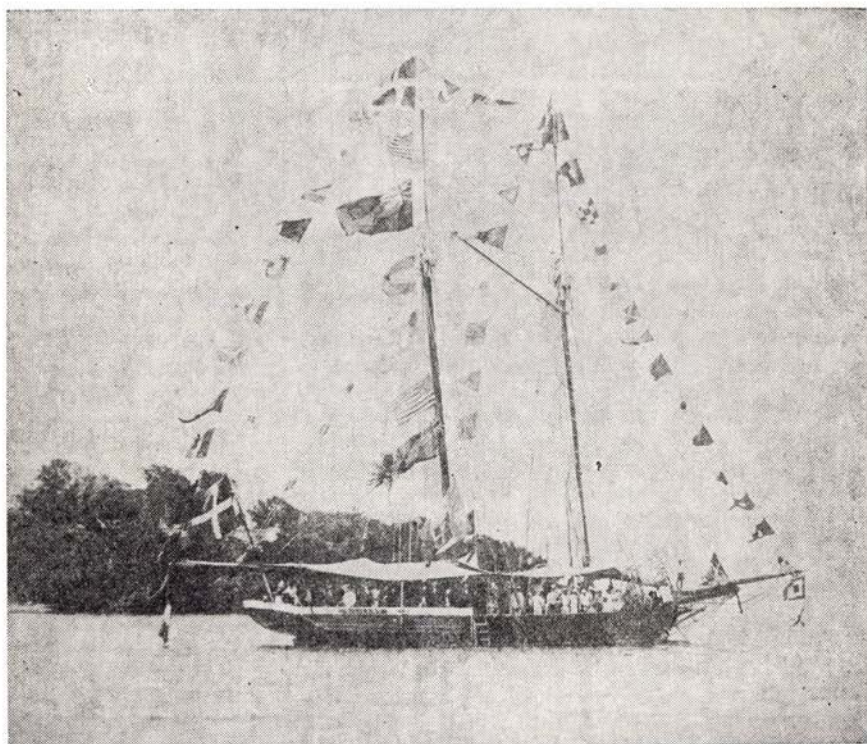
On the middle of page 36 "Brancopher" should read "Blancopher."

"Farmwerke" low on page 38 should be "Farbwerke."

"Marmö 1" low on page 39 should be "Malmö 1."

The Danish West Indies Packet Schooner "Vigilant"


By Tage W. Blytmann



The mail and passenger traffic between St. Croix and St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies was—throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th—largely carried by a most remarkable packet schooner, the VIGILANT. The brief history of this vessel presented here has been extracted from the author's files which have been collected in the Virgin Islands and in Copenhagen over the past several years with the object of eventually publishing a complete history of the VIGILANT. The author would welcome any material or comments that readers may have regarding this fascinating schooner. Items of maritime historical or philatelic interest would be particularly welcome.

Throughout its more than 130 years of service in the Virgin Islands, the schooner VIGILANT witnessed—as well as participated in—more Caribbean history than any other local vessel. Her long pleasing lines, slim black hull and tall sharply-raked masts were a welcome sight to everyone in the Danish West Indies for more than four generations.

VIGILANT'S reputation for being the fastest schooner in the Danish islands provides us with a clue to the origin of this remarkable vessel. She probably was built in Baltimore, Maryland in the early part of the 1790's, being one of the famous Baltimore Clippers that appeared during and after the American Revolutionary War. It is known that the schooner was commissioned as a privateer by the British when she was captured by the Danish 40 gun frigate FREJA on December 18, 1796, near St. John (St. Jan). She was brought to St. Thomas as a prize and sold through the court to a private

Packet  **Schooner**
"VIGILANT"
between St. Thomas and St. Croix, W. I.,
 SAILING EVERY
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHTS.

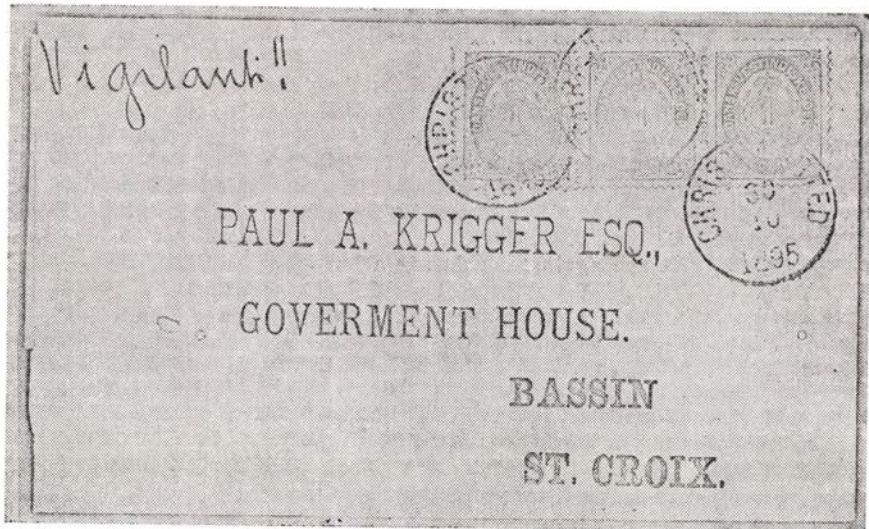
Notice.
THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC
 are hereby reminded of the
 advantage in securing passage at
 the Agency in this place; as after
 the 15th inst. an additional charge
 will be made on passages taken on
 board the schooner at the time of
 sailing, or otherwise.
 St. Thomas, 24th March 1864.
J. FIDANQUE & Co.
Agents

party in 1797. Due to the uncertain times and the strong possibility of war, she was purchased by the Danish government later the same year for use as an armed tender. The schooner was equipped with twelve guns, named DEN AARVAAGNE (meaning "the vigilant" in Danish) and stationed at St. Thomas. During the ensuing few years she engaged in skirmishes with several British privateers near St. Thomas, including the EXPERIMENT and the DREADNOUGHT, the latter engagement on September 1, 1800, resulting in the death of her commander.

The British occupied the Danish West Indies five days prior to defeating the Danish navy at the battle of Copenhagen on April 2, 1801. DEN AARVAAGNE, being government property was seized by the British and renamed VIGILANT—the name she was to retain for the next 127 years. Following the withdrawal of the British forces from the D.W.I. in February 1802, VIGILANT was sold to a private owner for use in the mail and passenger traffic between the Danish islands. Although the Danish colony was again occupied by the British from 1807 until 1815, VIGILANT remained Danish property while intermittently performing mail and packet services between St. Croix and St. Thomas.

During the next several decades the schooner was occasionally chartered by the government, as was the case in July, 1825, when she captured the ADOLPHO, a much-dreaded pirate vessel then operating in the waters around St. Thomas preying on local craft. The expedition was a complete success and two large magnificent cannon captured on this occasion can be seen today at the Marine Museum and Tøjhuset in Copenhagen.

By 1842, St. Thomas had become the major mail transfer port in the West Indies. Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamers maintained regu-



lar packet service between Southampton and St. Thomas, and local mail steamers departed from St. Thomas to points in the West Indies and Central America shortly after the arrival of the trans-Atlantic steam packets. St. Thomas' importance during the 1870's was further enhanced by its inclusion as a regular port of call by the important Hamburg-American Packet Line and the French Compagnie Generale Transatlantique.

The mail and passenger traffic between St. Thomas and St. Croix had increased considerably by the middle of the 19th century. VIGILANT was employed as the official mail packet between Christiansted, her home port, and Charlotte Amalie. Normally she carried a crew of nine, and was for a number of years skippered by Captain Peter Pentheny. The schooner made two weekly round trips, departing from Charlotte Amalie every Tuesday and Friday evenings, arriving in Christiansted the following morning after a voyage of about five or six hours, depending upon wind and weather. VIGILANT has been known to make the trip in as little as four and a half hours, but due to calm weather and adverse currents the voyage could take up to 62 hours! For this reason an emergency food supply of live chickens was always kept in a small chicken coop on deck.

During the latter part of the 19th century numerous requests were made to the D.W.I. government to replace the now aging VIGILANT with a modern steam packet. However, as the century drew to a close, conditions in the D. W. I. deteriorated considerably. The Royal Mail had moved its main West Indian operating base from St. Thomas to Barbados; sugar prices continued to fall and many planters were in debt; and the invention of the telegraph made calls at St. Thomas unnecessary for the numerous vessels which in prior years had called there for voyage instructions from their owners. The decrease in the number of pieces of mail handled by the D.W.I. postal authorities was staggering; from the early 1880's to the mid 1890's, the yearly number had fallen from 856,000 to only 217,000.

VIGILANT continued in service between St. Croix and St. Thomas during the first decade of the 20th century. At this time, the Danish East Asiatic Company sent the motor schooner VIKING out from Denmark to replace VIGILANT. After only a few years service the VIKING was nearly wrecked in 1912, between St. John and St. Thomas, and had to be sent back to Denmark

for extensive repairs. VIGILANT once again was back plying her old mail and passenger trade which she did with dignity until the islands were sold to the United States in 1917.

It is a tribute to her various captains to note that only very rarely did VIGILANT sustain any damage due to navigation. During the yearly hurricane season, however, no vessel is safe in the West Indies. While lying at anchor at Christiansted during the night of September 13, 1876, VIGILANT sank during a severe hurricane. A month later she was raised and repaired by Captain Pentheny. Again in October, 1916, the schooner went to the bottom during a hurricane. This time, too, she was raised and repaired. Finally, on September 12, 1928, she again sank during a hurricane in Christiansted harbor. This time VIGILANT was beyond repair—a total wreck.

Having been a faithful public servant for so many years VIGILANT had been the bearer of good as well as bad news. She had provided an essential link between the Danish islands, and had on numerous occasions brought governors, Danish officials and foreign visitors safely to their destinations. Uncounted sacks of mail had been entrusted to her care over the years. This amazing schooner had a useful working life of 132 years in the D.W.I., outlasting all other vessels by many decades despite the tropical teredo worm, treacherous coral reefs, and the yearly hurricane season.

Ed. Note: Based on your description and picture, she is probably a "Baltimore rigged" schooner, built in Virginia circa 1785. See "The History of American Sailing Ships" by Howard I. Chapelle, published by W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1935.—Ye Ed (Lieutenant Commander, USNR).

* S * C * C *

SVERIGES FILATELIST—FORBUND (SWEDISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY)
Specialized Catalogue 1974 of Swedish Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery
Review by Ernest H. Wise

This is a specialized catalogue of 367-A5 pages executed with a thoroughness that few but the Swedes can match, having all the advantages and all the drawbacks of such a production. To call it comprehensive is to underrate it. It attempts to cater to the ultra-materialistic outlook that Swedish collectors seem to have on their stamps by putting a valuation on almost everything. It defines minutely the standards of condition including centering and either gum or postmark on which its valuations are based. On the modern issues it values booklets and F.D.C., and on the stamps up to 1911 covered by my own book (in production) it values a wide variety of postmarks, frankings on cover, and multiples according to rarity.

It is a natural successor to the Wennberg catalogue of the early '50s in its scope, and even more ambitious. Illustration of the classic issues before 1872 in color seems a rather pointless luxury adding cost but little else. A few minor slips of spelling in the English version of a largely bilingual text detract little from this first venture in that direction which is bound to increase its appeal to non-Swedish collectors.

The detailed description and valuation of postal stationery is a feature that will be widely welcomed.

The catalogue is unsurpassable as a valuation-guide to Swedish postal items of all kinds, discussed in detail that no more general catalogue can hope to match. It is likely to be found rather overpowering by the non-specialist, but a godsend for the one-country enthusiast. The limit of its appeal to collectors outside, perhaps inside, Sweden may be set by the numbers who have fled before the torrent of new issues of the past decade which continues unabated having unleashed 200 face-different in under 5 years.

Denmark Number Two

By Steffan Arctander (SCC 1433)

Part II

As already mentioned, this stamp is often—outside of Scandinavia—mentioned in catalogues and auctions as “Denmark Number One.” The popularity of this stamp has, of course, been enhanced by such erroneous designation, and it has resulted in this stamp being even more scarce than it was in the first place. Collection of “first issues” of stamps from many countries was fashionable long before topical collection became popular, and since “Denmark No. One” was not excessively expensive (10-20 years ago) it became part of many such collections and therefore was distributed all over the world.

It is characteristic, however, that high-quality copies of this stamp are extremely rare outside of Europe, and one successful (and wealthy) Danish collector has managed to establish the world's largest collection of 2 RBS—an estimated number of nearly 3000 copies, including many fantastic rarities, pairs, strips of three or four, blocks of four, mint copies of the Ferslew printing, rare numeral cancellations, etc. All this has contributed to making the 2 RBS even more expensive and rare than one would estimate, when using the printing figures as a basis. The Ferslew printings beginning 28th April 1851, and making the stamp available to the public on or about 1st May 1851, produced a total of 101,809 stamps. The Thiele printing between August and October 1852 produced 377,500 copies.

To use the total printing of a stamp as a basis for its actual collector's value (not to speak of market value) is far from reliable. The rarest regular stamp of Denmark, based on printing figures, is the 16 Skilling rouletted, 1863, which was printed in 100,000 copies. As a comparison (??) the famous 3 Skilling Banco of Sweden was printed in 90,000 copies. An even worse comparison is that of the 48 Skilling 1870, Denmark, which was printed in 265,000 copies (=two-thirds of the 2 RBS Thiele printing) while its price remains at about 10% of that of the 2 RBS Thiele.

2 RBS Ferslew Printing

This issue was made with Copperplate burelage printing on two plates, I and II, using the same burelage as employed on the 4 RBS Ferslew. The stamp was printed on two sheets each of 100 stamps, with printing plates still existing, practically unharmed, in the Danish Postal Museum. Only one proof sheet was printed, one half of which (50 stamps) exist in the Museum, while less than 10 single copies are known to be in private hands. These are the only Ferslew plate One stamps with burelage in plate Two.

An original die was made and from this die 10 matrices were prepared in plaster-of-Paris. The ten plaster-dies were then combined, 2 and 2 into a block of ten. From this block was made 10 stereotypes in type metal. The ten blocks of each ten clichés were soldered and nailed to a wooden plate. Several “spares” were made, i.e. more than 20 blocks of ten clichés, and three “spare blocks” were used to introduce a total of four “reserve clichés” during the printing. Naturally, stamps made from these clichés are rare and very desirable for the specialist collector. Proof of the exchange of clichés has been found in a unique pair of two type 6 (on a whole letter), existing in a Danish collection. This pair has come out of the fifth block, where type 4 was replaced with a type 6, thus making a vertical pair of two type 6 possible.

The fact that there are ten basic types, repeated ten times in the sheets of 100 stamps (with the exception of the above mentioned exchange clichés), is well known, and the writer prefers to enter a sketch at this point, explaining

the composition of plate One of 2 RBS Denmark. There are no "exchange clichés" in plate two, which is therefore quite regular.

BLOCK ONE		2	3	4	5	BLOCK SIX		7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	7	2
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	9	6
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6		
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8		
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50		
9	10	9	10	9	10	9	10	9	10		
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60		
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	2		
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70		
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4		
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80		
5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	5	6		
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90		
7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8	7	8		
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100		
9	10	9	10	9	10	9	10	9	10		

1-2-3-4 (light)=Normale Pladenumre (Plate numbers)

1-2 (bold)=Normale Typenumre (Type numbers)

7-9-6-3=Udskiftede Klichéer (Reserve clichés)

Large heavy rectangles=blocks of ten clichés

80-83-100 (in circles)=Three of the four "prominent retouches" (the fourth is plate II No. 98.)

It is not the purpose of this article to describe in detail the entire history of the 2 RBS, but certain basic facts have been repeated here to provide a necessary background for other comments, perhaps not previously reported.

Apart from "exchange clichés," the 2 RBS also shows a great number of retouches. In fact, every single cliché has been retouched either prior to printing, prior to proof printing, or perhaps prior to printing of the black/white proofs. There are FIVE major areas of retouching:

- 1) Re-engraving of the crown: 54 and 65 clichés in the two plates.
- 2) Re-engraving of the white ring: 46 clichés in each of the two plates.

- 2) Re-engraving of the posthorn: 43 and 63 clichés in the two plates.
- 4) Blue "dot" in the "N" in "Skilling"; 56 and 65 clichés in the two plates.
- 5) Blue "dot" in the first "R" in "Frimaerke"; 66 and 74 clichés in the two plates.

The four major retouches: I-80, I-93, I-100 and II-98 are relatively rare and highly desirable for special collections. They rank, along with the four "exchange clichés," among the true rarities of the 2 RBS, while the above five groups of retouches and "beauty spots" serve mainly to identify the plate numbers properly.

From the sketch on page three it will appear that plating of the 2 RBS is not nearly as complicated (for the amateur) as the plating of 4 RBS. The type numbers are adequately described in many catalogues, and the burelage will give you the plate. This leaves us with ten possibilities. Publications of the location of the above-mentioned five kinds of retouch or "beauty-spots" may often give an unambiguous proof of plate number. Among other clues, useful to the amateur plate-analyst, are the peculiar marks from nail-heads (the ten blocks were nailed to a wooden plate) and these crescent-shaped blue marks appear in the white inner field, mostly in the lower part. Below are listed the most conspicuous locations in plate One:

Plate numbers 3—5—53 of type I

Plate numbers 27 and 73 of type 5

Plate numbers 20—26—74 and 80 of type 6

Plate numbers 43—49—93 and 99 of type 9

Plate numbers 42 and 92 of type 10.

It will be noticed that two of these are the "prominent retouches." If we enter these locations on the sketch on page 3, the nails do not exactly form a regular pattern or design. In other words, if nails were placed frequently and individually on all ten blocks, we apparently have nail-head prints only in relatively few cases. But it seems that nails were placed ten times in each block, or actually one nail for each cliché. In view of that, we are lucky that we have only about 15% very conspicuous "dots" from nailheads. It can help considerably in identifying plate numbers. Although the Ferslew printing of the 2 RBS is only about one-quarter of the Thiele printing, it may appear to be at least ten times more rare on the market. Again perhaps due to its erroneous reputation of being "Denmark Number One."

But very peculiar errors can be observed even today, in spite of modern technique, instruments and expanded knowledge of stamps. Thiele printings are repeatedly offered by dealers or in auctions as "Ferslew" printings, or, in other cases, the auction house makes no mention of the printing. In the latter case, it becomes, of course, an interesting game (or gamble?) to take a chance on a Foreign or faraway mail auction, and see if there should be a Ferslew under a Thiele estimated price. And it does indeed happen. A common error of foreign houses is the mention of "distinct burelage" as indication of a Ferslew printing. It would be a bit more safe to assume that if the burelage was faint or invisible, we do have a Thiele in front of us, but it does not work the other way around.

One large auction house in Scandinavia had recently 3 Thiele listed as Ferslew, one of them being a mint copy. It would indeed have been a rarity if it had been a true mint Ferslew!!

One large European house offered 34 lots of 2 RBS. Out of 19 stamps, listed as Ferslew, only 6 were actually Ferslew, while the 13 were Thiele printings. Here again, two were mint copies. A viewing of some of the better lots prior to the auction brought up some hard questions, and it was determined in time before this auction that many so-called Ferslew printings were indeed Thiele printings.

Other than a close study of the burelage, the color (which may be greenish-blue on a true Ferslew), the cancellation (which may be numeral, mure ring or, very rarely, City-and-Date cancellation) may be useful hints in the search for clues and distinction between the Ferslew and the Thiele printings. Ink cancellations were used on the 4 RBS for about one week (the second week after the stamp was issued), and are, to the best of my knowledge, not known on the 2 RBS. However, a letter cancellation, if the stamp is on whole letter (or piece), can be of some help, and so can the watermark test for determination of burelage type. I would like to add one more possibility, which can unfortunately not be demonstrated in this article: An enlarged color print of a photo of the stamp will often reveal the difference in burelage very clearly, while it may be invisible to the naked eye on the stamp in natural size. The enlargement may have to be as much as 8x8 inch, and it may then show difference not only in color, but also in burelage and in the way in which the cancellation-ink has been absorbed by the paper (Thiele), or adsorbed by the burelage (Ferslew).

Regarding color, it should be noted, that the earliest copies of the Thiele printing seem to have a different color, usually described as somewhat smeared, Prussian-blue without any trace of ultramarine, while the main portion of the Thiele printing has a distinct nuance of ultramarine blue.

The bluish and the blue-green ink, used for cancellations on some of the 4 RBS issues (Ferslew), are not found on the 2 RBS (to the writer's knowledge). One must also assume, that such color for cancellation would be poorly chosen for a blue stamp. In any event, the 4 RBS ink cancellation is indeed rare, and it is found only on Ferslew printings. It is furthermore indicative of a very early copy, and chances are nearly 50/50, that an ink-cancellation on a Ferslew is accompanied with the happy finding that it is a Ferslew-I (see article on 4 RBS, DENMARK Number One). As on the NORWAY Number One, the ink cancellation has tempted certain characters to remove the cancellation chemically in order to obtain an "unused" copy. Obviously many stamps were destroyed in vain attempts to remove cancellations, and this made them even more rare.

2 RBS Thiele printings

This main printing of the 2 RBS began in August 1852, between the printings of 4 RBS Thiele-I and 4 RBS Thiele-II.

For reasons so far not fully explained, the burelage printing plates were reversed in use, as compared to the Ferslew printing, so that the way lines with "points down" is a plate I in the Thiele 2 RBS printing, while the "points up" indicate a plate II of the Thiele printing.

Otherwise, the reader is referred here to the very fine literature on the subject, by Sven Grønlund, J. Schmidt-Andersen and others, particularly to the many many articles published by the Danish Philatelic Clubs.

It should be mentioned here, however, that the Thiele printing of the 2 RBS is indeed part of the general hunt for "Denmark Number One," still a popular topic among collectors of "First Issues."

It is also interesting to note that although the stamp was printed in 377,500 copies, and although it represented a very low denomination for Local Copenhagen postage only, it appears almost exclusively as single stamps. Pairs are relatively rare, strips of three or four are extremely rare. One mint block of four exists in the USA, and a few blocks of four are known in Denmark (cancelled).

It is already more than 100 years since this stamp was considered rare enough to justify (??) falsification. At least nine different types of false 2 RBS are known, and many circulate among dealers and collectors, who often

are unaware that their stamp is not genuine, because it may be very well made. No Denmark specialist-collector should have any problem in detecting these frauds. The real difficult ones are the skilfully repaired stamps, from defective or marginless 2 RBS copies with four beautiful margins from a 4 RBS added by "plastic operation." Furthermore, the copies made from the 1901 reprints are quite good, because the color matches that of the genuine stamp very closely.

In the 1860's in Hamburg, Germany, a lithographic establishment by the name of Gebrüder Spiro manufactured copies of famous stamps. Among 500 such types is also the Danish 2 RBS. This false print has no burelage, and it has a distinct frameline surrounding the entire stamp. Spiro's issue occurs with or without cancellation. The cancellation is practically always a Numeral (1) ring cancellation, very carefully centered on the stamp or at least appearing with $\frac{3}{4}$ of the circles. On the very few false watermarked-and-burelaged prints, the shape of the watermark may be revealing, or the details in ornaments, posthorn or crown will show differences from a genuine stamp. The writer has encountered 3 false 2 RBS offered as genuine in the USA within one year, all from otherwise reputable dealers.

Unpredictable overprices or premiums are paid for relatively common errors or typical plate numbers of 2 RBS. The type 2 "nearly disjointed foot of 2" is hardly more rare than any of the other 2 types, but this is just one other example of the capricious fluctuations on the collectors' market because of "demand and availability."

It is unfortunate, however, that money and cost have become such influential factors within stamp collectors' circles, particularly for those who specialize in certain classic stamps. We only have to go back about 30 years when the 2 RBS was within reach of almost anybody's purse, and the writer recalls clearly seeing two elderly collectors meeting at an auction in Copenhagen, and before the auction started, they had already swapped dozens of 2 RBS copies from their stockbooks containing hundreds of these stamps. But to personally participate in the study of 2 RBS today, it takes either immense wealth, or some very good connections to collectors who have many copies and are willing to let you see them and take photos of them. The Danish collection, allegedly containing some 3000 copies of 2 RBS, is said to be protected for the future and not to be offered for sale in part or as a whole. For those who have invested (and then we are no longer speaking of collectors) in the 2 RBS, this may be good news, but for the hungry and eager specialist collector, it means continued increase in scarcity of this very attractive stamp.

As a small consolation it could be added, that the true "Denmark Number One" (4 RBS) is certainly still plentiful on the market, and available in so many types, shades, cancellations and various appearances, that it is an open door for the specialist collector with interest in research. Undoubtedly, there are still discoveries to be made in this area, and the writer welcomes any additional information not yet published. If this article could set off further information, we have at least achieved something: another step forward on what may, at times, seem like an endless road.

* S * C * C *

Norway Catalog #36, Correction

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

In my recent article "Philatelic Type Collections, and Norway Catalog #36 and #38" (Posthorn 1973, p. 34-38), I made an attempt, after many years of

very hard work on #36, finally to establish the total number of types at 300. This number will now require a revision downward for reasons appearing below.

A collector-friend of mine in Norway recently had an opportunity to examine an old protocol not previously available (out on loan) in the files of the Postal Department on #36. He sent me a short summary from the protocol, according to which S. Isaksen in 1881 struck 460 matrices of #36 in lead and made electrotyped clichés from same. Only 251 clichés were, however, considered acceptable, and these were sent to Kreutch for engraving of the small numbers. The matrices were struck in large blocks, ranging from apparently 24 to 33 items each, a procedure much different from that employed by Petersen for the earlier posthorn stamps. The printing was completed on Oct. 1, 1881. 51 clichés were destroyed and 200 delivered to the Postal Department on Oct. 3, 1881. The clichés were taken out again Jan. 5, 1882, presumably for printing, but were considered useless and were therefore destroyed.

It is obvious from the above that the total number of types cannot exceed 251 unless some late reengraving had been done so as to create additional subtypes. A critical review of the types in my collection failed, however, to show any reasonable signs of such special reengraving. The only remaining possible cause of the lower than the previously assumed total number of types would then likely be that my collection contained a higher than anticipated number of false duplications, and this was, in fact, found to be true.

My collection of types in #36 consists largely of my own stamps, augmented by photos of stamps of other types that I have come across in the collections of several of my collector-friends. I originally bought a collection of some allegedly different types in 1950. These carried arbitrary type numbers up to a little over 200, apparently assigned by some old collector in Norway. In time I discovered the benefits of the "period position" and mounted the stamps in period position groups as best I could by a rather simple determination. Considerably later, I developed improvements in the determination of accurate period position and the check method involving the neighbor groups (Posthorn 1965, p. 39-41). As a result, only the later part of my collection has had the benefit of these improvements. Now and then I would discover a false type duplicate, which then was removed from the collection, and after some time I assumed that only very few possibly remaining false types were involved. And realizing the enormous work that would be required for an accurate check by the neighbor group method, I was naturally, for a long time, very reluctant to spend the time and energy required for such a check. Finally realizing, however, that this work is absolutely necessary under the circumstances, I have now practically completed such a check (involving about 50,000 stamp comparisons). And sure enough, it did disclose a much larger number of false types than I had originally anticipated, and that my "clean" collection will embrace about 248 types, i.e. less than corresponding to the 251 clichés of the protocol. The number may actually be a few below 248, as some of the types are exceedingly difficult to decide upon, whether they truly are different from the others, even after most careful examination.

Since the numbering of the final types will require much realignment in any case, I feel that the opportunity is now here for an improved sequence of the types to facilitate future type determinations. A description of all types in tabular form, and a complete set of photos of the types should also be prepared. Work on this is under way, but will require an immense amount of work and time. Some day, however, we hope to have even the tough #36 under control.

U. S. Diplomatic Stamps From Scandinavia

By Frederick A. Brofos (H-11)

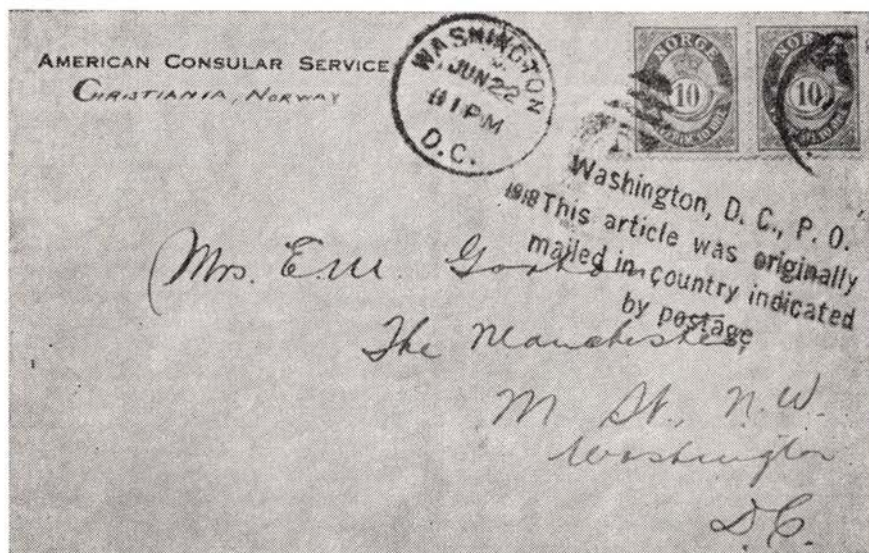


Fig. 1

Once in a while one runs across a curious cover with foreign stamps cancelled in the United States. Usually these are also marked "Paquebot" and derive from mail brought ashore at U. S. ports from foreign ships. Interesting as this ship mail may be, there is yet another and much scarcer type of cover to be found bearing foreign stamps cancelled in the U. S., and this comes from diplomatic mail. Several covers of this latter category repose in my collection, but only three of them are from Scandinavia. They are as follows:

1) Cover from American Consular Service, Christiania, Norway, addressed to a private person in Washington, D. C., franked by two of the red 10-cent Posthorn stamps of Norway (1910 issue). These are cancelled by a Washington, D. C., hand-postmark in black dated June 22, 1918. In addition,

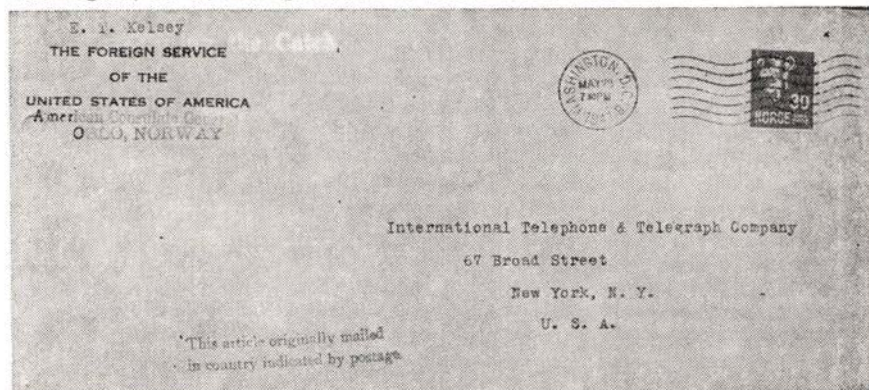


Fig. 2

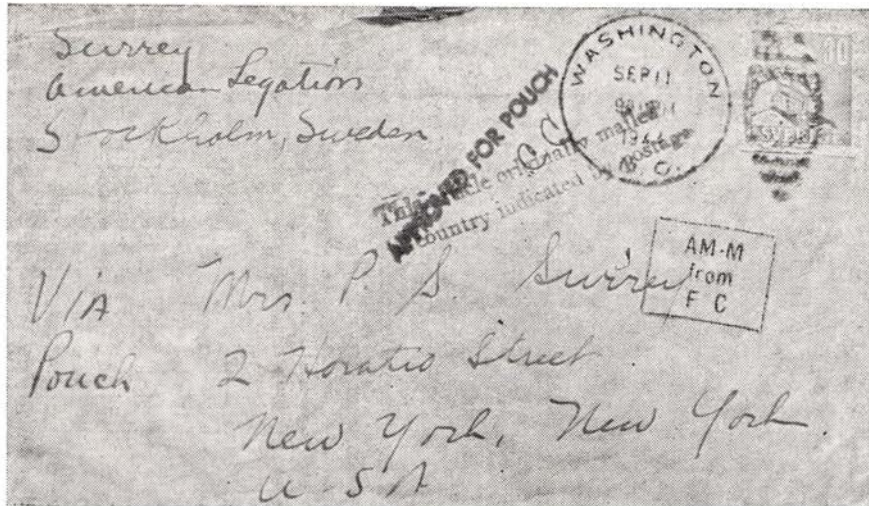


Fig. 3.

a 4-line handstamp in magenta has been struck on the envelope reading: "Washington, D. C., P. O. / This article was originally / mailed in country indicated / by postage." On the reverse is an oval strike in grey reading: "Consular Bureau, / Dept. of State., with date in middle: JUN 21 1918.

2) Cover from American Consulate General, Oslo, Norway, to a company in New York City, franked by a Norwegian 30 øre blue Lion stamp (1937 issue). This is postmarked by a Washington, D. C., machine cancel dated May 28, 1941. A 2-line handstamp in magenta has been struck on the envelope reading: "This article originally mailed / in country indicated by postage."

3) Cover from staff member of American Legation, Stockholm, Sweden, addressed to a relative in New York City. Franked by a Swedish 30 öre blue King Gustav V stamp (1939 issue). This bears a Washington, D. C., hand-cancel dated Sept. 11, 1944. In addition to a magenta marking identical to that on cover No. 2, there are two markings in grey. One reads "Approved for pouch", the other "AM-M / from / FC" in three lines within a box frame. The latter mark I interpret to be an "American Mail from Foreign Country."

When mail originating abroad is received at the Washington, D. C., post office through the Department of State (with uncanceled foreign stamps affixed), they are cancelled by Washington, D. C., postmarks and an additional endorsement is added to explain the U. S. postmark on the foreign stamps. This mail, which arrives not only from Scandinavia but from all over the world, comes from the diplomatic dispatch pouches or mail bags sent by the U. S. Foreign Service. Besides the official despatches from the American embassies, legations and consulates abroad, employees thereof are at times permitted to send important private mail by the pouch.

This arrangement for U. S. diplomatic mail has been in effect for some time, as appears from my 1918 cover, and may have started before the turn of the century. Current regulations continue to call for the mail to be franked by stamps at the foreign letter rate of the country of origin.

Now, who can report whether this arrangement also works the other way round and whether a letter to, say Norway, sent by the Norwegian diplomatic pouch from their embassy in Washington, has to carry a U. S. stamp, which is later postmarked in Oslo? And are similar arrangements made by the other Scandinavian countries here, too?

Stockholmia 74 Exhibition Stamps



On 21 September, 1974, the Swedish Postal Administration will issue a set of commemorative stamps for the international stamp exhibition STOCKHOLMIA 74, which will take place 21-29 September, 1974.

The set consists of 4 sheets with 4 stamps, one value on each sheet. The values are 20, 25, 30 and 35 öre.

The sale of the special exhibition stamps is limited to the duration of the exhibition.

The stamps have been printed at the Post Office Stamp Printing Works, Stockholm, and the dimension of the stamps is 48.0x31.25 mm, and of each sheet 120x80 mm. The colors are yellow, violet, red and green.

The motif, a stylized view of central Stockholm, was drawn by the artist Ture Tideblad for the stamp series issued for the VIIIth Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Stockholm in 1924. For the 1924 issue Paul Wilcke engraved some values of the approved drawing. The emblem of the exhibition and the text Internationell Frimärksutställning (International Stamp Exhibition) have been added to the original motif and placed to the right of the view of Stockholm.

The exhibition issue will be obtainable in sets with FDC, mint sheets, first day cancelled sheets and souvenir cards.

FDC, order No. 741:

Set of four covers with a first day cancelled STOCKHOLMIA sheet on each Mint Sheets, order No. 742:

Set with the four mint STOCKHOLMIA sheets.

First Day Cancelled Sheets, order No. 743:

Set with the four STOCKHOLMIA sheets with first day cancellations.

Souvenir Card, order No. 744:

All four STOCKHOLMIA sheets fixed on the souvenir card with first day cancellations.

The price for each of these exhibition specialties is 10 Skr. They are only sold together with an entrance ticket to the exhibition. The face value of the stamps is 4.40 Kr.—the rest goes to the foundation STOCKHOLMIA 74.

The exhibition stamps can be ordered from the Post Office Section for Philately PFA in Stockholm, by transfer to the PFA postal giro account No.

1066-O, Stockholm, by international money order or banker's check. Orders must reach the PFA not later than 2 September, 1974, for deliveries on the day of issue, 21 September. Orders can be made until 29 September, 1974, i.e. the last day of sale.

* S * C * C *

Roll Stamps—Iceland

Translation from Handbook about Icelandic Stamps by Thora & George Sickels
Section VI, page 68

(Published: Utgefandi, Felag Frimerkjasafnara, Reykjavik—1973)

In the year 1932, vending machines were set up in the lobby of the post-office on Austurstraeti. These slot machines dispensed one stamp at a time when the coin was put in. The stamps were prepared for the machines in the following manner:

Sheets of stamps were ripped or cut down into strips with ten (10) stamps in each. Next those strips were fastened together on the ends in the following way. The lateral edge of the end stamps of the first strip was pasted under the lateral edge of the end stamp of the next, and so on to include 500 stamps. The long strip of stamps formed was then wrapped upon a spool and placed into the vending machine. As far as it is known, these rolls have been made here in Iceland, and some complete rolls are known to still exist.

The machines dispensed the stamps in this way: a blade cut one stamp at a time from the roll. Because of that, one might often discover a characteristic cutting of the perforations on these stamps. (Machine cut). It happens like this: when the movement of the stamps in the machine was not precise, the blade did not cut in the middle of the perforations. These cuts are discovered primarily on the vertical sides of the stamps because this is how they were placed in the roll. Never-the-less there are examples of it on other occasions along horizontal edges. This probably resulted from when the rolls were made. Some stamp sheets have been cut down into strips with a cutting tool rather than being ripped along the perforations.

It is known that the following stamps have been used in the stamp rolls:

Gullfoss	5 aur	500 pieces per roll	1933 printing
Gullfoss	5 aur	500 pieces per roll	1935 printing
Gullfoss	20 aur	500 pieces per roll	1933 printing
Gullfoss	20 aur	500 pieces per roll	1935 printing
Gullfoss	35 aur	(not known which printing)	
Fish	5 aur		
Fish	25 aur	red	
Fish	25 aur	reddish-brown	

Translator's Comments:

Notice that we omitted the use of the word coil in the translation. The United States issued coil stamps 24 years earlier, and the word coil has a specific meaning to the average philatelist. Using the word would be misleading as these roll stamps do not have the usual straight edges of the regular coil stamp.

I observe that Sigurdur Thorsteinsson makes reference to some of these stamps in *Islenski Frimerki 1974* on page 32. He recognizes the 5 aur Gullfoss, and the 35 aur Gullfoss. He identifies the latter as being a 1933 printing in the amount of 300,000 stamps for roll purposes. He also uses the word coil in English translation.

—George W. Sickels (SCC #1545)

NEW MEMBERS

- 1846 ANDREWS, C. Norman, P. O. Box 731, Park Ridge, IL 60068
Scandinavia, used by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1847 DENISON, Ellery, 7207 Thirteenth Place, Takoma Park, MD 20012
China, Korea, 1st Flights by S. Yort #H-12
- 1848 HALPERN, Max C., 65-27 182 St., Flushing, NY 11365
Scandinavia by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1849 HARE, Elaine C., 4019 Amherst St., Des Moines, IA 50313
Sweden, U. S. by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1850 KAPLOW, Bernard, 12 Darewood Lane, Valley Stream, NY 11581
Finland, Iceland by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1851 OHLENDORF, Elmer, 321 Higate Drive, Daly City, CA 94015
U. S. by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1852 ORZELL, Stephen James, R. D. #3, Box 9, Bainbridge, NY 13733
Scandinavia, Spain, Poland by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1853 SCHAFFNER, Dr. Bertram, 220 Central Park South (3A), New York, NY 10019
by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1854 STOLLNITZ, Henry, 224 Rockrose Place, Forest Hills, NY 11375
U. S. & Poss., postal history by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1855 WALDEN, David C., 211 Forest St., Arlington, MA 02174
Scandinavia by R. Norby #935
- 1856 WESTHOLM, Woodrow W., Iowa State Bank, East 7th & Locust St.,
Des Moines, IA 50309 by D. F. Halpern #1201
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Scandinavia by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1858 WUNSCH, Margaret, 1219 W. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506
U.S. by J. T. DeVoss #1769
- 1859 DOANE, Edith R., 279 Fourth Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07017
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- 1860 ERICSSON, Martha A., 504½ 39th Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33407
Scandinavia, U.S. by D. F. Halpern #1201
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- 1862 GUENTHER, Rudolf, 14 Willowdale Terr., Albany, NY 12205
Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1863 GUZZIO, George T., 134 Berkeley Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217
Music, France, Post-war Germany by D. F. Halpern #1201
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Sweden by C. O. Malmberg #442
- 1865 LENNON, W. Tobin, 806 Fairlawn Ct., Box 702, Marco Island, FL 33937
General by V. E. Engstrom #911
- 1866 OLSEN, Florence H., 101 West 57th St., Apt. 5H, New York, NY 10019
Denmark, Canada, U.S. by R. P. Stevens #236
- 1867 ROGERS, Hortense S., 150-14 Village Road, Jamaica, NY 11422
by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1868 ROSENBAUM, Ernest, 63-84 Saunders St., Rego Park, NY 11374
Norway #1, Finland, Sweden, Iceland by D. F. Halpern #1201
- 1869 VAN EVERY, K., 1702 Lincoln Ave. #11, San Diego, CA 92103
Scandinavia, France, Pitcairn, Cyprus by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1870 MOONEY, Frank C., Box 10 Navy Exchange, FPO, NY 09571
Iceland by S. H. Thorsteinsson #1103

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- 983 BLOOM, Alvin I., 2 Academic Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
 139 NIELSEN, Erwin C., 1956 N. 40th St., Milwaukee, WI 53208
 U.S. and Scandinavia by D. F. Halpern #1201

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- 821 LUDDEN, David H., 2069 San Gabriel, Fairfield, CA 94533
 1530 AMANN, Olga, 460 S. Lafayette Pk. Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90057
 1764 BRANDAL, Ole L., P. O. Box 688, Kent, WA 98031
 1767 IIRUSKA, Miroslav, 289 Edinburgh Rd., Castlecrag 2068, Sydney, NSW, Australia
 1605 TORHEIM, Robert H., 5619 S. W. Menefee Drive, Portland, OR 97201
 1746 VOSS, Robert T., 1031 Meadowlark Lane, Glenview, IL 60025
 1804 NERBO, Gunnar, 670 Glenairy Drive, Atlanta N.E., GA 30328
 1538 ELLIOT, Earl E., 6700 Starcrest Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210
 1243 RODLAND, Olav, Leverhogen, S-672 00 Arjang, Sweden
 1802 ROSEN, Ronald Earl, 4501 Round Up Trail, Austin, TX 78745
 1329 BENFIELD, William R., 990 University St., Memphis, TN 38107
 1360 GREENLAND, H. B., 805 North Main St., Bishop, CA 93514
 1823 KUST, Edward N., 4112 Elm Ave., Brookfield, IL 60513
 1709 ROBINSON, Howard A., Wilderness Community, Mt. Holly, VT 05758

ADMITTED TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 772-L-25 FRIGSTAD, Robert A., 2181 Lakecaires Blvd., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

RESIGNED

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