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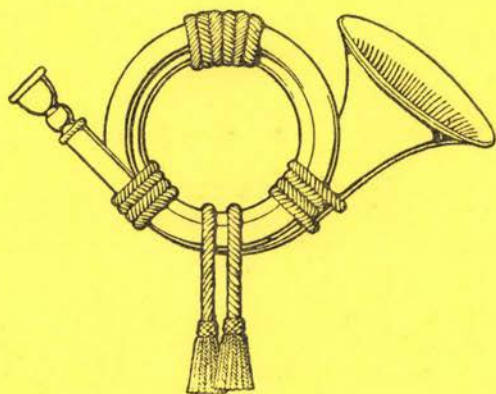
Vol. 35, No. 1, Whole No. 133, February 1978

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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# Finland's 1891 Ringmark Stamps

by Michael E. Hvidonov

The so-called "ringmark" stamps came to be by reason of political oppression. The ruling Russians visiting Finland could not buy the stamps of their nation in Finnish post offices. Thus it was decreed that as of May 1, 1891, Russian designed stamps, to which identifying "rings" had been added, were to be sold in Finland and used on all mail sent to Russia. This decree remained in effect until May 14, 1911. Of course, the "ring" stamps could be used on Finnish internal mail as well as letters sent abroad.

The Finns did not take this enforced instruction easily. An unofficial "mourning" stamp was designed and printed to protest the decree in various ways which succeeded in antagonizing the Russian authorities. The "stamp" frequently graced the address side of the letter with the Russian stamps relegated to the "backside" of the cover. (Pic. 1. Mixed postage ringmark and Russian stamps tied to the back side of a cover with the "protest" stamp on the address side). Other covers exist with the entire face of the address side covered with the "mourning" stamps and ring stamps on back.

Since this interesting part of Finnish postal history has been covered in detail in other writings, this article is directed to the collection approach of the "ringmark" stamps as they exist today.

## 1. Loose or single stamps.

For the most part unused and cancelled stamps are plentiful. It is difficult to find nice cancellations on individual stamps, due essentially to the small dimensions of the kopeck values and the overpowering, messy "bridge type" cancellations used during this period. The large rouble values suffer because of the integral stamp designs and the non-contrasting grey and black inks employed. Upon occasion nice cancellations are found on the orange colored 1 rouble values.

There are established emission color varieties of the kopeck values from different printings (excepting the 4 kop.) which should be of interest to the specialist. All the colors are listed in NORMA but by-passed in LAPE.

## 2. Varieties.

The collection must include the different backgrounds (burelage) of types I and II of the 20 and 50 kop. stamps. Type I has the so-called "discontinued" background, while Type II bears the burelage detail in continuity—extending into the very tips of the perforations. (Pic. 2. Courtesy of Käsikirja II, page 168 of The Finnish Stamp Manual). Note the absence of the background design in the perforation tips of the right hand illustration (Type I).

## 3. The 3.50 and 7 Rouble Stamps.

Both of these values have color emission variations in the black ink employed. Type I of the 3.50 rouble stamp is Black and Grey; Type II is Deep black and Grey. The latter is considerably harder to find and much more costly dollar-wise in mint condition. Additionally, the 7 Rouble stamp has a Yellow ink color variation, the first type being Black with Yellow and the second type Deep black with a quite different Orange-yellow second color. The catalog values of the two are presently close.

## 4. The 1 Rouble Perforation Variety.

There are two perforation types of the one rouble stamp. One with normal vertical perforations and a second type with sharply-pointed vertical perfs. The horizontal perfs are the same in both. The two types should be included in the collection. (Pic. 3. Normal vertical perforations on the left and the sharp, big-holed example on the right.)

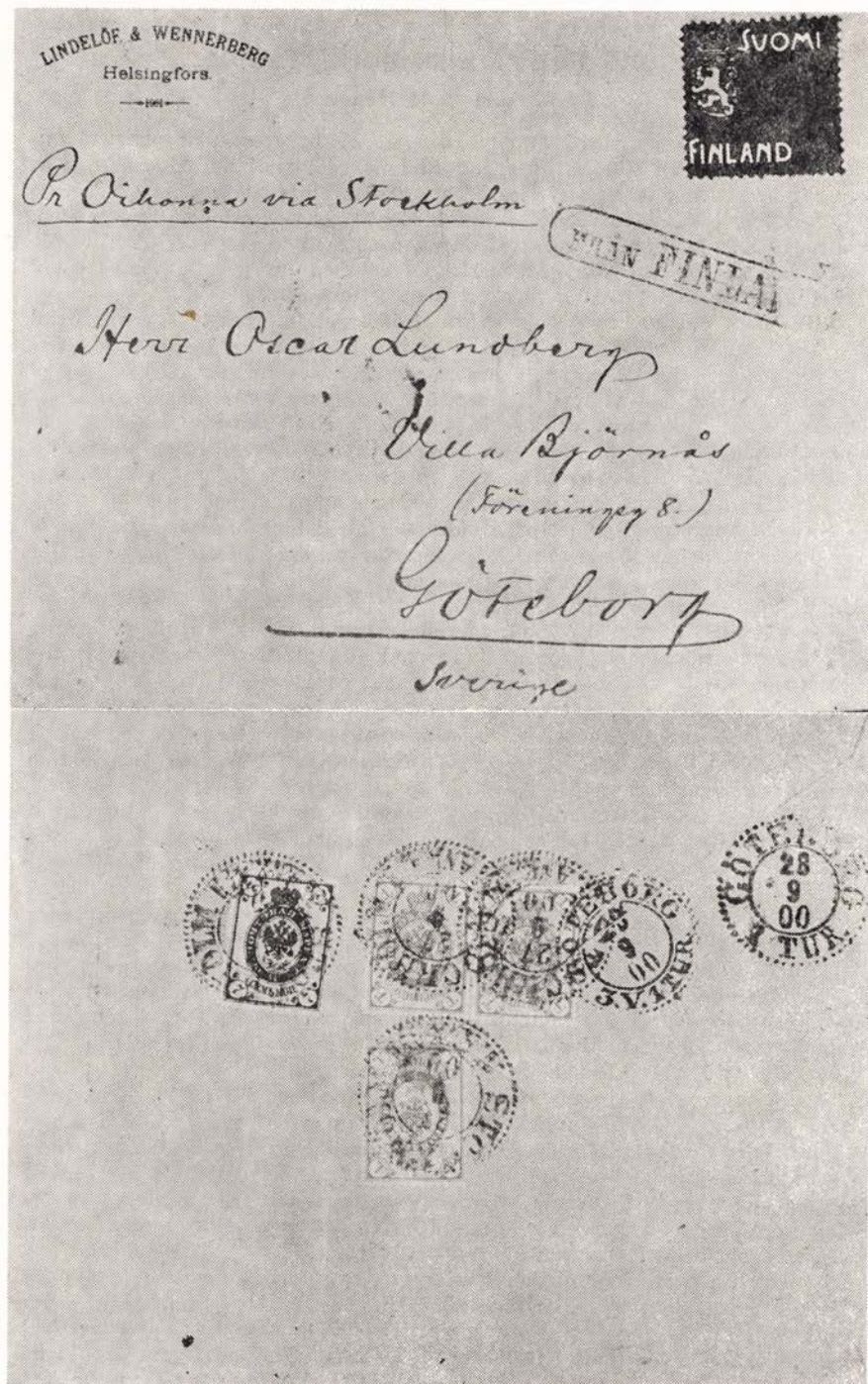


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

#### 5. Rows, multiples and blocks.

Specialized collections always require supporting exhibition pieces, especially when the period does not provide a large number of emissions, color and error varieties, etc. Full sheets and multiples of the lower values are found unused, but are not often offered. (Pic. 4. 20 kop. mint sheets).

Mint or used blocks of the 3.50 and 7 Rouble stamps are important to the exhibition pages but are quite costly. Properly cancelled blocks, strips or other multiples of the larger values exist, though I have not come upon any recently. Cancelled multiples of the kop. stamps are also scarce, with the possible exception of the 2 kop. value, 5 of which comprise the 10 kop. franking for mail sent abroad (except to Russia, which fee was but 7 kop.).

#### 6. Rare Cancellations.

Figure and ship cancellations are rare on 1891 stamps. The official use of these types of cancellers terminated in the year 1890, being supplanted by the "number" and the so-called "one-line" dateless Postal Stop types.

#### 7. Postal Pieces.

Items bearing high value kop. stamps (14, 35 and 50 kop.) are not seen

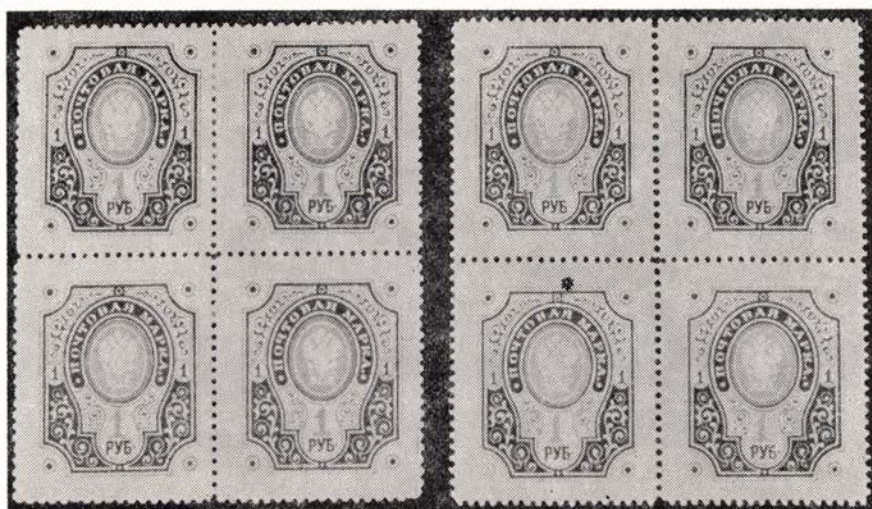


Fig. 3

in the every day market though some show up in Scandinavian and European auctions. The demand for correctly franked covers has brought recent sharp price increases. 3.50 and 7 Rouble covers are treasures. The 3.50 Rouble on cover is rare and seldom seen even in great collections. (Pic. 5. 3.50 R. on cover to France. Believed to be the only cover sent abroad from Finland. Moreover it is the Deep black variety.)

Nice postal pieces are Russian Entires with the value imprinted on mailing wrappers to which additional ringmark postage has been added. While not very unusual, they should be included in the exhibit. (Pic. 6. 1 kop. on Russian mailing wrapper.)

#### 8. Ringmark and Russian Stamps on Cover.

Postal pieces with ringmark and Russian "ringless" stamps combined on



Fig. 4

mail are not plentiful. The side-by-side sale of Russian and ringmark stamps did not start in Finnish post offices until 1899. Thus the circumstances of a letter sender having both types of postage had to be provided for the marriage of the stamps. (Pic. 7. Russian 3 kop. ringless stamp and 7 kop. ringmark cancelled in Finland.)

It is more difficult to find ringmark stamps cancelled in Russia. Such items should be bought and coveted. (Pic. 8. Post card with 4 kop. ring stamp cancelled in Moscow.)

#### 9. Mixed Postage of Different Periods.

1885/1891. The existence of 1885 four-cornered stamps with either the 1891 emissions or those of later periods are not known and can be presumed non-existent.

1889/1891. These combinations are not seen too often. At present they are a bit underrated, but prices for these items have already reached high figures and with the current abounding interest in the 1889 issues should accelerate. Perhaps those items bearing 1889 2 penny grey stamps with 1891 adhesives are a little less consequential but should be collected before the market changes. (Pic 9. Mixed period postage with 2/2 kop. and 2/5p. 1889 stamps. An elusive item.)

#### 10. Fournier Forgeries.

Forgeries of the 3.50 and 7 rouble stamps . . . products of the legendary Francois Fournier . . . exist, and though considered dangerous should not fool those familiar with the 1891 emissions.

Fournier created 2 forgeries of the 3.50 rouble stamp. One was incorrectly perforated 14 and the other a correct 13½. However the paper used for all these forgeries is vertically-laid as opposed to the proper horizontally-laid paper of the genuine. The printed appearance is always unsharp and not well-detailed in the bogus items whereas the real stamps are crisp in detail. The black ink of the forgeries is somewhat dull, and the second color



Fig. 5

(yellow) of the 7 rouble stamps is too strong and chrome-like rather than just plain yellow. His forgery of the 3.50 rouble color error has the same identifying flaws of paper and color.

According to present knowledge "total" forgeries of the 3.50 and 7 rouble stamps exist with the following forged cancellations:

WIBORG 11.XI 97; KUOPIO I. IV. 98; HELSINGFORS 5. III.00 and TAMMERFORS 8.V.98. Others may exist. Since Fournier cancellations are always "socked on the nose" the collector should be wary of beautifully centered items. (Pic. 10. Fournier 3.50 rouble stamp cancelled HELSINGFORS 5 III 00.) Note the coarsely drawn rings and generally unsharp detail.

#### 11. Stamps Used for Tax Purposes.

Stamps bearing the cancellation, POSTSTYRELESENS RAKENSKAPSAFDELNING, (Post Office Accounting Department) are worth about 20% less than catalog values listed in NORMA and LAPE. These high denomination stamps were used for revenue purposes starting in the year 1894. The short term adapted for this tongue-twister is "RAK" cancellation.

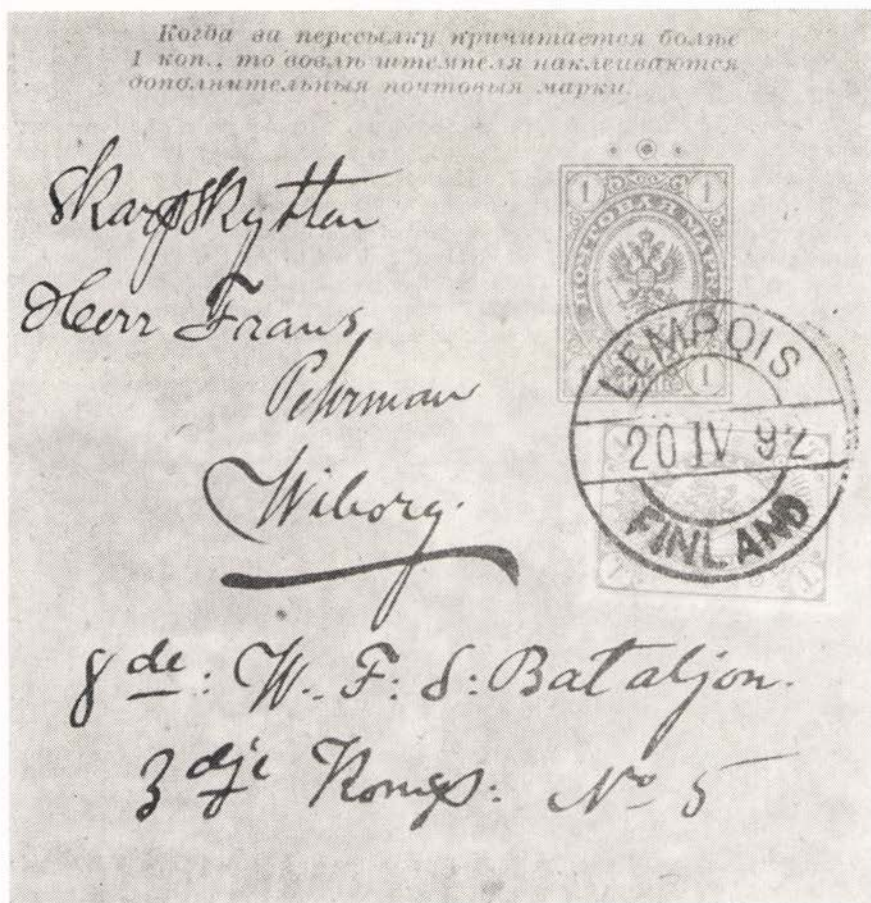


Fig. 6



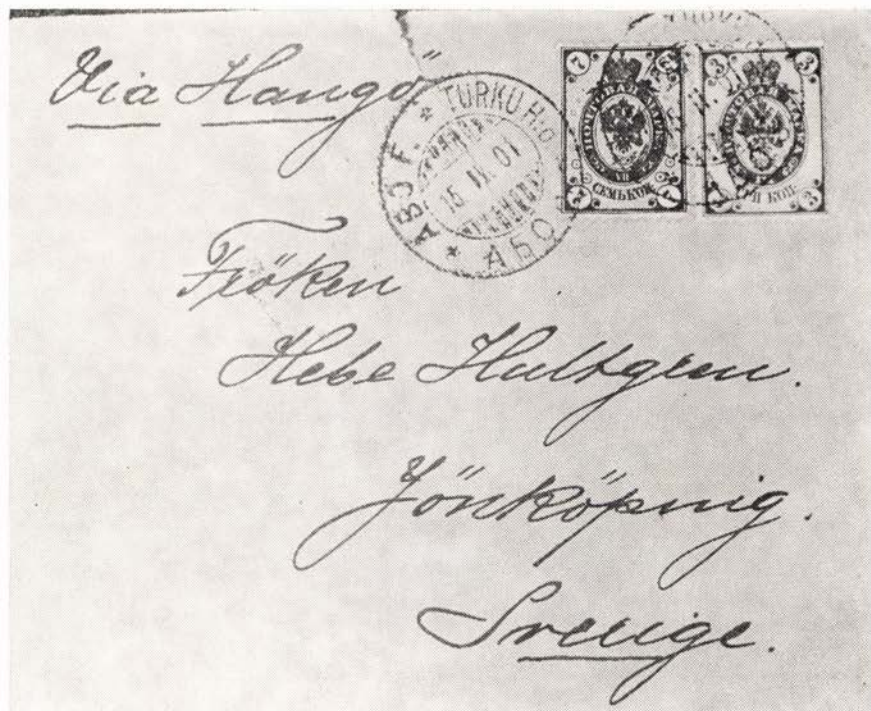


Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

## 12. Imperforates.

No official, postally valid imperforated stamps of the 1891 emissions were ever issued. Stamps overprinted with the Russian word OBRAZETS (SPECIMEN) are proof sheets. The letters of the imprint are quite large, thus only portions of the letters of the imprint are evident. (Pic. 11.) Do not be suckered into buying them. They are not postal items and are not postal items and are not acceptable in International and European exhibits.

Since the 1891 period has just become popular in recent years, future exhibitions and research should unearth a host of additional knowledge. Many gems may lie hidden in collections yet unseen. Should any reader have an unusual stamp, cover, multiple, mixed postage item, etc., of the 1891 period, I would be happy to see photos and provide answers to queries.

—M. E. H.



Fig. 11



Fig. 10

\* S \* C \* C \*

## WHERE IS THIS FORGERY TODAY?

In the latter part of 1975, a U.S. auction house offered through the pages of one of our philatelic publications a cancelled copy of Finland #3, (Scott). The description read:

"Finland #3, VF, envelope adherences on back -- \$525.00"

I requested the stamp or a photocopy for examination. I promptly received a short note and some sort of picture (see above). The item is a very poor forgery, so I suggested by return mail that the stamp be certified before it was sold.

I received no reply . . . no "thank you" . . . nothing. So the question remains, "Where is this forgery today?"

. . . Mike Hvidonov



## Kristiinankoupingin Palkkileima Postihistoriaa

(Kritsina Towns Line Cancellation Postal History. APOPHIL 6/1971)

The Kristiinankoupingin so-called line cancellation belongs to the really unusual cancellations of Finnish philately. They have been included in the interesting category of "figure" cancellations even though they were used during a much earlier period. E. A. Hellman, in his massive research treatise, "Die Figurenstempel Finnlands" (Suomen Kuvioleimat) labeled these cancellations as #23 even though the town's unique obliterator very well may be considered the forefather of all figure cancellations. Knowledgeable collectors of Finland have always sought after these cancellations as they have searched for the well known Norring manuscript initial.

In years gone by one could occasionally come upon single stamps with the Kristiinankoupingin line marking but they are not seen too often nowadays. (The letter K. will represent the town's name for the balance of this translation). Naturally when the cancellation appears on a cover of any type it assumes significant interest.

Its history remains somewhat clouded, but we do know from records that it came into being during the Oval stamp era of 1856. The earliest 10 Kop. Oval stamp that I have seen with the K. cancellation is dated June 1857. All Oval stamps emanating from K. do not bear the line cancellation even though it was used with some regularity. During this period the cancellation is known in two forms: impressed as a vertical line (never horizontal) and then as two lines crossing over each other. (Pic. 1—10 kop. cover showing the application of the "line"). The length of the line being about 1mm by 38mm. The single-line form was used earlier and the crossed lines a bit later. Leo Lindner states in his book on Oval stamps (Finland's Ovälmarken) that the postmaster of K. started to use the canceller after he received a letter concerning its use from the postal officials in 1857. The K. low-box postal cancellation was usually struck next to the stamp, though at times the stamp would be cancelled with both the box and line cancels. Thus far the specific origin of the cancellation is not fully understood. We conjecture that it prob-



Fig. 1

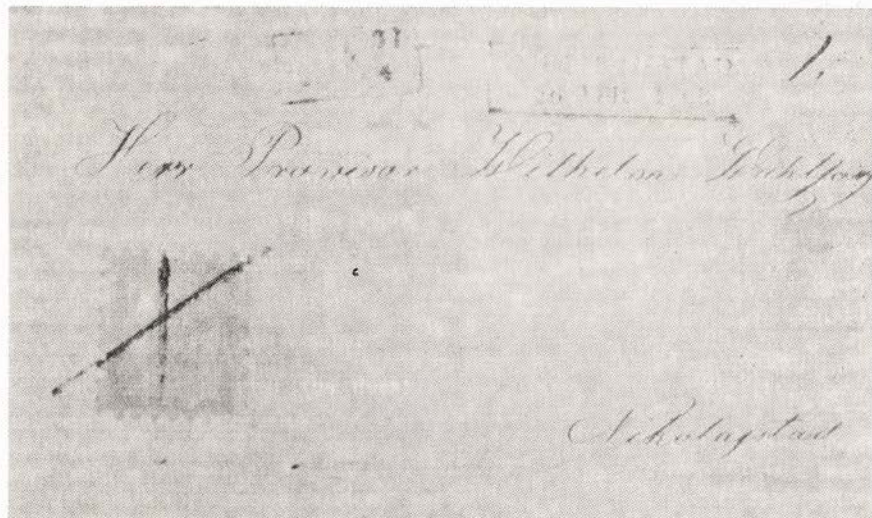


Fig. 2

ably was made of metal. During the Oval era the postmaster used only the longer K. canceller. The shorter type was used on the kopeck rouletted stamps of 1860 and measured some 11mm in length. It was used to pre-cancel stamps and also on stamps affixed to letters. It was not used to pre-cancel the 1860 stamps. (Pics. 3 and 4 show the application of the canceller on the 10 kop. rouletted values as single-line cancellations while pic. 2 shows the crossed-line type as applied on a 5 kop. cover.)

The 5 kop. Oval stamps bearing the K. cancellation are rated "RR" by

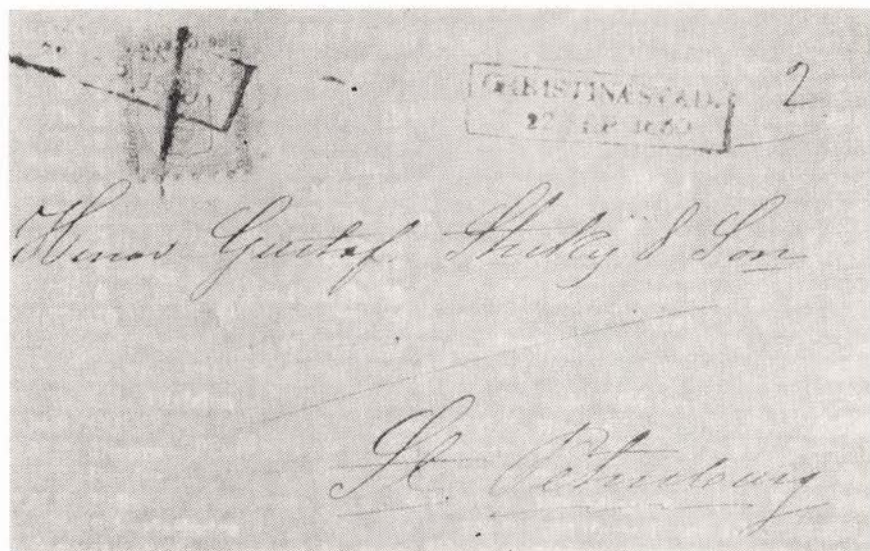


Fig. 3

E. A. Hellman. That is to say, one or two known, and the 10 kop. R-4, (6-12 known). However today we know there are more 10 kop. stamps turning up, which changes its evaluation, while the 5 kop. maintains its enviable rarity.

During the Oval stamp era a postmaster change was made. One Henrik Torsten Grönberg (1834-1857) was replaced by Johan Henrik Peron (1858-1870). The K. cancellation continued in use despite the change. During the 1860 emissions of the rouletted stamps the long-line and the crossed-lines types were used. Another type was a long and short line side by side.

The crossed-line type is fairly rare . . . I have seen just a couple. A long line has been used alone occasionally in either the vertical or horizontal positions and also crossing each other. We do not know when the usage terminated. One 10 kop. 1860 long roulette (2.3 by 2.3) exists so this substantiates that the cancel was used as late as 1864. To date, it has never been found on any of the 1866 penny value "big-toothed" stamps. The K. cancellation on the 10 kop. 1860 long rouletted stamps is found but "once in a blue moon." Hellman rates it as R-5 (3-5 known) but I would judge just 3 or 4. The 5 kop. with the crossed lines is very rare, RR. Perhaps 3-5 might be a more accurate appraisal.

(Translators note: After the appearance of this article more information came to light.)

One collector advised that he owns a 5 kop. Oval on cover with 2 lines side by side. K. low-box cancel Sept. 1, 1857 and a 10 kop. Oval with the line cancel as an upside down "V."

Leo Lindner wrote that the cancellation was used on the kopek stamps right up until 1865. He has an 1865, 5 kop. roulette II bearing the K. cancel and we know that this rouletter did not come into use until 1865. (Pic. 5). The history of the K. cancellation is further enhanced by the fact that it was also used on the 1875 stamps. A 5 penny yellow pair is known cancelled Sept. 1876; and an 8 penny green first color cancelled in 1875 or 1876. (Pic. 6). Both bear the line plus the town cancels.

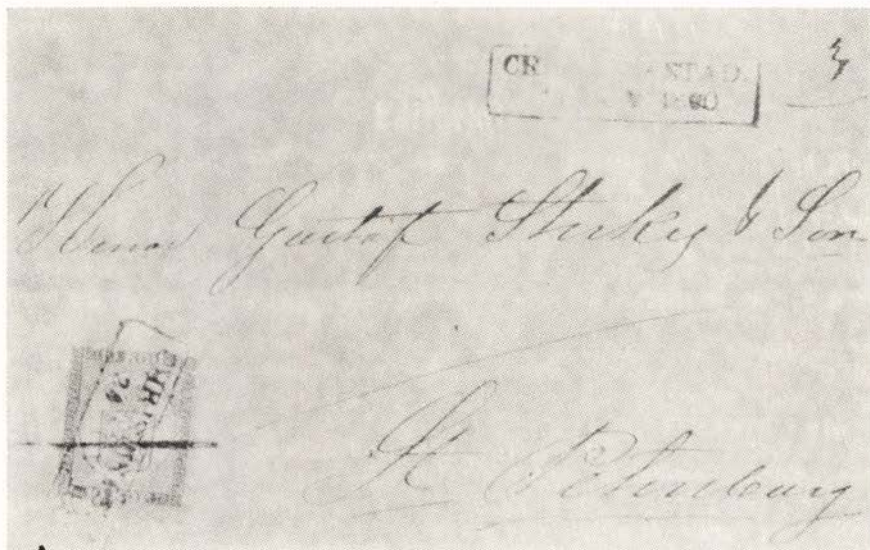


Fig. 4



Picture 5—5 Kop. Roulette II 1865.      Picture 6—8 P. Green, 1st color.

On the very basis of the facts known, Lindner stated "It is absolutely impossible that the use of this line cancellation could have ended in 1865 and then re-started in 1875. It is more likely that it also exists on the 1866 'big-toothed' stamps."

(Translated from an article by MIKKO OSSA)

Should any collector have stamps or postal pieces bearing the K. cancels I would appreciate receiving a photograph for purposes of research.

—MIKE HVIDONOV

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## NORCAL STAMPS

P. O. Box 1762

San Leandro, CA 94577

## Plastic Tape On Stamps

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

The safe removal of plastic tape ("Scotch tape") from stamps presents an awkward problem to the collector. I have tried a number of approaches, and have found a fairly satisfactory procedure, as described below.

You will need the following equipment:

1. A watermarking dish with cover.
2. A cylindrical jar (pickle jar) about 15 cm tall and 7 cm in diameter, with cover.
3. A glass plate, say 10x12 cm.
4. A penknife.
5. Tweezers.
6. A small wad of cotton on a small stick.
7. A supply of benzine (hydrocarbon paint thinner).
8. A supply of naphtha (petroleum ether, lighter fluid).

Benzine will do for the rough cleaning. Naptha is a similar, purer, more expensive fluid. It is required for the final clean-up work. Test the purity of the naptha by placing a drop in the watermarking dish and allowing it to evaporate. Practically no trace of oily residue should be visible. Since benzine and naptha are both somewhat toxic and highly flammable, common sense dictates that much of the work should be done with closed containers and away from fire, no smoking.

If only a single stamp is to be cleaned, place the object (paper, stamp and tape) with the tape side up in the watermarking dish, and pour in enough benzine to cover it. Place a cover over the dish and let stand for a reasonable period, say 15-20 minutes. Then transfer the object, using tweezers, to the glass plate, and probe carefully with the knife to lift a corner of the tap. If the corner lifts fairly readily, pull the tape **very slowly** back and away from the stamp. Do not pull hard. If necessary, soak for a further period in the dish.

After removal of the tape, swab the stamp **gently** (do not rub) with naptha by means of the small wad of cotton on a stick, always from the center of the stamp outward. If necessary, clean the plate and repeat the swabbing with fresh naptha until all tape adhesive has been removed. Finally blot the naptha off by placing the remaining stamp on paper between layers of tissue paper.

Certain stamps with photogravure inks require quick manipulation in the swabbing stage, to prevent or reduce bleeding of color. The trick here is to minimize the time that the stamps are exposed to the naptha in quantity during the swabbing. In other words, swab quickly, blot off the naptha, then swab quickly with fresh naptha, and blot again.

Allow the stamp on paper to dry completely, then soak it carefully in water to remove the paper. It is desirable to leave the paper on during the cleaning operation, in order to support the stamp and protect it against creasing and tearing, hence the removal of paper is left to the final stage.

In working with blocks or multiple pieces too large for the watermarking dish, place the objects in the cylindrical jar, add benzine to cover the stamps adequately, place the cover on the jar, and roll the jar on its side, a little to and fro once in a while, to promote contact between the objects and the benzine. It is not necessary to fill the entire jar with benzine. After a reasonable period, remove the objects **carefully** with the tweezers, transfer them to the glass plate and proceed as before. The benzine may be stored in a bottle for a reasonable amount of reuse.

—C. H. W.





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## Iceland Variety



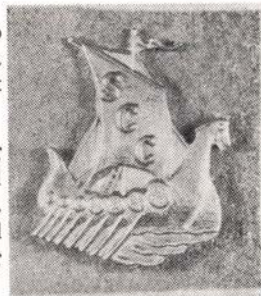
As illustrated above, in this copy of the 40 aur "Two Kings" perf 13 stamp, there is a 1 mm-long clear area in the lines radiating from the base of the forward bust. Collectors who have a similar variety in their collections should let us know.

Collectors wishing to share their other Iceland varieties with the readers of *The Posthorn* are invited to send descriptions and photographs to the Associate Editor, Iceland, *The Posthorn*, 997 Alameda, Redwood City, CA 94061. We have the capability of making photographs if the collector wants to chance sending the stamp.

\* S \* C \* C \*

Shown here is the new Scandinavian Collectors Club insignia pin. This pin is 10K gold filled and has a clasp backing which allows it to be used as a Tie Tack or as a Lapel Pin.

SCC members may obtain this pin by remitting \$3.00 in check or money order, payable to SCC and mailing their remittance to Ronald B. Collin, P. O. Box 63, River Grove, IL 60171. All Chapters should place one order on behalf of all of its members wishing to purchase a pin. This will facilitate handling.



## For Sale At Gimbels



On July 26, 1939, Vilhjalmur Thor, Commissioner General of the Icelandic Commission to the New York World's Fair 1939, wrote a letter to the Stamp Editor of the New York Herald Tribune. The letter was published in the Sunday edition of the Tribune.

The content of the letter is as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"The Postal Administration of Iceland recently decided to issue a two kronur stamp showing the picture of Thirfinnur Karlsefni, the famous Icelandic seafarer who attempted to settle on the American mainland in the years 1004-1007 A.D.

"A mistake was made in the printing house making the stamp part of the Iceland World's Fair issue, which was never the Administration's intention. It was therefore, decided to destroy the entire stock of this two kronur stamp and to print another showing Karlsefni but without any connection to the New York World's Fair issue.

"However, before the stamps could be destroyed, 35 sheets of 50 stamps each were released, instead of the later issue. To prevent speculation with those 31 sheets it was decided to issue part of the stock, 50,000 stamps, bearing the misprints.

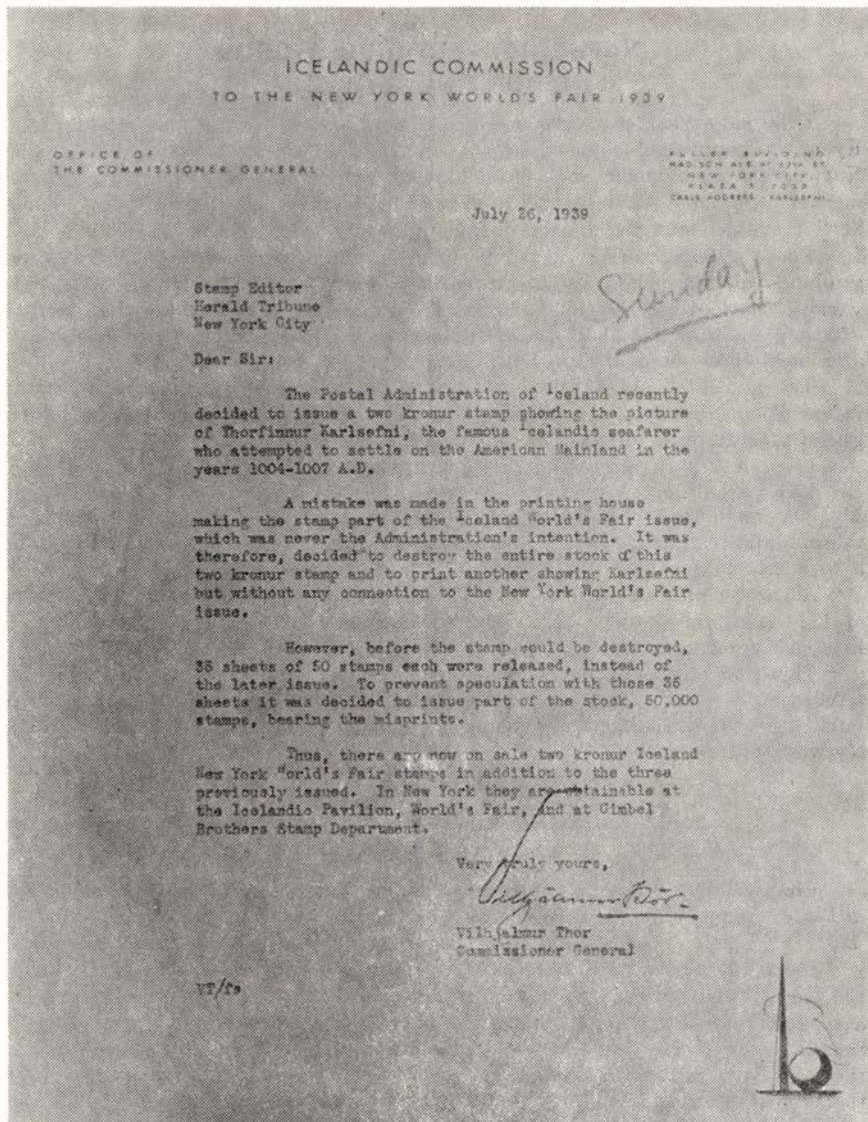
"Thus, there are now on sale two kronur Iceland New York World's Fair stamps in addition to the three previously issued. In New York they are obtainable at the Icelandic Pavilion, World's Fair, and at Gimbel Brothers Stamp Department.

"Very truly yours,

"Vilhjalmur Thor (signed)

"Commissioner General"

The original letter is in the possession of the Western Philatelic Library at Sunnyvale, CA who have graciously given their consent for reproduction in **The Posthorn**.



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\* S \* C \* C \*

**"I certainly am pleased . . ."**

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## Norwegian Revenue Stamps

by Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

A 50-page booklet "Norges sportel-juster og stempelmerker" by T. Soot-Ryen was published some time ago by Oslo Filatelistklubb. It deals with Norwegian "Sportelmerker" (miscellaneous fee stamps, early series), "justermerker" (stamps for measures and weights control fees) and "stempelmerker" (revenue stamps, mainly documentary).

These stamps were collected to some extent many years ago, but interest gradually dwindled, largely due to scarcity of adequate information. Although various catalogs have been published from time to time on individual groups of stamps within this field, there has been a definite need for a more detailed and up-to-date summary presentation.

The present booklet, in an attempt to fill this need, provides a wealth of information developed as the result of much patient investigation. Each group of stamps is covered in two parts:

- (1.) A highly interesting historical and technical review, and
- (2.) a catalog.

The main text is in Norwegian, but the catalog parts are in both Norwegian and English. Prices—being exploratory at the time—are listed on a separate loose sheet.

A sheet containing a complete set of reprints of the 15 "Sportel" stamps of 1873 is attached to page 5. The reprints in red from the original clichés in 1,000 numbered sheets.

This publication is highly recommended, and it is hoped that it will contribute to a greater interest in the collection of stamps of this kind. The publication is available from Wennergren-Cappelen A. S., Oslo, Norway at Norwegian crowns 36:-.

—C. H. W.

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## S. C. C. Convention At "Capex '78"

by Alan Warren

Chapter 10 in Toronto continues planning for an exciting SCC convention in that city next June in conjunction with the big international show "CAPEX '78."

Since the Sheraton Centre has no more space available, Jack Banks of Chapter 10 has reserved 20 rooms at the new Toronto Dominion Holiday Inn, across the street from the Sheraton Centre. Shuttle buses will run between the Sheraton Centre and the CAPEX show site at the Exhibition center, and there is a connecting walkway between these two hotels. The block of 20 rooms will be held until May 1, 1978 after which unreserved space will be sold to the public.

Members of SCC may obtain a reduced rate if all 20 of these rooms are taken by them, and those interested should contact the Toronto Dominion Holiday Inn, 89 Chestnut St., Toronto, Ontario at once to avoid disappointment.

The CAPEX '78 Exhibition grounds are only about 1½ miles from the named two hotels.

3,500 frames with 16 pages each on exhibit; 100-dealer bourse and over 30 government postal administration booths already sold for the show promise a truly memorable event for the hemisphere.

Be sure you mention the Scandinavian Collectors Club when writing the Holiday Inn for space.

—A. W.



## What Or Who Is E T A?



What or who is E T A? This is a question for our knowledgeable Icelandic philatelists.

The mark E T A on each of the above stamps is 4 mm high and 9.5 mm long. The letters of the mark are thick and with serif. It has been marked on each of the stamps after the original cancel. A description of the stamps is as follows:

Left: 3 aur Numeral of Value, perf. 14x13., interrupted perf variety with blurred bridge cancel.

Center: 5 aur Numeral of Value perf. 13 with BAER district cancel.

Right: 10 aur Numeral of Value, perf. 14x13., interrupted perf variety, with HJARÐARHOLT district cancel.

Please send your comments to the Associate Eitor, ICELAND, The Posthorn, 997 Alameda, Redwood City, CA 94061.

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## Library News

by Stanley H. Hanson, SCC Librarian

We thank those whose support and help during 1977 have contributed so much to improving our library's holdings and service to the membership, and promise, with further assistance, to improve our record in 1978.

The Library needs more Scandinavian philatelic literature. Are your book cases loaded? Do you wonder where you will find space to store all that material? Here's where you can help the Library, the membership and yourself by donating it to the SCC Library.

A LIBRARY INDEX will be included with the May, 1978 issue of the POSTHORN. The result of much effort for over a year, as this is being written late in 1977, the INDEX will be up to date as of about March 1, 1978. Note that it will have two departments: Library and Audio-Visual. In each issue of the POSTHORN we will list all new material acquired since the preceding POSTHORN issue, and space will be provided as printing requirements allow to include such additional entries to keep your INDEX up to date.

We thank Carl Werenskiold and Jared Richter for their kind donations of 35mm slides, and Southern California Chapter 17 and Donald Halpern for Library materials they have donated.

Once more, thanks to all for your help in 1977. This is your library, so please make full use of its facilities. We know we can be of assistance to you. My address is: 4317 North Monitor Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634. —S. H. H.

## The Editor's Mailbag

CARL H. WERENSKIOLD and BENJAMIN H. COHEN properly pulled my ear over my blunder in the November, 1977 issue, page 98, where I stated that "My personal count shows 103 issues (including 11/76, or) including the one you are now reading, 107, have been sent out." The correct count is of course 128 and 132 instead of 103 and 107. Carl added that R. E. Danielson (not Davidson) was editor of the POSTHORN January, 1963 to January, 1967. The February, 1978 issue you are now reading is whole number 133.

CARL H. WERENSKIOLD notes that the word "Islands" after "Faroe" is redundant, since the native language word "Føroyane" is properly translated "Sheep Islands" (plural), and the proper English word would then be simply "Faroese."

JARED H. RICHTER, 1353 Plum Street, San Diego, CA 92106 has kindly accepted the post of Associate Editor, Norway, for the POSTHORN. If any of you wish to volunteer to assist him, he welcomes your offer of aid.

MR. HARLAN MILLER, our longtime printer, gives the following facts for your permanent reference in regard to material submitted for the POSTHORN:

An extra ten days to two weeks is required for preparing illustrations. Crop your own photos, or expect us to cut them, since removal of excess material from printing cuts (for which the SCC must pay the full cost!) is that much more labor, cost and delay. Stamps and manuscripts are not insured from receipt by Miller Print Shop until received by the POSTHORN editor. If valuable, have a photo or photocopy made and send that instead of original item. Cuts made from previously-printed (halftone) pictures will have a checkered appearance. This is unavoidable. In mounting stamps or items for photography, allow one-quarter inch space between them for saw cut if to be printed separately, since the cost for making a printing cut of six square inches (which will easily serve for about four single stamps) is the same as for one single stamp—all the printer need do is saw the cut apart if they are to be printed separately in the publication. Don't paste line cuts and half-tones together and don't combine them for one cut—they must be separated for printing requirements.

REINO MERIKALLIO sadly reports that demands on his time make it necessary that he withdraw as Chapter News Editor for the POSTHORN. We're sorry to lose him, and are asking Paul Nelson to act as the single collecting point for Chapter News to be relayed to the Editor in future.

REV. ARTHUR E. WIDIGER responds to Vic Engstrom's article D.W.I. Scene, page 109, November, 1977 POSTHORN, by noting that the "Pollak's Petal" flaw is a constant variety in certain Danish issues, possibly more prominent than the famous "Caroe's Snit," and is more easily found. As No. 72 in pane A, the variety is found in various values: 4ø Printing XII; 8ø Printing XIII and 20ø Printing III of the Danish stamps. In another setting, also in pane A, where this thick frame with the two marks is found in position 45, it can be found as the 3ø Printing V; 8ø Printing XII and 16ø Printing V.

The frames used for the Danish stamps were of course quite extensively used for producing DWI stamps, explaining how one finds position 72 with the "Caroe's Snit" in the 3 and 7c D.W.I. issues.

ERNST M. COHN decries the "20 years since we have had a listing of Scandinavian periodicals, catalogs, and philatelic publications . . ." 24 hours before these words were typed on the printer's work pages, CHARLES J. PETERSON, Editor of the PHILATELIC LITERATURE REVIEW of the

American Philatelic Research Library, Inc. phoned me and discussed arrangements for that very thing—first to appear in the PLR's next upcoming issue and then to be reprinted in the POSTHORN as soon as space and necessary arrangements permit.

SVEND YORT, SCC's International Philatelic Jurist and noted writer, adds laurels to himself and interest in our area of the stamp world with a beautiful distillation, "Greenland's Parcel Post Stamps . . . a classification guide for the non-specialist" article in the December, 1977 issue of the S.P.A. JOURNAL, pages 229-234 inclusive. Well worth getting for perusal and inclusion in your files, even if you're a boiled-in-the-Polar Bear-oil specialist!

VICTOR E. ENGSTROM has produced another of his studious works, this time on the "C-51" canceller of the British Postal Service, used in the Danish West Indies. This will appear soon in the POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL and we hope to be able to reprint it, with the original printing cuts from that estimable publication, in the POSTHORN later this year. The excellent and kind cooperation of the Postal History Society through Messrs. William Reiner-Deutsch and Ernst M. Cohn joins author Engstrom's generosity in planning to add this to prior reprints from the PHJ of interest and service to SCC and the POSTHORN.

DANSK VESTINDIENS SPECIALKATALOG 1978, by Henning Mathiesen, Poul Hviid and Erik Hvidberg Hansen; 114 Pp, softbound, about 6x8 inches, 2,000-copy first printing 1977, Danish crowns 37,20 (about \$7.50) from Frost Forlag, Sognegaards alle 9, Box 26, 1650 Hvidovre, Denmark.

Richly illustrated and exhaustive in its treatment of the subject, this marvelous "all between two covers" work prices and discusses the more usual DWI goodies plus the seldom-mentioned and scarcer items such as the HAP-AGs, French and British postal activities in the area, Ship post cancels, Christmas seals, essays, proofs, reprints, forgeries and so on.

Edition 6 of TAKKENS BILLIGHEFTER, priced Danish crowns 5,75, same size as the preceding item, accompanied it to me for review. This separate production carries a 19-page report by Henning Mathiesen entitled DANISH WEST INDIES POSTAL CANCELS ON STAMPLESS COVERS 1809-1877. No pricing, since this material is quite seldom offered for sale. Can be ordered from same source as the DVS catalog.

For those with even the slightest interest in DWI philately, both items, particularly the basic catalog, are "musts" for their working library shelves. Quick action is suggested in view of the rather small printing run.

FORGERIES OF FINNISH POSTAGE STAMPS, Finnish/English text, by Mikko Ossa of Turku, Finland, translation and editing of English portion by and available from M. Hvidonov, Box 1221, Great Neck, NY 11024, price \$11.00 postpaid book-rate mail, check or money order with order, please, shipment from Great Neck about mid to late February, 1978.

7 by 10-inch format, high-gloss 80-pound coated paper, profusely illustrated and eye-appealing, it is perhaps the most significant work on Finnish philately ever translated into English, Mr. Hvidonov states. He adds that author Ossa "is regarded internationally as one of the few noted experts on Finnish philately with the authority to attest on all such material (and is a prolific writer on this and other subjects."

ED HOPPS, 2246 Medill, Chicago, IL 60647 asks help in locating biographies and/or photographs of Nils A. Krag, manufacturer and super salesman and Gustav H. Hansen, mechanical genius and inventor of the "continuous cancel" Krag cancelling machine first used in 1903 and continuing in use and acceptance in many countries to the present day.

The S. ALLAN TAYLOR SOCIETY for the "Cinderella" specialists has been revived. \$4 check payable James Czyl, S. Allan Taylor Society, plus ten #10 (business-size) bearing 24c postage each plus your complete address should be sent to Mr. Czyl at 2337 West 144th Place, Posen, IIL 60469 if interested. As a former member, I recommend this to anyone interested in what looks, feels, tastes, smells, lies there and acts like—but isn't—a stamp.

Speaking of societies, try the American Society of Polar Philatelists, whose ICE CAP NEWS saw its 125th issue carrying masthead date Sept.-Oct. 1977 bring 52 8½ by 11-inch pages of profuse and exceedingly sharp illustrations and text (offset) to its members. Write Russell Ott, Secretary, ASPP; 3541 Calle del Sol, Irving, TX 75062. Tell him you saw mention of his group in the POSTHORN and since Scandinavia is (at least partly) "polar," you'd like more information. You will be quite pleasantly surprised, particularly if interested in Greenland, the North Pole expeditions and the more northerly goings-on of that part of the world through our hobby.

The NEWS BULLETIN, quarterly journal of the American Philatelic Society's WRITERS UNIT NO. 30, carries the equivalent of a 15,000-word "book" of articles and information relative to philatelic communication in its December, 1977 issue. For the first time "typeset" and "justified," that issue was prepared with an IBM Selectric Composer (TM) and completes the change from its mimeographed, loose-sheet origins to a fully professional journal of quality and usefulness. Sample copy \$1 cash or OG stamps from editor, Joe Frye, Box 22308, Memphis, TN 38122. Membership in the Writers Unit is open to any member of the A.P.S. interested in philatelic communication. You don't have to be a "writer" to join, but you might well find yourself attaining that status after a few exposures to their publication and meetings.

The mailbag now contains only the dust and an odd paper-clip. Why not take a few minutes and write the editor, express your opinion of SCC in general, the POSTHORN in particular, and ask for whatever help—or share whatever knowledge—our members and readers might be able to lend or utilize.

—J. F. F.

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## Editorial

The POSTHORN has enjoyed quality articles on Danish, D.W.I. and Finnish philately during the brief time of my occupying the editor's chair. There are Sweden, Norway, Iceland and some of the lesser-in-size but large-in-philately areas yet to cover, such as Greenland. If you have knowledge to share with the POSTHORN's readers, check the inside front cover of this issue for the appropriate Associate Editor of the country involved and contact that person. You will find that "writing" is easy. Just place your facts, after making certain they are indeed facts, on paper and send them to the associate editor. The associate editor and the editor of the POSTHORN will be quite willing to polish any rough edges for you and your pleasure in seeing your labor set down for posterity in these pages will make the effort quite worthwhile to you as well as those enjoying it.

If you see no Associate Editor listed for the area involved, submit your manuscript or inquiry direct to the POSTHORN editor. If you feel that you can contribute a couple of dozen hours' time annually to the cause, your offer of help as an associate editor, or assistant to such worker already named, will be most welcome.

We can't take the time to ferret out all those who would serve and contribute if asked. You must volunteer and make known your willingness to help if your good efforts are to be recognized and put to use.

I can think of many whose names, instantly recognized by most specialists in a particular field, would lend dignity and value to our publication . . . but time does not permit a personal arm-twisting letter to be sent.

In two instances since assuming the editor's task a communication has come to me which indicated a possible irritation on the part of the sender, directed either at the journal or this editor, and challenging this or that action or inaction. Nothing really impolite, but just a little stronger than the situation seemed to call for.

In both cases there seemed to be no problem after a calm reply was sent, and for this I am thankful. Ours is a hobby—for a few of us a profession—with the really worthwhile purpose of adding color and friends to our lives with little cost unless investment in the rarer material is desired. It is my purpose in philately, aside from my philatelic professional activities, to lend whatever small efforts permitted by my quite limited time to improving communication and exchange of ideas between those in the hobby for the benefit of all. I have no personal feuds to stoke, nor will I take part in any such effort-wasting activities. There are those who drive nails and thrust swords when a moment's calm thought would point their efforts in a much more rewarding direction, for themselves as well as everyone else. The vast majority are sensible and aware that we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by gentle and friendly cooperation, consideration of the opinions and feelings of others, and that majority is the group to whom my efforts will continue to be directed. To the detractors and foot-draggers, I have no time to donate.

The policy of this journal is to promote Scandinavian philately. The editor's work is toward that, and no other end, and his actions are always entirely subject to the control and direction of the elected and appointed officers of S.C.C. Those wishing to debate policy or content should turn to such officers, and a copy of any communication involving the POSTHORN is always appreciated by the editor for his information and guidance.

Hard-headed I am. Unbending I am not. Stroke my fur at times, and I'll purr and produce. I have claws, however.

The very best of good wishes and good will to all of you for 1978 and the future. See you at CAPEX '78, where Marian and I will arrive before, and remain throughout, the International show.

—J. F. F.

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## President's Message

The New Year period has always been a time of introspection for me. My review of the past year and my plans and hopes for the coming year are important parts of my own approach to reaching my life objectives. Naturally I reviewed S.C.C.'s past year and the paths S.C.C. will take this year.

As you will see from Ron Collin's treasurer's report, we are still on a very firm financial footing. Although there was a dues increase in 1977, marked cost reductions in POSTHORN expenses coupled with increased advertising revenues (thank you Floyd Walker), have given us a large operating surplus. This gives us the opportunity to expand a couple of programs and initiate others.

With our live-wire Librarian, Stan Hansen, revitalizing the S.C.C. Library, we will be publishing a Library Index. In addition, funds have been allocated to purchase additional books. We are also trying to duplicate as many slide shows as possible and have them on call at the Library. The duplicate slide shows will serve two purposes: first, they will be a ready source of chapter program, and second, they will serve as a record of rare or unusual material. This documentation of postal history becomes more important as great collections are broken up and people become more secretive about their holdings. Bob Lipscomb has agreed to oversee the duplication of the slide programs.

A suggestion was made at INTERPHIL to establish a Show and Convention Chairman. Arne Ericsson has agreed to set up and run this post. When a chapter or other group requests information, flyers, membership applications and sample POSTHORNS, Arne will send them a packet containing all of the necessary information and material. After the show, they will send back the remainder to Arne to repack for the next group.

Other programs are in the planning stage, but since they will require an expenditure of funds, and therefore board approval, they will have to wait for another "message."

I hope that the New Year has started well for all of you.

—Don Halpern

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## Chapter News

Chapter 2—Philadelphia. John Hoyer began the 1977 fall season with a slide presentation at our September meeting, depicting his visit to HAFNIA '76 and his European travels. The October meeting brought noted Swedish expert Eric B. T. Kindquist, who spoke on the Stickney press issues of Sweden. He has explored their printing and plate varieties, as well as the various types of paper used in their production. In November, Alan Warren discussed first day covers of Denmark during the period 1935-1949.

Chapter 7—New York City. The chapter is thriving at its new meeting place—the famed Collectors Club at 22 East 35th St., between Park and Madison avenues. All members are invited to the monthly meetings, second Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

The September meeting found the chapter given a tour of the Collectors Club library and an opportunity to examine its Scandinavian philatelic liter-

ature holdings. In October, Alan Warren came in from Philadelphia and gave a talk on "Early first day covers of Denmark." George Koplowitz presented classic stamps and covers from his Danish collection for examination and discussion at the November meeting.

Chapter 7 manned a lounge for SCC during the 5-day ASDA show in November at the New York Coliseum, and the chapter also hosted a regional meeting of SCC, culminating in a dinner at the Copenhagen Restaurant, where chapter members Carl Werenskiold and Eric B. T. Kindquist were honored as the first recipients of the SCC's Earl Grant Jacobsen award.

The annual Christmas party, held at the home of Chapter secretary Harry Wines, closed our 1977 activities.

Chapter 9—North Jersey. Chapter members manned a lounge at NOJEX for the three days of NOJEX in October. Kauko Aro took a large Silver award for his "Postal Stationery of Finland" and George Sickels won the annual Edith M. Faulstich Memorial Award for the best article contributed to volume 15 of the NORTH JERSEY PHILATELIST, entitled "From Stamps to Postal History." George's article, concerning Icelandic APOs of World War II, was reprinted in the NOJEX program and will be reprinted in the WAR COVER CLUB BULLETIN in the near future.

Our annual Christmas party and members' "clothesline exhibition" found Warren Grosjean taking first place with his showing of early Sweden, with George Sickels and Harold Raimert winning the other two awards provided. SCC President Donald Halpern also attended the party.

—Reino Merikallio

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## Scandinavian Philately in the A. P. Congress Books

Articles on Scandinavian philately in the First through Forty-First American Philatelic Congress Books (1935-1975):

(Country, title, author, book, and page)

### Danish West Indies

British Post Office in St. Thomas; Yort, Svend; 19; 124

Frame Varieties of the Bicolored Issues of the Danish West Indies; Stericker, Doris T.; 21; 109

The St. Thomas Harbor Stamps of the Danish West Indies; Engstrom, Victor E.; 40; 99

### Denmark

Some Notes on the Errors of Denmark; Stevenson, T. E.; 12; 122

### Estonia

Estonia; Domanski, V., Jr.; 16; 71

### Finland

Finland, Serpentine Rouletted Stamp, 1860-75; Johnson, C. W.; 13; 32

### Lithuania

Grodno Provisional Issue of March 4, 1919; Eisin, W. M.; 17; 181

Stamps of, Early Issues to 1920; Haworth, E.; 1; 27

### Norway

Coat of Arms Issue; Norby, Reider; 30; 125

Local Posts, Postmarks; Brofos, F. A.; 23; 81

Maud Expedition, 1918-1925; Benfield, William; 36; 211

Pre-adhesive Markings of Christiania (Oslo); Grabfield, G. P. and Thrap-Meyer, H.; 21; 143

Pre-stamp Postmarks; Yort, Svend; 21; 137

Revenue Stamps; Brofos, Fred A.; 27; 134

—Submitted by Matt Hedley

1419 Speers Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403

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## Along the Auction Trail

By Jared H. Richter

The philatelic press has been inundating us with sensational prices realized over the past few years, and with inflation felt throughout the world recently, this should be expected. But the stock market is recording two year lows, so can we expect our stamps to increase in value, either in constant or current dollars?

Should we buy, or sell, stamps during the summer? There no longer is a slow period during the year, some say. But has stamp collecting really overcome the summer doldrums?

In an attempt to analyze these questions, (I'm not about to say there are any unqualified answers), the March, late June, and late September 1977 prices realized by a U.S. auctioneer have been compared. These three particular auctions were used because they contained a lot of Scandinavian material, grading of stamp quality was uniform, seller and buyer commissions (10% from each) were the same, and the same year catalog (Facit 76-77 at 1 SKR at 25c) was used for establishing catalog prices.

Only auction lots of Norwegian stamps that excluded the unusual (i.e. scarce cancels, minor varieties, NH, etc.) were used in the following analysis of prices realized, expressed as a percent of the catalog value indicated in the auction catalog:

Condition	March 1977	June 1977	Sept. 1977
	%	%	%
VF-XF	100	90	—
VF	83	77	106
F-VF	69	57	73
F	55	50	44
VG-F	34	—	—

Now that you have the information, you can form your own conclusions to value trends. Remember that we are talking about Scandinavian stamps in general, and those with a higher value normally entered in auction sales.

Even if you don't buy or sell in any auction, the above comparison might help you in your purchases or sales through your stamp society sales books, your favorite dealer approvals, or your swaps with fellow collectors at the local stamp club.

Why should we be interested in auction results? Because the auction reflects the current supply-demand relationship. Even if you are not in the market to buy or sell, do you have adequate insurance to replace your collection in the event of theft or fire? What effect will the value of your collection have on your estate in the event of your untimely death? These questions can only be answered if you know current market values, and stamp catalogs alone can't supply the answers.



**SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB — TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**31 December 1977**

Cash balance 1 January 1977		\$4,741.79
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Advertising	\$ 1,392.20	
Admission Fees	50.00	
Interest on Savings	400.77	
Literature Sales	238.75	
Membership Dues	4,740.54	
Posthorn Subscriptions	21.00	
Sale of Medals and Insignias	92.40	
Total receipts	\$6,935.66	
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Posthorn Expenses:		
Publishing Costs:		
Address Plates and Envelopes	\$ 200.80	
Postage	160.37	
Printing	1,394.00	
Printing Cuts	140.00	
Total publishing costs	\$1,895.17	
Editor's Costs:		
Postage (1976)	\$110.51	
Postage (1977)	16.15	
Sundries (1976)	3.96	
Sundries (1977)	10.50	
Telephone (1976)	541.59	
Telephone (1977)	7.03	
Total editor's costs	\$ 689.74	
Total Posthorn Expenses	\$2,584.91	
Administrative Expenses:		
Chapter Sponsorships	\$ 324.00	
Club Awards	36.60	
Dues Notices	130.06	
Dues and Subscriptions	15.00	
Legal	7.30	
Library	200.00	
Medals and Insignias	557.00	
Membership Cards	49.68	
Office Supplies	355.18	
Postage	215.75	
Posthorn Reprints	178.46	
Printing	26.10	
Publicity (\$12.85 for 1976)	41.53	
Telephone	312.38	
Total Administrative Expenses	\$2,449.04	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$5,033.95</b>	
<b>SURPLUS</b>		<b>\$1,901.71</b>
<b>CASH BALANCE, 31 December 1977</b>		<b>\$6,643.50</b>
Checking	\$ 648.36	
Savings	5,995.14	

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ronald B. Collin, Treasurer

## NEW MEMBERS

- 2094 LASSEN, Jeffrey K., 1466 Beach Ave., Bronx, NY 10460  
Scandinavia, Denmark by G. B. Koplowitz, #925
- 2095 KERNOCHAN, Lansing, 210 E. 32nd St., New York, NY 10016  
DWI and other Caribbean
- 2096 LARSEN, Karl, 710 E. 6th St., Muscatine, IA 52761  
Scandinavia, US by F. H. Bloedow, L-24
- 2097 FJAERAN, Randi, P. O. Box 1998, Chula Vista, CA 92012  
by F. H. Bloedow, L-24
- 2098 HAMM, Arthur C., 520 E. 72nd St., New York, NY 10021  
Worldwide by D. F. Halpern, #1201
- 2099 NIELSEN, Esther, 265 Davidson Ave., Ramsey, NJ 07446  
Denmark, Israel, Worldwide by F. H. Bloedow, L-24
- 2100 REINERT, Paul D., 20 Norwood St., Albany, NY 12203  
Iceland, Greenland, Norway, DWI
- 2101 RINDONE, Wayne P., 197 Walnut St., Apt. 3, Newtonville, MA 02160  
Sweden, Scandinavia, US, Japan by D. F. Halpern, #1201

## REINSTATEMENTS

- 954 FRASER, Edwin W., P. O. Box 1052, Wall Street Station, New York,  
NY 10005 — Finland by G. B. Koplowitz, #925
- 1273 HJORNE, Torben, Box 2047, DK-8240 Risskov, Denmark
- 1675 JORGENSEN, Robert E., 5 Foothill Rd., Monticello, IL 61856
- 1215 BACKSTROM, Robert W., 6708 Quebec Ave., N., Minneapolis, MN 55428

## DECEASED

- L-15, 414 Dr. T. F. Armstrong, 838 Store Rd., Harleysville, PA 19438

## ADDRESS CHANGES

- 1655 CLOW, David, 142 Hillside Rd., Bramcote, Nottingham, NG9 3BG, Engl.
- 1743 GUNNEROD, Kaare, P. O. Box 608, Portland, OR 97207
- 1344 ROED, Botha de Wett, 6533 Seaview, NW, #708A, Seattle, WA 98117
- 1487 ROED, Mrs. Botha de Wett, 6533 Seaview, NW, #708A, Seattle, WA 98117
- 2037 SMITH, Sheldon B., Jr., 5603 Springfield Dr., Bethesda, MD 20016
- 760 STREET, Edward P., Jr., P. O. Box 404, East Syracuse, NY 13057
- 1388 MASCIERI, Russell, 800 King's Hwy, N., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

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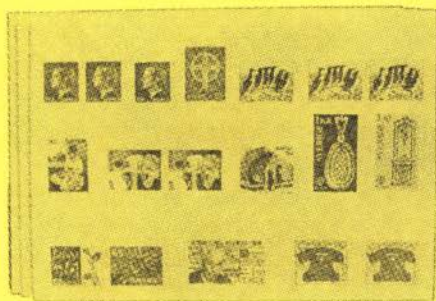
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## THINKING OF SELLING?

Collections come on the market for many reasons. Often a collector sells an area of lesser interest to finance new areas of collecting interests. Others are leaving the hobby entirely, and often collections come from executors of estates.

To those selling through our auctions, our terms to vendors are a commission of 10% of the gross realization. Consignments must total at least \$500. There are no lotting, photographing, or insurance charges.

The vendors who consign material for sale in our auctions are always guaranteed of thoroughly researched lotting, extensive advertising both here and abroad, and an outstanding catalog presented to a very strong, international clientele.

We also buy for cash and this year have purchased numerous individual rarities and large collections in the mid to high five figure dollar range.

How may we serve you?



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