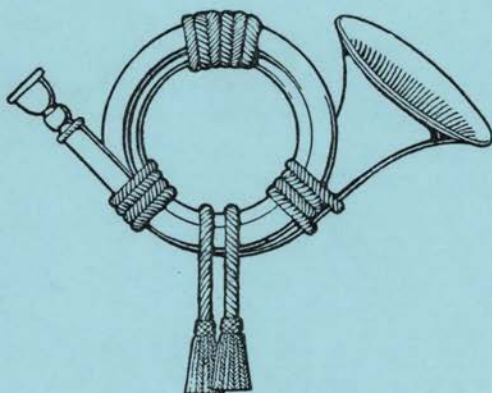


Vol. 31, No. 4, Whole No. 120, November, 1974

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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SCC STRIKES AGAIN

Stockholmia 74

Grand Prix Nationale (for Sweden) Mr. Lawson H. Stone—SCC #483

Other awards in the Scandinavia class were won by: Col. Victor E. Engstrom, #911, a small gold for D. W. I., Mr. Svend Yort, H-10, a silver for D. W. I.; and Mrs. Earl F. (Christie) Blinn, #45, a silver bronze for D. W. I.

S. C. C. members winning awards in other classes were: Col. James T. DeVoss, #176, Class of Honor, a prize donated by the committee; Margaret Wunsch, 1858, large gold, U.S. 1869; Bernard Harmer, #160, vermeil for Colombian Airmails; Gordon Garrett, #1540, a silver bronze for Egyptian Airmails; George Turner, #575, a silver for Mourning Covers, and a bronze for philatelists on stamps; and Ernest Cohn, #616, a bronze for Metz Papi-lons in the Literature class.

Our heartiest congratulations to all S. C. C. members who were successful at Stockholm. (I have, unfortunately, only been able to list those American members of S. C. C. who won awards. I haven't yet (10-8-74) received a list of all award winners. I know, therefore, that some SCCers have been omitted. My apologies in advance and I shall publish your success as soon as you inform me of it.)

* S * C * C *

Facit 1974-1975—An Unsolicited Review

By Robert A. Helm, L20

Oct. 1, 1974

I received my new Facit 2 weeks ago from Bjorn Åsk who sent it to me as a favor at my request. I opened it and was immediately confused by the lack of a thumb index. And that is the last criticism I have of the new format. Messrs. Beskow, Douglas, Forselius, and Lundström are to be heartily congratulated on the magnificent results of their massive redesigning of Facit.

I found it much easier to use—the two-column format being vastly superior to an inter-linear translation (regardless of how many "trots" one has used for "Caesar's Gallic Wars").

The "handbook" section (pp A7-A51) although it uses Sweden as its type country, is extremely valuable for experienced collectors as well as for beginners. Pp A29 through A31 where Messrs Rydén, Douglas, and Lundström discuss quality standards is very enlightening. Pages A33 through A39 discuss the "Quality and Valuation Standards" for Swedish stamps which have been adopted by S. F. F. and by the Stamp Dealer's Association of Sweden. It is to be fervently hoped that this lucid explanation (with a multitude of pictures) will soon be adopted around the world. [Alas, Utopia is not yet here.]

And now to pages I1 through I68 . . . I must leave for others the critique of the other country sections, but for Iceland I feel that I can make some small judgement as to over all quality and content. First, let me say that the English translation is much better than it has ever been. There are far fewer ambiguities and therefore much less room for error on the part of those Americans like myself who are not tri-lingual in the Scandinavian tongues.

[The word pre-Philately is used here on page I-1. It is a word which defies definition in the classic sense and it is a word which I do not use. Its meaning, while vague, can be figured out to be pre-stamp.]

The discussion on covers is the first improvement in this year's Facit.

It is not the last. In fact, as stated above, the entire section is greatly improved. The stamp listing, the judicious use of asterisks, the valuation of the "Provincial" post office cancellations from R1-R5 (which are described but not priced on p A3), the picturing of the false Hraungerdi cancel, the description of the Millenery themes, etc., are all prologue to the *piece de resistance* . . . the complete reworking of the Numeral cancellations.

My only comment on this area is: WELL DONE.

I hope all who collect Scandinavian stamps will buy a copy of Facit 74-75 if only to prove to the world that a good catalogue will be supported and to thank Frimärkshuset AB in a more tangible manner than I am doing now.

Thanks again, gentlemen!

R. A. Helm

PRE-PHILATELIC IS ILLITERATE

In my review of Facit 1974-1975, I spoke briefly of my dissatisfaction with the word pre-philatelic. I mentioned this to C.H.W., and as is his custom, he lighted Ye Editor's way to The POSTHORN, Volume 22, Numbers 1 and 2, wherein he wrote "One Hundred Years of Philately":

Ten years ago, "Der Alte" perspicaciously punctured the pompous pontifications of those pundits who postulate pre-philatelic when they, in their invincible ignorance, are discussing pre-stamp material!

Vol. 22, #1, (January, 1965) p. 16, contains M. Georges Herpin's classical definition of "Philatelie." Translated from *Le Collection de Timbres-Poste* of November 1864, it reads: "Philately should therefore signify: Love of the study of everything concerning franking."

In Vol. 22, #2, (April, 1965) p. 29. Carl wrote: "Consider here that philately as a discipline is much older than the postage stamp, since franking was a serious problem for centuries before the advent of the stamp. This makes the term prephilatelic, meaning before the issuance of stamp, illogical and preposterous"!!!

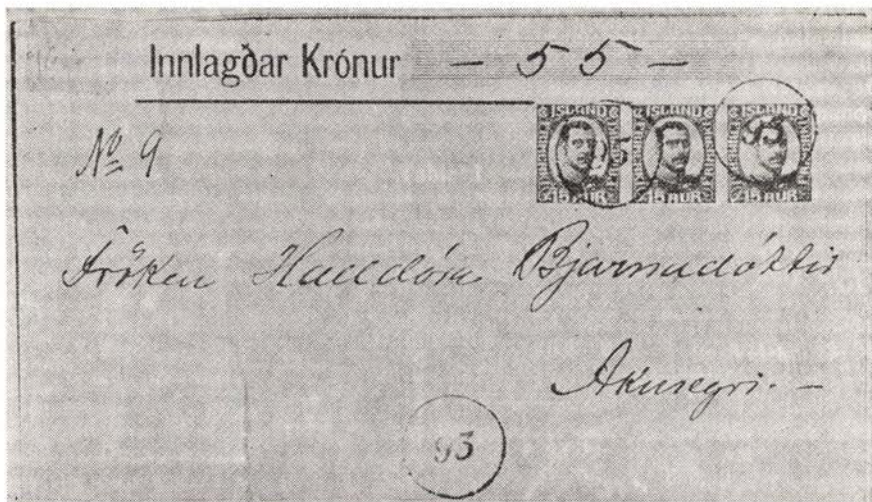
—R. A. Helm, L-20

* S * C * C *

Another Letter From Copenhagen

Something funny, or perhaps not so funny, seems to be going on in Europe about Icelandic covers with numeral cancels. Recent history repeated itself at a Copenhagen auction on October 1, when another considerable batch of such covers, 33 in all, were offered singly. Again, as on the earlier occasion in May described in my "Letter from Copenhagen" in the August issue of THE POSTHORN, they were ALL grabbed by a single buyer, and at prices totally out of line with estimates. The buyer, it turned out, acted as agent for the same German dealer who had bid up some fifty covers in May to five or six times the (lower) estimates then, if necessary in order not to miss any.

There was much talk in the sale room of an attempt to corner the thin market in these covers. The dealer later denied this, saying that in October he was acting for another principal than in his spectacular performance in May. Be that as it may, the signs point to a considerable hike in market prices for this kind of a material until something else happens—either the sating of the appetite of one or two monied collectors, or the emergence of a good deal of material hitherto tucked away.



Influenced by the prices realized in May, the Skandia auction firm had raised its estimates on all the covers offered in October to a flat 300 Danish kroner, but this proved far from sufficient. Only three of the covers were sold for a little less than 700 Kroner each (about \$100), the rest going for anything between 850 and 1200 kroner.

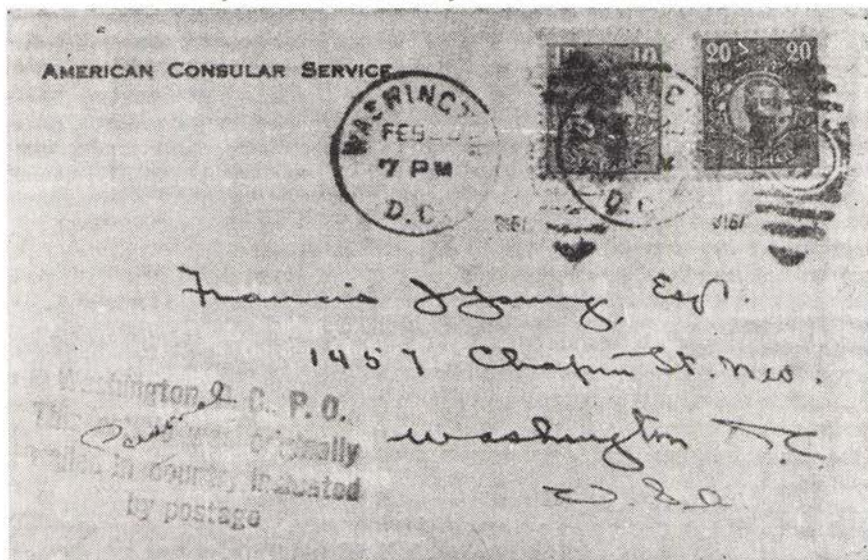
The covers were undeniably of higher quality this time. Nearly all of them were registered letters, many of which had contained money. The frankings were all of the Double Head and Christian X issues, except one of the 1925 "Views" set. But neither the value of the frankings nor of the individual numerals seemed to affect the price attained, which was invariably determined simply when the last underbidder dropped out. Thus, two nearly identical covers with the very common numeral cancel "105"—valued in the new Facit catalogue at less than a dollar off-cover—one franked with a pair of the 5 aur. Double Head, the other with a pair of the 10 aur. of the same issue, fetched 850 and 1100 kroner, respectively.

The collection itself was interesting in that it consisted exclusively of letters addressed to one and the same person in Akureyri, Halldóra Bjarnadóttir (Fig. 1). She was at the time the editor—in Icelandic, *ritstýra*—of a small newspaper named *Hlín* and appears to be a rather formidable woman. As late as this spring, at the age of an even hundred, she sat down at her typewriter and composed a letter to *Morgunblaðið*, the leading Reykjavik daily, in which she read the riot act to her juniors about the attempt to get the Americans out of the Keflavik air base, one of the major controversies then raging in the rather strife-torn republic. "Don't forget the debt of gratitude we all owe the Americans," she wrote. Whether her intervention had anything to do with it or not, later developments produced a compromise permitting the United States to stay on at the base, as we now know.

Together, the thirty-three letters Halldóra Bjarnadóttir had opened decades ago to pick out subscription fees, ad payments or just copy, fetched the respectable price of 28,650 Danish kroner or some \$4,000, but it seems the covers had long passed out of her hands. The satisfaction of having Americans staying at Keflavik, however, is hers, and humanly speaking likely to remain with her as long as she lives.

—Sven Ahman (SCC #936)

U. S. Diplomatic Stamps From Scandinavia



Re: "U. S. Diplomatic Stamps from Scandinavia," by Frederick A. Brofos in *THE POSTHORN* of August, 1974, pp. 75-76, I have a small contribution, and also a small theory.

Here is an illustration of a cover sent in 1916, from Göteborg in Sweden, in an envelope of the "American Consular Service" of the same kind as the 1918 cover from Christiania depicted with the Brofos article.

Like his cover, mine is also addressed to a private individual in Washington. While the Norwegian cover is franked with two 10 øre stamps, the single rate for letters, the Swedish cover was apparently overweight. It carries one 10 öre and one 20 öre stamp for the double letter rate prevailing at the time.

I have another cover of the same type from World War II, and my theory is that, at least as far as countries like Sweden and Norway are concerned, this system of accommodating private mail in the diplomatic pouch was in use only during war-time. From Iceland, however, I have a similar private letter, written by a member of the U. S. Legation, in the early 50s.

The rationale behind the requirement of adequate franking was obviously not to deprive the postal administration of the "host country" of its rightful due by putting private letters in the diplomatic pouch. I do not believe, however, that the official legation or embassy mail carried by diplomatic pouch had to be similarly franked. But that should be easy to find out in Washington.

Brofos raises the question whether a letter carried in the Norwegian diplomatic pouch from Washington similarly has to be franked with a U. S. stamp to be cancelled on arrival in Oslo. I don't know the answer to that one, but as far as Sweden is concerned the system works differently. Only the other day, a letter arrived for my wife from a friend at the Swedish Embassy in Santiago—but it carried a Swedish stamp, the domestic rate of 75 öre. Either our embassies carry supplies of Swedish stamps for private pouch mail, or the stamp is affixed by the courier division of the Foreign Office.

Sven Ahman (#936)

Aerograms Of Finland

By Kauko Aro

(This article will appear in two parts: their writing has been separated by a trip to Finland which may yield additions or corrections to this first half.)

I decided to write down my observations about Finnish aerograms as there does not seem to be any single source of information. Various catalogs list the aerograms in chronological order, but no data is given as to types or even some first days of issue. Even the new Finnish Manual has less than one page on aerograms which is appended to the end of the section on stationery (Vol. V, p. 142). Since I have collected these "step-children of postal stationery" only for a few years, there will certainly be blank spots which the readers are invited to fill.

Although the catalog prices of aerograms are fairly low, postally used non-philatelic copies are very hard to obtain. Some dealers may have mint copies and an odd FDC, unaddressed or addressed. Even one of the largest stamp dealers in Helsinki two years ago had only about a dozen postally used Finnish aerograms. They were all addressed to the same Finnish student who spent Summer 1958 in Bristol, England, and coincidentally happened to be my classmate.

There are two main reasons for the relative scarcity of used aerograms: they are very unassuming in appearance and have kept the same design throughout 23 years, secondly, the ballpoint pens were non-existent after the WW II and unfortunately the ink from regular ink pens spread through the paper and made the text illegible and thus very sloppy. This left indelible and regular pencils as the only feasible writing tools. The paper has been improved, but their popularity has not increased.

Forerunners

Form A: Aquamarine
Form B: Dark blue

October 9, 1949

Finland agreed to issue its first aerogram to celebrate UPU's 75th Anniversary in 1949. October 9 was selected as the date for UPU-Day throughout Scandinavia when all of these countries would issue aerograms. (In most instances these were the first, except for Norway which had issued one a few years earlier.)

Finland planned to issue an aerogram with 15mk value printed on the upper right corner. However, the rates for foreign mail were to change on November 1, 1949 when the postage for aerograms would be 20mk, thus rendering all the forms obsolete in three weeks. Since the authorities had no time to have the new aerograms ready for issuance for October 9, they decided to leave out the designation of value and to sell the blank forms at the Post Offices for 4mk a piece. The first day of sale was October 8, but the "First Day Cancellation" was to take place in Helsinki on October 9. Since the latter was Sunday and Post Offices were closed, the forms with attached stamps had to be left in letter boxes in the Post Offices in order to receive the special cancellation; this was a circular cancel 30mm in diameter with HELSINKI on top and HELSINGFORS at bottom, date 9.10.-49 across the middle and words ILMAKIRJE above and AEROGRAM below the date. The "First Day Covers" of this form usually have the 15mk UPU stamp (Scott 290; Facit 388). Any other kind of FDC or even any form with other proper 15mk postage should be very scarce.

Form A: Originally the form was issued in aquamarine with the basic instructions which appear later on all aerograms.

Form B: In very dark blue and issued at least by March 1950.

Both colors were in use until the new stamped aerograms were finally issued in 1951. In the background the paper had horizontal lines of "... SUOMIFINLANDSUOMI ..." printed at a rate of 25 lines per 60mm on the outside and 38 per 60mm on the inside. As can be seen later the size of this text changes a few times and then finally disappears in 1964.

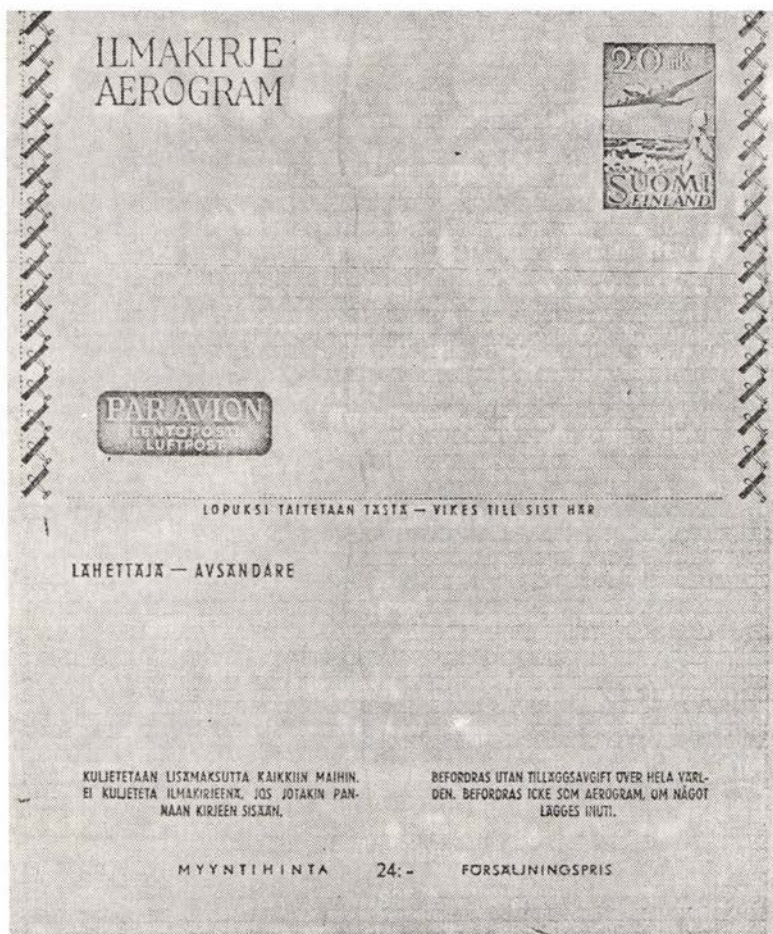


Figure 1

This figure demonstrates the basic design for all of the aerograms. In the earlier forms the stamp is missing, but the space for stamp is there. Also the forms had a statement to show that it was approved by the Post and Telegraph Administration. The stamp design is the 300mk airmail stamp released in February 1950 (Scott C3; Facit 395)—Figure 2.

Aerogram—1

20mk blue aerogram
Sales Price: 24mk
Size of Sheet: 17x33cm

April 14, 1951

The early aérograms (and all of the ones described in this part) were issued on paper with words ". . . SUOMIFINLANDSUOMI . . ." printed in white letters in the background—9 lines per 20mm. An apparent second run through the press produced the instructions, words "ILMAKIRJE AEROGRAM" and "PAR AVION, LENTOPOSTI, LUFTPOST" as well as the plane silhouettes at the edges. The white space for the stamp was probably printed on the first run, since it lines up uniformly with the words "SUOMIFINLANDetc." On the other hand, the stamp appears to be printed on the second run as it matches the other text in color shade. The lines on the writing surface also consist of words ". . . SUOMIFINLANDSUOMI . . ." but upside down to the text on the outside and at a rate of 18 lines to 20mm.

Aerogram — 2

25mk blue aerogram

March 14, 1952

Type I: 18 lines per 20mm;

Type II: 14 lines per 20mm.

Sales Price: 30mk

Size of Sheet: 17x33cm

Issued to meet new foreign mail rates which became effective Jan. 1, 1952. Printing was very similar to No. 1. However, this aerogram comes in two types, distinguished by the density of the text on the inside and its direction: Type I runs in opposite direction inside vs. outside of the form, but in Type II they run in the same direction on both sides. Type II seems to have been issued much later and I have not seen any copies cancelled before 1956. As the rate changed again on June 1, 1956 to 30mk, this type could be fairly uncommon without additional postage. Even some Post Offices added (or even instructed to add) a 5mk stamp (Lion type 1954) to their remaining stock of aerograms.

Aerogram — 3

30mk blue aerogram

July 1956

a) light blue

b) dark blue

Sales Price: Henceforth always 5mk above the face value of the stamp

Size of Sheet: 17x33cm



Issued to meet the new foreign mail rate (30mk), effective June 1, 1956. Printing was similar to No. 1 and 2. However, the paper appears to be similar to No. 2, Type II. This seems to indicate that the Postal Administration kept a stock of blank forms and that the stamp and instructions (the second press run) were printed only when new aerograms were needed. Type I paper was probably out of stock already and no longer available for No. 3.

There are two different shades of blue paper which must have been used about the same time as I have one copy of each, both cancelled in Helsinki on 28.VIII.56: the normal light blue (a) and a much darker blue (b). Both writing surfaces are Type II of No. 2.

Aerogram — 4

40mk blue aerogram

May 1959

Type I: 3 lines in the space between instructions and
"MYYNTHINTA";

Type II: 2 lines in this space.

Size of Sheet: 17x33cm

Issued to meet new international letter rate of 40mk, effective from April 1, 1959.

Printing followed previous format and color of paper was the same as No. 3a. However, the background lines of the stamp are now horizontal instead of diagonal from NW to SE as before. The general impression of the design is cleaner than in the earlier aerograms. This aerogram was issued in two types which can be distinguished by the distance between the lines of instructions on the back: this distance is 8.5mm between the last line of instructions and the word "MYYNTHINTA." In Type II this is 6mm. Simplest way to distinguish between the types is to count the lines of ". . . SUOMI-FINLANDSUOMI . . ." between the two lines of text in question: Type I has 3 lines and Type II has only two. The earliest postmark of Type II I have seen was Helsinki 26.9.61.

(To be continued)

As you may already see from the above, this is an open field for study. Some of the dates come from the correspondence of a New Yorker who had a FDC-service with the Finnish Post Office. The latter never held any First Day Ceremonies for aerograms.

* S * C * C *

NO "RUBBER" CLICHÉS HAVE BEEN USED FOR NORWEGIAN STAMPS

In The Posthorn Vol. 25, No. 3 there was an article by me on "The Stereotyped Stamps of 1883-85." As I now have had access to the journals of the controller of the printing process, I have to correct some of my earlier conclusions.

When I found the "rubber" cliché of 12 öre, I discussed the discovery with the people then in charge of the Postal Museum. They ought to have known about a more recent use of this cliché, but gave no such hint. It now seems to be fairly certain that the cliché was used for the souvenir sheet of the De-No-Fil exhibition in 1951. From the controller's journal it is evident that there was no making of rubber clichés for 12 öre and 5 öre stamps in October 1882. These first clichés were galvanized, as stated by J. Anderssen.

T. Soot-Ryen

Letters

Dear Mr. Helm,

Enclosed is page 17 from the January, 1974, issue of the Danish publication *Frimærkesamleren*. I do not, in any sense, presume to be an expert in the philately of Greenland and the Faroe Islands, but I am most favorably impressed with the two of the catalogues which I have already seen, namely nos. 1 and 6. The catalogues are available directly from the author at the address mentioned in the article.

I should hope that someone would undertake to review these catalogues in an early issue of *The Posthorn*. Their appearance is surely one of the more nearly significant events in connection with the literature concerning these two intriguing Scandinavian entities.

One caution should be made regarding payment for these catalogues. Wowern wrote me that a relatively heavy charge is exacted now by Danish banks when paying foreign checks (I believe that this is about 5DKr.), and he therefore recommends that foreign remittances be made by International Money Orders, or, if applicable, by transfer to his Giro account 3 15 74 København.

In a note to me dated 14 February, Wowern indicates that catalogue #8 is now available, but #7 is still in preparation.

I am planning only to purchase nos. 1, 6 and 7, and I should be happy to prepare my views of these for *The Posthorn*, but I should think that you might prefer an overall review of all nine catalogues. Surely some recognized authority on these fields might be prevailed upon for this purpose.

With all good wishes.

Most sincerely,

Gerald S. Silberman, SCC #1502

Ed. Note: Dear Gerry—I will publish your opinions of #'s 1, 6 and 7 as soon as you send them to me. As for the other volumes, okay, who will review them?

Dear Mr. Helm,

Just a line to say that my uncle, Roland King-Farlow of 91 Hillway, Highgate, London N.6, died on August 1st as a result of a short illness.

I see from the members list in S.C.C. he was an honorary member. I think G. A. Hageman and Carl Pihl are also deceased, but perhaps you would check.

I shall be in Stockholm in September, so will some of our Gt. Br. S.P.S. members. We shall hope to meet some of the S.C.C. people if possible. I shall be at Robson Lowe's stand, No. 58.

Thank you for my membership card and the "Posthorn" which is a most interesting journal.

With all best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Miss Susan Worsley

Hi Bob:

We are very sad to inform you that two of our Chapter members passed away this year.

Carl Tordrup passed away during our show on March 23rd. He had served for several years as the Exhibition Treasurer.

Nels Otterson, Chapter Member #1 and instrumental in founding the national SCC passed away on July 3rd after an operation. Nels had an outstanding collection of Sweden.

John Phillips, another member, who retired a few years ago died this summer. Ruth Anderson, wife of our Spokane, Washington member Albert (Andy) also passed away in June.

We are still contacting local collectors who might be interested in joining S.C.C.

Good collecting

Petter A. Poppe, sec.-Treas. Chapter #3, S.C.C.

* S * C * C *

R. I. P.

Dr. Earl Grant Jacobsen, former National President, died 20 October 1974 at age 62.

Upon his return from the Golden Jubilee of his class at the University of Oslo this summer, "Doc" entered Billings Memorial Hospital, University of Chicago, about five weeks ago.

I remember "Doc" best from Sipex '66, where he and I strolled the aisles of Scandinavian Exhibits, while he discoursed upon Scandinavian History, Philately, Market Value, and prices. I learned more about Scandinavian stamps in those several hours than I had learned in the previous 22 years.

I know I speak for all of S. C. C. when I extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family.

Memorial services for Dr. Jacobsen were held at 8 p.m. Wednesday, October 23rd in the Frank Lloyd Wright Unity Temple, Oak Park. Survivors include his widow, Elsie; two sons, Erik and Evan; a daughter, Ellen; and a brother.

As well as the S. C.C. he was also a member of the American Scandinavian Foundation, Field Museum of Natural History and Medinah Country Club. A school is to be built in a foreign country through the Peace Corps in his memory.

—R. Helm, Editor

* S * C * C *

NEDERLANDSE FILATELISTEN VERENIGING "SKANDINAVIE"

A stamp dealer in Rotterdam, Holland, called a small group of collectors interested in Scandinavian philately together in 1963, with the result that a society of the above name was formed:

President: Mr. G. J. Scholten, of Rotterdam

Secretary: Mr. J. Roelofs, (at that time) of Rotterdam

Treasurer: Dr. L. Frenkel, of Rotterdam

A meeting was held every 3 months, and their excellent quarterly philatelic publication "Het Noorderlicht" (The Northern Lights) has appeared ever since the early days of the Society. The small group worked very hard contacting collectors, and the membership increased gradually, from about 30 in 1964, 60 in 1966, 120 in 1968, 200 in 1970, to nearly 300 members in 1974, which certainly must be considered a most satisfactory record of growth.

Of the original founders only Mr. Roelofs is still alive, at present being an honorary member, and living in Tessenderlo, Belgium.

The present officers of the Society are:

Chairman and Editor: Mr. J. W. J. van den Berg, Sportlaan 198

in the Hague 2023

Secretary (pro tem.): Mr. J. A. Konings, Geleenstraat 33, Amsterdam

1010

Treasurer: Mr. C. Nieuwland, Postbox 8042, Rotterdam 3019.

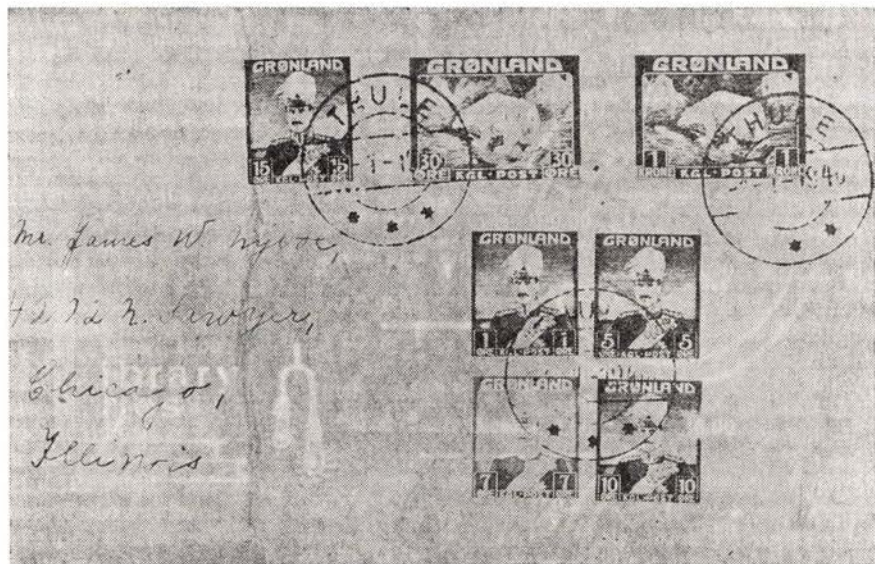
—C. H. W.

Armchair Globetrotting

Jens W. Nyboe (SCC 174)

If you ask a group of stamp collectors their reason for being interested in our hobby, many different answers would be given. No wonder there are so many of us, as there is something for everyone.

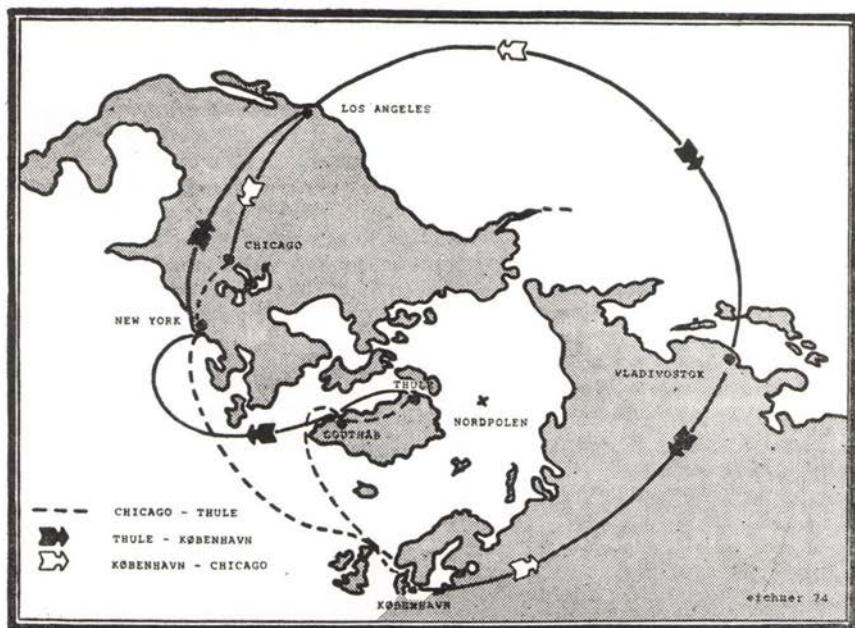
For me it has meant untold hours of pleasure—gaining and keeping friends for so many years, though many have gone to their Valhalla. When from time to time I read and re-read their letters, they come to life as they have left for me part of themselves on those written pages. One hears so often, "do not live in the past," but the word ONLY should have been added. In short, Stamp Collecting gave me pleasure sixty years ago as it does today.



This is the Saga of a Greenland Cover, and the global miles it traveled with a world in turmoil. The map shown was drawn by Ib Eichner-Larsen and used recently in his stamp column "Under Luppen" of Copenhagen's metropolitan newspaper "Berlingske Tidende" when he gave part of the story to Danish readers. I had mentioned when writing to my good friend Ib, that now and then when looking at this cover, I would in my mind follow it on its route, and consider myself a member of the easy-chair globetrotters club.

Greenland, the world's largest island with an area of 840,000 square miles, is one of the most sparsely populated regions in the world while it is a part of Denmark, having been a colony for several centuries. On September 18, 1938 the Danish Ministry issued an order granting the Greenland administration sole rights for mail between Greenland and Denmark. Thus Greenland became a member of the Universal Postal Union in 1938 and preparations were made to issue their own stamps for postal service.

At this same time, 20 postal letter stations were announced, and I decided I wanted one from Thule, where Peter Freuchen had been governor in 1913-19 and which had been home for years to Knud Rasmussen, the Arctic explorer. In 1938 and for some years to follow, all Greenland mail came to that country via Copenhagen by sea—about 2,500 miles away. To procure my desired



cover, it should be mentioned that first it was necessary to secure Greenland stamps from Denmark, where they first went on sale in Copenhagen on December 1, 1938—then frank the letter envelope and return same addressed to the Postmaster at Thule, asking him to cancel and send back to me this cover franked with Greenland stamps.

The Post Office in Thule opened on January 1, 1940; my letter was post-marked January 4, 1940 which make it one of the first letters sent out from civilization's northernmost outpost — at that time much more desolate than today. This letter, most likely with other post from the Thule colony (according to the Greenland Postal Administration) was sent by dog-sled during the winter of 1940 northward to Upernavik, Greenland's most northerly district office. From there once again southward by dog-sled, the letter reached either the Greenland towns of Egedemind, Holsteingborg, Sukkertoppen or Godthaab in May or June, 1940.

Geprüft



In the meantime, the Germans occupied Denmark on April 9th as a phase in World War II, and thus all regular communications with Denmark ceased. Normally this letter would have gone direct to Copenhagen, and from there on to me in Chicago. As that avenue was closed, it most likely was sent by a United States supply ship—to where? As one cannot be certain, a bit of guesswork enters in here. One can be quite sure however that the mail destined for Denmark was placed in sealed postsacks and tagged: "Denmark." Thus mail directed for Denmark (mine included) most likely was sent over neutral Siberia and Russia to German-occupied Denmark, since Russia had not as yet entered the War.

This Thule cover on the back bears both German and U. S. censoring. After inspection by the German censor, the letter was on its way again over Russia and Siberia in a reverse direction, and it reached Chicago in September 1940.

I repeat that there is romance in stamp collecting and lots of adventure too, without leaving your easy chair.

* S * C * C *

CONVENTION NOTICE

The 1975 Annual Convention of SCC will be held 23-25 May 1975 at the Hotel LaSalle, Chicago, Ill., in conjunction with COMPEX '75. SCC Chapter 4 will act as host group.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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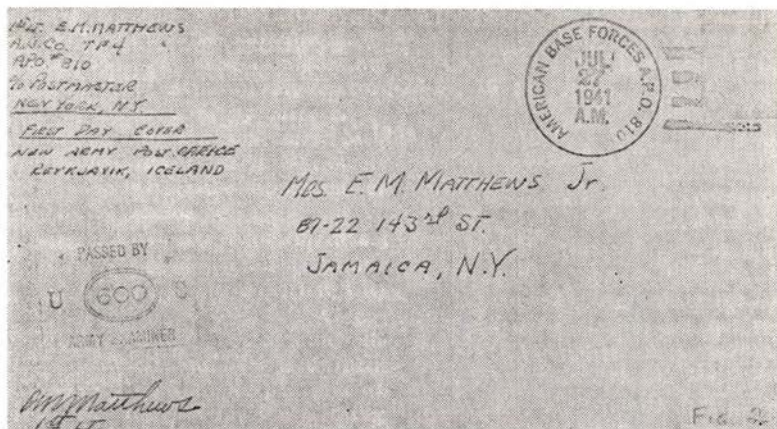
Fred H. Bloedow, Secretary

Extent and nature of circulation

	Ave. No. copies prec. 12 months	Single issue nearest filing
Total no. copies printed	1200	1200
Paid circulation		
Sales thru dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter	0	0
Mail subscriptions	885	904
Total paid circulation	885	904
Free distribution, samples, complimentary, etc.	10	10
Copies distributed to news agents but not sold	0	0
Total distribution	895	914
Office use, left-over, unaccounted spoiled	305	286
Total	1200	1200

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

Fred H. Bloedow, Secretary



Iceland Base Command in Memo #52 discontinued their use and ordered the exclusive use of APO 810. The 27 July date of opening is supported by the illustrated cover (figure 2) whereon the philatelic-minded sender noted it to be a First Day Cover.

The closing date for APO 810 is something else again. Both Facit and the War Cover Club publication list the date as 29 April 1942. Incidentally, conversation with Tom McGrath,⁶ one of the War Cover Club editors, revealed that their source for the APO closing dates were from the U. S. Postal Bulletins of 1940-46. My search turned up a probable later date. The previously cited IBC Unit History showed a closing date of 15 May 1942. Searching the numbered memorandum of IBC⁷ unearthed the following: Memo #98 dated 12 May was headed APO 810; Memo #99 dated 14 May was headed APO 860. Thus I suggest the closing date to be somewhere in the range of 12 May to 15 May. I support this suggestion by the illustrated cover (figure 3) which is cancelled on as late a date as 11 May. It seems to me this information is vital as only recently I saw the 29 April date listed in an auction description as the last date of use. The 29 April date is around; I have one in my collection and know of the existence of one more besides the one in the auction catalogue.

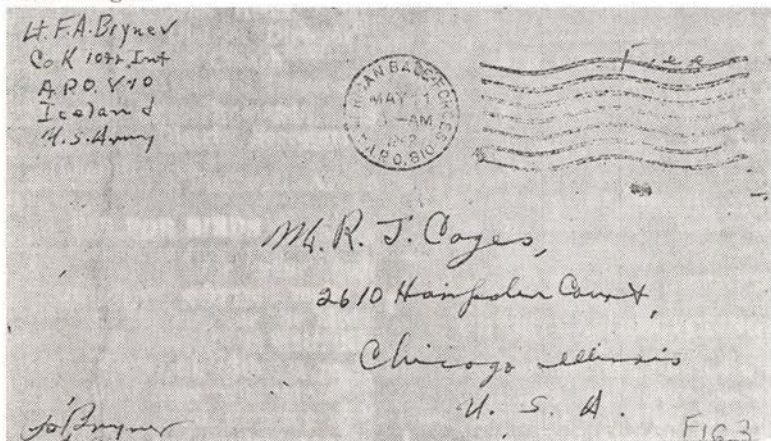
Unfortunately this approach of searching military files was started much too late. Already the APO Unit Histories have been culled and are no longer available. The unit file of the 10th Base Post Office, opened in Reykjavik on 25 May 1943, was available. It was very brief and offered nothing of philatelic value except the deactivation date of 10 April 1945. Since these dates overlapped the operational dates of APO 860 (see table), I have corresponded with Frank Nabors,⁸ a postal officer in Iceland during that period to see if the 10th BPO had a cancellor of its own. His answer was no as indicated in the pertinent part of his letter, reproduced here with an APO 860 cover illustrating the use with 10th BPO in the senders address. (Figure 4.)

Even this skimpy information plugs a gap in the War Cover Club publication, as it has no listing of BPO 10 at all.

Which unit files to search is a posing question. I have so far investigated those which appeared in addresses of my APO covers. I was puzzled by an address of an APO 614 which was merely Headquarters, E. S. (figure 5). This mystery was solved by the IBC Memoranda, which referred to the four "sectors" of command: Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern. (In fact, I was lucky to obtain that information as General Bonesteel had made a mar-

ginal note of choice words indicating that tactical information had no business appearing in an administrative memo!)

My next search will include the unit files of the Fifth Infantry Division. This should unearth some data about APO 5, which was a divisional APO. Sigurdur Thorsteinsson says that APO 5 was the first APO used in Iceland,² but I think this must be in error when one takes into consideration the APO 810 data. The 5th Division was not among the first units to arrive in Iceland. I have spoken to Major W. C. Hamell of Virginia Beach who recalls arriving with the 5th Division in April 1942. The Division's files should give additional insight.



FRANK W. NABORS
POSTMASTER
UNION, N. C. 2877

April 24, 1974

George W. Sickels
1769 Colgate Place
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Mr. Sickels:

APO 860 and 10th Base Post Office was in the same building and as well as I remember now, I believe we used only APO 860 cancelling device for our one set up together with 10th RPO in the address.

Capt. Robert A. Street was from the
supplies...

Lt. Frank W. Nabors
10th Base P. O.
APO 860 & P. O.
New York, N. Y.



Mrs. Frank W. Nabors
77 South St.
Union, S. C.



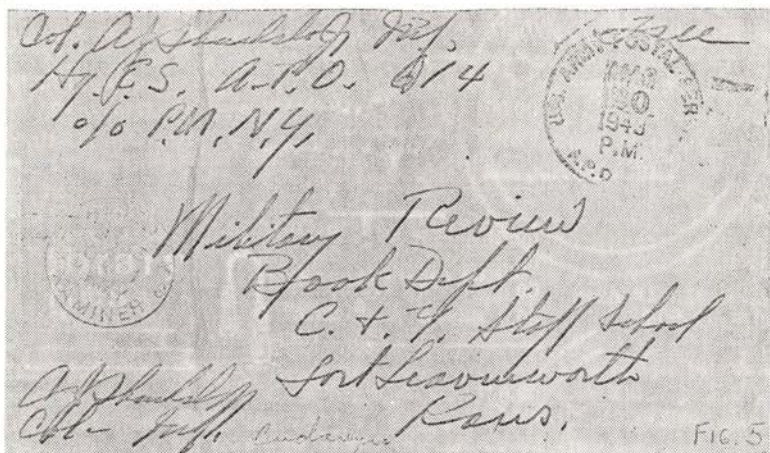
FIG 4

Readers can assist me in future search if they will provide me with return addresses and dates that they have on any APO covers from the following numbers: 350, 611, 612, 613, 614, and 1028.

I wish to make acknowledgements to Tom McGrath, Frank Nabors of Union, S. C. and W. C. Hamill for their willing information in our correspondence and conversation.

Table 1
Closing Dates of Iceland APO's: Various Sources

APO	Facit	War Cover Club	Military Files
5	— July 43	— July 43	25 July 43
860	21 July 45	21 July 45	30 July 45
810	29 April 42	29 April 42	15 May 42
016	27 March 47	27 March 47	Not Determined
611	27 July 43	27 July 43	18 Aug. 43
612	3 May 43	9 Aug. 43	21 Oct. 43
613	21 Oct. 43	21 Oct. 43	21 Oct. 43
614	— Feb. 46	— — 45	18 Aug. 43



Sources

1. Facit, Specialkatalog, 1970. Published by Frimarkshuset AB, Stockholm, Sweden.
2. Thorsteinsson, Sigurdur H. Erlend Posthus a Islandi 1964.
3. Narrative History, Postal Services Section, Iceland Base Command, Army Military Records. Housed in National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.
4. Rogan, Kevin P. and McGrath, Tom. Editors. Locations and Assignments, U. S. Army Post Offices, World War II and Later, Third Edition 1973. War Cover Club Publication.
5. Unit Files, 115 Field Artillery Battalion, Army Military Records. Washington, D. C. (see source 3).
6. Conversation with Tom McGrath, Editor of source 4, at Interpex, March 1974.
7. Numbered Memoranda File, Iceland Base Command. Period 25 September 1941 to 1 August 1945. Army Military Records, Washington, D. C. (see source 3).
8. Correspondence with Frank Nabors of Union, S. C. who was APO 860 Postal Officer from January 1944 to 8 May 1945. Over a period 1973-1974.

Certificate—Or No Certificate?

Almost every stamp collector has been faced with this question when he was about to acquire a valuable stamp, but until a few years ago, the need for certificates was generally considered with very little priority and often with very little respect or faith. Yet, false stamps have been printed for over 100 years, and the use of certificates in one shape or another is almost as old.

In two previous articles on the subject of DENMARK NUMBER ONE and DENMARK NUMBER TWO, the writer has briefly touched the question, but since certificates apply to many categories of stamps, the writer found reason to bring out some—perhaps new, and hopefully interesting—facts and thoughts about certificates.

We have probably all chuckled at the almost conventional part of a description in auction catalogue—"signed by A. D. —." or "signed by XXXX", which may be well-meant, and at one time included a certain amount of guarantee. The importance of "signing" a stamp has dwindled to a point where it can hardly be recommended, and scarcely has any legal value in an eventual argument about genuineness.

A "certificate" may not be the complete solution in a legal question, but it is still considered as a good support. Certificates are issued by human beings (still) and thus include errors or opinionated mistakes. This factor can be reduced by the issuance of TWO certificates from—preferably—experts in entirely different locations. Most auction houses approve of the use of TWO experts as legal support of a claim in discussions about a stamp.

As the need for experts increase, and the use of certificates becomes more and more common, it would be proper to define clearly who should be called an "expert," and how far his statement should go in description or decision about a stamp. There seem to be widely different viewpoints on this subject, and the writer would therefore like to bring the question up with various reports and personally experienced facts.

"Who Is An "Expert"

Most commonly, a stamp collector, an outstanding member of one or several clubs or societies within philately, repeatedly known and recognized for his knowledge on certain isolated or specialized fields, or a stamp dealer with specialty in very narrow areas of philately, perhaps with a long record of contributions, verbal or written, or in exhibits, with acquired and recognized knowledge, preferably with an interest far "above and beyond" the commercial interest (most stamp dealers are former amateur collectors anyway), are the most frequent candidates for stamp experts. However, we have many experts, and they may not all be selected for the "official" title, or for the work of issuing certificates. And it is indeed not necessary to be a collector to become a certificate expert. In fact, experience is often acquired faster when enormous amounts of material and when hundreds or thousands of copies of certain rare stamps pass through your hands (as a dealer), far more than any average collector could possibly hope to acquire for himself. Or, when a collector makes it a point to spend time studying all available material on a certain subject—in dealers' shops, at exhibitions, at fellow collectors' homes, wherever possible. As in most other phases of life, direct contact, intense study and devotion are basic ingredients which will contribute to one's becoming an expert on a certain subject. Obviously, this does not happen overnight, and most experts are people well over 60, often much older. Since they all agree that they continue to find new and surprising examples of varieties, falsifications, oddities, etc., one might say that the experts certainly "become

better with age." Apart from the very important use of human eyesight, combined with an outstanding memory, none of the prerequisites for a stamp expert are adversely affected by age—they do improve with age.

A highly developed sense for details is essential, and we probably all know of several famous stamp experts who are former photographers (and stamp collectors) while, for instance, one Danish expert is a former fingerprint expert with the Danish Central Bureau of Investigation and Identification. Such persons naturally have a keen eye for minute details and differences, and an inborn ability to compare a standard to an unknown item, and to identify the unknown.

Field of Expertise

Here, again, we may bring up the old, and practically abandoned faith in a "signed" stamp. First of all, the signatures, often applied by a tiny hand-stamp, do not tell the new owner of a stamp anything. He may not even be able to read the signature, and even if he does, the name may not ring the bell. Signatures of experts, long since deceased, have merely a faint sentimental value, but no legal importance.

In our times of fairly good communications, there is no excuse for omitting the use of an expert, just because "I do not know of any local expert," or, "it takes too long to send the stamp to France" etc. In fact, it becomes a natural matter of sending the stamp to a location, where experts in that particular field are available and particularly well known. Fortunately, in a country such as the U. S. A., we do have experts on many and varied fields, and not just on American stamps. There are experts on Albania or Egypt, on Mauritius or The Danish West Indies, but the decision still depends on what kind of stamp it is, and not just what country it is from. This brings us to a narrowing-down on the field of expertise.

Needless to say, that an expert on "GERMANY Number 1-30, Groschen and Kreuzer issues of 1872-1875" will impress the customer more than an expert on "Classic Europe." In our own circles, we have experts specializing in 4 RBS DENMARK or in the GILDI overprints of ICELAND, while others are considered experts solely in the bi-colored 19th century issues of Denmark, etc. Generally, however, these experts do accept work in related fields, such as "SCANDINAVIA." On the other hand, it can be quite difficult to locate more than one expert on "Classic Denmark" right here in the USA, and as above mentioned, there is really no excuse for not using local experts with today's relatively safe and quick mailing. And, quite naturally, we will usually look for an expert on Danish stamps in Denmark, for French Colonies in France, Congo in Belgium, etc. To supplement this procedure, we may have to go to the "high-intensity" stamp collecting countries, when we need expertise on stamps from faraway areas. Paris and London are suitable locations to find experts on Egypt (how about a false PORT FUAD overprint?) or Madagascar or the Seychelles, etc.

Authority

In most cases, an expert establishes himself based on acknowledged reputation, support from one or several well-known clubs or societies, dealers' associations, etc. He has often been an authority long before he becomes publicly known as a certificate-issuing expert. Friends or fellow club members have used him for advice, or customers in his shop have come to him in doubt of authenticity of a stamp. As in almost all cases of expert work, the load soon becomes overwhelming. It shows the need for such work, and it proves

again and again, that we cannot just "produce" more experts if and when we need them. One very famous expert in Scandinavia, now in his early seventies, is desperately looking for an "apprentice," but he will have to work with such a candidate for many years, if not decades, before we can hope to have an acceptable substitute expert. One equally famous Scandinavian expert is in his eighties, and he is still considered the only safe authority on the Icelandic GILDI overprints, while a third Scandinavian expert ailing in his seventies is still the foremost, if not the ONLY outstanding expert on Denmark Number One.

The nearest substitute for an acknowledged and legally approved expert is the highly specialized collector on certain fields of philately. A collector who has thousands of copies of Denmark Number Two or another collector who owns thousands of Norway Number One or Bavaria Number One, each of these specialists may be considered as experts in their local field. Yet they are usually not legally established, nor generally acknowledged in commercial cases of doubt. It is most unfortunate that such collections are often in the hands of people who simply do not have the time to concentrate on philatelic specialties, yet they have the capacity to acquire immense amounts of rare material. But this is where we meet the line between the devoted philatelist and the clever investor.

What Should Be Included In A Certificate

There seems to be considerable differences of opinion on this subject. The main point is that of QUALITY. Should the certificate contain any note or comment on quality? The general opinion in this country is that it should NOT, and the writer believes that this opinion is shared by collectors in many other countries. Yet there are very outstanding experts who include a quality "rating" in their certificates, and indeed this is expected by the client in that country. Auction houses and dealers, too, seem satisfied with this type of certificate. The writer is largely against quality comments as such, but as a compromise, he finds it advantageous, if the expert does include comments such as "exceptionally wide margins" or "very fresh color," so that the client thereby can make judgement that the stamp is over average quality, based upon fact, that the expert has seen thousands of copies of this stamp and therefore can state that the margins or the color are so and so exceptional. Without the background knowledge of the expert, the client would not be able to safely judge if the margins were really unusually large or the color exceptionally fresh, etc. The writer may add that the French Yvert catalog does include an indication by two parallel printed lines, the distance between the stamp pictures of imperforate stamps in a sheet. This enables the collector to measure the normal margin, at least on the stamps so described in Yvert.

Other comments are indirectly affecting the quality description, e.g. a remark such as "the cancellation is so heavy, and placed so that an exact plating (or type-determination) of this stamp is not possible." Such comment obviously include a judgement of quality, but only out of necessity for a fair description.

The main purpose of acquiring or requesting a certificate should be—and most often is—that of establishing for certain whether the stamp is genuine or not, and whether it has been repaired or not. The first point—authenticity—is truly the job for an experienced expert. The second part—faults or no faults—can indeed be determined by persons with much less collector's experience, much less time background, as long as they have the proper equipment and the flair for using it.

Authenticity

Here, again, it is experience, length of contact and volume of material encountered and investigated, that counts. Many tiny details will tell the experts whether a stamp is genuine or not. Watermark, color, size, type of paper, cancellation type and date, etc., etc. Stamps on whole letters or pieces may aid the expert in providing full details of cancellation, but also hinder the search for watermark or paper type. Mint stamps are tested for originality of gum and for possible erasure or removal of ink cancellations or water-soluble dye cancellations. Overprints for type of ink, lettering, size, spacing, location, etc.

A solid collection of false stamps is often very helpful to the expert. The line between tests for authenticity and for absence of repair is not very sharp.

Faults, Repair

Repairs can have taken place for several reasons:

- 1) To conceal a tiny cut or tear in the stamp.
- 2) To reconstitute the full and original perforation. One or more teeth missing can be replaced, or the entire stamp can be reperforated in order to conceal a major defect along the edges. The stamp will of course appear slightly smaller than the genuine standard stamp, unless the perforation has been "added" in the shape of an entire, perforated margin.
- 3) Imperforate stamps with narrow margins may have entire, new margins added from cheaper issues or denominations of same series. This identical paper can be cleverly transplanted to the more expensive stamp with narrow margins in a beauty-operation, which by some people is considered an art.
- 4) To reconstitute the original thickness of the paper, the entire stamp may be glued to a thin layer of paper (usually of a different type, revealed under UV-light or in microscope)—and then if necessary, furnished with the proper perforation. Reverseely, a thin spot in a stamp may be concealed by "sanding down" the entire back side of the stamp to the thickness of the "thin spot" so that the thickness of the paper is even. The expert must know the thickness of an authentic stamp, preferably have a standard target sample in his files for comparison. Unfortunately, many stamps have been printed in consecutive printings, often on entirely different paper types.

Instrumentation

The heavier part of testing for authenticity is normally based upon the huamn knowledge, experience, keen eye, and sense for details.

However, in search of defects and/or repairs, the instruments have become increasingly important. And just as the technique of detecting frauds by instruments is developed, the fraud takes more and more use of highly sophisticated technique, combined with skilled handcraft and artistry. The methods of repairing a stamp have developed to a point where the use of instruments is absolutely necessary in order to detect the fraud. Of course, the person repairing a stamp very skilfully, may object to the term "fraud" and rather consider it an "art." However, we are indeed speaking of counterfeiting work, and there is no nice word for it. The intention is basicly to fool a client, and to get more money out of him than the stamp is worth commercially.

It is in this area where it becomes increasingly difficult even for the advanced amateur-specialist collector to determine a fraud. Yet, the cost of a few basic instruments is often less than the potential loss in acquiring one or several false stamps or skilfully repaired stamps.

The writer has personal experience in this deplorable field, and a few examples are mentioned later in this article.

Other than the magnifying glass, the watermark-detector, and a high-intensity lamp, you may wish to have an ultra-violet lamp, preferably a long-wave UV lamp. Long wave UV light is completely harmless to the human eye, while short-wave UV light is not. These lamps are also used in determining whether a stamp belongs to the so-called lumogenous paper type or not. The lamps cost from \$12 to \$45, and a very good model can be obtained for less than \$30. A laboratory-equipment store is usually the best place to look for such lamps, because you will find a larger variety of models where there is such basic need for these apparatus.

A microscope—it may sound expensive—does not have to be very sophisticated. Excellent and useful models can be purchased new for much less than \$100 while there are thousands of second-hand or discontinued models available, all very suitable for stamp-analysis, even if the microscope may seem a bit outdated. Ocular lenses should be about $2\frac{1}{2}$ x to 10 x, while the objectives should be e.g. 10x - 20x - 40x, so that you can get anything from 25 to 400 times linear enlargement.

Most important about the microscope is the light source. It should be so adjusted that it is powerful, yet not at all blinding to the observer. An analysis may take time, and direct light into the human eye can be tiring, if not directly harmful. The very best results are obtained with the application of filters, so that the light, entering the object, is polarized. In plain words, this ensures light where you need it, and none where it hurts. In physical/optical effect, it enables the observer to distinguish between two different types of paper or dyes, otherwise identical to the naked eyes, or to the eye looking through a magnifying glass or a microscope using diffuse light.

Although both incident and transmitted light can be used, and both can produce sharp, dark images, the transmitted light is by far the most commonly used for microscopy of this type. The use of transmitted light obviously is hard on the eyes, and diffuse transmitted light fails to reveal the most meticulous or artistic (?) repairs. By using a filter to produce polarized light, the observer can study without fatigue, and detect practically all types of paper and dye repairs or faults, ink or cancellation removals, old cuts and tears and "false teeth," regumming or chemical bleaching, etc., etc.

Reasons For Desiring A Certificate

None of us are experts in all fields, and this should be enough reason to seek expert advice whenever there is a question or a possibility of fraud or foul play. Even the specialist Denmark or Sweden or Norway collector can benefit from the brief notes in a certificate issued by a true expert, not only to confirm a hope or a suspicion, but also to have determined the type, correct issue, printing, plate and number of the stamp, and to have additional comments on the cancellation, the freshness of color, the width of the margin of an imperforate stamp, etc., etc—all based upon the long experience and case history in the files of the expert.

It has often been questioned why one would like to have a certificate on a stamp worth perhaps \$20, and the certificate may cost anything from \$7.00 to \$15.00 registered postage included. In such case, it may not be a matter of authenticity questioned by the owner, but a search for the correct printing, type or plate number. The writer recently witnessed a rather hot discussion between two Scandinavian experts about the 4 RBS Thiele III. This would be a typical example of an inexpensive stamp, submitted for certificate. The discussion was—whether this stamp was ochre or yellow brown. The ochre is

worth about 4 times what the yellow brown is—and you will usually find the experts in hot disagreement about this color determination. However, if the stamp goes on auction with "Attest" (certificate) as ochre, it will indeed obtain the price equivalent to that color variety.

Most experts will accompany the certificate with a photograph of the stamp, and in some cases even an enlarged photo with indications to point out why the stamp has been plated or classified the way it was. This is indeed very valuable and informative and worth the money.

It is so much more surprising to see valuable stamps, perhaps worth \$500 and more, being offered without any sort of guarantee or certificate.

The writer has indeed some experience with this—and surprisingly enough with very famous individuals or world-wide known houses. If an auction catalog or price list or approval sheet contains such stamps with indication of type and plate number, the interested collector should certainly question this statement very firmly and demand written certificate or written note, that the type and plate number were indeed determined by a named expert.

The writer must add at this point, that his own sad experiences in this respect were in most cases solved very diplomatically and ethically by almost all the parties guilty of errors in their offers. One Paris house—three years after completion of the deal—promptly and politely took back to full credit a stamp which was later sent to an expert and classified as false. One Scandinavian house extended reasonable credit after having sold stamps with "hidden defects" or stamps wrongly typed or plated, many months after the stamps were acquired by the new owner, who slowly went through the process of sending all his questionable stamps to various experts in many countries for verification and certificate. One Scandinavian dealer extended credit in a similar case. Most of these defects were what we in the USA would call "tiny thin," "slight crease," "pinhole," "small tear" etc. and in all cases repaired, sometimes very cleverly repaired.

Most DANISH experts agree, that a certificate (in Danish: "Prøvningsbevis" or "Attest") should describe the stamp, classify it by specialty catalog number, year, printing, type, plate number (if requested, and often at a premium cost). Cancelled stamps should have description of the cancellation, because it may be possible for the expert to identify a date, which the owner could not see or find. Mint stamps should have description of the gum and color freshness. All stamps should have color description as compared to a standard stamp of this type, and include unambiguously whether the stamp is genuine or not, and whether it has sign of repair or not. This last of course includes a description of the defects if such are found. While it may seem unimportant why a stamp has a pinhole, some collectors feel better if it can be explained as a mechanical damage due to a grain of sand (dust) fallen out into the printing plate or in the ink, rather than a pinhole due to physical mishandling of the stamp later on.

Stamps on entire letters—lately an extremely desirable collectors' item—may tell more, and the certificate should of course include a statement such as "the stamp, the envelope and the cancellation belong together and appear to be a unity of same age"—or the like. The "faking" of entire letters with rare stamps is becoming a very frequent nuisance, and our anxiously awaited handbook on the stamps of The Danish West Indies will undoubtedly show examples of such fraud.

What the "Attest" in Denmark usually does NOT tell, is the judgement of quality, or rating. In fact, most Danish experts will very clearly indicate, that they must refrain from giving such evaluation in written form or within a certificate. But that does not prevent us from having a friendly discussion

with the expert and get a reliable evaluation of the stamp—verbally. The most famous Swedish expert includes quality terms in his certificates (in Swedish “intyg”). The terms used are—translated—superb, very fine, fine, very good, good, etc.

There is considerable confusion in Scandinavian and German languages with respect to the use of these descriptions. In German, the ratings are: Liebhaberstück—Luxusstück—Kabinetstück—Prachtstück—fenst—fein while in Swedish the sequence may be: Högsta Lyx—Lyx—Prakt/Lyx—Prakt—mycket vackert och gott—etc.—and you may even find the term “mycket gott till Prakt” which is indeed confusing, because we tend to use the term “very good” (mycket gott) pretty far down the ranks and certainly not in combination with “Prakt” (near superb).

To complete this confusion, the writer would add some Danish terms: Kabinetstyk—Pragtstyk (rarely used)—Luxus, meget smukt—smukt—etc., while the term “Liebhaverobject” is mostly used to emphasize that it is for highly specialized collectors, and may be considered of extraordinary commercial value to everyone.

One Danish auction house is famous for its extremely honest descriptions, such as “beautiful stamp on a very ugly envelope” or “well centered, but with a disgusting cancellation”—of course, this only in the few cases where the auction house does have some less attractive pieces. But it all adds to the confidence which the customers will have when they see such frank quality descriptions.

Reversely, we have among the countless American auction houses, a certain amount of risk in confusing the public by indiscriminate use of the standard terms “superb,” “very fine” and “fine.” Certain houses will use “superb” when the most reliable houses would say “very fine,” while the former auction houses often have nothing but “superb” or “very fine” in their offers—this tends to devalue the terms and we may end up looking for super-superlatives such as the German ones above mentioned.

The summary is, that these confusions alone should be sufficient reason why we do not want to have quality descriptions included in a certificate which may eventually be used internationally and many years after date of issue.

Naturally, there are collectors who feel that an expert should indeed include a quality description because he has (in his files or in his vast memory) a basis of such judgement against a mental standard of the stamp. Or, the expert may be used primarily by an auction house and thus acquire an even greater knowledge and see more stamps than the free-lancing expert. But this may be exactly why some collectors feel that the expert should refrain from commenting on quality (in the certificate): he may—consciously or subconsciously—be biased in his wording, just as well as the dealer, who is also an expert (this is very common in France) inevitably has an interest in circulating the stamp if at all possible, and it becomes a very strong matter of ethics to leave out any commercial interest in the writing of a certificate. It works “two ways” and the request for TWO certificates by a dealer, questioned by a client, is probably based in part on such thoughts.

When the expert can put a long line of membership affiliations on his papers, perhaps including some official titles such as “expert to the Court” or “expert to the Customs Office,” etc. the collector should not have any adverse feelings, but, on the other hand, there are scores of very outstanding experts, who are not deputized by any Court or official institute, and may only belong to one well-known philatelic society.

There are also considerable variations in the cost of a certificate. The

common price in the USA is \$15.00 to \$20.00, but it often increases with the value of the stamp. In Europe, the cost is much lower, and does not depend on the value of the stamp, but mainly on the work involved in testing and identifying it. For plating and difficult type determination, premium fees are usually charged. Many French and German experts issue certificates without a photograph, and although this may not be a distinct drawback, the collector has obvious advantage of the photo. He can keep his certificates at home and put the valuable stamp in the bank vault (I suppose this is the sad truth in most collectors' homes, be it USA or Europe today!!). It is not the ideal situation for a happy and enthusiastic collector who finds pleasure merely in viewing his collection from time to time, but it is unquestionably the safest.

Organizations

Many countries have long since realized that experts should work together, and that expertise and experience should be available to the knowledgeable amateurs. In France, there is the C.N.E.P.—La Chambre des Négociants et Experts en Philatélie, which is an association of dealers and experts. It is in effect more than the A.S.D.A. in our country because it offers assistance to non-members via certain departments of the association. The collectors and other clients can rely on fair treatment, professional information and expert certificates from individual members of this organization.

Within this organization there is an EXPERT TRIBUNAL (expert committee), charged with the legal decisions, guarantees, etc. of important single stamps. It is a bonded committee (insured to the amount of more than \$¼ Mill.) and it consists of about one dozen experts, each covering a special area of legal expertise in philately. The president and vice-president are names known in the entire world of philately—Messieurs Roger Calves and Robert Blanc. They will deputize one or more of the individual experts to solve any case of doubt. The equally well-known Monsieur Bernard BEHR is, for example, the expert on French Colonies.

The writer should add, that there are of course hundreds of honest and very reliable dealers in France who are NOT members of the C.N.E.P.

In Denmark an organization called O.F.F. (Oplysningscentralen for Filateli=Information Center for Philately) is not an association of stamp experts, but more of a central file for legitimate complaints against dishonest dealers and private persons who have been involved on the wrong side in unethical stamp transactions. It is not exactly encouraging to read, that there are now over 900 names and addresses in these files, copies of which are at the disposal of members of this organization. On the other hand, much frustration and financial grief and vexation could be avoided if such files were established in all circles of philately and in all countries (personal experience again). Most countries—including the USA—have an expert committee within the foremost association or society of philately in that country. They are available to members and assist in auction certificates in cases of doubt. The common auction rule is, that if a new owner of a rare stamp wants to question the validity of a certificate, issued with his new stamp, he must at his own expense produce TWO certificates from other experts, and if these two are in agreement and opposing the sales certificate, only then can the owner claim legal return or refund. Which again proves, that most of us agree that stamp experts, too, are only human, and they can make mistakes. It is the writer's experience, that above rules are rarely enforced by the large and reputable houses. Discussions are usually settled promptly and in a more collegial manner.

Future

In the writer's opinion, we will have an increasing need for philatelic experts and, as earlier stated, these are not produced overnight. There is no "school" for stamp experts. Only experience, devotion and hard work may lead to such title, position and recognition. In this respect, the world of philately is no different from any other artistic or even technical field today. It is about to suffer from lack of know-how, and it is an easy victim to the flood of unexperienced newcomers. With all respect for youth, who is eventually going to be older than we, the writer has still a firm belief in experience and intense devotion as the chief prerequisites for becoming an expert—or for producing quality—in philately or in almost any other branch today.

* S * C * C *

Swedish Traveling Post Offices

A SECOND REPORT ON RAILROAD CANCELLATIONS

By Richard S. Wahlberg (SCC 694)

Readers of the original article about Swedish TPO cancellations (May, 1974, THE POSTHORN, Vol. 31, No. 2) will recall the broad brush outline of the various types of cancellations applied to letters while traveling aboard the mail coaches of Swedish railroads since 1862. Perhaps some readers were intrigued by the "Where'd They Go" mystery that surrounded the PKXP (Postkupé-expeditioner) Numbers. Each PKXP Number, from No. 1 to No. 114, was used to identify specific railroad routes from 1868 to the early 1930's. (They are not to be confused with PKP Numbers of modern times.)

The purpose of this second report is not for the author to gain further fame and fortune, but to announce that the mystery has been solved and only plodding research remains to be done.

The saga continues . . . the Swedish Postal Museum DID respond to my inquiries. Mr. Sven Carlin of the museum dug into the archives and sent me photocopies of official route lists issued for the years of 1877, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1896, 1905, 1906, 1920 and 1921. In many instances the lists were issued in May or June and then revised in winter months. These lists were issued in conjunction with official Railroad Time Tables. They were used, as Mr. Carlin's letter explained, "to find the fastest (not always the shortest) way for the letter to reach its destination." While the lists may have been circulated for the public's view, surely the principal users were postal clerks who routed the mail.

The twelve individual year route lists from the Postmuseum represent all that they have in their files. I subsequently learned that the Poststyrelsens Bibliotek of Stockholm may have Tidtabeller (Time Tables) and Jernvägsposter (Railway Mail) for the years prior to 1877 and many of the intervening years not available from the Postmuseum. Obviously, an inquiry has been lodged with Poststyrelsens Bibliotek. (This project is like attending a Rin-Tin-Tin movie serial, vintage 1930, as there is a new "installment" revealed every week!)

Reproduced here is a portion of a timetable issued 15 November 1877. (Fig. 1.) This, showing the routes between Stockholm, Linköping and Nässjö, identifies PKXP No. 1, No. 11, No. 57 and No. 69. Not shown here, but appearing elsewhere on the same timetable are Nos. 2, 13, 14, 60, 70, 71, 72, 129 and 130. The accompanying route list for the same year, 1877, however, identifies only the routes up to No. 42!

JERNVÄGSPOSTER.

Vintermånaderna.

(Från den 15 november 1877).

Stockholm—Linköping—Nässjö.

XVII. N:r 1.	XV. N:r 11.	IV. N:r 57.	N:r 69. Onsd. o. Lörd.	Denna spalt läses nedifrån och uppåt.				
6,31 c. m.	7,6 f. m.	8,6 f. m.	2,46 c. m.	Stockholm	8,16 f. m.	9,26 c. m.	7,56 c. m.	8,33 f. m.
6,35 "	7,30 "	8,31 "	—	Liljeholmen	8,34 "	9,14 "	7,34 "	8,19 "
—	—	—	3,30 c. m.	Elfsjö	—	—	—	8,4 f. m.
—	7,38 "	8,65 "	—	Huddinge	—	—	6,53 "	Månd. och
—	7,46 "	9,16 "	—	Tumba	7,56 "	—	6,39 "	Thorsd.
7,32 "	8,8 "	9,30 "	—	Södertelje, nedre..	—	—	—	—
7,35 "	8,20 "	9,46 "	—	Södertelje, öfre	7,53 "	8,15 "	5,56 "	6,20 f. m.
—	—	—	—	Södertelje, nedre..	7,56 "	8,3 "	5,59 "	—
—	—	10,8	—	Jerna	—	7,54 "	5,32 "	5,57 f. m.
								M. O. F. L.

Fig. 1

Knowing that PKXP numbers only go up to No. 114, I must speculate that Nos. 129 and 130 were Postiljonskupeer (guarded postal compartments) rather than Postkupeexpeditioner (branch post offices in mail compartments). Up until 1900, guarded postal compartment mail did not receive numbered cancellations. Then, PLK numbers were introduced.

The route listing for 1877, issued in conjunction with the timetable, is reproduced, in part, to show the routes for PKXP No. 28 through PKXP No. 42. (Fig. 2.) Why are PKXP Nos. 57, 59, 60, 69, 70, 71 and 72 shown in the 1877 timetable, but NOT on the matching 1877 route list? I don't know. It is apparent, however, that the Postal authorities had assigned specific route numbers for "internal" reference before a PKXP canceller was made and given to

Stådan.	Postkupéer/ divisioner nummer.	Jernvägsliniens namn.	Tågens nummer.	Postkupéens storlek.	1877 Tjänstgörande vid hvar- resa.	Personalens stationsort.
13	XXXVIII	Upsala—Gefle	4, 3	Half	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Upsala.
15	XXIX	Falun—Gefle	6, 15	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Falun.
7	XXX	Malmö—Ystad	3, 6	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Malmö.
7	XXXI	Helsingborg—Hessleholm	2, 3	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Helsingborg.
7	XXXII	Helsingborg—Hessleholm	4, 5	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Helsingborg.
7	XXXIII	Malmö—Ystad	1, 4	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Malmö.
—	XXXIV	Stockholm—Halsberg	—	—	—	—
7	XXXV	Trelleborg—Lund	3, 4	Enkel	1 expeditör	Trelleborg.
8	XXXVI	Engelholm—Landskrona	3, 6	Enkel	1 expeditör	Engelholm.
13	XXXVII	Kärrgrufvan—Tillberga	14, 13	Enkel	1 expeditör	Kärrgrufvan.
4	XXXVIII	Mjölby—Motala—Halsberg	4, 1	Half	1 expeditör	Mjölby.
11	XXXIX	Frövi—Ludvika	4, 3	Enkel	1 expeditör	Frövi resp. Ludvika.
11	XL	Daglösen—Falun	4, 1, 3	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Daglösen.
		Filipstad—Daglösen—Kil	9, 10	Half	1 expeditör	Filipstad.
9	XLI	Herrljunga—Venersborg—Uddevalla.	2, 3	Enkel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Herrljunga resp. Uddevalla.
2	XLII	Halsberg—Laxå	97, 98.	Dubbel	1 expeditör och 1 postiljon	Halsberg.
		Laxå—Falköping—Ranten	5, 6			

Fig. 2

postal crews traveling those routes. Ten years later, these same five numbers appear on the route listings. We will need the route listing for 1878 through 1886 to learn just when PKXP Nos. 57, 59, 60, 69, 70, 71 and 72 appeared as cancellations.

Tracing a given railroad route by using a timetable and a map sounds like an easy job, but it turns out that timetables are difficult to read in any language. A tremendous help came from Martin Boströmm of Örebro. He sent a copy of Sveriges Kommunikationer, dated February 1974. This 367-page newsstock book shows the rail, bus and coastal boat lines covering all of Sweden. While it does not show postal routes, it is an invaluable aid for tracing the railroad lines by maps and timetables. Many of Sweden's town names have been changed over the years (see 'Sveriges Fasta Postanstalter Genom Tiderna') but they have yet to MOVE a whole town or city and, still early in my study, I find no evidence of old railway lines being removed!

Another splendid reference during this cycle of my research came from Vic Engstrom. He sent me a photocopied set of his collection of PKXP cancellations on individual stamps. It is complete enough to serve as an album—each stamp pictured as though it was printed on the page!

It was interesting to learn as a result of the first T.P.O. "report" that some collectors of PKXP Number cancellations are using a series of hand drawn maps to portray the routes represented—at least Nos. 1 through 7 and Nos. 9 through 12 which were identified in the Swedish Cancellation Handbook. For instance, PKXP No. 8, (one of the "mysteries" noted in the original report) turns out to be Göteborg-Halsberg (in 1877) AND Göteborg-Laxå (from 1887 to 1906). These dates are limited to the data shown on official route lists now on hand. Sometime between 1878 and 1886, the original "run" for PKXP No. 8 was shortened by 20-odd minutes (by today's railroad time) so that the terminus was Laxå rather than Halsberg, further to the northeast. Service between Göteborg and Halsberg was not cut off—it was simply assigned a different PKXP number!

This is just ONE example of why philatelic researchers, to the best of my knowledge, have not yet produced a compilation of all the routes. They kept changing! At least, many did!

PKXP (Postkupeexpeditioner) ROUTES IN USE FROM 1868 to 1931

PKXP NO.	Connecting Points	1868	'69	'77	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	...	'96	...	'05	'06	..	'20	'21
1	Stockholm-Östeborg	•																		
1	Näsja-Ö-Katrineholm				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
9	Falköping-Jonköping	•																		
9	Uppsala-Stockholm				•															
9	Stockholm-Krylbo						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
9	Storvik-Stockholm																•	•		
15	Stockholm-Halsberg				•															
15	Stockholm-Laxå						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
18	Näsja-Ö-Katrineholm				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
20	Karlskrona-Vexjö-Alfvesta						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
26	Herrljunga-Borås				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Borås-Varberg						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
26	Herrljunga-Varberg																			•
30	Malmö-Ystad				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
33	Malmö-Ystad				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
45	Vestervik-Norsholm						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
55	Näsja-Ö-Halstad						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
73	Falun-Daglösen																			•
80	Herrljunga-Borås							•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
80	Borås-Varberg							•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
80	Ulrichamn-Vartofta																			•
80	Herrljunga-Varberg																			•

Fig. 3

To chart all of the PKXP routes according to the assigned numbers, dates in use and the different types of cancellations applied may be an endless project measured by the lifetime of several desk lamps and countless ball point pens. In other words, such a chart to be complete and readable, will show each PKXP route and number, year by year; the discontinuance of some numbers in certain years; and route changes. To show the various cancellations as described in the Swedish Cancellation Handbook (Antique, Grotesque, Egyptian type faces, solid and dotted lines, etc., etc.) would make it a display impossible to read.

To show how PKXP data could be charted, here is a tentative format (Fig. 3). This shows only a dozen different numbers as representative of the PKXP series. The information is only that which has been collected thus far: PKXP numbers first assigned in 1868 (Nos. 1 to 7, 9 to 12, from the Swedish Cancellation Handbook) and the twelve different years from the Postmuseum's official Route Lists.

Note the varying circumstances:

PKXP No. 1 started out as a main route: Stockholm to Göteborg. Later, No. 1 became Nässjö to Katrineholm. Confusingly, No. 18 was also assigned to the Nässjö-Katrineholm route!

PKXP No. 9 was used for four different routes from 1868 to 1906.

Both PKXP Nos. 30 and 33 were used for the Malmo-Ystad route.

Nos. 26 and 80 were concurrently used for five years or so for Herrljunga-Varberg mail. No. 80 for one year, 1896, was used for only the short run between Ulrichamn and Vartofta. Then, it was assigned back to the full run from Herrljunga in the Province of Älsberg to Varberg on the west coast.

If, after reading the chart and the notes above, you are confused and dismayed by the complexity of identifying PKXP routes, think for a moment about the author . . . papers, lists, maps and books strewn around in unbelievable order and the prospect of a compilation job that might take thirty years! If anyone, ANYONE, has seen this PKXP data already compiled please phone, write or wire the author. The philatelic world should not have to wait so long for this fascinating (?) information!

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Postage Stamps Utilized As Revenue Stamps

Translation from "Handbook about Icelandic Stamps"

Utgefandi, Felag Frimerkjasafnara, Reykjavik, 1973

Translated by Thora and George Sickels

Section VI, pages 58-59

REVENUE USE: With the proposed law about stamp duty, Number 21/1918 and Regulation 89/1918, it was necessary to pay stamp duty to the National Treasury for registering various types of contracts.

When this law was validated, time had not been given for the printing of the special revenue stamps. Therefore, common postage stamps were used temporarily, and it was mandated that the revenue stamps have ten times as much value as for postage stamp use. Therefore upon remittance, it was necessary to draw one-tenth of the total amount to pay for the purchase price of these stamps, and consequently necessary to pay cash on delivery to the postoffice where they were purchased. In the year 1919, this use was discontinued with the arrival of the special revenue stamps.

When postage stamps were utilized, documents were stamped by affixing these stamps for the amount of stamp duty, i.e. 10 times face value. The person executing these cancels should void the stamp by writing his name, day of the month and year in ink across the stamps so clearly that there can be no mistake that the stamps were used. When pen and ink were not used for cancellation, the executions were often only marked with official rubber stamps, particularly in certain instances by the banks, Islandsbank and Landsbanka Islands.

We know the following postage stamps have been used as revenue stamps:

Christian IX: 50 aur, 1 kr.

Double Kings 1907/08: 15, 20, 40 aur and 2 Kr.

Double Kings 1917/18: 1, 4, 5, 10 and 20 aur

Double Kings Official: 5 aur

Without a doubt other postage stamps have been used for this purpose.

Known methods of cancellation:

INK: date, year, signature

INK & RUBBER STAMP IMPRESSION: date, year, capital letters/ rubber stp.

RUBBER STAMPS:

- I. Date cancel and official rubber stamp.
- II. Official rubber stamps only.
- III. Official rubber stamp with built in calendar.

Translators' Comments:

Illustrations include a pair of Double Kings 4 aur, with date in ink on each stamp (1/10/18), an official rubber stamp across both stamps partly unintelligible (-----sysla), and last name signature in ink across both stamps. (Gudmundson).

Also 2 values of the revenue stamps (stimpilmerki) 5 aur and 60 aur.

Also single copy of King Frederick embossed 1912: 5 krona with inked date (5/9/18) and oval Islandsbanki Reykjavik rubber stamp.

(Incidentally, this was not among the listing on the previous page.)

I have seen on document the 5 Krona value of the Double Kings issue dated 11/8/18.

George W. Sickels, SCC 1545

Postal Automation In Finland

By Kauko Aro

Subsequent to the publication of the article by Carl Werenskiold in May 1974 Posthorn¹ on the luminescent stamps of Scandinavia, I came across a short report in a Finnish stamp magazine titled "Overhaul of the Finnish Stamp Base."²

In 1973 the Postal Administration of Finland issued special printings of two common stamps on luminescent paper. This was done for experimental purposes. However, in first half of this year it became necessary to reissue all definitives due to new letter sorting machinery. This was done by printing the stamps on luminescent paper mostly during the first half of this year.

The following stamps will be in circulation in the new "form":

Stamp	Value	Year	Color	Order #
Lion	0.05Mk	1963	violet	1541
Lion	0.10	1963	green	1542
Lion	0.20	1963	red	1543
Lion	0.30	1963	gray	1545
Lion	0.40	1963	orange	1544
National Museum	0.60	1973	multicolored	1538
Helsinki Harbor	1.00	1963	green	1547
Log Floating	1.50	1963	gray	1548
Scenery	2.00	1964	green	1539
Airplane	3.00	1963	blue	1540
Ristikallio	5.00	1964	greenish gray	1573

Because of changes in postal rates, a 0.02Mk was no longer needed and thus its luminescent variety (order #1546) was never put into circulation.

The old nonluminescent stamps will be removed from sale in two phases:

Airplane value 0.57mk was already withdrawn on April 1, 1974; and all other definitives—lions and pictorials—were to be taken out as of Aug. 1, 1974.

Any unsold stamps are available from the Philatelic Section until the end of 1974. Afterwards these will be destroyed except for a few recent commemoratives and the 0.40mk lion in orange and the 0.60mk National Museum stamps. (Readers should note that the two sets of national costumes are sort of quasi-definitives by the Finnish P. O.)

I will report further should something more come up on this new aspect of Finnish philately.

- 1) Carl Werenskiold, Postal Automation in Scandinavia, Using Luminescent Stamps, The Posthorn 1974, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 34-41.
- 2) Information translated and edited from Suomen Postimerkkilehti (Finnish Philatelic Journal) 1974, No. 2, p. 30.

GREENLAND

Greenland great polar bear local cancels are very rare, and are reflected in the Auction prices. Now I want to dispose of part of my stock. Here are some as an introduction:

1915 20 øre Udstedet Satut	-----	\$10.00
1930 1 kr Udstedet Prøven	-----	\$18.00
1938 20 øre Udstedet Satut	-----	\$16.00
Lachman 1 kr Hand. Kutdligssat	-----	\$20.00
Quality: nice total cancel vf \$1 extra Rec/air.		

Mail auction again prepared very strong in Greenland/Iceland.

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- 1871 BAGGE, Arthur W., 727 Central Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091
US, Norway, Sweden, Denmark by R. P. Stevens #236
- 1872 BENEDICTUS, Simon R., Justin House, 19 Sheffield Terrace, London,
England W87NQ by V. E. Engstrom #911
Greenland, DWI, Denmark, Iceland
- 1873 GREENBERG, Milton, Nob Hill Supermarket, 3500 Central S. E., Al-
buquerque, NM 87106 — Scandinavia by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1874 HYVARINEN, Matti, 330 N. 16 Ave. E., Duluth, MN 55812
Finland by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1875 RONNINGEN, Johan, P. O. Box 4413, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Norway, Sweden, Denmark, FDC's, Stationery by B. deLambert #1337
- 1876 SALMI, Pekka, 93 Anderson St., Kitimat, B. C., Canada V8C 1A3
Scandinavia, Finland by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1877 STONE, Carl E., 164 Vale Lane, Seal Beach, CA 90740
Sweden, Denmark, Greenland, Norway, Iceland, Finland
by F. H. Bloedow #L-24
- 1878 WORTHEN, Charles E., Jr., 36 Dale Allen Drive, Belleville, IL 62223
W. Europe, US, UN, Japan, Ryukyus by J. F. Frye #1031
- 1879 TAYLOR, Richard Deane, 16 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
Finland by D. F. Halpern #1201

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- 1381 FLEMING, John P., P. O. Box 8, Hanover, NM 88041

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216 OTTERSON, Nels, P. O. Box 42, Irons, MI 49644
520 JACOBSEN, E. G., 231 S. Lombard Ave., Oak Park, IL 60304

ADDRESS CHANGES

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1779 TOSHACH, Janet, 8 Eighth Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830
1784 LINDEMUTH, James T., 6090 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086
1800 TROUNCE, David C., Box 1692, Kanata, Ont., Canada KOA 2C0
1803 MAY, H. H., Jr., 4321 Hessmer St., Metairie, LA 70002
1814 CLEARY, Elmer W. A., 1768 Rue Boucherville, Saint Bruno, Quebec,
Canada J3V 4H3
- 1746 VOSS, Robert T., 2300 24th St. RD., Greeley, CO 80631
504 PETERSON, Dr. J. D., 12 King St., Onancock, VA 23417
557 PETERS, Dr. John H., 169 Applegrove Road NE, Apt. V, North Canton,
OH 44720
- 806 PROKES, Franta, Frani Sramska 19, Praha 5, Czechoslovakia CS 150 00
822 L-20 HELM, Robert A., 349 South Beach Ave., Old Greenwich, CT 06870
1198 DAUBERT, Lillian S., 85 Gamble Ave., Apt. 306, Toronto, Ont., Canada
M4K 2H6
- 1440 OSTERBERG, Dr. Donald H., 884 County Road, Pocasset, MA 02559
1455 SOMMER, Wayne C., 1500 South View Dr., Oxon Hill, MD 20021
1520 STAIGER, Martin, #4 Charlyn Drive, Charleston, SC 29407
1527 HANSEN, Viggo M., P. O. Box 527, Solvang, CA 93463
1626 FRANDSEN, Kim T., 8936 88 Ave., Edmonton, Alta. T6C 1M1 Canada
1738 RASMUSSEN, Herbert A., c/o Bank of Loleta, Fortuna, CA 95540
1773 HOLTON, William J., 1117 Tamarack Drive, Darien, IL 60559

Dear Friends

It was a pleasure to meet you all, members of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, who travelled to STOCKHOLMIA 1974. I sincerely hope you had a wonderful trip.

I am looking forward to serve and meet with you soon again.

MARI-LOUISE FORSGREN

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P. 85-86

SCANDINAVIA AUCTION

FEBRUARY 1975

STOCKHOLMIA, the international exhibition held in Stockholm in September has to rank as one of the best philatelic exhibitions of all time. Besides the magnificent showing of the top collections from all over the world, the show also attracted hundreds of major dealers from the Northern countries and Europe to the two day international dealers bourse. I was somewhat surprised to see that the American market for Scandinavia in many areas is stronger than in Sweden and Denmark. The fact was particularly evident at the three auctions held during and just after STOCKHOLMIA.

I have brought back to America many specialized and rare items, particularly in the areas of Iceland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, and D.W.I. This material, much of which has never been offered in the American market will be the nucleus of our February auction. Quite obviously, we are very excited about this coming sale. Potential sellers who would like to participate in this important sale are invited to contact me within the next few weeks.

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