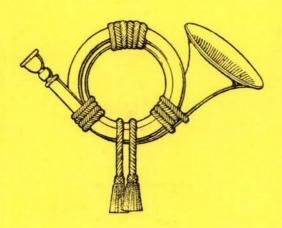
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The. POSTHORN

"The Bank of Scandinavian Philatelic Knowledge"



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Postal History By Wire

By Harry Snarvold, Göteborg, Sweden Chairman, Norwegian Postal History Society

Mail and telegraph have one objective in common—to convey messages. One essential difference is that the postal service has been able to make use of all of our means of communication, while the telegraph service has had to rely exclusively on its own wires—at least until the advent of telephone and radio.

A common task, in other words, but under different conditions and perspectives of time. There are countries—France first comes to mind—where this community of tasks has led to a joint organization, the "PTT" as it is called, "Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones."

But even where no such direct connection existed, there have been links, although they have largely escaped notice in historical accounts of the field. The Scandinavian countries are among those where increasing research in postal history has led to elucidation of these relationships. What follows is a summary of what was originally presented by the writer in the newly formed Norwegian Postal History Society in Oslo and published in Norwegian philatelic journals.

In 1854, the parliament of Norway (the Storting) unanimously decided

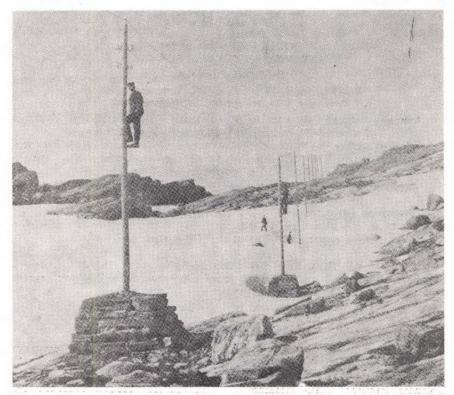


Fig. 1. Poles in place, and wire being strung (From History of the Telegraph
Administration 1855-1955)

to establish an "electromagnetic telegraph system." On January 1, 1855, the first section of this system was put into operation—on the very day the first Norwegian postage stamp was issued.

This first telegraph line was strung between Christiania, as the capital was then called, and the city of Drammen, almost due west. At the same time, the line eastward from Christiania to the Swedish frontier was being built, and it took only to June 11 the same year to complete it.

On the next day, June 12, King Oscar I of Norway (and Sweden) inaugurated the line from the frontier at Frederikshald (now Halden) to Göteborg, Sweden. This established the first telegraphic link between Norway and the European continent.

In the years that followed, an energetic and rapid expansion of the system took place across the country. By November 1, 1870, the electric telegraph had been extended northward to places as distant as Alta, Hammerfest, Vadsø, and finally, Vardø. The main lines throughout the country were thus established.

From the start, the telegraph stations employed messengers who delivered telegrams to the addresses against receipt. These receipts were sent to the office of the Director of Telegraphs and used to check the payments of telegraph fees.

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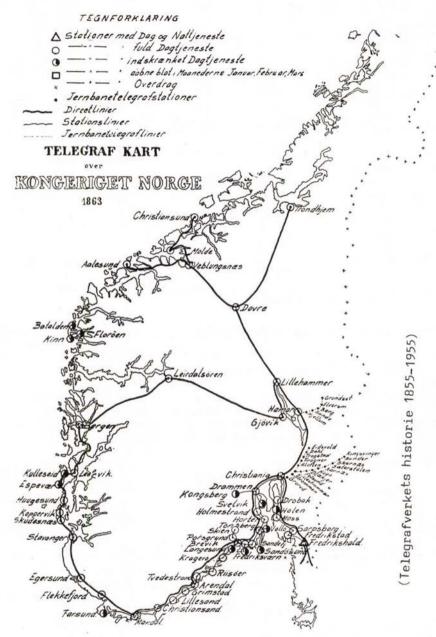


Fig. 2. Map of Telegraphs in the Realm of Norway, 1863. There were four different kinds of stations foreseen at that time: day-and-night service, full day service, limited day service, and those open only January-March. No wire connections had yet reached further north than Trondhjem.

On the line Christiania-Drammen the fee for a telegram of 25 words or less was fixed at 6 Skilling in 1855—with an additional fee of 4 Skilling for delivery 'within the city." It is important to note that the Delivery fee was paid by the sender in addition to the telegram fee.

New rates came into force in June, 1855, with a zone system as used elsewhere in Europe at the time. The rates were calculated not only by number of words, but also by distance. Later, however, uniform rates were introduced for 25 words, with additions for longer messages.

No official information is available about the mails being in the picture in the delivery of telegrams. An inquiry to the Administration of Telecommunications in Oslo about this has been without avail. Yet, it has been possible to document that such was the case from quite early on. Such documents are very scant, but they prove conclusively a connection between telegraphic and postal services.

The telegram shown in fig. 3 was handed in at Bergen in 1862 at 9:36 a.m. It was received at Trondhjem at 9:44 a.m. on April 1, probably the same day. In these brief eight minutes the telegram was sent in the dots and dashes of the Morse code along the line Bergen-Laerdal-Gjøvik-Lillehammer-Dovre-Trondhjem, which was opened in November 1859.

The telegram was addressed to a Mr. Ellingsen at Vesteraalen, while the telegraph office at Tronhjem then handed the message, in a printed official envelope addressed to Mr. Ellingsen, to its messenger on April 1 at 11:41 a.m. He in turn brought it to the post office—and franked it with a 4 Skilling postage stamp of the Oscar I issue.



Fig. 3. Telegram sent from Bergen and received at Trondhjem April 1, 1862. This was mailed, franked with 4 Skilling Oscar I stamp, and sent northward by mail steamer "Nordcap," postmarked Nordland exchange office April 3, 1862.



Fig. 4. "Telegraph Dispatch" from "Royal Electric Telegraph Office in Christiania." Mailed from Christiania, franked with 4 Skilling Oscar I stamp, cancelled with circular numeral (52), cancel and side marking "30.7.1857."

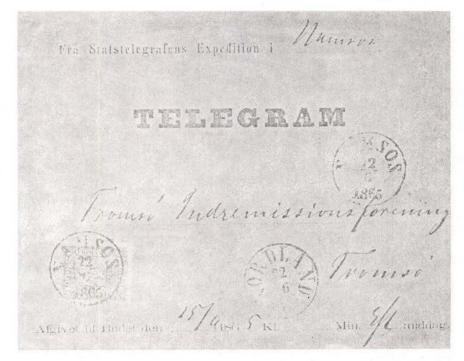


Fig. 5. Telegraph-letter handed in at State Telegraph Office in Namsos June 15, 1863, addressed to "TROMSO." Forwarded by mail from Namsos June 22, 1865, with transit postmark from "Nordland" exchange office the same day.

The envelope with its enclosed message was cancelled by the post office the following day, April 2, 1862, and brought to the ship mails, in this case the mail steamer "Nordcap," to be carried further north. The postal marking "Nordland 3.4.1862" refers to the Nordland post office, at the time one of three "exchange post offices" in Norway. When Ellingsen received his telegram is not shown. Possibly the time can be calculated by consulting the time table of the steamer, if that is considered of interest.

This telegram, forwarded to its ultimate destination by mail, is not the only one known, nor is it the oldest. A fellow collector has sent me, for my information, a similar document from "The office of the Royal Telegraph in Christiania" in July of 1857.

This telegram (Fig. 4) was addressed to Hammerfest in the extreme north—the sender probably from abroad, because of the written name of the addressee, A. Aagaard & Söhne. At this time the lines northward had not been even discussed, and the only way was to bring this to the post office—at 9:30 a.m. on July 29, 1857. The letter or, to quote the printed marking on the envelope, "Telegraph Dispatch," was again franked with a 4 Skilling Oscar-type stamp, and cancelled July 30, 1857.

The next document (Fig. 5) is a telegram cancelled at Namsos June 22, 1865, and sent on from the post office the same day, according to the regulations about cancellation at the departure of the mails. Likewise, the marking by the "Nordland" post office was struck the same day.

This telegram carries an interesting notation, "Delivered to the messenger



Fig. 6. Telegram-letter franked with 7 Skilling posthorn stamp, cancelled "Bergen 19.6.1875" and with postal marking "Ullensvang 1875" and inserted manuscript date "2/6." Handed to messenger (at Bergen) "18.6.1875, 2.40 p.m.," apparently incorrectly dated "18.5."

June 15, 1865," which shows that the sender of the telegram addressed to Tromsø thought he could catch the ship departing from Namsos on June 15 This was not the case—meaning that the telegram had to be left lying around for a whole week, waiting for the next ship departure on June 22.

The city of Tromsø, the destination of the telegram, did not receive its telegraph line linking it with the south until August 1869, more than four years later. Like the two earlier ones, this telegram-letter is franked with a 4 Skilling stamp, this time of the Arms type of 1863—but it also has a red manuscript annotation "9" or "1" beside an "NB" (nota bene), likewise handwritten. (Not visible on the photocopy.)



Fig. 7. Telegram sent from Groto 17 January 1884, to Kjeaa and Bodo, mailed from there with pair of sans-serif 10 ore posthorn stamps and sent on to Kjerringo. Seal of Telegraph Administration on reverse.

I take it that this represents a registry number—since the postal law decreed that the number of each registered letter should be written in the upper left-hand corner on the address side, and "NB" was the customary way of indicating registration of letter in those days.

The 4 Skilling franking of these telegram-letters corresponds to the single letter rate at that time. In addition, the telegraph office also had to pay the registry fee to the postmaster. As for the 4 Skilling rate for regular postage, it had already been collected from the sender as a "delivery fee"—the circumstances of the registry fee are more uncertain.

Telegram-letter are known also from the 1870s and 1880s. The Postal Museum in Oslo has a telegram (Fig. 6) franked with a 7 Skilling, posthorn type, cancelled in Bergen in 1875 and sent to Rosendal in Hordaland. It carries two registry markings: a manuscript "NB," and a boxed "Recommanderet" with what seems a registry number, in manuscript, above the box.

In contrast to the earlier telegrams, this one is franked with the full rate of 7 Skilling (single-letter rate reduced to 3 Skilling in 1872, plus registry fee of 4 Skilling). According to the postal law of May 3, 1871, the registry fee was thereafter to go to the postal services and be paid with stamps—not, as before, paid to the postmaster himself in cash.

From 1884, there is a telegram (Fig. 7) known from Grøtø on January 17. Grøtø was then an impertant harbor at the mouth of the channel leading out into Vestfjord. This is where vessels called before setting out into the dangerous but important waters of the fjord. During fishing seasons it was also a natural emergency refuge in bad weather. This is also shown by the telegram, which laconically advises the sender's home port of Kjerringø: "Forced to seek refuge Grøtø due storm snow fog. Greetings. Amundsen."



Fig. 8. Telegram letter addressed to Mr and Mrs Saxegaard, newlyweds, franked with 10 ore posthorn stamp and cancelled "Aalesund 17 VII 96."

This telegram first had to go north to Kjeaa—which was a point of connection for the Tromsø line—in order then to be sent on by the main line southwards to Bodø. At Bodø the telegram was brought to the post office the same day (see postal marking), and then it was sent north again by ship



Fig. 9. Unfranked telegram from 1903, with a 20-ore postage-due stamp from 1899, cancelled Ytre Arne.

to Kjerringø. The manuscript marking "pr. Post med Namsos-Bodø" means by steamer "Namsos" of Bodø, her home port.

This telegram was also "Recommanderet" with additional registry fee of 10 øre (postal law of January 1, 1877). The letter was franked with a pair of 10 øre posthorn stamps, cancelled "Bodø 17.1.84."

Another detail worth noting is that the telegram is closed on the reverse with an official coat-of-arms seal reading "Statstelegrafens Expedition." This kind of seal was introduced in Norway in 1878, patterned on the German system.

This telegram (fig. 8) was sent from Stavanger to Aalesund on July 17,

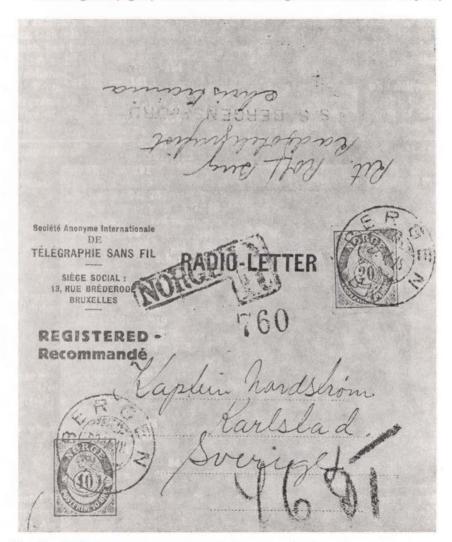


Fig. 10. Radio-Letter telegram from S. S. Bergensfjord to Kaptein Nordstrom, Karlstad, Sweden, cancelled "Bergen 22.V.18."

1896, franked with a 10 øre posthorn stamp with serifed letters (Antiqua), and forwarded by mail to "Bridal couple" Saxegaard, at the vicarage of Stranden near Aalesund.

Telephones were introduced in Norway in 1880—but it took time to build the network, and it was only in the latter half of the 1890s that the process was speeded up. The vicarage of Stranden had no phone yet—and again the telegraph office had to rely on the mails for final delivery.

Even an unfranked telegram (fig. 9) is documented, which was sent from Bergen probably the year 1903—the date a little indistinct in the cancel—to the bank teller Rongvig in Ytre Arne, the administrative district of S. Bergenshus.

Double rate, 20 øre, has been noted on the face of the telegram envelope and the receiver had to pay this fee, represented by a 20-øre postage-due stamp from 1899, and cancelled at Ytre Arne. There is also a rectangular seal of the Norwegian State Telegraph.

I conclude by describing a very interesting telegram from the 1900s, (fig. 10), franked with 20 plus 10 øre from the posthorn issue of 1909-19. This telegram is a Radio-Letter from a ship, more exactly from the S. S. Hellig Olav via S.S. Bergensfjord, on the National day of May 17, 1918, to Kaptein Nordstrøm, Karlstad, Sweden: "In communication with Bergensfjord, until today Friday fine weather, now rather rough, Wednesday should reach Halifax, New York Sunday, ship comfortable, love and greetins to all, Gress."

The radio operator on S.S. Bergensfjord sent this message by "spark" to Bergen Radio, and it was sent on from the post office there on May 22, 1918, in an official envelope with printed texts: "Radio-Letter," "Société Anonyme Internationale de Télégraphie Sans Fil" and "Registered-Recommandé" etc., to the addressee in Sweden.

As early as 1904 some of the ships in the Atlantic services were equipped with the new Marconi spark-equipment for communications ship-to-shore. Only much later, not until the early 1920s, was radio telegraphy introduced increasingly over land in Scandinavia.

But what was the reason for taking the message by mail from Bergen to Karlstad in 1918? Probably the postal communication at this time was deemed sufficient and relatively cheap, by comparison with the morse system (the railway between Bergen and Christiania was opened in 1909).

I have been looking for this kind of documentation for many years, and the material I have been able to find consists of 7 or 8 telegrams, spread over a period of 60 years.

So there appears not to be a great deal left—but yet the historical relationship between the telegraphic and postal administrations should be considered well proven from very early days on.

* 8 * C * C *

In addressing letters to persons in countries overseas the Post Office Department warns that the name of the country should be last, particularly if their "zip" codes are similar to those in the United States. Many overseas letters are routed wrongly to cities in the U. S. that have a similar zip number, particularly if the first three digits are the same. Did you know there are four Stockholms in the U. S., two Bergens, only one each Oslo and Copenhagens, but 14 named Paris!

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Perforation Varieties

By M. E. Hvidonov

Perhaps no area of early Finnish philately has been so little researched and catalogued as the rouletted stamp variations of the 1860-1866 serpentine This is due in part to a paucity of material and a lock of good teaching articles on the subject. In 1972 Mikko Ossa of Turku, Finland undertook an article on this phase, which appears to be the only one of its kind.

It is possible that collections exist which contain stamps or covers with

unusual roulette features that are not recognized or appreciated.

Mr. Ossa categorizes the roulette variations into 3 types. For the benefit of those unfamiliar with early Finnish issues I will elaborate on the 3 categories.

The method of perforating the printed stamp sheets was primitive but the only way available at the time (in Finland) to provide an indentation in the sheets so that the stamps could be separated by the post offices. The rouletting tool (fig. 1) was comprised of a wooden handle with steel teeth of varying gauges which was pressed by hand along the straigth edge of a ruler. Obviously a slip of either hand during the process would result in an unusual roulette. This would be even more apt to happen when 4 or 5 sheets were placed on top of each other and rouletted simultaneously. When this hand operation was coupled with the wearing of the teeth through constant usage one can see that consistency was not possible.

Type 1. Occasional Roulette Variations

a) Step perforations. This describes those stamps where the rouletter began his work and either "slipped" or found that he was cutting too closely to the picture and re-started. It really is a double roulette with a pause, and was done in several steps.

b) A partial or full double roulette. Frequently the result of the stamp sheets at the bottom of the pile becoming mis-aligned with the top-most sheet. When noticed the operator had to roulette the sheet again. Very often the first rouletted impression is almost "blind," so stamps and covers should be

carefully examined for the sometimes almost "missing" impression.

Diamond Roulettes. These are very fine items but also difficult to This oddity occurs when the rouletting device is re-used on an already rouletted edge. By happy circumstance the teeth of the tool hit again exactly on the roulettes of the first impression creating a kind of pointed, diamondlike shape in the teeth tips (Finnish: Timanti).

Type 2. Partial and total Imperforates

Imperforate stamps are the result of either an oversight or the tool not cutting deeply enough into the sheets. The postmaster then had to cut the sheets apart with a blade or scissors.

Most partial imperforates are really sheet margin copies which required no rouletting at all because the printed impression was close to the edge of the paper.

Type 3. Mixed Roulettes (on the same stamp) i.e. I:II; II:III, etc.

These are rare and considered philatelic gems. They are obviously the result of two different rouletting tools having been used.

Warning: Mixed roulette forgeries exist. Any such item should be submitted to a Finnish expert for certification.

. . . M.E.H.

THE ROULETTE VARIATIONS OF THE "BIG-TOOTHED" STAMPS By Mikko Ossa

1) 1860 Emissions

Through the years the 5 and 10 Kop. rouletted stamps have been far too little explored insofar as unusual roulettes are concerned. Perhaps this is due in part to the larger amount of such items found in the relatively immense printings of the 1866 penny-value stamps.

Roulette varieties of the 1860 ten kop. stamps are less frequently seen than those of the 10 kop. value even though the total printing of the 5 kop. stamps was about one-half the amount of the 10 kop.

5 Kop. Roulette 1-Occasional Roulette Types.

The so-called "step roulette" type is the most common of the varieties most of which emanate from the early emissions. Even a full "double" roulette is not rare. According to the late Leo Lindner most of the roulette oddities came out of the 5 kop. 3rd emission, the green-blue color. He also concluded that the "step" and full "double" roulettes appeared more often on the vertical sides of the stamps. We now know, however, that there are a fair number of these variations in the "greyish-toned" stamps (NORMA "d" and "e" colors). I have found the ratio of vertical errors about 50% higher than horizontal oddities.

5 Kop. Roulette II.

I have come upon only one roulette variety of the Roulette II stamps. Whereas, I have located (with much effort) only 12 roulette varieties of Roulette II in the 10 Kop. stamps, one of them a mint pair with a double roulette on the left side. Cancelled stamps are usually from Viipuri and Nyslott post offices but others exist.

All roulette varieties on cover are rare. Figure 2 is a cover with a 5 Kop. "pale blue" emission stamp with a "step" perforation in the upper right hand corner. The letter is dated Porvoo, Oct. 19, 1863.

Also known is a letter with a 10 Kop. ANK cancellation from the town of Hämeenlina, October 31, 1863 and a 10 Kop. with a "step" roulette on the right side bearing a single ring Viipuri cancellation, Aug. 15, 1863. There are both a "double" and a "step" roulette on the last item, which places it in a category of its own. Another extraordinary piece is a 10 Kop. with a triple roulette on one side of the stamp.

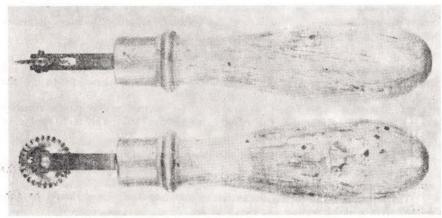


Fig. 1

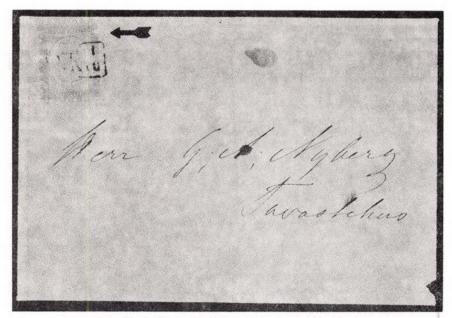


Fig. 2. 5 Kop. pale blue with step perforation

A Swedish collector owns a 5 Kop. postal piece with a full diamond roulette on the right side. Two similar 5 Kop. loose stamps have been found. 10 Kop. stamps with diamond roulettes are known cancelled in Viipuri but other cancellations exist.

Figure 3 shows a 5 K. stamp with a partial diamond roulette and a 5 K. stamp with a "step" roulette in the NW vertical area.

Partially Imperforate Stamps.



Diamond Perf. "Step" Perf.

Fig. 3

10 K. partial imperfs are graded as very rare, and 5 K. stamps as extremely rare. The Finnish Handbook pictures a partly imperforate 5 K. pair with a Jorois 15.3.1861 low box cancellation. There is also a 5 K. letter with partial imperforate cancelled in Jorois 21.1.1861. This establishes that Jorois had been given at least one full sheet of imperforate stamps. Historically, the last described cover (fig. 4) belonged to Fabergé who had gotten it from Trap-Holm in a swap for two 1 Mark 1866 stamps plus some cash. Fabergé sold it at a later date to von Möller and at present it is the property of a Finnish collector.

Two covers franked with 10 K. stamps vertically imperforate on both sides have been recorded. One cancelled Helsingfors Jan. 3, 1860 and the other Viipuri July 29, 1860. Two other 10 K. partially imperforate loose stamps have been found. One cancelled in Tavastehus with the left side sans-roulette and the other with no roulette at the bottom.

Totally Imperforate Stamps.

I have seen 8 completely imperforate stamps. 3 are cancelled as follows: Helsinki, Oct. 1, 1860; Porvoo, April 23, 1860 and April 28, 1861, one of which

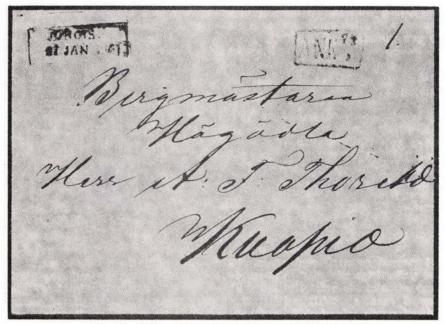


Fig. 4. Faberge imperforate stamp (right side).

is "tied-to-piece." Still another was featured in Abophil 3/71 which bore a Nyslott 13.5.1864 cancellation. Leo Lindner was of the opinion that these were "made-up." However, in my opinion, this is a moot point because there are not enough specimens to formulate or make a firm decision.

A "halved" 10 K. stamp mailed from Helsinki to Porvoo, Nov. 1, 1860 could not be bonafide since it would not be possible for the large Helsinki post office to be out of 5 K. stamps. Thus the item cannot be philatelic.

Mixed Roulettes.

Of the 5 and 10 K. stamps, those specimens with mixed roulettes are the rarest of them all. I only know of 2 or 3. The collection of von Möller had one 10 K. stamp with Roulette I on top and the remaining 3 sides were Roulette III. It was cancelled with a single ring Borgå 21.9.1865.

Figure 5 displays a 10 K. stamp with part of an Abo cancellation. The left side is Roulette I and the rest II.

Also of collecting interest are covers bearing stamps of different roulettes. Figure 6 shows two differently-rouletted stamps tied to a piece. One stamp is roulette I and the other II.





Fig. 6

Sectiones

Fig. 7

The 1866 Penny-Value Roulette Variations



Fig. 9

Naturally the immense printings of the 1866 emissions provided a larger number of oddities, some of which are great rarities.

5 Penny Roulette I Varieties.

Occasional roulette varieties are not very common in the 5 P. emissions and are even less common than the partial roulettes. Both "step" and "double" roulettes appear in the "dark brown" first emissions. There is one 5 P. stamp with a "step" roulette on the lower left side. It is of the laid paper variety R. III. (Fig. 7).

Some "step" roulette types are also found in the "greyish lilac-brown" emission of 1870 (NORMA: CWd). A complete "double" roulette from this group is very rare. A few diamond roulettes are known. The rarest is a wove paper R. II with a full diamond roulette on the left side. It once belonged to von Möller and is now in Sweden.

Imperforate 5 Penny Stamps.

Because of the thick, hard paper used for the 1866 printings of the 5 P. stamps, it was often necessary for the postal workers to cut the stamps apart because the rouletter had failed to bite deeply enough into the sheet. With the aid of magnification, one can usually see the rouletter's impression near the square side of the stamp.

Here in Turku there are 2 rows of 3 stamps where the vertical sides of the stamps have been cut and in both cases the rouletting impression can be discerned. They are both cancelled Abo 7.6.67 and 11.6.67. Figure 8 shows a gem with both top and bottom imperforated.

Another coincidence that created a kind of roulete variety arose when a very thin paper and a rather strong, thick glue were combined in the 5 P. emissions of 1873. (Norma: 11Ad, Bd, and Cd). It was next to impossible to separate the stamps without tearing the roulettes.

Roulette II is so great a rarity that only a Finnish expert totally familiar with the paper, gum and color of the emission should be employed to issue certification. When one takes into account that a nice specimen costs over \$2,000, care should be exercised. These stamps should be part of all good collections, even though judges who do not know Finnish philately may tend to look upon them as "unworthy" specimens.

Figure 9 shows a great rarity, a row of 6 of the "lilac-brown" emission all vertically imperforate. We also know of a laid paper type imperforate on both vertical sides and cancelled in Viipuri, 11.11.87.

To date no imperfs have been found in stamps printed on the normal wove-type papers.

Mixed Roulettes of the 5 Penny Issues

These are very rare, and I have seen but two. Both were R. I horizontally and R. II vertically. One was mint and the other was cancelled in Viipuri, 17.4.1868. (Fig. 10).



First row, vertically: Figs. 8, 10, 11, 13; Center, Fig. 12; Last row, 14, 16, 17

8 Penny Stamp Varieties

These are rarely seen. Some are known from the "green" paper issues. (NORMA: Bya and Cya). These exist with both "step" and "double" roulettes.

Just one stamp has been found of the "embossed" type of paper, which has a "double" roulette on both vertical sides and along the top of the stamp.

8 Penny Partial Imperforates

A few more 8 P. stamps are known imperforate horizontally as opposed to vertically. A Swedish collector has a horizontally-imperforate pair. The Finnish Handbook describes a postal piece with two 8 P. stamps with no horizontal roulettes. Date is illegible. Figure 11 shows a nice example of a "step" roulette on an 8 P. stamp.



Fig. 15

Roulettes IV and V, and Mixed Roulettes

Roulette V is among the rarest of all the 8 P. stamps. It has been determined that this rouletter was used from 1866 to 1868 and possibly later. There are about 25-30 known at present. Most cancellations are from Nyslott and Heinola, and are most often dated 1870-1871. The cancellations are often too weak to be read, so research is impaired.

Roulette IV is even rarer, and just a few are known. Some rare pieces have been found with the horizontal side R. II and the verticals R. V.

Figure 12 shows 3 stamps of the Roulette V. There are no totally flaw-less stamps due to the weak long teeth, so faults have to be forgiven.

10 Penny Varieties

The early emissions of the 10 P. stamps produced some oddities of the "step" roulette types but complete "double" roulettes are seldom seen.

One unusual freak is a Helsinki-cancelled stamp where the rouletter actually arced from the vertical right side into the bottom of the stamp. Another oddity is a row of 3 with the middle stamp almost cut in half by the perforation. Diamond roulettes are rare on 10 P. stamps.

Figure 13. 10 P. stamp with a full diamond roulette at bottom.

Figure 14. Top stamp . . . Right side R. I, the rest II. Bottom stamp— Top and bottom R. II, sides R. III.

Mixed Roulettes

Very rare. The only two that I have seen are shown in Figure 14.

20 Penny Varieties

Since 4.6 million 20 P. stamps were printed, it is expected that an extra number of oddities would exist. The most common are "step" roulettes, closely followed by "double" roulettes. For some reason there are a number of variations in stamps rouletted I, which is decidedly different from all other issues.

The roulette II emission of 1874 seems to have produced the most variations. More vertical oddities are found than those of the horizontal types, which is consistent with other emissions. This is primarily because the printing form, which contained 50 locked-up stencils, was struck twice to produce 100 stamps on the sheet. This was done by inverting the paper. Naturally the imposition of the second printing was often not perfectly aligned. Thus, when four or more sheets were laid on top of each other, there were bound to be more variations.

Figure 16. R. II "double" perfed.

Figure 17. "Step" perforation.

Figure 19. Arrow points to vertically "double" roulette stamp.

20 P. stamps with complete diamond roulette are not known.





Fig. 18

Fig. 19

20 Penny Imperforates

No completely-imperforate 20 P. stamps are known. Some exist partially imperforate. This is due again to inverting the paper to strike the printing impression a second time. Sometimes the gutter between the panes varied from 5mm to 2 cm. When the gutter was very narrow, the rouletter may have forgotten to cut through or did not think it necessary. Vertically or horizontally-imperforate stamps are valuable additions to the collection.

Figure 18. Roulette II with the right side imperforate.

Figure 20. Shows large and odd horizontal margins. The marks of the "double" roulette are clearly seen in the left stamp.

Figure 21. A rare 20 p. stamp on cover, with both top and bottom unrouletted.

20 Penny Mixed Roulettes

Only a few exist. Figure 22 shows a stamp with the horizontal roulettes being II and the verticals I. It is cancelled ANK in blue-green ink and is from the 1873-1874 issues. Combinations of both II and III and IV are known.

40 Penny Variations

Though less 40 P. stamps were printed than other denominations there are still some nice items to grace the collection pages. "Step" and "Double" roulettes come from the 1866-67 issues. Those of the latter emissions of 1874-75 are almost rarities. Since I have seen only 4 diamond roulettes, I must conclude that they too are rare. Figure 23 shows 2 samples of "double" roulettes and Figure 24 a rare diamond roulette on a roulette II stamp.









Fig. 22

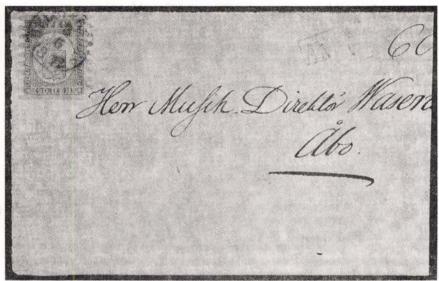


Fig. 21



Fig. 23



Fig. 24



Fig. 25

40 Penny Partial Imperforates

Completely imperforate stamps are not known. Horizontal and vertical imperfs are rare. One horizontally-imperforate pair has been found. There are rare 20 and 40 P. stamps with a large gutter at top or bottom, with the perforation that belongs to the stamp totally missing. (Figure 25).

Figure 26 shows a rare Registered letter bearing a 20 and 40 P. franking. The 40 P. is imperforate at the top, and no impression of rouletting can be seen toward the design of the stamp.



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig 28

Figure 27. Roulette V top and bottom mixed with R. II.

Figure 28. Roulette IV top and bottom, II on both sides.

Figure 29. 2/40 P. stamps. One with Roulette IV on the left side and R. II on the other sides. The second stamp has R. II on the left and the rest R. III.

Fig. 30. 40 P. on cover, showing double roulettes on a sheet-margin copy.



Fig. 29

40 Penny Mixed Roulettes

Only 6 or 7 stamps of the 40 P. emission are known with roulette V. They are from the carmine-brownish issues of 1867-68. The rare mixed roulettes, IIxV and VxII, come from the same color group. A few exist cancelled in

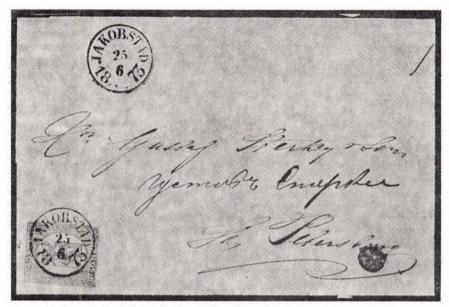


Fig. 20

1867. There also are a few stamps that have roulette V at the bottom with R. II on the other 3 sides.

Variations of the 1866 1 Mark Stamp

No mixed or "double" roulettes have been found of the 1 Mark 1866 emissions.

The only rarity known is a horizontal pair of roulette III. The left side and the gutter between the 2 stamps are totally imperforate, with the right side of the stamp being a normal R. III. It is part of a Swedish collection, and bears a single-ring Brahestad cancellation, Jan. 10, 1871.

. . . Mikko Ossa

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Letters

(LETTER, dated September 16, 1978, to the editor:)

"Please be advised that the August, 1978 Posthorn was in error in reporting my name on the slate of directors-at-large for the 1978 SCC election. I was unaware of an intention of the Nominating Committee to submit my name because my consent was not requested. However this is not the reason for declining. Other interests currently prevail."

(Signed) Wayne C. Sommer.

(LETTER, undated, received by the Editor on September 18, 1978)

"The By-Law change proposed in the August Posthorn, '... Scandinavian Collectors Club shall absorb all expenses of the MART's operation ...' means that SCC pay the entire MART bill instead of the users.

Last year this came to \$6,067.57. If this amendment were to pass, the club's working capital, representing years of frugality, would be wiped out the first year. The second year would require a dues increase of \$7.00 per member, or shut down the MART.

I strongly urge you to vote against this amendment in February, 1979. A vote for the amendment is a vote to close down the MART."

(Signed) Donald F. Halpern, President, SCC.

* S * C * C *

LIBRARY NEWS

By Stanley H. Hanson, SCC Librarian

Thanks to Mel Lewis for his cash donation to the Library. Also to the Board of Directors of COMPEX 79, Siggy Thorsteinsson, Alan Warren for library material.

Bad news, our first and hopefully our last loss, a return shipment of library material from the East coast. Sure, it was insured, but how can one replace this type of material that is out of print? Please delete the following from your Library Index: D-65-D, D-66-D, D-67-D, and D-87-D. The Librarian wants to purchase for replacement the lost material as listed above.

As you know, the Library was closed for the month of September due to our visits to "Praga 78" and "Nidarø 78." See report on these two shows in this issue.

New listing of acquired material, as supplement #2, is in this issue. Keep your Library Index updated.

Remember—when returning Library material, be sure to include identification on the inside of the package, wrap well and use the return label that is furnished for return to the Librarian.

We are ready to serve you on your library needs.

Supplemental Listing #2 to the Library Index

September 1, 1978

Catalogs and Miscellaneous

- A-109-I Frimerkjasofnun Kennslubok Fyrir Byrjendur. Sigurdur H. Thorsteinsson, SCC. 1977. Icelandic. Handbook sponsored by The Iceland Philatelic Society for the junior collector. Well illustrated, very helpful. 51/2x81/2". 24 pp.
- A-110-E The Paquebot Marks of Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Edwin Drechsel. 1977. English. Excellent handbook on Scandinavian paquebot marks. Well documented and actual size illustrations. 10x7". 26pp.
- A-111-E Compex 1959 Catalog/Program.
- A-112-E Compex 1962 Catalog/Program.
- A-113-E Compex 1971 Catalog/Program.
- A-114-E Compex 1976 Catalog/Program.
- A-115-E Compex 1977 Catalog/Program.
- A-116-E Compex 1978 Catalog/Program.
- A-117-E Scarce Scandinavians: Revenues, that is. G. M. Abrams. 1978. English. Article on Scandinavian Revenues from Stamp Collector. August 5, 1978. 11½x15". 1 pp.
- A-118-E Estonia—A long history but brief freedom. K. Wood. 1978. English. Article on this short-lived, independent nation and its postal history. Stamp Collector. August 5, 1978. 11½x15". 1 pp.

Denmark

- D-94-D AFA 1971 Catalog.
- D-95-E Denmark Early Commemorative First Day Covers. Allan Warren, SCC, 1978. Article on Danish early first day covers, from First Days, July-August 1978. 6x9". 7 pp.

Iceland

- I-17-IEGD Ordabok Frimerkjasafnara. Sigurdur H. Thorsteinsson, SCC. 1964.
 Icelandic, English, Danish and German. Dictionary of philatelic terms, Icelandic to E, D, G, and E, D, G, to Icelandic. 4½x3½".
 129 pp.
- I-18-E Iceland—A Bibliography. Lester E. Winick, SCC, 1978. English. Listing of Iceland-oriented philatelic articles and books in the English language. (A SCC Handbook.) 6x9". 32 pp.

Norway

N-77a-E Krag Machine Canceller. 1978. File; contains letter from Norwegian Post Office, listing of 60 countries that have used the Krag Canceller, photos of cancels used, instruction book on the use of the Krag machine Model XV. Well-illustrated. 8½x11". 28 pp.

Periodicals

V-38-I Grusk-Timarit Fyrie Safnara. Icelandic. 1977. Semi-annual. Slick, well-edited and illustrated. Covers the broad aspects of Scandinavian philately. 6x8½".



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SCC RECEIVED PHOTOCOPY OF ENGSTROM'S DWI COLLECTION By Marvin D. Hunewell



During the Scandinavian Collectors Club Annual Meeting held at "CAPEX '78," Victor E. Engstrom presented a bound photocopy of his Danish West Indies Collection to the SCC Library for reference use. On hand to receive the book on behalf of SCC was Stanley H. Hanson, SCC Librarian for the past two years.

This is an important addition to the SCC Library, since portions of this collection have won Gold Medals in both National and International competition. For instance, the BIG winner at PURIPEX last year was Vic Engstrom. His Danish West Indies Exhibit received: the show's Grand Award; the S.P.A. Robert Yant Award (S.P.A. President's Reserve Grand Award for best exhibit by a member of S.P.A.); the A.P.S. Best in Show Medal; and, a PURIPEX Gold. Victor Engstrom has also received Gold Medals from shows such as CAPEX, INTERPHIL and HAFNIA '76 for his DWI exhibits.

In addition to this bound photocopy of Vic Engstrom's collection, the SCC Library has well over 400 other titles concerning Scandinavian philately. Most of these items are available for loan to members of the SCC.

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Our Fall '78 list will soon be out . . . featuring harder-to-get items for the specialist in SCANDINAVIA. Each lot is net priced (not an auction) and all Scandinavian countries are well represented. If you're not already on our mailing list, write for a free copy. This will be our best sale yet.



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SCC Awards At Capex

By Alan Warren

The philatelic press has had many an editorial, letter to the editor, and article criticizing various aspects of the Toronto International, "CAPEX '78," held in June, 1978, with a few rebuttals from north of the border. Certainly publicity before and after the show seemed poor for the supposed stature of this western hemisphere exhibition. The awards banquet was a disappointment for many, with only a few top awards announced, and the "Palmares" booklet was not mailed to Beaver Club members until nearly three months after the show.

SCC can be proud that a good number of its members exhibited, and many received recognition for their collections. The following is a rundown of these awards (apologies to any I may have missed).

In the F.I.P. Class of Honor, Col. James T. DeVoss exhibited his award-winning "Via Panama" collection, which was recently sold by a New York auction house. Gold medals were taken by four SCC members: The non-Scandinavian showing of U. S. classic covers to 1870 of George T. Turner; the DWI collections of Victor E. Engstrom and Nils Lundberg of Sweden, and F. C. Moldenhauer of Norway for his Norway 1845-1880.

Two Vermeil Medals with Felicitations of the Jury went to SCC members. Christine Blinn for her DWI collection, and Ernst M. Cohn for his Franco-German War of 1870-71 covers. A Vermeil Medal was awarded to Svend Yort for his DWI exhibit. As you can see, there was a lot of competition with material on the Danish West Indies.

Two Large Silver Medals went to SCC members, although for non-Scandinavian exhibits: Paul Vignos for his collection of Montenegro, and Paul H. Jensen of Norway for his postal history of Czechslovakia. Robert G. Stone received a Silver medal in the Literature Class for the "France and Colonies Philatelist," which he edits.

Three Silver Medals were obtained by SCC members: Bernhard Beskow of Sweden for his Iceland; Kenneth H. Magee for Ireland to 1922; and Henry Stollnitz for his postal history of Shanghai. Paul Jensen of Norway received a Bronze for his Czechoslovakia 1918-20.

SCC member Borge Lundh of Denmark, who served as an Observer Judge, exhibited his plating of the FIRE R.B.S. in the "Hors Concours" Class.

Publications figured prominently in the literature section of CAPEX. Sveriges Filatelist-Forbund won a Vermeil medal for the SFF Catalog 1977-78, a Large Silver for their Angbatspost handbook of steamship cancels, and a regular Silver for their periodical Svensk Filatelistik Tidskrift. Frimärkshuset Engros AB took a Vermeil for the FACIT catalog and a Bronze for their Lilla Facit.

The Suomen Filatelistiliitto received a Large Silver for Part II of the Finnish handbook of postmarks, covering the 2-ring postmarks of 1873-93 and two Silvers for the Philatelia Fennica Cumulative Index 1950-1972, and Philatelia Fennica. Suomen Postimerkkeily Oy took a Large Silver for its 1978 Norma catalog of Finland. The Philatelic Society of Iceland was awarded a Silver for its Handbok um Islenzk Frimerki VI-VII, looseleaf handbook of Icelandic stamps from 1920 to 1970, in two volumes.

All in all, Scandinavian philately and SCC in particular can be proud of the showing made at CAPEX 78 in Toronto.

The Editor's Mailbag-by Joe F. Frye

Alan Warren, SCC Vice-President, notes two items in the August Posthorn and its accompanying supplement which might be corrected by our members for future guidance: In the supplement, Iceland—a Bibliography, page 32, fourth paragraph, should read "...Gillingham, Kent, Great Britain.", rather than MET 3BA, Canada. The Scandinavian Contact's editor, in any event, is now changed and information from the Scandinavia Philatelic Society (of Great Britain) may be had from the Secretary, Miss Susan Worsley, 71 Castlenau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT, England. On page 73 of the journal itself, two DWI items, C-24-E and C-25-E in the Library Supplement centerfold should of course follow C-23-E and not be under Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Alan further comments that the Library Index Supplement in this (centerfold) position makes it easy to remove and incorporate into the original separate work. We hope to be able to provide this supplementary information in a position where it can be so used with minimum damage to the issue but this might not always be possible.

Barbara R. LeBlanc, Posthorn associate editor, Iceland, notes that, after publication in the Posthorn was arranged for, it was discovered that a brief article had been previously published in another journal overseas. This was not mentioned to either Ms LeBlanc or the Editor, and the Editor will contact the journal involved and apologize for this inadvertent republication without giving credit for prior publication or asking permission for reprinting it.

It should be clearly understood that while contributions of articles and other text for this journal are always sought after and most welcome, if such pieces have in any manner whatever been printed or distributed prior to submission to this journal, OR if they are submitted to any other journal before publication in this journal, the name, address and details of such prior publication or submission must be included with such piece submitted to this journal. It is not our desire nor intention to reprint anything without express permission of both the publisher and author of any previously-published work, and we will not knowingly accept any manuscript which has been sent for contemporary consideration or publication by any other publisher.

Ms LeBlanc also reports that the Icelandic authority General Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications (Frimerkjasalan) has given her "full authorization to excerpt small segments (about 500 to 1,000 words) of the book One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps" for publication in the Posthorn. Such offerings will be included as space and time permit.

A similar permission is reported received by Ms LeBlanc from Edwin Drechsel, author of the recent The Paquebot Marks of Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, and we look forward to these submissions as well.

Carl H. Werenskiold, a well-known byline in this journal, submits a marvelous manuscript by Harry Snarvold of Göteborg, Sweden, which we hope will find space in this issue. As a retired "telegrapher," this editor appreciates its content very much, and the manuscript with accompanying illustrations is one of the very best such in excellent presentation and minimum "editing" required it has ever been his privilege to consider. Carl's accompanying letter notes that on June 21, 1978, summer solstice day, (he will attain the age of) 87 years, and is thankful for reasonably good health, many good friends and other blessings. One would never realize this four-score and

seven accumulation to peruse any of his writings! Right on, Carl!

The WESTPEX '79 show in San Francisco, CA on April 27-29th, will offer for the first time the Al Van Dahl Memorial Award, provided in memory of the late publisher of (then Western) Stamp Collector by his widow, Mrs. Arlene Van Dahl of Albany, OR. The award is for the Jury's use in recognizing the best exhibit of Scandinavian Philately at that major philatelic exhibition. Prospectus and other details available from: WESTPEX Secretary, Box 605, San Leandro, CA 94577. The 1979 show's location is the Jack Tar Hotel—and this editor can recommend the cuisine there as well as across the two nearest street corners, as marvelous!

Joseph M. Clary, assistant Chairman of the American Philatelic Society's National Convention Committee, adds to the above information from WEST-PEX Publicity Chairman Preston A. Pope that the award will be first offered at the 1979 show, will be an annual feature of that exhibition and present plans are that it consist of a "fine piece of Swedish glass" for 1979. Scandinavian exhibits will, of course, be "... in the running for all other awards," Clary adds.

Congratulations to John D. Peterson on his receiving the Grand Award at SEPAD '78 in Philadelphia the last weekend in September, 1978 for his exhibit of 19th Century Swedish Postal Stationery! May his tribe increase! His entry noted it was selected pages of the material, with original research into printing shades, cliches, dies, etc. I see an SCC member of that name in an (old) listing but cannot be positive it is the same individual. This report from SEPAD Jurist and Perfins Bulletin editor Ray B. Crow of Memphis, who while not a member of SCC nor a "dyed-in-the-wool" Scandinavian-area philatelist does suffer quivers of pleasure at such items as "socked-on-the-nose" cancels of Sweden and postally-used Icelandic Parliaments, and so on.

Walter T. Torgesen, longtime dealer-specialist in Scandinavian material and SCC member/advertiser writes to say "The Richter article on measuring 20 and 21 mm Norway is a fine job. Have one added help: Take damaged 12 or 20 ø in 21 mm size and carefully cut top at right angle to bottom about three-fourths from either side to use as measuring guide—same for the 1 and 2 ø. This also works fine and fast by cutting the small and large prints of the second issue officials in the horizontal direction." Thanks, Torg!

Having noted an ongoing discussion in various publications concerning the "imperf pairs" of Finland issues 1930-39 that were variously described as genuine stamps, or proofs, the little buzzer pointed me to my F&F file, where a three-language (Finnish, Swedish and English) one-sheet brochure from the General Direction of Posts and Telegraphs, Philatelic Federation of Finland in Helsinki, dated 5th April, 1975 (received by me 28th April, 1975, source not recorded) notes that "... the material in question has never been in the possession or under the control of the General Direction of Posts and Telegraphs. Thus ... the philatelic importance of the material in question ... cannot be compared with so-called genuine imperforated stamps." This brochure will be photocopied and several such copies provided to the SCC Library in the near future, to whom requests should be sent as usual. It should be noted that it is not my wish to, nor will I, engage in any debates with anyone about this material. The mention here provided is for information of our readers and for whatever consideration they wish to make thereof.

Neil F. Johnson, SCC 2132, writes on Aug. 25, 1978 suggesting ". . . a column devoted to reviewing current literature and catalogs." We recommend

his attention be directed to individual such reviews in the past four issues (not every issue) of this journal, and to the Library Index and Library Report in each issue, which lists new acquisitions by SCC's Library. It was, and is, my intention to provide such a column (The Paper Pile) in each issue, but space requirements have prevented it for several issues. A further source of this information: Philatelic Literature Review, quarterly journal of the American Philatelic Research Library, Inc., Box 800, State College, PA 16801—certainly the preeminent such source in the English language, and the News Bulletin, quarterly journal of the Writers Unit No. 30 of the American Philatelic Society, 9928 Lancaster Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. One need not be a member of APS to subscribe to the PLR, but such membership is required to join the Writers Unit. The cost of either or both is not great.

One of the best benefits of SCC's recent affiliation (Affiliate No. 79) with the American Philatelic Society is better access to the American Philatelic Research Library, Inc. Any of the APS chapters and affiliates, and their members, including non-APS members, may make use of the APRL by designating any one APS member to be responsible for arranging the details. Members of the APS or the APRL may borrow directly from the library, and anyone in the USA may visit his own local library, which will forward his request through the inter-library loan program. A 50-cent fee per book must accompany the loan request to cover postage and handling.

Wayne C. Sommer notes that Hólmur is located at West Longitude 18:05. There is a farm of the same name at the location given in his article Mystery of the Danish Three-ring 236 (pages 57-60, August issue) but the latter is in the next county.

Svend Yort continues to "spread the gospel" with another worthy and informative article in Stamp Collector's September 9, 1978 issue, Denmark's Classic 'little square stamps'. Another of Svend's brief but meaty efforts well worth securing and studying.

SCC's special-design medal is available in Gold, Silver and Bronze finishes for use in promoting Scandinavian philatelic exhibits at any exhibition. See page 15 of the February, 1978 issue of this journal for approximate design—the medal does not have the initials SCC on the galley's sail, but has "Scandinavian Collectors Club" in capitals as the outer border, where the noted illustration (of our SCC insignia pin) does not. Details from R. B. Collin, Box 63, River Grove, IL 60171. Addressed, stamped envelope appreciated.

Richard Gibson, Box 833, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335 reports theft from his Ohio home on Sept. 1, 1978 of a long list of philatelic material including 40-50 pages Danish perfins; 50-60 pages Danish/Faroe cancels on stamps; extensive used stock of Denmark and considerable other material. Any suspect material offered might justify calling him or the APS Theft Committee Chairlady, Mrs. Mariette B. Lane, 490 23rd Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704—(913) 898-7238.

An international stamp show and bourse in Sweden is scheduled for March 24-25, 1979 at Malmo. Details from Posthorn display advertiser (see inside front cover, August, 1978 issue) Bengt Lilja, Kalendegatan 16, 211 35 Malmö, Sweden.

Now the "Mailbag" is empty—and your Editor eagerly awaits your efforts to refill it for the next (February, 1979—Deadline for copy to this Editor January 1, 1979) issue! . . . j.f.f.

Iceland 1873 Sixteen Skilling Sperati Forgery

By Russell Mascieri, SCC #1388

It is not generally known that the 1873 sixteen skilling yellow stamp was forged by Jean De Sperati. Although I do not know the exact reason that the stamp is not mentioned in the 1955 British Philatelic Association publication, "The Work of Jean De Sperati," I suspect it was discovered after the publication of the books. The pictured stamp does carry the official blue backstamp "Sperati Reproduction."

The notes that I have received from the British Philatelic Association state the following: "The one example examined is printed on genuine paper with genuine watermark, perforation and gum. Obviously the impression of a genuine stamp (prob-



The sixteen skilling Sperati forgery.

The scratch at the left above P is not a distinguishing characteristic, but a crease that photographed as a scratch.

ably the 1897 3 aurar or 5 aurar) has been faded out. The perforations are 12½ and one would have expected them to measure 14x13½ and thus imitate the rarity. The genuine stamp is typographed and the reproduction is made by photo-lithography.

"COLOUR: Deep yellow, stronger than genuine.

"IMPRESSION: Coarse but difficult to see.

"SPECIFIC TESTS: None are given as it is difficult to study the detail owing to the poor colour. Comparison with a known original shows the different appearance."

My specific observations are a bit different than those recorded by the expert committee. This is not so surprising in that their literature only makes reference to one example. (Ed. note: 1873 four skilling carmine, perforation 12½, used.) The example that I have is an extremely good forgery. Contrary to the expert's statement, comparison with an original is extremely similar, to the point that even advanced specialists could be fooled. Even the slightly more orange yellow color could easily fall into the range of shades found on the stamp.

The dead giveaway of this forgery is the perforation. The copy that I have measures 13 all around. The copy on file with the B.P.A. has perforation 12½, which of course could be confused with the second sixteen skilling stamp of Iceland. The R. P. S. has a file a similar copy perforated 13.

In checking your stamps, if you feel you might have a Sperati forgery, I would be willing to check the copy with the forgery I have in my possession. Should it turn out that you have a Sperati forgery in your collection, the news is not all that bad. Although it is illegal to sell forgeries in the United States, the market for Sperati forgeries as collector's items is very strong in England. The prices range from \$100 up. Since this is obviously a very scarce forgery, its commercial value could be quite substantial. One final note, the market for Sperati forgeries is not a contrived one where dishonest people are buying forgeries and selling them as genuine. The Sperati forgeries are back stamped in indelible ink.

Reference:

"The Work of Jean De Sperati" Part 1, The Text, British Philatelic Association, England. 1955.

* S * C * C *

REPORT ON PRAGA '78 AND NIDARØ '78

By Stanley H. Hanson

One word on Praga '78, fantastic! 10,000 frames, 310,000 visitors, queues up to 3 and 4 blocks long. People well behaved. Sausages bring grilled over charcoal pits throughout the exhibition grounds and 12 percent beer being served during the show. Show too big, extending over four huge buildings. 10 kilos each of Gold and Silver used for the various medals awarded to exhibitors.

The Scandinavian exhibits excellent, nothing new as most of the material has been seen at recent Internationals.

Show well organized, it should be, cost over 8 million dollars. One flaw: no frame numbers over the frames. One had to stoop and look at the bottom of the frame for the number and exhibitors name, which were about 3/8" high. Over all I rate the show **** plus.

Nidarø '78, Trondheim, Norway, September 19-24, 1978. For a national show the 853 frames of material exhibited from the five Nordic countries was outstanding. Many of the better known Scandinavian collections were shown. Jury material shown also excellent.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club Gold Medal was awarded to Rune Almquist of Sweden, who also received a Vermeil medal. He exhibited 5 frames titled "Gotland—Posthistorisk Dokumentation" the following from the catalog: "Posthistoric studiesamling, där utstäida delen visar förfilateli från ca. 1650, postämplar inforda fore 1912 på primärken och forsandelser cansurpost, krigspost, båtpost, järnvagspost, lantbrevbärarpost, franco och lösenbrev, olika postalia kvittenser o dyl." The exhibit of Mr. Almquist is outstanding.

I bring back greetings from our friends across the sea to the SCC membership.

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FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED

The Board of Regents of the Department of Education, State of New York, voted on September 22, 1978 and has granted a corporation certificate to the "Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation."

After many discussions at various board meetings we finally started earnestly in the beginning of 1978 to work for the goal of establishing a foundation for the benefit of SCC.

Our next step is to get a tax-exempt status from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, so that future donations to the foundation are tax-exempt.

At this time I ask all SCC members to submit suggestions regarding publishing of articles, translating and printing of same, or any other matter for the benefit of the foundation. Suggestions should be sent to me at P. O. Box 183, Brooklyn, NY 11218.

The following SCC members are trustees of the foundation: Donald Halpern, Eric B. T. Kindquist, Jared H. Richter and Lauson H. Stone. I wish to thank all trustees who have aided in this work, especially Mr. Stone.

. . . George B. Koplowitz, SCC Director-at-Large

Icelandic Paquebot Mail

By Roger Hosking, M.A., England

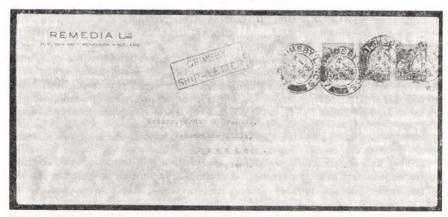


Fig. 1. 1938 cover from Reykjavik to Preston, with Icelandic stamps cancelled at Grimsby, and showing framed Ship Letter (type 35) of that port.

It has to be admitted, if one is a collector of paquebot mail, the Iceland specialist is something of a thorn in the flesh! So many of the markings which one seeks seem to be available—if at all—only on mail franked with Icelandic stamps, thus ensuring that the market price is five or even ten times what it would be, were there a chance of finding the same mark on the franking of a different country.

More detailed comment on values and scarcities will be made later in this article, but it is probably a good idea to make quite sure that terms of reference are clearly defined and understood.

First, then, let us remind ourselves as to what paquebot mail is. Quite simply, it is mail posted on board ship; and under the Universal Postal Union regulations for handling such mail—regulations which came into force in 1894 and are largely unchanged today—this posting may be either:

- (a) on the high seas, in which case the mail is to be franked with stamps of the ship's nationality: or
- (b) in territorial waters, in which case franking should be by stamps of the country in whose waters the ship is situated.

In either case, the mail is to be handed in at the post office of the next port-of-call, which cancels the mail with a "paquebot" cancellation or its equivalent. The "paquebot" may be either part of a normal datestamp or machine die, or it may be a separately-applied handstamp. In either event the purpose of this "paquebot" mark is twofold:—

- (1) to justify a cancellation which may be "foreign" to the adhesive to which it is applied.
- (2) To explain delay between mailing and the reception of the letter at an official post office.

Next, what types of "paquebot equivalent" markings are in use? By far the most widespread are the much older term "ship letter" (and its national translations such as "schiffsbrief," "skeppsbrev," etc.) and the French alternative "navire." There are various other versions—and a variety of mis-spellings of some of them—but in the main these are peculiar to specific countries and even to specific ports, none of which will be of critical interest to Posthorn readers, unless of course they have secret interests in non-Scandinavian territories.

Finally, is there an overall definition of a paquebot marking? In my opinion there is: "a marking used at one definite port, for the sole purpose of franking all mail received from all sea-going ships." This is an important definition, since it excludes the Scandinavian "Fra" marks, which are relevant to ship's mail from specific sources only.

The foregoing is, of course, of general application and in no way specific to Iceland. Nevertheless that country, due to its geographical isolation, was up to 1939 dependent on relatively irregular shipping services to link it with the outside world. These links have made a quite disproportionately important contribution to the maritime postal history of Great Britain, a country with which Iceland has traditionally maintained close and friendly relationships right up to the time of the recent "cod wars." The significance of this relationship will become apparent when we look in more detail at the provenance of Icelandic paquebot mail. This may usefully be scrutinized under the following headings:—

- A. Mail franked with Icelandic stamps
 - (i) cancelled by paquebot markings of non-Icelandic ports (fig. 1)
 - (ii) cancelled in Iceland (usually at Reykjavik) but bearing the paquebot markings of non-Icelandic ports as a transit mark (fig. 2).
- B. Mail franked with stamps of any nationality, cancelled by Icelandic paquebot marks (fig. 3).

The explanation of the A (ii) type marks versus the A (i) types is as follows. Probably the Icelandic Post Office handed over foreign mail, à decouvert but after franking, to the captains of small fishing vessels bound for



Fig. 2. 1907 card from Reykjavik, where the stamp was cancelled, to Germany; also showing circular Queenstown/Ship Letter (type 208) as transit mark.

British waters: such departures would be unscheduled and not under Post Office Contract; and would preclude the normal bagging-up procedures. A particularly interesting item in my own collection, combining A (ii) and B usage, is a 1910 cover with the Icelandic stamp cancelled by the earlier Skipsbrjef of Reykjavik, with (on the reverse) the date-stamp and framed paquebot of Grangemouth.

In the tabulations of known incidence that follow, individual paquebot markings are identified by their reference numbers in my recently-published (May 1977) book "Paquebot Cancellations of the World," further details of which may be found by interested readers in a footnote at the end of this article. The listings under section A (ii) are confirmed to those marks which are only known in this form, i.e. are believed to have been used only as transits.

A. (i) Cancellations — British ports

Aberdeen — 153, 154

Cardiff — 141

Edinburgh — 7, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163

Glasgow - 167, 168

Grangemouth - 173

Grimsby — 34, 35

Hull — 45, 46, 47, 48

Leith — 180, 181, 182

Lerwick - 191

Liverpool - 55

London — 74, 75

Newcastle-on-Tyne - 7, 85

Stornoway — 196

Troon - 186

(Note-South Shields and Swansea may also exist).

- other ports

Bergen — 319, 321, 322, 323, 324

Copenhagen — 295

Göteborg — 341

Hamburg — 400

Haugesund — 319

Kristiansand - 333

New York - 957, 958

Rotterdam — 379

Torshavn - 287

(Note- a few other Norwegian ports may also exist).

(ii) Transits

Blyth — 4

Fleetwood — 25

Granton — 175

Methil — 179

Middlesbrough - 84

Queenstown - 208

It should be noted that postal markings of other ports of entry are known on Icelandic mail but these offices were either not provided with paquebot markings, or alternatively failed to use them, and are therefore omitted from the lists.

B. Icelandic Ports

Hafnarfujrdur - 311

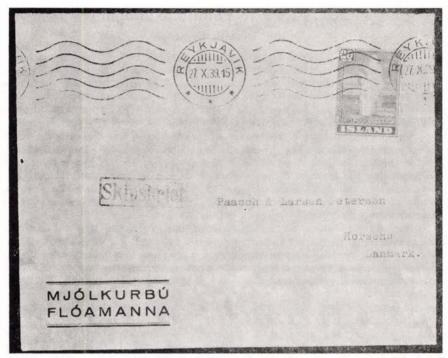


Fig. 3. 1939 cover from Reykjavik to Denmark, showing also the boxed Skipsbrjef of Reykjavik (type 313).

Reykjavik — 312, 313, 314, 315

Seydisfjordur - mark introduced mid-1977

Note—a certain scepticism is in order regarding the Hafnarfjurdur marking, alledgedly used in 1933 but never seen by the writer or by anyone known to him, in the course of 25 years of collecting! Further information from Posthorn readers would be most welcome.

As indicated above, all Icelandic paquebot mail is desirable property, and prices have been rising strongly and ahead of inflation for some time. For example, specimens of the Troon Ship Letter Mark (type 186) on Icelandic mail have on several occasions been knocked down in British auctions for between £200 and £240 (US\$ 380-456). And this is by no means such a rare mark as some of its contemporaries.

So far as post-1945 material is concerned, it is extremely hard to find paquebot material (or any country) that is not philatelic in origin. Such covers should not be despised however: certainly in high-interest countries like Iceland they will reward their owners in years to come.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to Angus Parker for his help in the compilation of the lists in this article.

Footnote—The book "Paquebot Cancellations of the World" is available from the author at Greyfriars, Ice House Wood, Oxted, Surrey, England, at a price of US \$18.00, which includes sea mail postage. It is A4 size, and illustrates over 1,750 types of paquebot cancellation from the entire world, with a scarcity rating for each. It has 196 pages and a glossy cover in full color.

SCC's Role In Philatelic Judging

By Victor E. Engstrom

The subject of the judging of philatelic exhibitions has lately come under close scrutiny by concerned collectors, exhibition chairmen, and the judges themselves. The philatelic press has published articles by irate exhibitors who felt that they had been "gypped," as well as articles by competent and accredited judges such as Ernest A. Kehr, Samuel Ray, and Bernard A. Hennig, all suggesting improvements in the system.

Most countries have a Federation of Stamp Clubs, one function of which is to accredit judges. The United States never has had a true federation, so for the past 10 years one national philatelic organization has led the way in improving the system of the judging of stamps in exhibition. Based on a few criteria, including previous prescribed judging experience and certain levels of personal exhibiting experience, a person was given a certificate of accreditation.

Accreditation was a giant step forward, but experience now dictates that the system must be further improved. The facts speak for themselves. Judging is getting progressively more difficult with more specialization, and competent specialized judges are needed. What comprises competence has been aired many times. Experience is necessary, study is necessary, and objectivity is necessary.

It is my opinion that unpaid philatelic judges, often travelling considerable distances at their own expense for the love of the hobby, are not "on the make." They do the job of examining some 200-300 frames of material (some of which is hardly philatelic) in the best way they know. Usually a panel of 3 to 5 judges will find very few exhibits with which they are completely unfamiliar. In the national level of exhibitions, many of the exhibits have been viewed previously by experienced judges, and they are familiar with the scope and caliber of the exhibits.

Judges cannot be expected to recognize minor additions to a man's exhibit from one show to another. Judges cannot be experts in every field, even though qualified "general." For instance, because a man is a recognized old-time expert in classic Europe, can he be expected to be an expert in the revenues of Peru? He must disqualify himself some place along the line. Judges are regularly called on to give an opinion on a field where their level of competence is not as great as in another field. There are degrees of familiarity. Often a judge will be more critical of an exhibit in his own specialty than he is for an exhibit where his level of knowledge is not as great.

What is the situation with respect to Scandinavian judging? We are concerned with the collection, exhibition, and judging of the philately of the Scandinavian countries along with their past and present colonies. At first glance, this does not seem to be a momentous task for a judge to understand and analyze, but even our field becomes complicated. Take Greenland for instance. We have pre-stamp material including the missionaries; there is the vast area of the Pakke-Portos with varieties, cancellations, printings, address cards, multiples, perforations; the area of Danish stamps on Greenland mail; the regular issues in all of their varieties; Town cancellations, plate numbers, commercial and philatelic covers; the locals (I heard one international judge state emphatically that the Rockwell Kents should not be included in a Greenland exhibit); the Thule locals; Christmas seals and other labels; the revenues and fiscal usages; military and APO postal history.

It is obvious by just reading over the above that several Greenland ex-

hibits could vary 100% from one to another.

It is also obvious that all of the other Scandinavian areas are more extensive and complex than Greenland, except possibly the associated areas of Finland.

Is there a single man in the United States who might qualify as an expert in all phases of the entire Scandinavian area? With the exception of that one exceptional person, Svend Yort, I know of no others competent to judge completely all phases of Scandinavian phiately. I personally have collected the entire area rather deeply, but I openly admit that there are areas in which I am less familiar than others.

What can we, The Scandinavian Collectors Club, do to improve the situation with regard to improving the number and level of competence of Scandinavian-qualified judges? It is time we train personnel and offer the services of these trained judges for Scandinavian-oriented exhibitions here and abroad.

This can be done if we have willing teachers, willing trainees, and the tools to work with. The teachers and trainees will step forward if asked, but the tools are not presently available. With effort, salesmanship, and some minor expenditure of funds, we can supply the "text books."

We have here and abroad some members with great specialized Scandinavian collections—winners of high awards nationally and internationally—and we have a fine number of lesser award-winners. If we can get these individuals to, in their own specialized or general field, photocopy all the pages of their collection, describing each piece—even with additional footnotes not used in their exhibit because it might offend a judge to tell him that the cover shown is the only known one to Turkey—we will be able to develop a library of what exists and what awards the exhibit has won. With the photocopies of several exhibits of a single area, a trainee judge would soon be familiar with what is included in a collection, and what can be done with it. Seeing what previous Juries have awarded an exhibit, in comparison with other different but similar exhibits, will be good experience.

I will not dwell on the details of photocopying here more than to say that I have done it for years. Some machines work better than others. I have had good results with Xerox, while Col. James T. DeVoss claims that IBMR or others are better. (Jim has photocopied his award winning collection of "Via Panama" and had it bound into a hard-cover book.) My reasons for photocopying my pages are two-fold: I have a complete record of my collection that I can easily refer to on my desk, while my collection rests safely in a bank vault. Secondly, should there be a loss, I have a record for insurance purposes. The photocopies are all of entire pages, and are easy to work with. I do not mind making notes on these pages, and from the copies, I can easily set up an exhibit. I also believe that this accurate record of my collection, it might be a deterrent to burglary. At 10c per page, it is an inexpensive way to protect a collection. Admittedly, it is not as much fun as playing with the real collection, but in this day and age, we sometimes have to accept second best.

It would be well to call on senior collectors who have won major awards to photocopy their collections before they are dispersed. Perhaps SCC would pay the cost. In the past 2 or 3 years several major Scandinavian collectors and exhibitors have chosen to sell their collections, and now their life-long studies are lost as entities. Other collectors scramble at auctions to pick up the pieces, and the cycle continues. It would be constructive to have several collections of similar material on record in the SCC library. I can think of

three Swedish "Large Gold" exhibits currently held by members of SCC. We also have "Grand Prix International" winners in at least three categories. What a delight it would be to just examine photocopies of such collections at leisure—at your own desk!

I am sure the basic premise about trained SCC accredited judges is sound, and photocopies of several collections in each of the Scandinavian countries would be a substantial training aid. Also, I am sure that procedures as outlined above can be improved, standardized, and developed so that SCC can lead the way among the specialty societies in providing the best possible judging of Scandinavian material.

* S * C * C *

DANAM SALE OF CLASSIC NORWAY

Russ Masceri, owner of Danam Stamp Co. and an SCC member/advertiser, reports strong competition, startling high prices totaling over \$350,000 compared to pre-sale estimates of \$256,000, for the 588 lots of Classic Norway material in his October 6th, 1978 auction at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City.

Space does not permit use of the wealth of detail, including illustrations, Russ kindly sent the editor, but those desiring a permanent and complete record of this obviously fantastic sale may still obtain a copy of the beautifully-illustrated catalog, with prices realized, for one dollar. Address: Danam Stamp Co., 800 King's Highway North, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034, and mention you saw the information in the Posthorn!

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

Fred H. Bloedow, Secretary

The President's Message

Dear Friends:

Almost two years ago I faced a sheet of paper, blank except for the title President's Message written across the top, and wondered how I would ever be able to write eight of the things . . . this is the eighth!

These two years have been years of change for S.C.C. Only the future will prove how many of these changes were wise, prudent or trivial. A review of them at this time is unimportant. The people making these changes, and their support of them, is important—because they are your new slate of officers. All the Nominating Committee's choices are action people: Posthorn authors, appointed officers and/or elected officers of S.C.C., and people who will not only volunteer to do a job but bring it to completion. I wish them all well and hope you will give them all the support they need.

Yes, this is the eighth issue for our truly unsung hero, Joe Frye. Eight issues and supplements, on time and seemingly filled with something for everyone is more than an accomplishment—it's a labor of love. Considering his gift of time to S.C.C., anything we as individuals or as an organization can do to help him would only serve to show our appreciation. Thank you, Joe!

I wish you all the best of good things during the coming holiday season and the New Year.

—Donald M. Halpern

* S * C * C *

A Dollar's Worth Of Entertainment

By George W. Sickels, SCC 1545

The story began in the middle of an SCC Mart book. At the top of page six was the note "indistinct Crown and Posthorn cancels for the Icelandic) cancellation specialists." "That's me," I thought, and promptly plucked three of these precious intrigues and tucked them away for a couple of recreational evenings. Here is the result of such an evening.

The stamp was the ordinary, plentiful, cheap 10 aurar numeral. It had been struck by two overlapping, rather faint circles, each having some letters showing. The carmine color of this stamp enhanced the investigation as this color under filter brings out cancellations quite well. The first tinge of excitement came from the discovery that letters of the two cancels were visibly of different sizes.

The student of Icelandic cancels with town names; i.e. District, Crown and Posthorns, and CDS (circular date stamp) is lucky to have a small country with relatively few names to work with. Only 26 for the Districts, 132 for the Crown and Posthorns, and 400 plus for the more recent ones! Working with the middle group as I did for this stamp, I could look at Facit's list complete on one page.

The first cancel I considered had large, well-spaced letters and an unmistakable "Y R I" ending. We began elimination by needing to examine only the Type I Crown list. Ending in "Y R I" were only six: BORDEYRI, BUDAREYRI, DESJAMYRI, HESTEYRI, RAFNSEYRI, and SVEINSEYRI.

Next I examined the partial letters of the beginning of the name. The

parts missing were, of course, off the edges of the stamp (one reason I was able to purchase it for a dollar in the first place.) Impressionistic under filter they looked like this \circ U I immediately discarded Hesteyri because of the HE, Sveinseyri because of the V, Desjamyri because of the E, and Rafnseyri because of the R. I was then down to two choices. BORDEYRI or BUDAREYRI.

Using the principle that the tip of the Crown is the midpoint and allowing for proper spacing, the town had either three or four unreadable letters. From my limited experience with the letter printings, the partial second letter was more rounded like the "O" rather than the more blunted oval shape of the bottom of the "U". Thus although both towns were still in the running, my likely town name fitting the circumstances was BORDEYRI.

The second partial cancel was a different problem. Here the letters to work with were from the middle of the town name. Also the faintness of the cancel gave us little help from the Crown. However, the letters were of smaller size than the first cancel, indicating a town name of more letters. Identifiable letters under filter were definite "G" and definite "T" with two fainter, more questionable, letters spaced between which I read as probable "A S". Again only the Type I list applied and only two possibles showed up: HA(RAST)ADIR and SKA(GAST)ROND. We had to eliminate the first because of the sure "G". No other town name listed had a "G" and "T" separated by only two letters of any kind. Thus we found SKAGA-STROND.

BORDEYRI and SKAGASTROND are about 60 kilometers apart on the map, both in the NORTH WESTERN half of Iceland; certainly it was logical to have mail from one to the other. BUDAREYRI is on the East coast, perhaps 350-400 kilometers away from SKAGASTROND. It seemed much less likely to have been sent during the Crown and Posthorn period. Yet not impossible.

I have now completed the journey as far as I can go. What do I have? Perhaps a unique stamp bearing these two particular cancellations . . . but who would accept this suspect rarity?? It isn't one which could be shown in an exhibit. All that remains is one used Icelandic stamp worth about sixty cents. Yet an evening at the movies today would cost me three dollars; I had an exciting evening of entertainment for only one dollar!!! (With a possible 60% rebate coming!)

* S * C * C *

IF YOU'RE MOVING

Please send your new address as soon as possible to the secretary, Fred H. Bloedow, 810 Dobson Street, #1-A, Evanston, Illinois 60202, or to the Publication Office, 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044 (if the latter, be sure to mark it "Address change for Posthorn.")

If the Postal Service sends in a correction on your address, the charge is 25c. These extra dollars can be better spent than for address changes.

Be sure too, that you give your old address and that your new one is COMPLETE. No longer will postal clerks and carriers go out of their way to attempt delivery if the address is off to any degree—in fact it is nothing unusual to have a magazine returned marked "no such address" after it has been going and received as addressed for many years!

"I GILDI" Forgeries



Fig. 1. Fake overprint on Scott #54 (Facit 53).

In the POSTHORN, volumes 31 No. 2 page 52, and 32 No. 1 page 7, you showed the readers some unrecorded forgeries of Iceland "I GILDI" overprints. Here are some additional samples of Scott #s 54, 47, 48, 46c, and O23c (Facit #s 53, 61, 62, 60 VIII and Tj 24-IX).

The first three show the error '02-'02, the later ones with the error '03-'03. It is well known that the error '02-'02 did not originally occur on the genuine, but from time to time imitations with this "error" appear on the market, and most such are poorly done.

The above noted examples of Scott #s 54, 47 and 48 all show the same



Fig. 2. Fake overprint of center stamp from Fig. 1, enlarged.



Fig. 3. Fake overprints: (Top) Scott #0-23-c (Facit Tj-24-IX) and (Bottom) Scott #46-c (Facit 60-VIII); strip of 3 stamps each basic type.



Fig. 4. Fake overprint of center stamp from bottom strip, Fig. 3; Scott #46-c (Facit 60-VIII), enlarged.



Fig. 5. Fake overprints: (Top) Scott #48 (Facit 62) and (Bottom) Scott #47 (Facit 61); strip of 3 stamps each basic type.

plate positions of the stamps, namely position 24, in strips of three with positions 23, 24 and 25. The photos show these strips and an enlargement of the 10 aurar. Note that the letters and digits differ from the genuine in that the hyphen is too long and too close to the left 2. The 2s themselves, especially those at right, are distinctly deformed on the fakes as compared to the genuine.

The '03-'03 error does occur on genuine stamps, on plate positions 16 and 66, settings III and IV. Here again the photos show strips of three, of which the middle stamps show the '03-'03 error, and the same error on the 6 aur denomination.

Again, on the fakes, the digits and letters distinctly differ from the genuine, especially the digits.

Please note that ALL ILLUSTRATIONS accompanying this article are of FAKE OVERPRINTS. By comparison with the enlargements, the reader should be able to detect similar faked overprints on material being inspected.

Arno Debo (SCC #1657)

* S * C * C *

RICHTER OMITTED FROM NOMINATIONS

Due to an error on the part of the editor, the name of Jared H. Richter was omitted from the list of nominees for Director-at-Large on page 80 of the August, 1978 Posthorn.

The editor was entirely at fault, and apologies to all concerned for his failure to note the omission—and in particular to his good friend, Jed Richter.

Ballots to be distributed for the election will, of course, be correctly prepared and will include Mr. Richter's name.

—Joe F. Frye

NEW MEMBERS

- STORHAUG, Arthur N., P. O. Box 512, Faribault, MN 55021
 Scandinavia by M. L. Johnson, #2119
- 2166 CHILLINGWORTH, Mrs. Betty S., 44 Blossom St., Keene, NH 03431 Scandinavia by F. H. Bloedow L-24
- 2167 GORDON, Marjorie B., 1112 W. Mountain Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521 Scandinavia, U. S., Canada by F. H. Bloedow L-24
- 2168 LISLE, John B., Box 602, Lexington, MA 02173
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- 2169 VIKAN, David, 121 W. Interstate, #11, Bismarck, ND 58501 Norway, Scandinavia, General by F. H. Bloedow L-24
- 2170 FEINER, Melvin, Box 5637, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
 Dealer, World Postal Stationery, Stamps by J. H. Richter L-13
- 2171 KOCHER, Robert D., 5159 Lubbock, Fort Worth, TX 76115
 Greenland, Iceland by A. Little #2109
- 2172 ROTH, Samuel B., 5371 Fair Oaks St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Scandinavia, US, Israel by F. H. Bloedow L-24

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- 1650 ERICKSON, Raymond R., 5427 Delia Way, Livermore, CA 94550
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- 1329 BENFIELD, William E., 7215 26th, N. E., Seattle, WA 98115
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- 831 SAARINEN, Bjorn-Erik, Palomaentie 18, 33230 Tampere 23, Finland
- 1835 DAVIS, Larry R., 5088 Snell Ave., San Jose, CA 95136
- 1372 CHRISTENSEN, Maj. John J., PSC Box 1052, APO New York 08289
- 1661 KOKKO, John M., Jr. 223 W. Whittier Dr., Apt. 4, Lancaster, OH 43130
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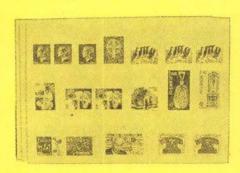
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