

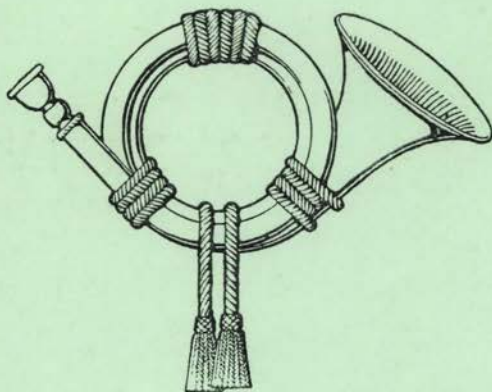
Vol. 36, No. 4, Whole No. 140, November 1979

The  
POSTHORN

TM

(USPS 603680, ISSN 0551-6817)

**"The Bank of Scandinavian Philatelic Knowledge"**



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

Affiliate 79, American Philatelic Society; Br. 88469, Society of Philatelic Americans

## **WE BUY FOR CASH!**

In order to supply our worldwide and financially very strong clientele with good material, we are constantly **buying for cash** (naturally we are also looking for consignments!):

Important specialized collections

Rarities

Classical quality items, etc.

Mainly from Scandinavia and Europe, but most areas are of interest.

## **WE DO A LOT OF TRAVELLING!**

We visit the USA and Canada several times a year and would be delighted to pay you a visit if you have anything of interest to us.



## **POSTILJONEN AB**

Sodra Tullgatan 3, S-21140 Malmo, Sweden

Telephone 040-72290

(Member of ASDA)

Market leaders of Scandinavia

Our auction catalogues, including the ones from our Danish sister company, will be sent to you for at least one year against US \$5. Ask for free trial copy!

# Use Of Ultraviolet Radiation In Philately

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

The use of ultraviolet radiation for the examination of documents and postage stamps has been known for a long time. An interesting article by Anderssen<sup>1</sup> on such use on stamps thus appeared as long ago as 1928.

Good equipment, usually consisting of two lamps separately or combined, is now available at moderate prices. Many a collector now either already owns such equipment, or is considering its purchase, in the expectation that it will quickly solve a number of his philatelic problems. He will very likely, however, overlook the fact that the optical processes involved in the use of ultraviolet rays are very complicated, and that it is necessary to have an adequate understanding of these processes in order to be able to arrive at proper interpretations of test results. Much amateurish work is being done in this field. Faulty understanding, poor planning, and inadequate observations frequently lead to erroneous interpretations. The main purpose of this article is therefore to contribute to an adequate understanding of this difficult subject. The following presentation must however, be on a somewhat simplified basis in order to stay within reasonable limits.

Most of our information on stamps and other philatelic objects is based on examination in ordinary daylight or reasonably equivalent artificial light. In certain cases, however, such as in deciding whether a stamp has been falsified or repaired, it is often possible to obtain **additional useful information** by the use of ultraviolet rays.

Examination under ultraviolet radiation is useful in detecting forgeries, repairs, chemical cleaning, accidental contact with chemicals, added margins, filled-in thinnings, painted-in designs, removal of cancellations (usually pen marks) and other changes and tamperings not obvious to the naked eye in ordinary light. It is also useful in analysis of paper and stamp printing ink. Aniline inks are thus readily detected.

Let us first consider the simple case of examining a stamp in **ordinary light**. For basic knowledge in this field, and to save much repetition, the reader is urged to read my article on "Color in Philately"<sup>2</sup> before proceeding here.

A green stamp, for example, actually a design in green ink on, say, white paper, requires two separate observations, one for the green of the design, and another for the white of the paper, in both cases as light reflected from the stamp. The **incident illumination** is white light (daylight or artificial), which involves radiation of a **mixture of wavelengths** within the well-known **visible spectrum** range of 400 to 700 nanometers (nm) **from violet, blue green, yellow, and orange to red**, in a sequence of innumerable nuances. At the moment of observation, the reflected light consists merely of **light waves**, which become **colored impressions** only after passing through the eyes and along the optic nerve to the **visual center** in the occipital (rear) part of the brain, where the act of **conscious vision** takes place. In other words, the reflection starts as **objective light waves** and proceeds to a **subjective color sensation**. We must keep this fine distinction in mind, even when we, for practical reasons, use the more convenient terms of **color**, instead of the stricter wave terms, within the **visible spectrum**. This allows us to speak of red light, green stamp, etc.

The white parts of the stamp reflect most of the incident white light, and thus appear white, more or less. The ink of the stamp appears green in this case, since the minus green (mainly red and blue) components of the in-

cident light are removed by **absorption** in the ink, while the residual green is reflected. The various wavelengths involved in the incident light, in the absorption, and in the residual light can vary infinitely, and we can thus see stamps and other objects in an endless variety of colors and nuances. With stamps examined in white light (or other suitable light), the process thus ordinarily follows one simple pattern: Incident rays minus absorbed rays = residual rays = appearance. The **absorbed** light, which we do not see, is the **complementary** of the residual light, which we do see.

The visual spectrum (wavelengths 700-400 nm, nanometers) merges into the invisible ultraviolet (UV) of shorter wavelengths. The ultraviolet region of philatelic importance (excluding vacuum ultraviolet, 200-10 nm) can be divided variously into several ranges:

- Into three ranges<sup>3</sup>: Long wave (400-320 nm), middle (320-280 nm, for therapeutic use), and short wave (280-200 nm).
- Or, more simply<sup>4</sup>, as in this article, into two ranges: Long wave (400-300 nm) and short wave (300-200 nm).

Affiliate 79, A. P. S.

Branch 88469, S.P.A.

## THE POSTHORN

USPS #603680

ISSN 0551-6817

### Official Publication of the SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

#### Published Quarterly

Copyright 1979 Scandinavian Collectors Club

Vol. 36, No. 4, Whole No. 140, November 1979

Annual membership dues in the Scandinavian Collectors Club is \$6.00 of which \$4.25 is for a subscription to The Posthorn.

Subscriptions to The Posthorn are \$9.00 a year to non-members, or \$2.00 a copy. (Subscriptions to The Posthorn include all supplementary publications.)

Orders should be addressed to the Secretary.

**Office of Publication: 821 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044**  
**Second Class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas**

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

Changes of address should go to the secretary or if to the office of publication note on outside of envelope "Change of Address"

#### Editor:

Joe F. Frye, P. O. Box 22308, Memphis, Tenn. 38122

to whom all material and communications concerning The Posthorn, except address changes and advertising, should be sent.

(Associate editors and Officers listed on last page)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Use of Ultraviolet Radiation in Philately, and other articles by Werenskiold	starts 1st page
Finland's Cover of the Month—Fraser	150
Misery and Mystery—Sickels	152
Iceland—6 Aur Oval Issue	158
Finland—Fraser	168
Iceland—A Bibliography—Winick	175
Sperati Forgeries—Fraser	180
The First Postal System of Iceland—Sommer	189
Library News — President's Message — Editor's Mailbag — Literature Review	

200		300		400		420		450		490		550		590		630		700 nm	
Ultraviolet								Visible											
Short Wave				Long Wave				Violet		Blue		Green		Yellow		Orange		Red	
				Long Wave Lamp Radiation															
Short Wave Lamp Radiation																			

The customary equipment for the examination of stamps consists of two lamps, which may be separate or combined into one unit:

1. **Long wave UV lamp.** This is usually a **low pressure mercury vapor lamp** in the form of a so-called "black light" tube of **glass**. Mercury in the tube is vaporized by an electric current to emit radiations in the visible as well as in the ultraviolet ranges. The tube is coated inside with a phosphor (see below) that absorbs short wave ultraviolet, re-emitting the energy as long wave ultraviolet. A special dark colored filter is incorporated in the glass tube. The glass and the filter absorb short wave ultraviolet and most of the visible rays, but **transmit the long wave ultraviolet rays and a small amount of visual light** (violet of 400-420 nm wavelengths).
2. **Short wave UV lamp.** This is a similar type of lamp, but constructed of **quartz**, since glass does not transmit short wave ultraviolet radiation. This lamp has a filter that absorbs most of the visual light, but **transmits short wave and long wave ultraviolet as well as a small amount of visual light.** **WARNING: Short wave ultraviolet radiation is highly injurious to the eyes, and carelessness may cause blindness.**

When working with short wave ultraviolet one should always wear glasses and guard even against reflections of such rays from walls, desk, paper, etc.

Work with ultraviolet radiation should be conducted in a dark room, or with the aid of an internally dark viewing box with a suitable viewing opening at top (available from stamp dealers). A glass plate is located below the viewing opening to absorb any stray short wave rays.

When examining a stamp under ultraviolet radiation, several optical processes may take place, either one only, or several together:

1. Part of the ultraviolet radiation is **absorbed**, and the residual radiation **reflected as ultraviolet**, which is **invisible**. This is analogous to the case described above with visual light.
2. The small amount of visible violet light (400-420 nm) unfortunately transmitted by the light filters may be **reflected as visible dull violet light**.
3. The object under observation emits a more or less bright light or "glow," called photoluminescence, or luminescence for short. It is the incident ultraviolet radiation that is being absorbed and converted by the phosphor (see below) into **visual light**. (See laws of DeMent and Stokes, below). Some substances luminesce, others do not.

In some cases, such as in the equipment used in postal automation<sup>5</sup>, particularly the facer-canceler, it is important to distinguish between two types of luminescence:

1. **Fluorescence**, when the luminescence ceases almost immediately when the exciting radiation is discontinued.
2. **Phosphorescence**, when the luminescence continues as an "afterglow" for

some time (seconds to days) after the exciting radiation is discontinued. Some substances show both fluorescence and phosphorescence, noticeable when the "afterglow" is in a changed color.

Otherwise, the terminology is frequently rather loose. Luminescence from minerals is thus often referred to as fluorescence, indiscriminately whether there is an "afterglow" or not. A luminescent substance is usually called a phosphor, regardless whether it is fluorescent or phosphorescent. Some phosphorescence in minerals and liquids is often referred to as delayed fluorescence. The tendency now is to reserve the term phosphorescence more or less for the luminescence of specially prepared crystalline solids, such as calcium sulfide and zinc sulfide, which find numerous applications in commercial technology. Such phosphors have to be prepared with great care to incorporate a necessary critical percentage of a metallic impurity, a so-called **activator** (Raytech<sup>6</sup>), without which they do not luminesce. Thus, artificial willemite (zinc silicate) luminesces only if manganese is present, and zinc sulfide requires the presence of copper. Certain other impurities have the opposite effect of quenching or inhibiting the luminescence. Among such **inhibitors** are oxygen, alkali halides, silver nitrate, potassium chromate and permanganate, and the halogens. Some substances can fluoresce in one color and phosphoresce in another.

It may be said in general that the method of preparation, as well as the subsequent history of a substance (such as contact with chemicals or other changes) will determine the manner in which the substance will luminesce, if at all, under ultraviolet radiation.

The physico-chemical nature of luminescent substances and the theories connected therewith are exceedingly complicated, and the reader interested in these is therefore referred to the literature<sup>6</sup> for details.

Two laws (Encycl. Amer.<sup>6</sup>) are considered basic here:

- a. DeMent's law, according to which the exciting radiation must be **absorbed** by the specimen before its energy can be re-emitted as luminescence.
- b. Stokes' law: The emitted luminescence is usually of longer wavelength than the exciting radiation.

#### Use of Luminescent Stamps in Postal Automation.

The Post Office Departments in many countries have installed postal automation<sup>5</sup> equipment for speeding up the handling of the mails. Several methods have been tried since about 1957, resulting generally in the adoption of methods involving the use of luminescent stamps. The so-called facer-canceler, for turning letters and canceling the stamps, is of two distinct types, suitably adjusted to use either phosphorescent or fluorescent stamps:

##### 1. Using phosphorescent stamps.

- a. Stamps coated with phosphor **after** printing. This method is used in the United States and is called "tagging". The stamps phosphoresce under **short wave ultraviolet only**. In some cases, as in postal stationery, luminescent ink may be used for the printing of the stamp, or of a stripe next to the stamp. Similar methods are used in some other countries. The phosphors in U. S. stamps are said to be zinc orthosilicate for ordinary stamps (yellow-green phosphorescence) and calcium silicate for air-mail stamps (orange-red phosphorescence).
- b. Stamps printed on **paper coated with a phosphor**.

This method is used in Norway, Finland, Netherlands, etc. The stamps phosphoresce under either long or short wave ultraviolet, or both, usually in white, yellow, or green.

## 2. Using fluorescent stamps.

- a. Stamps in which the paper is impregnated before printing, with a **fluorochrome**<sup>8</sup> fluorescing, under short or long wave ultraviolet, in a color **other than blue**. A fluorescent dye, known as a fluorochrome, is incorporated in the paper mass during manufacture. This automation method is used in Germany, Denmark, etc., and was also in use in Sweden until 1979, when it was discontinued.

The fluorochrome in this case must fluoresce in a color other than blue to avoid complications, in the facer-canceler, with the paper described in the following section b.

- b. Stamps impregnated with a special fluorochrome fluorescing in bright blue. The purpose of this blue fluorescence is merely to make the paper appear whiter in ordinary light. This type of fluorochrome is therefore known by the terms brightener, whitener or Blancophor. In U. S. it is also known as Hi-Brite<sup>7</sup>. This bright blue fluorescence is actually **unwanted** in the facer-canceler, which must be adjusted to respond only to another fluorescence color, such as yellow, green or red.

The fluorochromes are usually soluble in water, and fluorescent stamps therefore "bleed" when they are washed, and thus contaminate other stamps. They should be washed carefully by themselves.

### The Examination of Stamps, etc., under Ultraviolet Radiation.

It is convenient to have lamps available for both short and long wave ultraviolet radiation. As a general procedure, it is often advantageous to examine the specimens under both long and short wave ultraviolet, since the luminescence, if any, can vary considerably. Some substances luminesce, others do not. Long wave ultraviolet may be found best in some cases, short wave in others.

When the short wave lamp is turned off, a short period of cooling must be allowed, before the lamp can operate satisfactorily when turned on again.

The examination should be performed in a dark room or with a dark box as already mentioned. The test specimens should be viewed against a black or dark grey non-glossy background, **never against an album page of white luminescent paper**. If a comparison object is available, it should be placed as close as possible to the test specimen, or the two may even overlap, to facilitate the comparison. The print and the paper must be examined **separately**, the paper also from the back (unless coated with gum).

It is necessary to adapt the eyes to darkness, by closing them for at least 20 seconds, to achieve satisfactory sensitivity. Prolonged staring at the specimens is not good practice, since the color of the luminescence may change gradually, while the eyes **quickly** suffer fatigue for the color involved. It is the first impression that counts, and which should be considered "right." If necessary, readapt the eyes and repeat the examination. Also keep in mind that visible light falling on the specimen during the test, may quench (Wood<sup>6</sup>) or extinguish the luminescence.

In order to distinguish positively whether the luminescence observed is fluorescence or phosphorescence, proceed as follows:

1. Adapt the eyes to darkness.
2. Shading eyes with hand, turn on the lamp for about 5 seconds.
3. Turn off the lamp, and open the eyes at the **same moment**, with **split-second** accuracy.
4. Watch whether there is an "afterglow" or not.

When working with a short wave lamp (which emits both short and long wave radiation), the question sometimes arises, whether a certain luminescent effect is due to the short wave rays or not. The problem is easily settled by interposing an adequately large plate of glass between the lamp and the specimen, thus removing the short wave rays from the specimen.

If the paper of a stamp appears a weak and dull violet, it is probably not a matter of luminescence, but merely a reflection of the unfiltered visual violet (400-420 nm), of minor significance. If the paper appears a bright blue, it is likely due to treatment with a brightener, as described above.

The examination of objects under ultraviolet radiation is **not an exact science**, and great care and discretion must be exercised in the interpretation of what is observed during the examination. Due allowance must be made for variation in luminescence in view of possible action of the many known and unknown factors, such as activation and inhibition.

The main purposes of examining stamps and other philatelic objects under ultraviolet radiation are to determine whether the items are fully genuine, or tampered with, or fraudulent—and to identify them as either luminescent or non-luminescent issues. While the indications of such examinations are plain in many cases, one will occasionally encounter signs of secondary significance, the many evidences of the "wear and tear" in the history of a philatelic item, such as exposure to soap, bleaches, salt, vinegar, fruit juice, wine, milk, mineral or vegetable oil, mucilage (on improperly washed stamps), varnish, Scotch tape, hinges, and contamination from fluorescent stamps, etc. Not all of these will be found to luminesce, and a certain amount of experimentation is frequently indicated. In coastal fishing districts, the air may contain enough hydrogen sulfide to affect the color of stamps. The "oil" in cancellations usually show a variable blue to yellow luminescence.

The book by Radley and Grant<sup>6</sup> contains much useful information on the fluorescence colors for various substances, such as paper, pigments, minerals, paints, inks, textiles, and organic chemicals, including dyestuffs.

#### References

1. Anderssen, Nord. F. T., 1928, p. 25-28.
2. Werenskiold, Posthorn, Nov. 1975, p. 81-91 and American Philatelist, June 1979, p. 526-531.
3. Kodak Publication No. M-27: Ultraviolet and Fluorescence Photography, p. 2.
4. Raytech Equipment Company: The Story of Fluorescence (1965), p. 9.
5. Werenskiold, Posthorn, 1974, p. 34-41, 61.
6. J. A. Radley and J. Grant: Fluorescence Analysis in Ultra-Violet Light, 4th Ed. (1954).  
 Encycl. Amer. (1955), vol. 11, p. 401f-403 and vol. 21, p. 793-794.  
 R. Wood: Physical Optics, 3rd Revised Ed. (Dover 1967), p. 648-667.  
 Raytech Equipment Co.: The Story of Fluorescence (1965). (Hamden Road, Somers, Conn. 06071).  
 E. Hirschlaff: Fluorescence and Phosphorescence (1938).  
 W. Summer: Ultraviolet and Infrared Engineering (1962).  
 S. Gleason: Ultraviolet Guide to Minerals.  
 G. S. Monk: Light, 2nd Ed. (Dover 1963), p. 289-292.
7. A. G. Boerger and J. S. Stark: Handbook on U. S. Luminescent Stamps (Boerger, P. O. Box 23822, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33307).  
 American Philatelist, April 1979, p. 341-347.
8. Kodak Publication No. M-27: Ultraviolet and Fluorescence Photography, p. 12.



## Typography - Lithography - Offset

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

It happens once in a while that stamps of practically the same design are printed both in typography and lithography or offset. In such cases, the collector is sometimes in doubt as to the proper identification of the stamps.

The following two series of Norwegian official stamps are good examples in this category:

**Offset:** Norwegian Catalog #9-20, Facit #Tj 9-20.

**Typography:** Norwegian Catalog #21-28, Facit #Tj21-28.

The Norwegian Catalog gives the following directions (in translation):

Best characteristics. On the offset stamps, the right leg of the lion has distinctly separated toes, and there is a vertical row of short dashes—shading—on the left hind leg. The frame is always uniform. On the typographed stamps, the toes are merely indicated, and the shading is entirely or partly absent. The frame is usually uneven and frequently broken. The offset stamps measure 35x19½ mm, the typographed stamps 34x18¼ mm.

These directions are usually adequate for proper identification of the stamps. The measurements on one and the same issue vary considerably, however, and the details on the legs may occasionally be covered by the cancellation. One may, in such doubtful cases, wish for additional means of identification. The so-called "ink squeeze" can then be of assistance, as described below.

**Typography**, also called Relief Printing<sup>1</sup> and Letterpress.

In this method of printing, the ink is transferred from the raised parts of type or clichés to the paper by pressing the inked parts firmly against the paper. Due to this pressure, a small amount of the ink is squeezed to the outside of the type face and settles on the paper as a very narrow, darker, marginal line of uncompressed ink. This is called ink squash or ink squeeze<sup>2</sup>. These ink squeeze marginal lines are seen most conveniently as the contours of the numerals in the Norwegian stamps referred to, but it is necessary to use a fairly strong magnifier.

**Lithography**, also called Planographic Printing<sup>3</sup>.

In this method, the ink is transferred from a flat stone, hence the name planographic. A design in greasy ink is initially transferred to the stone, and the stone is then wetted. The stone is then inked with a roller, but only the greasy design on the stone will accept the ink, while the wet parts will reject it. In printing from the stone, only the greasy ink design will thus be transferred to the paper.

**Offset**<sup>4</sup> is a modern version of lithography, in which a specially-prepared sheet of metal, usually zinc or aluminum, is used instead of the stone. The inked image is first transferred from the metal plate to a rubber roller, from which it is finally transferred, "offset," to the paper.

Stamps printed in lithography or offset do not show any marginal ink squeeze lines, since the conditions for their formation are lacking.

The Finnish stamps Facit #49-53 are in lithography, and those of Facit #54-61 in typography, but otherwise almost alike in designs. Facit gives good and usually adequate directions for proper identification. The ink squeeze contours in the typographed Finnish issues are often difficult to see.

### References

1. Williams: Fundamentals of Philately, p. 343-452.
2. Same, p. 444.
3. Same, p. 231-259, 282-298.
4. Same, p. 259-298.

## The Word "Watermark"

By Carl H. Werenskiold (H-10)

The word "watermark" has been defined in many different ways in the various dictionaries. In my opinion, none of these definitions can be considered satisfactory. For a partial review of their shortcomings, see my earlier article<sup>1</sup> on the history of watermarking. The main difficulty with these definitions is that each is based on one selected watermarking process or one feature thereof. There are, however, several kinds of watermark, and a satisfactory definition must be sufficiently flexible to cover them all.

I therefore suggested the following definition in my article<sup>1</sup>:

"The term **watermark** (or **papermark**) may be defined as an intentional (unpigmented) mark or design in paper, producible by various means, so as to appear lighter and/or darker than the surrounding paper, when viewed by light transmitted through the paper."

The origin of the word "watermark" has long been somewhat of a puzzle.

Hunter<sup>2</sup> thus says: "Any wirework, in the form of objects, added to the top surface of this "laid" and "chain" wire covering (Figure 216) also made impressions in the paper. Why these indentations were called watermarks is not known, as the mark or device in paper is not caused by the use of water to any greater extent than is the sheet itself. In the German language the design impressed in the paper is called **Wasserzeichen**, which, like the English term "watermark," is confusing. In the French language the appellation is **filigrane**, and in Dutch **papiermarken**. These two names are more suitable. The first use of the term "watermark" in English appeared at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and as the name **Wasserzeichen** was apparently not used by German writers until the first part of the nineteenth century, we are led to believe that the name "watermark," faulty in its meaning as it is, had its origin in the English language."

Oxford English Dictionary<sup>3</sup> contains the following note: "So German **wassermarke** (1785); the more common word is now **wasserzeichen** (**zeichen**=sign). The name was probably given because the water-mark, being less opaque than the rest of the paper, had the appearance of having been produced by the action of water."

Many people, including paper makers, are of the handed-down opinion that "water" in "watermark" somehow refers to the water in the aqueous suspension in the manufacture of watermarked paper, but this is an **unfortunate traditional error**, as will be shown later in this article.

For further clarification as to the **origin** and **original intent** of the word "watermark," let us first consider the history of paper making and watermarking.

The various processes for making paper have in common the basic feature of first producing a sheet of matted fibers from an aqueous suspension of such fibers.

**Handmade Paper:** The sheet is formed on a hand mold or sieve, by dipping the mold into the suspension and then raising it out of the suspension. Metal designs, "bits," attached to the sieve cloth produce corresponding watermarks in the paper.

**Fourdrinier Paper Machine:** The suspension is poured onto a moving "endless" belt of metal cloth, the "wire," to form a sheet of paper. An egoutteur or dandy roll with bits rotates and presses lightly on the wet sheet to produce corresponding watermarks in the paper.

**Cylinder Paper Machine:** A large cylinder of metal cloth rotates in the

paper suspension, picking up a sheet of fibers. Watermarks are produced by means of bits attached to the metal cloth.

The above processes, as here described, result in **light or translucent watermarks**. If desired, **dark or opaque marks** may be produced by impressing the watermarking metal cloth with a die instead of using bits. **Light- and-shade marks**, featuring both light and dark parts, are produced by an intricate method of impressing the cloth. The so-called **Behrend mark**, also known as **rubber mark**, is produced by impressing the wet paper sheet on a rubber marking roll. **Dry Impressed marks** are formed by strongly impressing the dry paper against a metal impression plate carrying the designs in relief. This can be done either on the calender of a Fourdrinier or in an off-machine operation.

It will be noted that water is not absolutely necessary for the formation of watermarks. In handmade paper, the mark is formed from a suspension containing about 99% water. For the egoutteur mark, the water content is about 90%, for Behrend about 70%, and very low for the dry impressed mark<sup>4</sup>. Also, in the same sequence, the handmade mark involves no pressure, while pressure is required in the other instances, where the necessary rigidity and hardness of the impression device increases with decreasing water content of the paper sheet. There is no mystery and lines of sharp demarcation here, only matters of properly coordinated **degrees**.

The first watermark was made in 1282 at Fabriano, Italy. It was called a "filigrane" (not watermark), since the mark was obviously produced by the bits, the filigranes.

The earliest known uses of the word "watermark" occurred in 1708 and 1779. Fenn<sup>3</sup> in 1787 used the term "papermarks" and added: "They are often called the watermarks." Obviously, the term "wiremark," translation of "filigrane," must also have been used at the time by the English paper makers.

The widespread belief that "water" in "watermark" somehow refers to the water of the paper suspension, is **quite erroneous**. This will become apparent from the following discussion. We must, of course, **distinguish clearly** between **tradition** involving handed-down terms, which may or may not be logical, on one hand, and **factual** terms that **logically** fit into the history and nature of watermarking, on the other.

The original term, used for the mark in handmade paper since 1282, is "filigrane," in recognition of the obvious fact that the marks are produced by the bits. The word "watermark" is a relative newcomer, appearing in England over four hundred years later, about 1708. At that time the terms "filigrane," "wiremark" and "papermark" were also in use. It would be **highly illogical** to assume that the paper makers, who **knew** that the marks were produced by the bits, now all of a sudden could have changed their minds to a belief that the marks were due to the water of the suspension. Obviously, the new word "watermark" **could not imply any such intention**.

It is reasonable to think that we have to do here with a case of **folk-etymology**<sup>5</sup>. This involves the very numerous corruptions and perversions of terms, that arise when the general public does not quite understand a given term and in time changes it to something "better." Here, the term "wiremark" did not mean much to the general public, that obviously would not be familiar with the details of paper making. That a drop of water on a dry piece of paper made a translucent spot or mark, something like a grease mark, was fairly well known, however. So the word "wiremark" became corrupted to "watermark," which was easier to understand. **Logically**, therefore, "watermark" cannot possibly have anything to do with water in the suspension.

**Popularly**, "watermark," if it is to mean anything at all, must refer to a mark similar to, and reminding one of, a mark produced by a drop or design of water on dry paper, which can reasonably be called a watermark.

We now have two viewpoints or theories:

A. **Traditional**, historically incorrect, that "watermark" refers to water in the paper suspension.

B. **Logical**, historically compatible, that "watermark," via corruption of "wiremark," refers to a mark similar to the mark produced by water on dry paper.

The question now arises: Does it make any practical difference, which of the two theories we should adopt?

To answer this, we must again refer to history.

The filigrane (wiremark) was the **only type** in use for over five centuries (1282-1826). With the advent of machine-made paper (ab. 1800) and the egoutteur (invented 1826), the egoutteur watermark soon became the prominent type. When the dry impressed mark appeared on the scene (early in the nineteenth century), it was looked upon as an imitation.

A conflict arose, in which the egoutteur people made an **arbitrary and self-serving distinction** between the marks produced in wet paper pulp, calling them "genuine," "true" and "natural" on one hand, and the marks produced by other means, such as by impression in dry paper, which they called "imitation," "simulated," "artificial" and "spurious," on the other. Some of these terms are unfortunately still current in the paper trade, even though the conflict has now largely petered out, over a hundred years later.

When the Behrend or rubber mark appeared about 1903, it was called "half-genuine"<sup>6</sup> in this strange terminological "system." The fact here is that this mark is produced in a wet paper sheet of about 70% water, more than half, and almost as much as the about 90% for the egoutteur mark.

The role of water in watermarking is actually highly **negative** in that too much water in the paper sheet actually tends to **deteriorate** the mark. The egoutteur mark is thus less sharp than the rubber and dry impressed marks. "Customark," by treatment of dry paper with a resin, appeared about 1956.

It should be noted that the above arbitrary terms are all **non-descriptive**, and merely indicate approval or disapproval. It is like calling the wooden shoe true, genuine and natural, and all other shoes imitation, simulated, artificial and spurious. The characterizations would be meaningless and would not change the facts involved.

All paper and watermarks are in fact artificial, since they never occur in nature. Even the "paper" nests of wasps are artificial, as they have to be "manufactured" by the wasps. The handmade watermark is also artificial, of course, and the egoutteur mark even more highly so.

Theory A is therefore guilty of carrying in its wake a multitude of unnecessary and hateful terms. The term "spurious" is particularly obnoxious, in that it quite unnecessarily implies fraud. Let us consider two of these terms in the following table.

	By Theory A, Tradition	In Fact, Logical
Handmade watermarks, light or opaque	Natural	Artificial
Egoutteur watermarks, light, opaque, or light-and-shade	Natural	Artificial
Dry impressed marks, on calender or off-machine	Artificial	Artificial
Customark, by resin coating	Artificial	Artificial

This clearly shows that Theory A is without merit, since it does not agree with facts.

Theory B has no such drawbacks. It liberates one's thinking and allows the many types of watermarking or papermarking to be considered **normal and honorable developments** in the field, each having certain advantages and/or disadvantages, and permitting a **choice**. For example, the egoutteur and rubber marks are suitable for large orders, while the dry impressed marks and Customark are well adapted to small orders, where the expense of an egoutteur would be prohibitive.

Theory B thus allows **all types of watermarks** to be considered "intentional marks or designs in paper" as their **common and important feature**. By including "producible by various means," as in my proposed definition, we get away from the mousehole view of judging the situation from the standpoint of only one single, arbitrarily chosen watermarking process.

I have no illusions whatever that the shop lingo terms will disappear overnight as a result of this article, but I do hope that at least some of the readers will agree with me, that sensible, **factual** terms are better than **inaccurate conventional ones**.

#### References

1. Werenskiold, The Posthorn, 1976, p. 1-10.
2. Hunter: Paper Making, p. 262-264.
3. Oxford English Dictionary, Corrected Reissue, under Watermark.
4. Figures estimated from Witham: Modern Pulp and Paper Making, p. 435.
5. See numerous examples in E. Weekley: The Romance of Words, particularly p. 115.
6. W. Weiss: Handbuch der Wasserzeichenkunde, p. 297.

\* S \* C \* C \*

#### METHOD OF PRODUCING THE CLICHÉS FOR NORWAY NO. 1 Addition

My article in The Posthorn, May 1979, p. 74-75 has been misinterpreted to mean that it offered some kind of **proof** that zinc was used in the casting of the clichés. That is not the case. It was merely shown, as an outside **possibility**, that zinc **could** have been used. It is my personal opinion, however, when all considerations are taken into account, that it is **far more probable** that the casting was done with **type metal** in the customary way.

—C. H. Werenskiold

\* S \* C \* C \*

#### SCC ANNUAL MEETING—"MEMPHEX '80"

The 1980 annual meeting of SCC will be held in conjunction with "Memphex '80," annual exhibition of the Memphis (TN) Stamp Collectors Society, Inc. at the Holiday City Holiday Inn, 3728 Lamar Ave., Memphis, TN 38118, on September 27-28, 1980.

Exhibitors' prospectus and dealer bourse information will soon be available, and those interested should send their name and address to MEMPHEX '80, Box 11529, Memphis, TN 38111 at once. Forms will be sent as quickly as printing completed.

An experienced and permanent show committee will make all arrangements for this event, and as hosts in the past 9 years to both the Spring and Annual A.P.S. meeting/conventions, the Memphis group is justly recognized as host to quality and enjoyable philatelic gatherings.

## An Open Letter To the S.C.C. Membership

I'm sure that you're aware that our organization does not "automatically" function. Many of our members donate a lot of their time so that you can benefit from your membership. It is obvious that our elected officers choose to represent you and work toward your best interests; you expect that of them.

We are fortunate to have another group of officers who are not elected; they volunteer to fill appointed offices. One such appointee is POSTHORN Editor Joe Frye, who is completing his third year of service in this position. I congratulate him on the quality and thickness of each succeeding issue of the PH.

Another appointed officer who performed a difficult task with finesse was our Business Manager Floyd Walker. In his two years of service, Floyd defrayed over \$2,700 of the POSTHORN's cost through his efforts to encourage advertising. Put in perspective, this is \$3.50 you didn't have to pay in dues. My compliments to you, Floyd, for a job well done.

A man who truly serves for the love of service is our Mart Manager, Wade Beery. One would think that after a decade of this job, he might have gotten tired of the complaints, the lack of enough mart books to run the mart properly, and a bunch of people who can't add. In spite of these and many other problems, Wade's enthusiasm and energy toward the mart and S.C.C. never seems to want. Bravo Wade!

Our dynamite Librarian, Stan Hanson, has really taken charge of this part of S.C.C. and completely revitalized the whole operation. I can't say enough about Stan's enthusiasm and desire to maintain our library and encourage member usage. We're really impressed, Stan.

Our least-visible appointed officer is Marvin Hunewell, our Publicity Chairman. Marvin's many years of service shows up in only one place in our Annual Report—the number of active members. Right now we have almost 900 active members. It is true that all of us are S.C.C. recruiters, but Marv is the person who gets S.C.C. news into the philatelic press and maintains our continued visibility. These many years of dedicated service have been recognized by the Scandinavian Collectors Club Executive Committee and they have voted Marvin the Pelander award for his years of dedicated service. Congratulations Marvin.

Another important person isn't even an officer of S.C.C. He is the POSTHORN's printer, Mr. Harlan Miller; another Pelander award winner for years of loyal service. On behalf of the entire membership, thank you, Mr. Miller, and our entire group of dedicated volunteers.

Alan Warren's appointed officers have done a great job in 1979 and I'm sure that they will continue to do so in 1980. Best wishes to them, and happy holidays to you all.

Sincerely yours, Don Halpern, Immediate Past President

---

## MEMBER-TO-MEMBER

THIS SPOT is reserved for your member-to-member advertisement. The first 20 words cost you \$2.00 (this is the minimum) and it is 10c per word after that. Send your ad and your check to Business Manager Eric Roberts, 2763 N. Westfield Pl., Claremont, CA 91711. Include your membership number in your ad, but don't count it as part of the total number of words.

WANTED: Great Britain used in DWI; C51 or CDS cancels; clear strikes only. D. Priester (#1236), Box 400, Davenport, IA 52805.

## "NORWEX 80"



Interest in NORWEX 80, both at home and abroad, has surpassed our expectations. The Committee has received more than 1,000 entries, including 170 in the literature section. The collections offered include more than 5,700 frames, but there are only 3,200 frames available in the Competition Class.

The above figures do not include the collections of the jury, entries in the Official Class, or collections specially invited.

So far, about 100 countries have informed us that they will participate in the Official Class. The United States Postal Service will have a special NORWEX souvenir sheet (card? Ed.) printed. The Canadian Postal Museum will make a special exhibit: "Little Norway," from the Norwegian military training camp of that name during the Second World War. The British Post Office and the Norwegian Post Office have entries in the Cour d'Honneur.

Among the Cour d'Honneur collections we find an extract from Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Collection. She will exhibit the Falkland Islands at NORWEX 80, and we shall be able to admire, in this Class, the greatest collections of Norway, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Hungary, etc.

15 top-level collections have been entered in the FIP Honour Class.

More than 30 philatelic services will participate at the exhibition. Of course, all the Nordic countries are represented, but our visitors will also find stands from such far-off countries as India and the People's Republic of China.

Each of the exhibition's ten days will have its individual post-mark, and each day will have its own "heading," such as Opening Day, Oslo-Day, UN-Day, etc. A great number of relevant activities will take place on these days.

The first NORWEX issue, a booklet, sold 600,000 copies providing the exhibition with an income of 3 million Norwegian kroner.

The next such will be issued October 5, 1979, and is expected to be particularly popular. The motifs of the 4 stamps in the block depict great achievement in polar aviation.

The last issue will appear in connection with the actual exhibition, in June, 1980.

We expect a great influx of foreign philatelists at the exhibition, and the Committee have, through their travel agents, made extensive bookings at the various Oslo hotels. A most varied sightseeing programme has been arranged, and we have laid great emphasis on the aspects of philately, so our visitors will have a variety of offers during their stay in Oslo.

### NEW NORWEGIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

The NORWEX issue of this year will appear on 5th October consisting of a souvenir sheet comprising four postage stamps in the denominations of

**INTERNASJONAL  
FRIMERKEUTSTILLING  
Oslo 13.-22. juni 1980**

**Pris  
kr. 15,-**

125, 200, 280 and 400 ore. The subjects derive from the history of arctic aviation. Price per set Nkr. 15,—. The Post Office will provide first day-cancelled souvenir sheets on free first day covers.

The additional value of Nkr. 4,95 will go toward financing of the International Stamp Exhibition "NORWEX '80" in Oslo, 13-22 June, 1980.

—Press notice from General Directorate of Posts,  
Postboks 1051 Sentrum, Oslo 1, Norway

\* S \* C \* C \*

## Finland: Cover Of The Month

By Ed Fraser (#954)

After writing the article about cancel use in the 1850's, (Posthorn, Vol. 36, No. 3, August, 1979. Ed.) I have found the cover shown in figure 1. It is the 1856 10 kopeck postal stationery envelope "with pearls in posthorns," showing the town cancel off Heinola on the front on the stamp design and on reverse. However, it also shows a Lovisa cancel!

Mr. Rolf Gummeson has suggested to me that the Lovisa cancel must have been put on at a change of diligences (coaches) at Lovisa, and seems acceptable as genuine. Lovisa is close to Helsingfors (the destination) and an apparently logical route from Heinola. (See footnote 1).

As my article says that this wasn't the practice, the conclusion must be to "keep looking." I would be interested in hearing any additional details any reader could shed on this or any similar material they have seen.



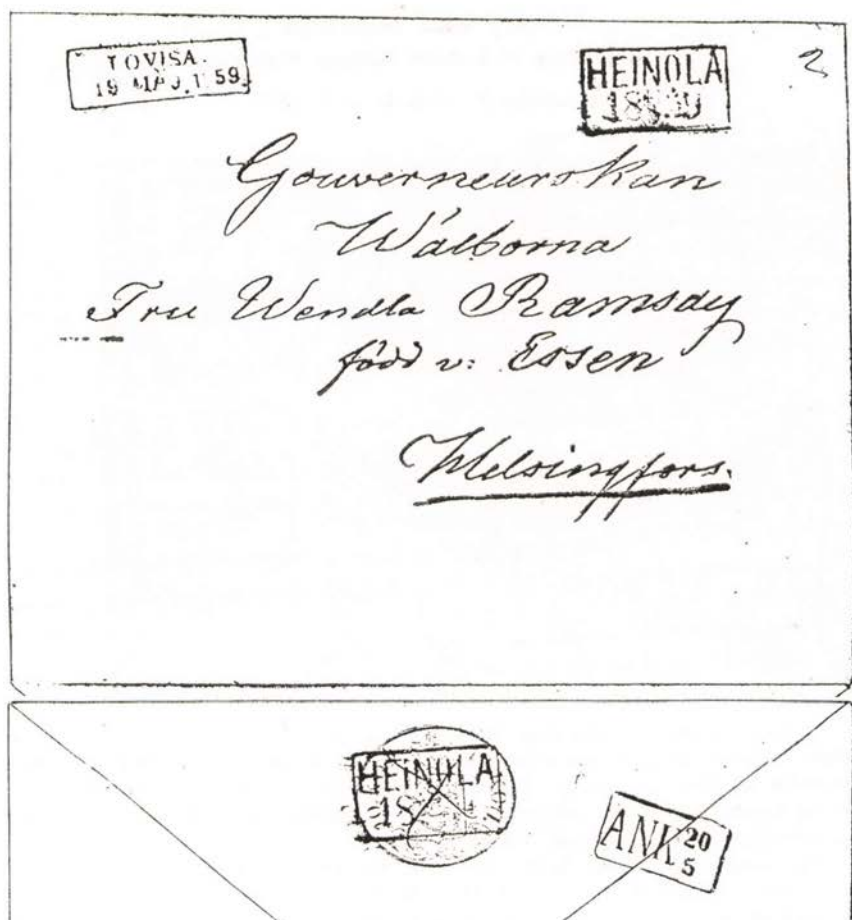


Figure 1

A Transit Cancel on an Oval Issue Cover!

Cancels: Heinola (date unclear) 1859, Lovisa 19 May 1859, (Helsingfors) ANK 20 May (1859)

Footnote:

1. Note that the normal Lovisa to Helsingfors postage rate would have been only 5 kop., whereas Heinola to Helsingfors was 10 kop. (The Heinola to Lovisa rate was also a 5 kop. rate, but that is not significant here.)

\* S \* C \* C \*

SCC SHOW CALENDAR

NORDA 80—March 22-30, 1980, Malmö, Sweden

NORWEX 80—June 13-20, 1980, Oslo, Norway

MEMPHEX 80—September 27-28, 1980, Memphis, TN, National SCC Meeting.

## Misery and Mystery

A Byproduct of Iceland Military Collecting

By George W. Sickels, SCC 1545



Fig. 1

In the course of collecting War Covers, the collector invariably comes across evidence to the woe experienced by the serviceman in the everyday casualties of the war effort. Likewise, postal procedures at times pose perplexing questions for the collector. Covers combining both of these situations are extremely intriguing and tell vivid stories.

The author has three such covers in his Iceland War Cover collection, each from a different Icelandic APO. The first of these originated at APO 612, located in Akureyi, one of the lesser seen APO's. (Fig. 1). The misery is two-fold: the addressee never received the letter, and the sender was never located for the letter to be "Returned to Sender." The face of the cover is literally jammed with notations as the letter made its way through Iceland, USA, and North Africa. It has four markings appearing on the reverse side as well. (Fig. 1a). Some of the notations cannot be deciphered nor placed into sequence. However, the routing is roughly as follows:

1. Arrived at Camp Wheeler, Georgia, where not at all deliverable, probably tried at two or three units (pencil notation) then stamped "No Record Central Directory 'N-IOUSA,' then (on the reverse) an indistinguishable rubber stamp from some Army Post Unit, dated, 17 March 1943.

2. At this point, letter was directed to Oran, Algeria. Possibly traced through the addressee's name and serial number (added in pencil at some stop along the way). A 700 in pencil refers to APO 700 in Oran during this time period. APO 761 (two directory service stamps applied) was also in Oran at this time. Finally (on reverse) APO 537 in Tabarka, Tunisia on 27 June 1943. No record of Pvt. John Meisler at any of these locations!

3. Returned to Sender stamp affixed. Back to Iceland, probably to APO 860 (penciled notation at the bottom of face). By this time APO 612



Fig. 1a

may have been closed. Letter returned to Ft. Devens, MA, stamped APO 4015 c/o Postmaster, NY, NY. Finally returned to New York by machine cancel dated 4 August 1943, thence arrived at its resting place, the New York Dead Letter Office, on the same date.

What happened to Tech 4 Bauman, our Iceland serviceman, (more of the mysterious misery) and most of all, how did the cover escape the normal fate of destruction usually encountered by dead letters?

The next two covers are even more intriguing. Four months elapsed between mailing and receipt of these letters. Just look at the condition of the envelopes. The misery was caused for the correspondents by a frustrated mail carrier who must have had enough and threw the contents of his bag into

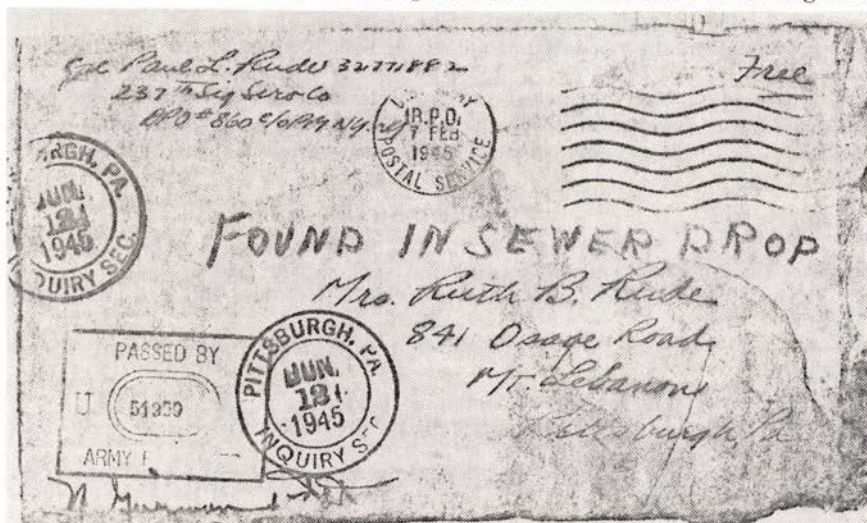


Fig. 2

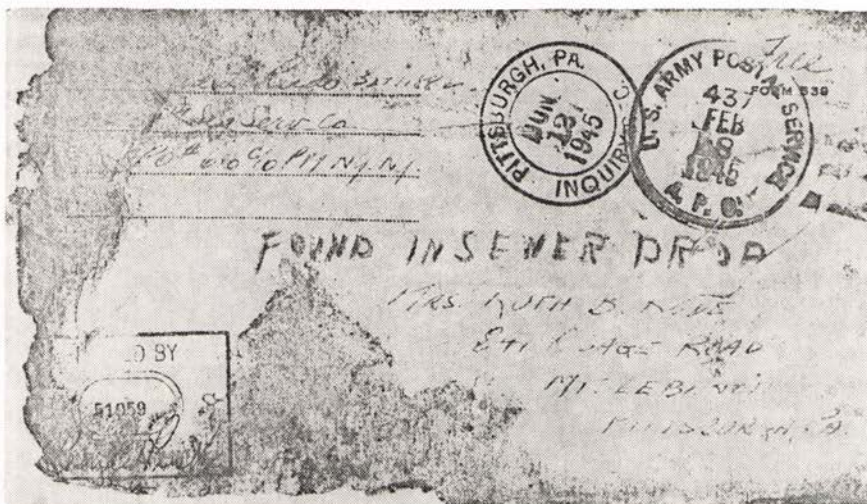


Fig. 3

the sewer. Imagine the anguish of the wife eagerly awaiting news from her serviceman husband!

The first cover, dated Feb. 7th, has the APO 860 return address (Fig. 2); the second, dated Feb. 8th, has APO 610 in the return address. (Fig. 3). How much time elapsed between the writing of the two letters; did the unit change location at this time? Unanswered questions—however, the postal mystery is more significant. Why is the 860 cover cancelled at the 1st Base Post Office, located in Sutton, England? Similarly, why is the 610 cover cancelled at APO 437, located in Scotland? Were sacks of mail not cancelled in Iceland sent to Great Britain for their postal processing? (And to two different locations for mail probably written within days of each other!)

The author was given these covers by the sender, Cpl. Paul Rude. In questioning him about these covers, I received his assurance that he had never posted a letter outside of Iceland. The only time he left Iceland at all was for a three day trip to Scotland, not at all coinciding with the time period of the covers.

These examples reemphasize the philatelic dilemma of following the postal routes of war covers—with the usually stable zone of Iceland being no exception. The mystery deepens! What postal procedure was followed?

\* S \* C \* C \*

#### FORGERY NOTES

Chapter 7 is coordinating a committee on forgeries, chaired by Eric Kindquist. The following members cover the various countries:

Eric Kindquist, Sweden; Carl Werenskiold, Norway; Edward Fraser, Finland.

Needed: members to cover Denmark, Danish West Indies, Faroes, Iceland, Greenland.

Material is solicited for inspection and addition to the files so that when published coverage will be as complete as possible. At present most Scandinavian areas are on slides.

Please send all material to Eric Kindquist, RD 134, East Rolling Hill Rd., Skillman, NJ 08558.

Do not send any material for purposes of Expertization.

## Postal History Retraced

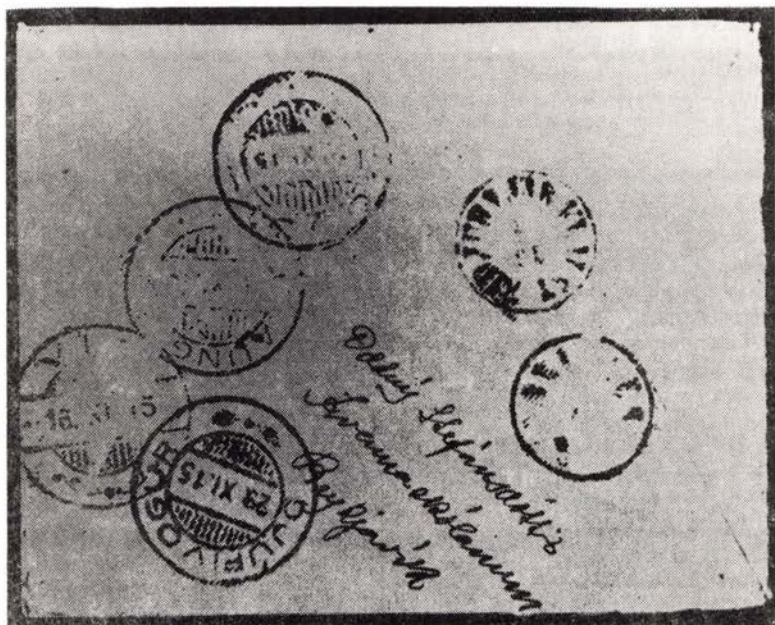
By Sigurdur H. Thorsteinsson °

Today it is the custom to back cancel only registered letters at the delivery postal station. Furthermore, some stations cancel transit mail or mail that is missent also on the back, so that its route outside the direct or right route can be traced, and thereby why it has taken so long time on the way.

This was different in Iceland all the time up to the 1920's. All mail that went with the mailman between stations was cancelled on the back at every post office or station except the collecting stations (bréfhirðingar). Letters going thus from Reykjavík by the main routes would bear a collection of cancellations on the back. I remember one such postcard in the Robert Helm collection, which shows the eastern route with a collection of original cancellations (Antiqua—Lapidar) on the back.

Not a long time ago I came across one more such cover, sent from Reykjavík to Breiddalsvík on the 8th of November, 1915. By the cancellations on the back, it came to Hraungerði it goes to Oddi, and that leg of the trip takes two more days, so it is cancelled there on the 12th of November. From Oddi it takes 4 days to Vík, where it is cancelled on the 16th November. The leg to Kirkjubæjarklaustur, then takes 3 days so there it is cancelled on the 19th November. The date of the canceller at Bjarnarnes cannot be read, but by small smears it can be seen that the numbers are not missing. But the trip from Kirkjubæjarklaustur to Djúpvogur takes 10 days, so there it is cancelled on the 29th of November, 1915, being the last cancellation on the cover.

21 days' trip from Reykjavík to Djúpvogur in the middle of the winter in 1915. All the rivers in Skaftafellssýsla were without bridges then, but today all the rivers on main road No. 1 are with bridges.



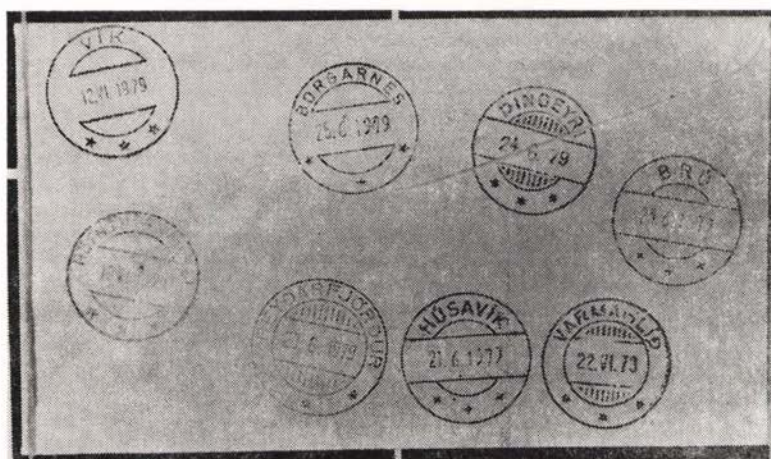
1) The envelope from 1915, backstamps.



2) The front of the envelope from 1979.

The "Free Sport Union of Iceland" urged all the associations to unite this summer in a run around Iceland. This was done in only 9 days. The run started at the Sports Arena in Reykjavik on the National Day, 17th of June. Eastward to the South Eastern Lowlands to Vik on the second day. To memorialize this first "Around Iceland Run," 2000 numbered covers were sent with the runners, and backstamped at one post office each day. Then finally on the front again, when arriving early morning on the 26th in Reykjavik's Post Office Branch No. 4.

The Mayor of Reykjavik started the run with a hand-carved roll which every runner had to hand to the next one. 4,500 people participated, the oldest being 82, and the youngest being 1½ years old. The roll was then received by the president of the Union, and handed over to the Chief curator of The National Museum of Iceland, where it will be kept.



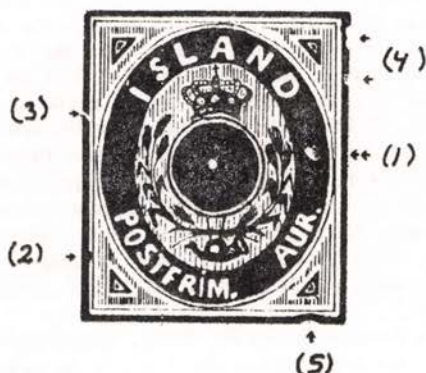
3) The back of the envelope from 1979.

During the run, the covers were backcancelled at the following stations: On June 18th at Vik. On June 19th at Höfn in Hornafjörður (former Bjarnarnes). On June 20th at Reyðarfjörður. On June 21st at Húsavík (former Þingeyjarsýsla). On June 22nd at Varmahlíð (former Skagafjarðarsýsla). On June 23rd at Brú (former Starndasýsla). On June 24th at Þingeyri. On June 25th at Borgarnes (former Miklaholtor Crown and Posthorn Borgarnes). Then finally on the 26th of June at Reykjavík 4, Langholt, but in that postal district of Reykjavík is the Sports Arena of Reykjavík and the office of the union, F. R. I.

This event was closely followed by the press and was extremely successful as regards participation and awakening of half-sleeping sports associations around the country. But also the postal route was retraced around the country, and an unique souvenir produced for both sportsmen and collectors, with the kind help of a lot of postal employees.

• S • C • C •

### Variety In 10 Aur Issue



#### Characteristics:

- (1) A white spot in the oval band at right to large 10.
- (2) A black spot between outer and inner frame at left side.
- (3) Break in upper left outer frame.
- (4) Two dents in upper right outer frame.
- (5) A bend in right lower outer frame.

The variety has pos. 2, 7, 52, 57 in 1st printing perf. 12¼ and pos. 1, 6, 51, 56 in 2nd printing of this perforation.

It is also found in perf. 14x13½, namely 4th printing (only (1) and (2)), 5th printing ((1), (2) and (3)), 6th printing ((1), (2), (3) and (4)) and 7th—and last printing—as illustrated above.

Some of the above information appears in such well-known sources as: Kohl Briefmarken-Handbuch, Lieferung 36 by Dr. Herbert Munk. E. A. G. Caroe: The 1902-03 overprints, London Philatelist 51/612, Oct., 1942.

—Ebbe Eldrup

Skt. Kyelds Gade 23, 4 I.V., DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

## Iceland—6 Aur Oval Issue

By the Iceland Study Group and prepared by Orla Nielsen

Translators Ole Svinth, Ebbe Eldrup and Folmer Østergaard

(This article was published in the exhibition catalogue of the national stamp exhibition "Interdania 79" at Taastrup, November, 1979. It is translated for the POSTHORN with permission from the author and the editor.)

### About the Iceland Study Group

On this occasion the Iceland Study Group presents for the first time results of its work to collectors. It is therefore appropriate to bring a short account of the group. It was formed in 1976 shortly after "Hafnia 76," the first international stamp exhibition in Denmark, and has 11 members. Until now we have especially been working with the 3, 5 and 6 aur of the Numeral of Value issue, here called the Oval issue, and a few issues from the 40's and 50's. Due to the fact that not much can be found in the literature about the 6 aur issue, we have chosen that issue for this article.

### General facts about the Oval issues.

The Icelandic Oval issue was drawn by Ph. Batz. The design itself was originally a draft for a Danish 48 skilling, but it was not accepted.

Batz made a common mother-die in steel for the issue, upon which the only word written was ISLAND. From this mother-die a secondary die was made for each value. However, for some reason the 3 sk. stamp had two secondary dies made, and the 3 aur stamp of 1882 had its secondary die made from a 5 aur secondary die, the cipher "5" being replaced by a "3." The text POSTFRIM. or ÞJON. FRIM. and indication of value was engraved by hand, whereas the big numeral was imprinted by a steel plunger.

The secondary dies were multiplied as stereotypes, not by a galvanic process (according to Kohl), because of the small number of stamps to be printed, i.e. the not very durable result of this crude method was not expected to be of much importance. This procedure resulted in many of the flaws (frame damages and white spots), which make a rather rich hunting ground for the collector of varieties.

The stamps were printed by H. H. Thiele, Copenhagen, in sheets of 100. Every stamp was of one color except the 3 aur with reengraved big "3" had a printing plate consisting of 25 dies, 5 x 5. Each sheet of 100 therefore required four impressions of the printing plate. This often led to a minor dislocation among the four quarters. Color varieties among the four quarters are rather common, as one quarter of the sheet was printed on all the sheets before the next quarter.

The above procedure implies that a quarter of a sheet generally is sufficient to describe the varieties in the 25 dies used for a certain printing. A variety in stamp no. 1 is normally found in stamp nos. 6, 51 and 56 as well. The 25 dies were put together in such a way that they might have been somewhat staggered, this being one of the reasons why the stamps are often badly centered. Another more essential reason is the perforation method used.

At the end of each imprinting the printing plate was dismantled; i.e., the 25 dies were separated. As some die varieties are seen in one printing, and not in another and as a variety can be seen in both first and third printings—but not in the second—one may conclude that damaged dies were not always replaced and that originally more than 25 dies were made for each value. How many is not known, guesses from 30 to 50 are made in the literature. Because of the resetting of the printing plate the varieties are normally placed differently in the various printings.



Besides the earlier mentioned flaws, damage generated during the printing process is found; i.e., cuts and bends in the frame and colored spots, due to careless handling and cleaning of the printing plate. The dirt often stuck so firmly to the printing plate that rather constant varieties was the result. Note that colored lines between the stamps can be found too. They are caused by a rising spaces; i.e., the material between the dies being dislocated upwards thus leaving color on the paper. According to the printing procedure these latter errors are seldom found in all four quarters of a sheet.

The paper used for the stamps is the same as that used for the Danish stamps. It has marginal watermark "KGL. POST-FRMK" and tilted big crowns in the upper corners of the sheet, and a posthorn in the lower corners. The stamps themselves are watermarked with the so-called Big Crown (reprints of 1904 have watermark New Crown).

Dislocation of the paper may lead to stamps with marginal watermark, especially on the vertical margins of the sheets where the marginal watermark is closer to the stamps. Stamps can also be found with part of the corner watermark crown or posthorn. Rarer varieties are stamps totally without watermark, only seen on stamps from the corners of the sheet, nos. 1, 10, 91 and 100.

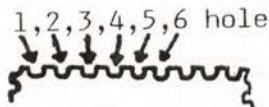
By turning the paper upside down, the inverted watermarks appear. Also mirrored watermark is seen, when the stamps are printed on the wrong side of the paper. This can be discerned only if part of upper or lower sheet margin is attached to the stamp.

According to the thickness of the paper three groups are found. From 1873 up to 1882/83 the paper used has a thickness of 0.06-0.07 mm; from 1883/84 up to 1891/92 0.07-0.09 mm; and from 1895 and onwards 0.09-0.10 mm. These three types are called thin, medium-thick and thick paper.

The thick paper must have been at H. H. Thiele as early as in 1891/92 as 10 aur second print and 20 aur third print of the official stamps are found on both medium-thick and thick paper. This can indicate that three and four, respectively, printings of these issues exist, but this is unlikely.

The medium-thick paper was used as late as 1897, the year the 3 aur perf 12½ postage stamp was printed. This issue is namely found on both medium-thick and thick paper. The thickness of the paper is a rather important guide in determination of various printings.

The use of thick paper was probably too big a change to the comb perforating machine, K II, upon which some of the perforating pins in the horizontal row broke. Investigation indicates that the loss of these pins took place in the last week of August, 1895, perhaps through an accident during the cleaning process or maintenance of the machinery. The perf errors of the three stamps, 3, 6 and 10 aur postage stamps printed in 1895 are rather common in comparison to the Danish stamps of the same period. It is therefore most likely that these three Icelandic stamps were all perforated after the pin loss of the K II. The diagram below shows the vertical rows of the sheet in which the perf varieties are found. The missing perf hole is numbered by counting the holes this way:



1st row	2nd row	3rd row	4th row	5th row	6th row	7th row	8th row	9th row	10th row
	A	B		C	D	D	C	E	
	3rd hole miss.	6th hole miss.		4th hole miss.	2nd hole miss.	2nd hole miss.	4th hole miss.	5th hole miss.	

If one perforation hole is missing, a stamp can definitely be assigned to one or two of the vertical rows. Stamps without perf defects cannot with certainty be assigned to 1st, 4th or 10th row, as they may have been perforated before the perforating pins broke, or with the new perforation machine, K III, which was used simultaneously with K II. As shown there are five different types of perforation varieties before the exchange of perforation machine took place and they total as much as 70% in each sheet.

In a recent article in *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Lasse Nielsen demonstrates how stamps with comb perforation (in this connection 14x13½) generally can be placed in the vertical rows. For more details, refer to his article.

The type of gum and the appearance of the stamp surface often present similarities among various printings of values printed in the same period.

#### The purpose of issuing the 6 aur.

During the period from 1876 until 1902, when the 6 aur became invalid, the foreign Printed Matter (PM) rate was 6 aur per 50 gr. The inland rate for PM was, from the beginning, half the letter rate, but not less than 10 aur. This rate was altered through an Act of Nov. 4th, 1881, lowering the rate to 3 aur per 50 gr. The 6 aur could also then be used for inland PM 50-100 gr. As a supplementary denomination the 6 aur was mostly used on letters to Denmark, the lowest rate being 16 aur.

#### Number of printings and stamps issued.

The 6 aur is found in two perforations, 14x13½ and 12¾. The total issue was 330,000 (14x13½) and 500,000 (12¾). The list price in most catalogues concerning these two stamps refers to the largest printing, but as some of the printings are issued in much smaller quantities, such stamps are proportionally more expensive. Facit catalogues each printing. Some of the printings were overprint I GILDI in 1902, however neither the total number of stamps overprinted nor the number of overprinted stamps in any printing is known. Consequently the number of 6 aur without overprint is unknown.

The characteristics and some comments on the five printings of 14x13½ and the two printings of 12¾ can be found below.

#### 6 aur perforated 14x13½.

##### 1st printing: Date/year: Aug. 1, 1876.

No. issued: 30,000 (I GILDI overprint known).

Color: Greyish-violet, ranging from a rather light to a vague, unclean, dark tone. Under a quartz lamp the color looks unclean, dark purple.

Paper: Thin (0.06-0.07 mm) and greyish colored.

Gum: Smooth and yellowish.

Print: Blurred and unclean.

Perforation: Comb perforated on K II.

Besides our own material, we have had the opportunity of going through the research collection of *Islandssamlarne* (a Swedish association of Iceland collectors). This material underlies the information about colors under the quartz lamp. Regarding prints and colors, primarily Kohl's handbook has been used.

A comparison shows that if a stamp has the characteristic blurred print and the greyish-violet color (most frequently rather dark) it is from the 1st printing. In our own and in the material of *Islandssamlarne* we have found two stamps, which were almost as clean-looking as 2nd printing, but with a dark greyish-violet color and showing the unclean dark purple tone under the

quartz lamp. Both stamps had cancels in Roman letters (used in the "period" of 1st printing). The majority of elements indicates 1st printing, and a likely conclusion seems to be that in the 1st printing there are exceptions from the blurred print.

We estimate the number of stamps as very close to 30,000, due to the result of Sir Athelstan Caroe's investigations. His conclusion is that 1st printing was overprinted I GILDI only through manipulation, i.e. private persons handing in a half or a whole sheet, which had one or more stamps from the first printing inserted. First printing with overprint exists therefore only in a very small number.

The most common cancels are the cancels in Roman letters and the early Reykjavik cancel in grotesque (date in Roman figures).

Proofs on thin paper are seen in brown or grey color.

**2nd printing: Date/year: 1883/84.**

No. issued: 50,000 (I GILDI overprint known).

Color: Grey. Clear purple under quartz lamp.

Paper: Thin (0.06-0.07 mm). Ivory-colored (from yellowish to brownish).

Gum: Smooth and yellowish.

Print: Clean and clear.

Perforation: Comb-perforated on K I and K II.

Considerations on the I GILDI overprint as for 1st printing.

Besides the cancels in Roman letters the later Grotesque cancels were now used (since 1882/83). Bridge-cancel and crown/posthorn cancels came into use in the early '90s, so if the 2nd printing is found with these cancellations, it is a matter of very late use.

**3rd printing: Date/year: 1886/87.**

No. issued: 50,000.

Color: Light grey.

Paper: Medium-thick (0.07-0.09 mm), ivory-colored or greyish, but lighter than the 2nd printing.

Gum: Less yellowish than 2nd printing, smooth and shiny.

Print: Clean and clear.

Perforation: Comb-perforated on K I and K II.

To the best of our knowledge this printing has not yet been found with I GILDI overprint. Facit 79/80 and Islenz Frimerki 1979 list this printing with I GILDI overprint, but not 4th printing.

Regarding cancellation see 2nd printing.

**4th printing: Date/year: 1891/92.**

No. issued: 100,000 (I GILDI overprint known).

Color: Dirty grey, varnish-like.

Paper: Medium-thick (0.07-0.09 mm), greyish.

Gum: Colorless.

Print: Unclean.

Perforation: Comb-perforated on K II and K III.

According to Caroe this printing is the only one which with certainty has been overprinted officially, i.e. in whole sheets.

The varnish-like look is easily seen when the stamp is held obliquely to the light. A number of shining spots are then seen. These, according to Kohl, are due to refractive crystals in the talcum powder used immediately after the printing to quicken the drying.

Ordinary cancels on this printing are Reykjavik bridge-cancellation, cancels in Roman or grotesque letters and crown/posthorn cancels.

5th printing: Date/year: 1895/96.

No. issued: 100,000.

Color: Greenish-grey.

Paper: Thick (0.09-0.10 mm).

Gum: White and very much crackled.

Print: Clean.

Perforation: Comb-perforation on K II and K III.

This printing is never seen with I GILDI overprint. The Reykjavik bridge-cancellation is the most frequent on this printing. As previously mentioned, the perforation varieties are found in this printing.

Printing 1 to 4 are known with inverted watermark, but it is not recorded in Facit for the 5th printing.

#### 6 aur perforated 12¾.

The 1st printing was issued in 1897, a total of 100,00. The color is dark grey.

The 2nd printing appeared in 1898 in 400,000 copies. The color is light grey. Both printings are on thick paper with white crackled gum. Inverted watermark is known in both printings.

Concerning cancellations, the remarks under 4th printing perf 14x12½ apply. The one-ring numeral cancellers were issued in June, 1903, and these cancels must be rejected since the 6 aur was not then current.

Only the 2nd printing was officially overprinted I GILDI, the total number not known but estimated to be rather high.

A reprint known as the "Bern Issue" was made in 1904. According to Facit, 104 copies without overprint I GILDI were issued. The color is yellowish-grey and the stamps have watermark New Crown.

#### Nomenclature of the varieties.

To describe the varieties properly the Iceland Study Group has worked out a nomenclature as shown in figs. 1 and 2. This nomenclature will be used for any value of the Oval issue.

As mentioned earlier, the printing plate consists of 25 dies (a quarter sheet), which generally is sufficient to describe the varieties. Determination of position in this quarter sheet is as seen in the diagram below.

1	2	3	4	5
11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25
31	32	33	34	35
41	42	43	44	45

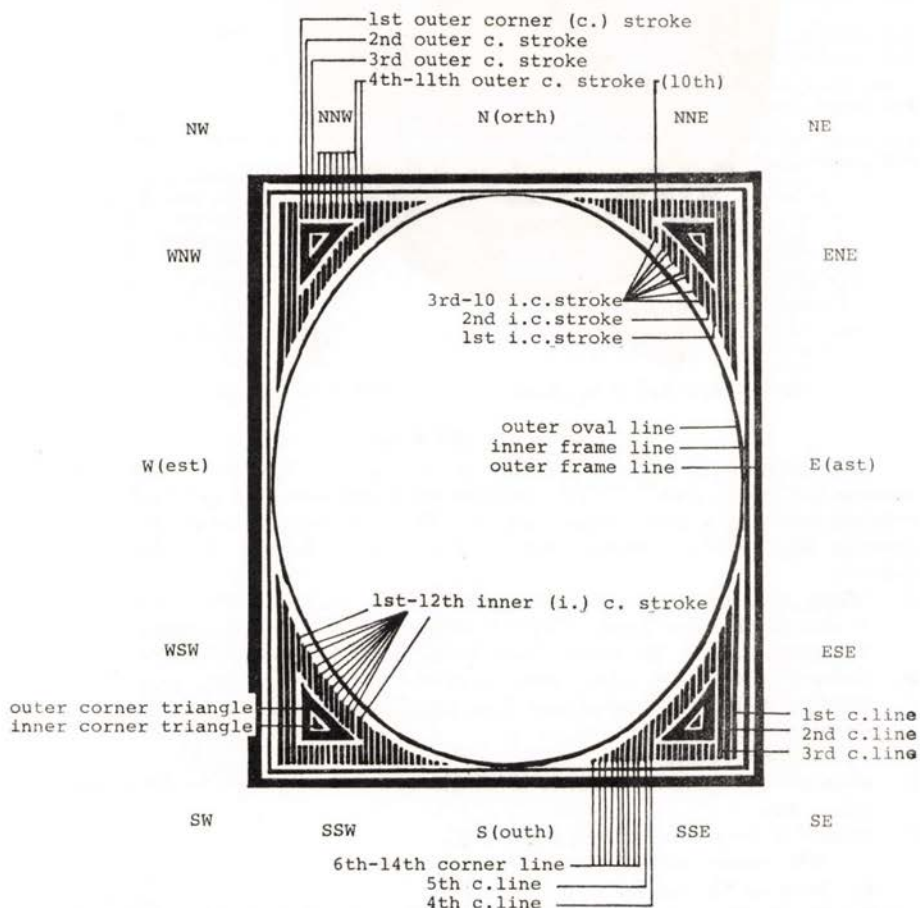
The varieties are of interest in two ways. At first they can be so distinctive that they by themselves are of interest to the collectors and perhaps ought to be listed in at least the more detailed catalogues. Secondly, they can be used in an attempt to reconstruct a whole sheet. For this latter purpose even small varieties are of interest though they may not be constant.

Furthermore the knowledge of the varieties makes it possible to decide if an overprinted stamp is "manipulated" or false and perhaps to which setting a certain I GILDI overprint belongs.

The distinctive varieties are marked with a capital letter. The smaller varieties are marked with small letters. If a variety has only been found once in a certain printing, it is marked with a double letter. E.g. a variety called "a" in 1st printing perf. 12¼ has been seen more than once in this printing. The same variety might be called "aa" in the 2nd printing, because it has been found only once there.

It would be very nice if some of our readers have any varieties marked with a double letter, and furthermore would be so kind as to inform the Group. At last we would like to end up with only single-lettered varieties! Information on position in the sheet of any variety is welcome too. The address of the Group can be found at the end of this article.

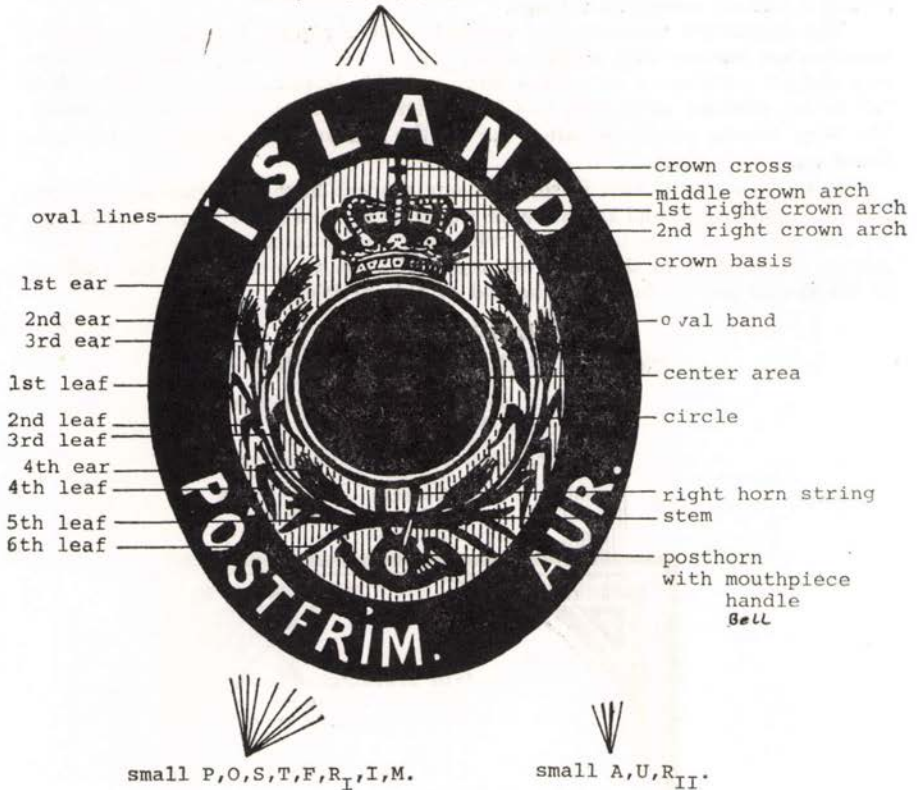
### THE OVAL ISSUE NOMENCLATURE I: THE FRAME



Corner lines and corner strokes, outer as well as inner, are further described by position (NE, SE, SW, NW).

## NOMENCLATURE II. THE OVAL

Large I,S,L,A,N,D.



## Varieties in the 6 aur.

Our analysis of varieties started in the 2nd printing perf. 12%. This because full sheets with I GILDI overprint are easily obtained and further this printing exists in a rather large number. The varieties are shown in the diagram in fig. 3 and are marked with capital or small letters. The description follows:

- A: White spot before P in the oval band. White line between this spot and P also in the oval band. Dent in ESE outer frame line. Some cuts in SW corner area. Broken S outer frame line. SE corner cut off.
- B: Colored spot in oval lines below large N. Dent in E outer frame line.
- C: Small dent in SSE outer frame line and a rather large spot, whitish and diffuse, after large D.
- D: NE and SE corner cut.
- E: Distinct right-angled incision in NE corner. Small dent in ESE outer frame line.
- F: Dented S outer frame line below FRI.
  - a: NW corner slightly rounded.
  - b: Dent in SE corner.
  - c: Small incision in NNW outer frame line. Dent in WNE outer frame line. Very small dent in S outer frame line below F.

Diagram, 6 aur, grá, 2. tryk, 12¾

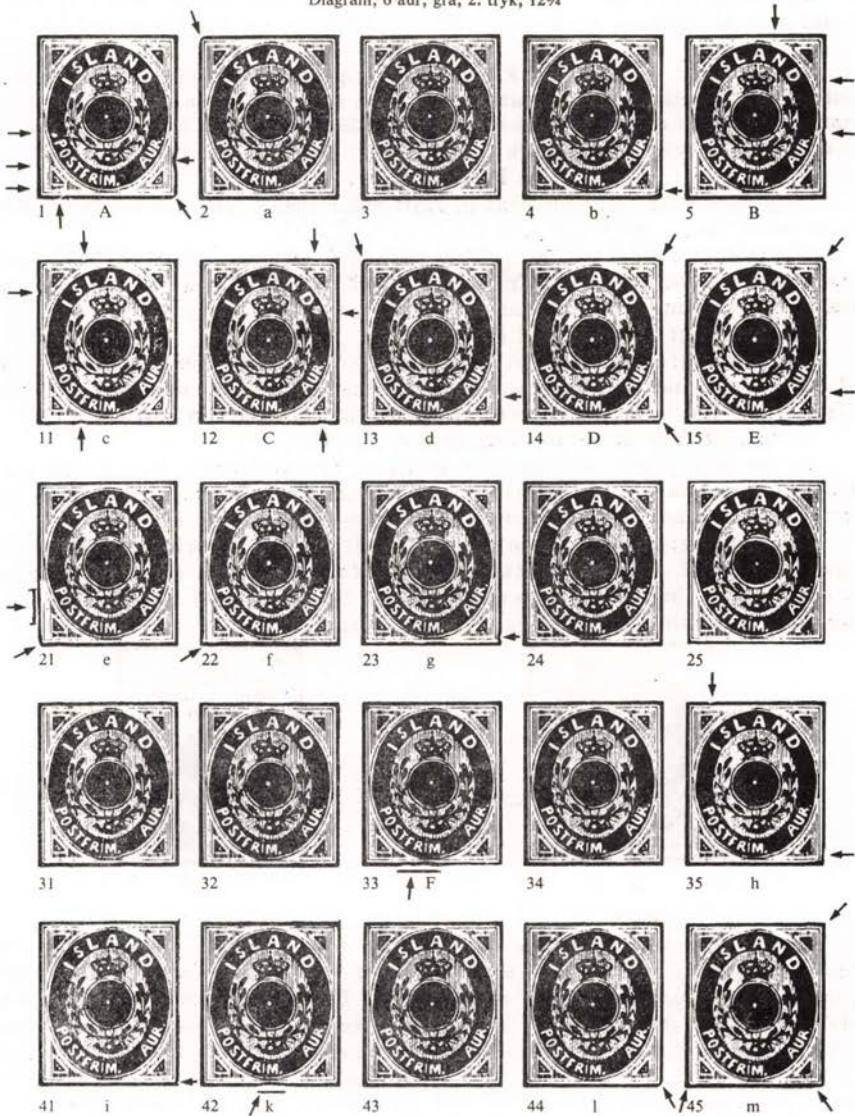


Fig. 3

d: Rounded NW corner. Incision on inside of ESE outer frame line.

e: WSW outer frame line a little thinned. SW corner rounded.

f: Thin SSE outer frame line.

g: Dent in SE corner. Thinner S outer frame line than "b."

i: Small half-round dent in SE corner.

k: Long flat dent in S outer frame line below IM and thinner E outer frame line than normal (thinner than on diagram).

l: Rounded SE corner.

m: Inside of corners thinned in NE, SE, and SW.

Variety C (stamp no. 12) has double N outer frame line (rising space).

In two out of three sheets stamp no. 62 shows a small stroke above N outer frame line at right.

**Perf. 12¾:**

1st printing: A, B, C, E, F, cc and qq (qq: southern part of SE corner flattened). Positions are still unknown. F is seen in a strip of three as third stamp. The two others look like no. 31 and 32 in 2nd pr. In the strip, position 31 lacks part of watermark crown, which indicates the first vertical row.

**Perf. 14x13½:**

1st printing: A (without dent in ESE outer frame line); B (without dent in E outer frame line) and i.

2nd printing: A, C (without rising space); G (cf. fig. 4, dent in ESE outer frame line and in SSE outer frame line) and nn (small dent in WNW outer frame line starting 3.6 mm from NW corner, the dent being 1.5 mm long).

3rd printing: A, D, E and F.

4th printing: A, B, C, E, F, G, c, k, q, ee, ll, mm, oo (small dent on west of SW corner and dent in S outer frame line below M); pp (broken NNW outer frame line near the corner and WNW inner frame line split).

A strip of four shows the varieties: c, ,, g, F.

In the above four printings the positions are unknown. Due to the perforation errors in the 5th printing, we know a little more about positions because we can place the varieties in the vertical rows of the sheet.

5th printing: In addition to the previously described varieties, three more have been found. Variety rr (thin N outer frame line and small thinning of E outer frame line near SE corner); ss (cut SE corner and rounded SW corner) and H (with "twisted S outer frame line, fig. 5).



G

Fig. 4



H

Fig. 5

In the diagram below, the varieties are placed in the vertical rows. It has been possible to determine the position of some stamps without distinctive appearance. These have been marked "-". The perforation errors "C" and "D" appear as shown earlier in two rows each. This means that a stamp with a certain die variety found with perforation error "C" must be placed in both 8th (and 3rd) and 5th (and 10th) vertical row. In the diagram varieties with perforation errors "C" and "D" have a question mark added.

1st vert. row	2nd vert. row	3rd vert. row	4th vert. row	5th vert. row
ff	B	H	E	A
	c	hh	F	q
	g		k	
	-		i	
			-	
11?	11?	C?		C?
mm?	mm?	G?		G?
ss?	SS?	bb?		bb?
-?		e?		e?
		rr?		rr?
		-?		-?



Variety "c" has been found without perforation error but this stamp has been perforated with machine K III.

Variety "e" has been seen four times in 5th printing, however none of them with the rounded corner.

#### Reprint 1904:

A block of four (no. 1, 2, 11, 12) of the Bern reprint without I GILDI overprint has been examined and found without varieties. A block of four with I GILDI overprint (no. 41, 42, 51, 52) shows varieties bb on pos. 41 and B on pos. 42.

#### Literature:

Carøe, E. A. G. : ICELAND, The 1902-03 overprints, London Philatelist, (1942) Vol. 51 : 609-612 and Vol. 68 : 804 (1959).

Jonsson, J. A. : One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps.

Munk, Herbert : Kohl's Handbuch: ISLAND.

Nielsen, Lasse : Takningen på Danmarks, Dansk Vestindiens og Islands frimærker fra 1870 til 1895.

Nordisk Philatelistisk Tidsskrift no. 1, 1979.

Østergaard, F. : Islands portosatser fra 1876.

Nordisk Philatelistisk Tidsskrift no. 2, 1978.

The Iceland-Studygroup: Ebbe Eldrup, Leif Fuglsig, T. C. Jensen, Torben Jensen, Jørgen Johansson, Walther Fenger Lassen, Orla Nielsen, Eigil Rasmussen, Ib Schock, Ole Svinth, and Folmer Østergaard. Any mail to: Ebbe Eldrup, Skt. Kjelds Gade 23, 4. tv., DK-2100 København, Denmark.

## 31 Different Catalogs On Scandinavia!

Our offer in the May Posthorn is extended up to December 31, 1979. All catalogs (except 19) are in stock now. Airmail rates on request. Besides these we have in stock over 150 titles of available philatelic literature on Scandinavia nowadays. Ask for price-list, for airmail add 1 International Reply Coupon.

### SCANDINAVIAN INTERNATIONAL PHILATELY

— Your look-out on Scandinavia —

P. O. Box 8042, 3009 AA Rotterdam/Holland

## SCANDINAVIA

Postal auctions for collectors and investors, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Auctions held every 2-3 months. Send for regular catalogues free.

We also buy for cash: Classical quality items. Mainly from Scandinavia.

### Scania-Frimarken

P. O. Box 13029 — S-200 44 Malmö

Telephone: Sweden 040-975990

Members of OFF

## Finland

An example of the dangerous forgeries that can be cheaply and easily made from genuine postal stationery

By Ed Fraser, #54



Figure 1

Genuine — Mint 32 Penni Copenhagen Issue

### THE 1875 COPENHAGEN 32 PENNI

This famous classic stamp has been and can still be forged using the identical 32 penni design of the postal stationery entires which used nearly identical paper (Figure 5). The stationery is cheap and somewhat plentiful in unused condition.

### History of the Original 14x13½ Stamp:

This 32 penni issue was printed in Copenhagen by H. H. Thiele before the printing blocks were delivered to Helsinki (Note 1.) Thiele also made the contemporary Danish stamps, so Danish stamps of the period are common with the same style of 14x13½ gauge comb perforation and perf hole size (Note 2.) (See figures 1 and 4).



Figure 2

Forgery of a Mint 32 Penni Copenhagen Printing

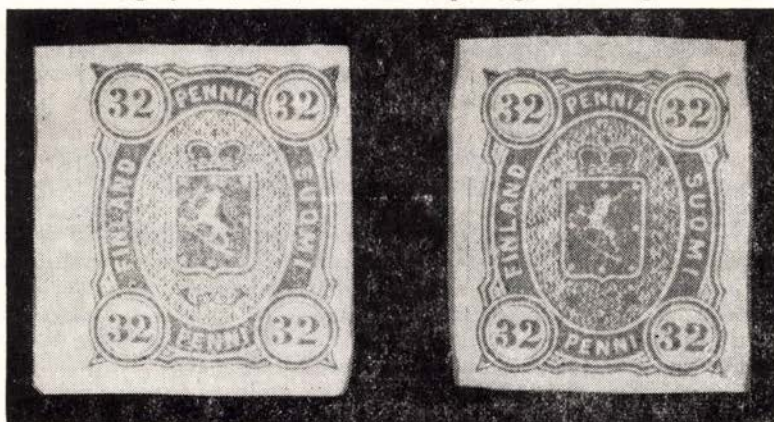


Figure 3

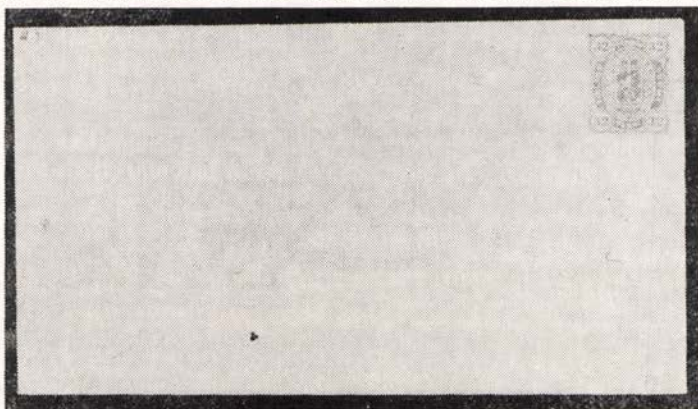
Stationery Cut Squares

Shades and inking of the details of the design appear to vary considerably.



**Figure 4** Three Genuine Used Stamps

Note that the last vertical perfs at the bottom of these stamps are not as sharp as the other perfs. The "comb" only perforated these on the sides and the top simultaneously. The bottom was perforated in the same operation that perfed the top and sides of the stamp below this one in the sheet. (See my article on perforations in the August, 1979 POSTHORN.) (See note 4.)



**Figure 5** The 32 Penni Stationery Entire

The 32 penni stamp was meant for foreign letters from July 1, 1875, and technically was valid until 1901. However, beginning on August 6, 1875, any depleted supplies of the perf 14x13½ issue were automatically replaced with the Helsinki printed (Note 3) 32 penni perf 11. Note that the need for the 32 penni stamps virtually ended in May, 1879, when the foreign mail rate dropped from 32 to 25 penni.

#### **The Cut Square Problem:**

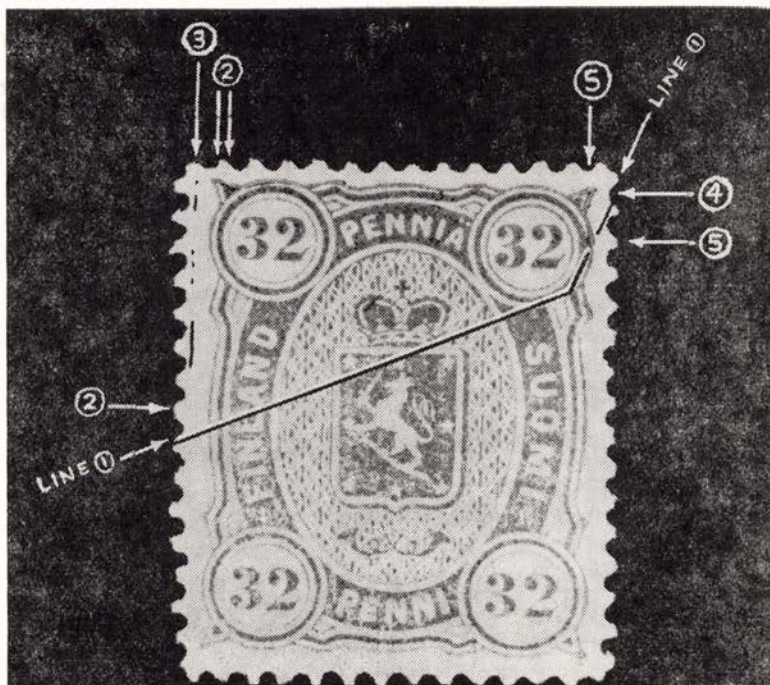
It is a simple matter to gum the paper behind the stamp impression and then perforate it. This is far easier than finding an oversized perf 11 stamp and re-perforating it, or using some method of photography and completely reproducing the stamp. In photos from auction catalogs of major auction houses in the past year I have seen several (that I have not personally examined) that may well be perforated cut squares (they had the characteristics of figure 6).

While the forgeries I have seen have all been "mint," it would not be difficult to forge a cork, ANK, Stockholm, or ordinary town cancel and pass a perfed cut square off among the more frequently seen used copies that regularly appear at auction. At least, because of its scarcity, a mint Copenhagen 32 penni really attracts attention and is likely to be submitted to be expertized.

**Comparison of the Original and the Perf Forgery:**

Characteristic of:	ORIGINAL (Figure 1)	FORGERY (Figure 2) (Also Figure 6)
Perforation:	Comb Perforation	Probably line perforation, but may resemble comb perf style
Hole count between corners:	13 holes by 15 holes	13 holes by 15 holes, typically
Perf Style:	Especially "sharp" nerfs (due to large perf holes)	Generally normal-looking perfs (hole size too small)
Direction of "Step":	I observed only comb teeth directed downward toward bottom of sheet (Note 4)	No apparent step observed
Perf. Gauge:	14 x 13½	14 x 13½
Paper:	Thin, unwatermarked, wove type	Thin, unwatermarked, wove type (Note 5)
Printing Process:	Typography	Typography (Also Litho- graphy possible if made from reprint)
Impression Thru Paper:	No	Typography: Yes (Lithography: No)
Sheet Size:	50 (10 x 5) (Note 6)	Single stamps only
Adjacent Stamp:	Could be visible if poorly centered	Not possible
Centering:	Noted for very often be- ing slightly off center	Noted for being well centered

Printing Characteristic Differences: Indicated on the forgery shown in fig. 6.



**Figure 6** Another apparent perfed Stationery Cut Square

The perforations are even less precise than those of the forgery in Fig. 2. Some of the distinctive design differences of the stationery cut square are:

1. Along this line and about 1/32 inch wide, some underinking of the design is evident. This is where the paper thickness changes from 3 layers to 2 layers. The exact height of this line varies very slightly depending on where the folds and seams of the envelope are. I have drawn the line across the stamp here. This line corresponds to the flap edge in Figure 7.
2. Where the cliché prints on 3 layers above line 1, some of the vertical lines are clearly thicker (under 10x magnification) than the same line immediately below line 1 where it is printed on only 2 layers, and where the cliché was therefore under less pressure.
3. All (typographed) stationery I've seen shows some inking at the left edge of the cliché. I have not seen inked edges of the cliché appearing on a genuine 14x13½. It is not even very common on the 32 penni perf 11 stamps.
4. The outer frameline surrounding the stamp could be described as looking like a virtually continuous piece of fine thread, whereas the cut square frameline is not. It is irregularly worn and/or inked, with irregular thickness, graininess, and breaks.
5. Where the 2 layer-3 layer edge (line 1) is close to parallel or tangential to the design lines, slight overinking is especially likely. This has occurred here between the upper right outer circular rings. Note this has occurred in all of the cut squares—figures 2, 3, and 5!

#### N.B.

The 32 penni stationery and perf 12½ REPRINTS of the 1890's can be identified by a color difference, as well as being printed by lithography instead of typography. On this lithographed stationery it is usually not apparent that there is a slight 2 layer-3 layer color separation line across the stamp. Also there is no impression by the cliché into the paper, like that shown in figure 7. Perhaps because they are somewhat scarcer, and do look different from the Copenhagen 32 penni, I have not seen a reprint with forged perfs. Has any reader?

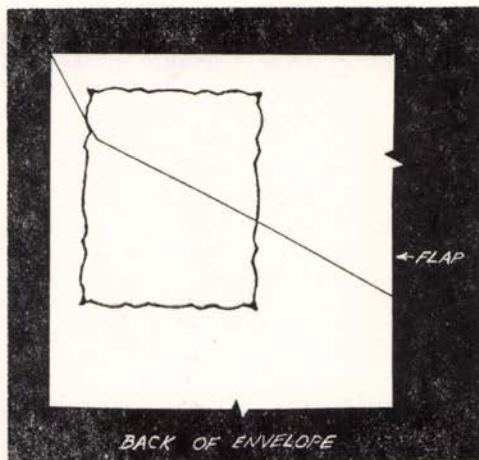


Figure 7

"Embossed" outline of cliché pressed thru and visible on back of envelope

### Commentary:

As is already done in some specialized catalogs of other countries, Scandinavian catalogs should add a note below each stamp where a postal stationery cut square exists. It will caution the non-stationery collector to check the stamp, or a supposed imperforate variety, further as well as alerting him to cut square material that may be offered as reprints, specimens, essays, proofs, etc., at inflated prices.

### This is not a problem unique to Finland:

This past Summer I heard about some non-Scandinavian material that finally went at auction at a high enough price that the buyer submitted them to a famous expertizer only to find out immediately that they were not newly-discovered rare proofs, but only perforated cut squares. They had been sold and re-sold at ever higher prices within the past two years by several successive, widely dispersed auction houses before being "found out." They were especially deceptive because they were ostensibly corner margin copies and were from a very famous collection containing many other genuine proofs!

### Footnotes:

1. The printing blocks arrived in Helsinki on July 24, 1875.
2. Denmark actually used several 14x13½ gauge comb perforators on its own stamps during the late 19th century. As these perforators produced slightly different-appearing perforations, all Danish 14x13½ stamps are not identical. This is most conspicuous in the different perf hole sizes seen. I could not locate exact information on the periods of availability of the different 14x13½ Danish perforators. Does any reader have exact specifics or know if the information is available?
3. The Imperial Senate's Printing Works printed this issue in Helsinki in sheets of 50 from the Thiele clichés.
4. Can any reader report seeing copies where the comb was going in the opposite direction and each "step" perfed the 2 vertical sides and the bottom simultaneously?
5. There are apparently subtle paper differences that are beyond the summary type discussion here. These differences enable one to differentiate cut squares from genuine 14x13½ stamps. As I am not sure to what extent paper can be treated or modified and I have never come across a written explanation of the differences, I am not prepared to give a good presentation of this aspect at this time. (Basically these differences are such that a genuine will not be mistaken for a cut square, but perhaps a cut square could pass as genuine.)
6. H. H. Thiele in Copenhagen had only about 50 clichés to use. Does any reader know if the same cliché or clichés were used for the stationery as had been used for the regular stamps? Also does any reader have information about the full sheet of the Copenhagen printing and information for plating?

(This is part of a continuing series on forgeries to appear in the POSTHORN. The New York Chapter is working on forgery studies of all Scandinavian material and eagerly solicits readers' additional comments, suggestions, and questions. Ed Fraser, P. O. Box 1052, Wall Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10005.)

## SCC Annual Meeting Successful At SEPAD

SCC had a busy weekend October 5-7 at Philadelphia's annual SEPAD show. John D. Peterson, who took the Grand Award last year at SEPAD, won a SEPAD silver medal this year, plus the UPSS Marcus White Certificate and the SCC First Award, for his showing of "Fifty Years of Swedish Postal Stationery, 1897-1947." Richard A. Julian took a SEPAD bronze, with the SCC Second Award for his "Greenland Discontinued Post Offices." Alan Warren also won a SEPAD bronze, SCC's Third Award, and the American First Day Cover Society Certificate. Several SCC members who had intended to exhibit at SEPAD learned too late that frames were sold out early in July.

On October 6th, the SCC Executive Committee and a number of SCC Board members met to act on a variety of Club business items. Volume I of Vic Engstrom's long-awaited Danish West Indies Handbook is now at the printers, and details on availability will be announced in the POSTHORN. Vic plans to produce a total of four volumes. Don Halpern is making some exciting plans for group fares to NORWEX 80 next June, and a mailing is planned for December to poll interest of SCC members.

The Executive Committee accepted the invitation from NOJEX via SCC Chapter 9 to hold its annual convention at NOJEX in 1981. In addition to the annual SCC meeting at MEMPHEx in September 1980, SCC regional meetings next year are planned in Oslo in June and in Boston in August. SCC will become an organizational member of the new Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation. The Foundation has 125 members, is quite solvent, and plans are underway for translation activities, development of a Forgery Committee, and other research and educational projects.

Highlight of the SCC weekend in Philadelphia was the annual general membership meeting, attended by over thirty Scandinavian collecting enthusiasts. A slide presentation was given, courtesy of Delaware Chapter 13's members John Siverts, Bob Lipscomb and Russ Mascieri. The subject was "Classic Early Covers of Sweden," and a number of SCC members in the audience, including John Peterson, Eric Kindquist, Don Halpern and Wayne Rindone, provided additional insight into the material being shown.

—Alan Warren

\* S \* C \* C \*

### PROGRESS TOWARD THE HANDBOOK OF ICELAND POSTAL MARKINGS

Wayne C. Sommer

The Iceland Philatelic Study Committee is progressing steadily in its preparation of a manuscript of the Handbook of Iceland Postal Markings. Collaboration between collectors in Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and the United States is established. Correspondence as well as personal consultation is being conducted.

At a recent meeting in Connecticut, the current status of chapters on the manuscript and other early types of cancellations was reviewed. In April, and again in June, members of the Committee conferred in Iceland with several well-known collectors there.

A cordial invitation is extended to readers of the Posthorn who may wish to participate by contributing photographs or photocopies of pertinent material to write for detailed lists of needed illustrations for the Handbook.

Chairman of the Iceland Philatelic Study Committee is Wayne C. Sommer, 710 Roeder Road, 1206, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, to whom inquiries should be addressed.



## Iceland, A Bibliography

Philatelic Books and Articles In the English Language

By Lester Winick

This is a continuation and addenda to the Posthorn Supplement of August, 1978. It is hoped that this bibliography will be useful to students of Icelandic philately so that past research articles are immediately known. Perhaps it will inspire similar works to appear for the balance of Scandinavia.

The three listings in the Supplement by George and Thora Sickels are translated from *Handbok um Islenzk Frimerki*.

Copies of the listed publications are available from the American Philatelic Research Library, P. O. Box 338, State College, PA 16801.

Copies of the Posthorn Supplement are available from Fred Bloedow, 810 Dobson Street, #1-A, Evanston, IL 60202 for \$2.00, postpaid.

- Adderley, J., "Icelandic Memories," *SCC*, 9/98 (Sept. 1977), pp. 40-41. (Memories of visit to Eldgia and Saebol.)
- Albrektsen, V., "Danish Cancellations on Early Iceland Stamps," *SCC*, 9/99 (Dec. 1977), p. 55. (Report on canceller numbers 236, 237 and 326.)
- Allen, C. N., "Here's Your Answer" (column), *S*, 180/May 13, 1978, p. 422. (Question asks why bid of 18 kr for a 250-gram kiloware lot was not accepted. Follow-up in issue of June 17, 1978 (p. 778) states that rates were figured incorrectly and bid a very low figure.)
- "A P O Cancels from Iceland and Greenland Good Profit Builders," *Stamp Wholesaler*, 43/874 (June 22, 1979), p. 24. (General article on value of APO covers.)
- Arch, Bradley, "Iceland Varieties," *SS*, 2/12 (Nov. 17, 1966), p. 223. (Right-hand side of Scott 144-48 with indentation.)
- Arnholtz, Svend, "Danish Cancellations," *SN*, No. 14 (June 15, 1953), p. 3. (Lengthy article: "On Feb. 21, 1870 a post office was opened in Reykjavik and Seydisfjord. In addition, an office was opened in Berufjord in 1872.")
- Baker, James A., "Iceland Variety," *PH*, 36/3 (Aug. 1979), p. 128. (Description of 10 aurar numeral with a break in the left frame.)
- Beskow, Bernhard, "News From Here and There," *LU*, 10/4 (April 1978), p. 6. (Report of cancel "American Base Forces A.P.O. 810—Registered" in lilac, dated November 6, 1941.)
- Caroe, Sir Athelstan, "Iceland's Crown and Posthorn," *SCC*, 9/97 (June 1977), pp. 16-18. (Additional information to Mr. Runeborg's article, "The Postmarks of Iceland.")
- Cass, G. G., "Foreign Port of Arrival Markings and Transit Marks on Icelandic Material," *SCC*, 9/97 (June 1977), p. 13. (Update on previous listing.)
- , idem, *PH*, 35/2 (May 1978), pp. 29-32. (15 less common paquebot markings.)
- , "Icelandic Paquebot Mail," *PH*, 36/1 (Feb. 1978), pp. 21-24. (Illustrations of four rare markings.)
- Collin, Ronald B., "What Happened in Hraungerdi on November 5th?" *PH*, 36/3 (August 1979), pp. 118-120. (Study of "Prir" stamps canceled on same day and offered in various auctions.)
- Connor, Edward C., "Iceland," *Scott's Monthly Stamp Journal*, Feb., 1964, pp. 349-351, 354-358. (Philatelic history of Iceland.)
- Cutress, George P., "Paquebot and Seapost," *SN*, No. 14 (June 15, 1953), p. 2. (Illustration of a 1951 "skipsbrief" cover.)

- Daniels, V., "Fra Island," SCC, 9/4 (March 1978), pp. 79-83. (Beginning of a new series on Icelandic philately. Discussion of "rebuts," pen-marking offices and literature.)
- , idem. SCC, 9/7 (Dec. 1978), p. 161. (Story of Facit No. 255.)
- , "Stamps of Denmark, Iceland and Norway—the Earlier Issues," SCC, 8/9 (June 1976), pp. 154-149. (Well-illustrated and detailed review of the Ernest Wise book.)
- Debo, Arno, "I Gildi Forgeries," PH, 354 (Nov. 1978), pp. 131-133. (Well-illustrated article on forgeries.)
- DuBois, Robert J., "Tourism Issue from Iceland Prompts 'Stones on Stamps' Topical Collection," LSN, 51/52 (Dec. 25, 1978), p. 25. (Topical philately.)
- Engstrom, Victor E., "Check List of Iceland Revenue Cancellations," SS, 1/7 (June 17, 1965), p.150. (List of 78 stamps with Scott numbers found with the "Tollur" cancel.)
- Evans, E. B., "Philatelic Notes and Queries," Gibbons Stamp Weekly, 8/9 (Aug. 29, 1908), p. 42. (Bank notes, when cashed in post offices, are post-marked.)
- Foreign Stamps**, (J. and H. Stolow, Inc., N. Y.) 1978 edition, part 1, 108 pp. Wholesale list of stamps from Abu Dhabi to Ireland by Scott numbers.
- "For Sale at Gimbels," PH, 35/1 (Feb. 1978), pp. 16-17. (Details of two issues of the 2 kr World's Fair issue.)
- Glasgow, Eric, "It is Not all Ice in Iceland," PM, 72/24 (Nov. 27, 1964), pp. 816-7. (History of Iceland with emphasis on philatelic background.)
- Hahn, Calvert M., "Letters Column," ICE, 24/4 (July-Aug. 1978), p. 160. (Reasons why Iceland should be included in Arctic/Antarctic collections.)
- Held, Larry, "My Favorite Iceland Cover," PH, 36/2 (May 1979), p. 88. (Illustrated "Returned to Sender" cover addressed to Defense Forces.)
- The Historical Air Mail Catalogue**, (K. Lissiuk Philatelic Co., New York) 1929 167 pp. (Paragraph describing Iceland's entry into aviation with illustration of the overprint.)
- "History of Postage Rates of Iceland," IPJ, 5/1 (Jan.-Feb. 1979), p. 7. (Valuable listing of basic postage rates for past 100 years.)
- Hosking, Roger, "Icelandic Paquebot Mail," PH, 35/4 (Nov. 1978), pp. 122-125. (Basic explanation of paquebot marking on Icelandic stamps.)
- , **Paquebot Cancellations of the World**, (R. Hosking, Surrey, England, 1977) 190 pp. (A comprehensive listing including the ports of Hafnarfjorður and Reykjavik.)
- Howell, D. D., "The Adventure of Philatelic Clues," WCC, 18/2 (Dec. 1977-Jan. 1978) pp. 11-12. (Photo and story of a postcard dated Dec. 20, 1941 from U.S.S. Vulcan. Originally published in *North Jersey Philatelist*.)
- "The Iceland Snorri Stamps," IPJ, 4/2, p. 1. (Reprint of original leaflet which accompanied the 1941 issue.)
- "Iceland to Commemorate Domestic Flight Anniversary," LSN, 51/25 June 19, 1978, p. 20. (Description of pioneer flights in connection with the new issue of June 21, 1978.)
- "Iceland Seals," Seal News, No. 325 (April 1979), p. 6. (Listing of 1978 seals including Akureyri, Rotary, Hafnarfjorður and Skata Jol.)
- "Iceland Variety," PH, 36/2 (May 1979), p. 93. (Break in left frame line of 10 aurar value, perf. 12¾.)
- "Independent Faroese Post Office," SCC, 9/98 (Sept. 1977), p. 39. (Effective April 1, 1976, "FRA" was changed to "UR" on ship letters.)
- Johnson, Eric E., "Faroese Ship Mail Postmarks," ICE, 24/4 (July-Aug. 1979) pp. 168-169. (Passenger ship "M/S Smyril" has weekly departures from

- Seydisfjordur. Paquebot marks are illustrated.)
- Jonsson, Jon A., *One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps 1873-1973*, (Post and Telecommunications Administration, Reykjavik, 1977) 471 pp. (The official book illustrating all stamps, correct usage and history. In two versions, English and Icelandic.)
- Kummer, F. W., *Handbook of Zeppelin Letters and Postal Cards 1911-1931*, (I. Gomez Sanchez, New York, 1931) 100 pp. (Detailed listing with all rates of all flights.)
- Lanspeary, Philip J., *The World of Birds on Stamps*, (Harry Hayes, West Yorkshire, England, 1975) 328 pp. (Icelandic issues on pp. 254-5.)
- Last, Barbara, "Volcanoes of the Atlantic," *SC*, 132/3 (Dec. 7, 1968) pp. 325-327, 343. (History of violent volcanic action of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.)
- LeBlanc, Barbara, "A Cancellation for Conversation," *PH*, 35/2 (May 1978), p. 35. (Seydisfjordur cancel illustrated and discussed.)
- , "Another Oddity," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb. 1978) p. 5. (10/54 upside down on Seydisfjordur cancellation.)
- , "Iceland Notes," *PH*, 35/2 (May 1978), p. 50. (Report on progress of "Handbook of Icelandic Postal Markings" and S. Thorsteinsson, new prices for expertization.)
- , "Iceland Variety," *PH*, 35/1 (Feb. 1978), p. 15. (40 aur "Two Kings" perf. 13 illustrated with a 1 mm-long clear area radiating from the base of the forward bust.)
- , "Want List," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb. 1978), p. 8. (Two illustrations of lapidary numerals in Antiqua cancellers.)
- , "What or Who is ETA?," *PH*, 35/1 (Feb. 1978), p. 19. ("ETA" overprint on three Icelandic issues.)
- Loe, David, "Return Labels," *SCC*, 9/7 (Dec. 1978), p. 161. (Description of a green label with 4 legends, "not known," "unsatisfactory address," "change address," and "wrong house number.")
- Luning, Orjan, *The History of Airmail in Scandinavia*, (Stockholm, 1978), 351 pp. (Illustrates all known Icelandic air mail covers. Pages 329-333 are a priced airmail cover catalog. In Swedish and English.)
- Marsden, P. S. S. F., "Postal Traffic in Scandinavia," *SCC*, 9/98 (Sept., 1977), pp. 32-34. (Volume of mail for the two-year period 1973-1974.)
- Mascieri, Russell, "Iceland 1873 Sixteen Skilling Sperati Forgery," *PH*, 35/4 (Nov., 1978), pp. 120-121. (Detailed information of the famed forger's work.)
- "New Icelandic Coins Revealed: Currency Reform Likely," *IPJ*, 43 (May-June, 1978), pp. 4-5. (Five proposed new coin designs.)
- Norgaard, Max, "Icelandic Postmarks," *IPJ*, 3/5 (Sept.-Oct., 1977), pp. 1-12 and 3/6, pp. 1-16. (Definitive article on history of Icelandic postmarks and offices. Originally appeared in *Nordisk Filatelisk Tidsskrift*. Trans. by B. Whipple.)
- Ostergaard, Folmer, "Icelandic Manuscript Cancellations," (unknown). (Definitive article on recorded use and history of manuscript cancels.)
- "Paquebot Markings," *LU*, 114 (April, 1979), p. 6. New port (1977) of Akureyri illustrated.)
- Poole, Bertram W. and J. Murray Bartels, *United States Virgin Islands, Formerly the Danish West Indies*, (1917). (Postage due section refers to Iceland. See *LUREN*, 11/6 (June, 1979), p. 1.)
- "The President's Evening," *SCC*, 9/9 (June, 1979), pp. 208-9. (Capt. Chris Jahr gave a talk and showed part of his Iceland collection.)
- Reboh, Rene, "What or Who is ETA?," *PH*, 352 (May, 1978), p. 51. (Swedish

- stamps with same marking leads to conclusion that they are initials of a collector who sought to identify his stamps.)
- Ross, John F., *A History of Telecommunications on Stamps*, (Harry Hayes, West Yorkshire, England, 1976) 520 pp. (Vol. 2, pp. 340-41 relate the history of telegraph and telephone service to Iceland.)
- Sargent, Roger, "Iceland 1904 Seal," *Seal News*, No. 321 (Dec., 1978), p. 3. (Requests for copies of this rare seal for study purposes.)
- Sefi, Alexander, "The Post in Iceland," *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Dec., 1928, pp. 244-6. (Facts and figures on Iceland's postal history.)
- Sickels, George W., "A Dollar's Worth of Entertainment," *PH*, 35/4 (Nov., 1978), pp. 129-130. (Research in indistinct Crown and Posthorn cancels.)
- , "From Stamps to Postal History," *North Jersey Philatelist*, 15/7 (March, 1977), pp. 111-113 also *WCC* 18/2 (Dec., 1977), pp. 13-14. (How a collector became a military history specialist.)
- , "Icelandic Slogan Cancels," *North Jersey Philatelist*, 16/1 (Sept., 1977), pp. 2-4; 16/2, pp. 24-25; and 16/3, pp. 44-45. (Illustrated story on slogan cancels.)
- , "Notes on Icelandic Vixil," *IPJ*, 4/6 (Nov.-Dec., 1978), p. 8. (Stimpilmerki used as an equivalent for a promissory note.)
- Sommer, Wayne C., "Book Review," *PH*, 35/3 (Aug., 1978), pp. 77-78. (Detailed review of *One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps 1873-1973*.)
- , "The Mystery of the Danish Three-Ring Cancellation 236," *PH*, 35/3 (August, 1978), pp. 57-60. (Background of canceller 236 as used in Iceland.)
- Starkweather, Albert W., "Across the Ocean by Helicopter," *APJ*, 49/11 (August, 1978), pp. 352-55, 373. (May, 1965 flight from Montreal to London with a stop in Iceland. 30 covers carried.)
- Thormar, Sigurdur and Tore Runeborg, "An Old Mystery Solved," *PH*, 36/1 (Feb., 1979), pp. 9-12. (Three-ring numeral canceller 236 was used at Flaga letter collecting office in 1931-1936.)
- Thorsteinsson, Sigurdur H., "Bottle Mail from Vestmannaeyjar," *PH*, 36/1 (Feb., 1979), pp. 1-2. (Mail via bottles during the latter half of the 19th century.)
- , "Danish Colonies Exhibition," *PH*, 36/1 (Feb., 1979), p. 12. (Illustration of cancellation in Copenhagen's Tivoli in 1905.)
- , "Day of Issue, Day of Publication," *PH*, 36/3 (Aug., 1979), pp. 121-123. (Research shows that the first aurar stamps in Iceland were issued on August 1, 1876.)
- , "The Icelandic 'Orlof' Overprints," *SS*, 2/12 (Nov. 17, 1966), pp. 231-2. (Historical background of the overprint.)
- , "Icelandic 'proof sheets,'" *LU*, 9/4 (April, 1977), p. 3. (Comment on the Von Uexkull "proof".)
- , "The Jubilee Cancellation," *PH*, 36/1 (Feb., 1979), p. 21. (Definitive proof that two canceling devices existed.)
- , "A Review," *PH*, 35/2 (May, 1978), pp. 33-5. (Detailed critical review of Icelandic P.T.T. book.)
- , "Where was '236' three-ring used in the 30's?" *PH*, 35/2 (May, 1978), p. 49. (Description of the usage of the 236 number.)
- Turner, George, "The Ottmar Zieher Stamp Postcards," *AP*, 93/11 (Nov., 1978) pp. 1066-71, 1101. (Illustrated history of the famous card series.)
- Van Uexkull, Jakob, "Von Uexkull Writes," *LU*, 10/6 (June, 1978), pp. 1, 3-5. (Continuation of discussion on Icelandic proof reprints.)
- Watson, James, "Iceland's Stamp Centenary," *STM*, 3/12 (May, 1973), pp. 1-4.

(Special color supplement with beautiful illustrations.)

- Whipple, Bryan R. R., "Attending a Stamp Auction in Iceland," *IPJ*, 5/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1979), p. 2. (Interesting point of view by an American attending the National Collector's Club auction.)
- , "Auction Firm in Iceland," *IPJ*, 4/2 (Mar.-Apr., 1978), p. 3. (Description of a new auction firm in Iceland.)
- , "Berufjord Postmarks Turning Up," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1978), pp. 3-4. (Old Danish canceller used on I Gildi stamps.)
- , "Catalog Numbering Concordance Update," *IPJ*, 5/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1979), p. 4. (Continuation of the cross-reference listing from the Feb. 1976 issue.)
- , "Devaluation of Icelandic Krona," *IPJ*, 4/3 (May-June, 1978), p. 1. (15% devaluation announced as of Sept. 15, 1978.)
- , "Foreign Postmarks on Icelandic Stamps," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1978), p. 4. (Four new reported cancels are described.)
- , "Hofos Bisect," *IPJ*, 4/2 (Mar.-Apr., 1978), p. 6. (Illustration and description of Facit No. 135, 1922 Christian X 20 aur postmarked Hofos.)
- , "Infolfur Arnarson," *IPJ*, 4/5 (Sept.-Oct., 1978), pp. 1-3. (Story of the first Norse colonization of Iceland.)
- , "Kiloware Announcement and Economics," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1978), p. 1. (Analysis of past kiloware contents, new offering, and suggested bids.)
- , "Linn's Trends," *IPJ*, 5/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1979), p. 3. (Analysis of trends column in Linn's Stamp News issue of April 2, 1979.)
- , "Numeral Cancellation Merry-Go-round?," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1978), p. 2. (Locations of numeral "57," "54," and "48" discussed.)
- , "Overprinted Surcharge Issues of the 1920's," *IPJ*, 4/6 (Nov.-Dec., 1978), pp. 1-7. (Research on the why's and where's of the overprints.)
- , "Personal Names in Iceland," *IPJ*, 4/4 (July-Aug., 1978), pp. 5-6. (Fascinating study of Iceland's unique name system.)
- , "Review of the Book," *IPJ*, 4/1 (Jan.-Feb., 1978), p. 3. (Review of P.T.T. volume states that it is written from the point of view of the professional historian.)
- , "Jon Sigurdsson," *IPJ*, 4/4 (July-Aug., 1978), pp. 1-4. (Biography of Iceland's George Washington.)
- Worsley, Susan, "British East Africa Used in Reykjavik," *SCC*, 9/9 (June, 1979), p. 208. (Discussion of an 1890 cancel on a British East Africa stamp.)

#### Major Auctions

Heinrich Kohler, June 8-10, 1978, Wiesbaden, Germany.  
 Robson Lowe, Ltd., Sept. 26-27, 1978, London, England.  
 Danam Stamp Co.

\* S \* C \* C \*

## Large Gold Medal For The Posthorn

The Literature jury at SESCAL '79 in Los Angeles, CA on Oct. 12-14, 1979 found the Posthorn sufficiently of merit to award it a Large Gold medal. This is the highest-level award known to the editor for our journal and sincere thanks and congratulations are offered the many authors and our printer, Mr. Miller, plus the hard-working Associate Editors who made it possible.

(j.f.f.)

# SPERATI FORGERIES

## Forgery Detection Methods

By Ed Fraser, #954

### PART I



Figure 1—The forgery

Rare books tend to be locked away, and stamp collectors often forget how interesting they are to read. Recently I was reading the famous and valuable "Sperati" books that were prepared by the British Philatelic Association shortly after they bought out this skillful forger. With their permission, I have copied the forgery detection sections that I think every serious philatelist should understand. These methods also will help detect very dangerous forgeries that preceded, and will follow, Sperati's era. (Note 1.) In addition to the idea of always checking the method used to produce a scarce stamp, I'm sure these "Basic Tests" will give you many more ideas.

(Comments inside brackets [ ] are those of Mr. Fraser. Ed.)



Figure 2—Genuine

### THE BASIC TESTS

Since many Sperati reproductions were made by a contact photo-lithographic process, which gave great accuracy of dimensions and detail, on paper identical to that used for the issued stamps, many of the tests normally used for detecting forgeries prove ineffective. However, one of the characteristics of the lithographic process is the presence, on almost all stamps printed by this process, of minute imperfections. These flaws take the form of tiny white lines or specks on the coloured portions of the design and similar coloured specks on the white. They are caused by irregularities in, or tiny splashes of, the oily ink which is used. The fact that many are constant, in that they occur on all stamps printed from a particular cliché, is of great assistance to philatelists in plating.

Flaws of this type are, of course, found only on lithographed stamps, consequently their presence on stamps known to have been printed from engraved or typographed plates provides a valuable clue to forgery. Furthermore, in many instances, Sperati cleaned up or retouched his negatives, with the consequence that on many of the reproductions some of the flaws characteristic of the genuine stamp may be missing, while others, never found on the genuine stamp, have made their appearance. The craftsmanship exercised by the creator is one of the factors betraying his productions!

While the fullest use is made of the presence of these flaws and retouches in specific tests applying to individual stamps, the first step to be taken in dealing with a suspected stamp, known to be one of those of which Sperati made reproductions, is methodically to subject it to a series of basic tests, so devised as to ensure identification of a considerable proportion of the reproductions without further ado.

### METHODS OF PRINTING

The first group of tests is based on a comparison between the methods of printing the genuine stamp and its reproduction. It is consequently essential to know by what process the genuine stamp was printed.

#### A. Engraved, Recess-engraved, Intaglio

If the genuine stamp was engraved, the raised effect of the inked portion of the design, which is a common feature of stamps printed by this process, is entirely lacking in the Sperati reproduction [with the exception of Mexico].

Under magnification by 10, lithographic flaws and possibly retouches of a type never found on engraved stamps, may sometimes be distinguished on the reproduction.

#### B. Typographed, Surface-printed, Letter-press

If the genuine stamp was typographed, the depressed effect of the inked portion of the design, known as typographic "bite," which is often noted on these stamps, is entirely lacking in the Sperati reproduction. Under magnification by 10, the edges of the design appear clean-cut on the original stamp; the edges of the Sperati reproduction appear rough in comparison. Every genuine typographed stamp will show a tiny "wave" of surplus ink on one or more sides of the design, particularly at the edges of the larger inked areas. This is caused when the inked metal printing surface makes contact with the paper and squeezes the ink towards the edges of every line in the design. No Sperati reproduction shows any trace of these "waves."

Under magnification by 10, lithographic flaws and possibly retouches, of a type never found on typographed stamps, may sometimes be distinguished on the reproduction.

#### C. Lithographed

Identification of a lithographer reproduction of a lithographed stamp presents problems of greater difficulty, as it is necessary to compare the suspect with a known example of the genuine stamp.

Generally speaking, the reproduction will be slightly rougher than the original, the lines of shading will not be so firm and the lettering not so clearly cut although, under magnification by 10, the reproduction may have the less spotted appearance. This is because Sperati often cleaned up his negatives and, in so doing, removed from them some of the flaws which occur on the originals.

If it is possible to compare a reproduction with a genuine stamp of identical plate position to that of the stamp from which the reproduction was made, it may be observed that some of the constant flaws, which are such an aid to plating, may be missing from the reproduction, while others, never found on the genuine stamp, have made their appearance.

### COMMON FACTORS

The next group of tests is based on the axiom that although the quality of a reproduction, however made, may approach that of the original from which it was made, it can never equal it. The contact photo-lithographic pro-



cess used by Sperati is most accurate in reproducing the exact dimensions of the original, (Note 2) but there is a considerable loss of quality.

#### D. Loss of White Space

Some years ago, he late Louis Meinertzhagen made an observation concerning the comparison between the appearance of the black die proof of a stamp and a black plate proof of the same stamp. He noted that even if the die proof had no margins, it could be distinguished from the plate proof by the superiority in fineness of the impression. In the process of reproduction every single line in the design has become slightly thickened, with the consequence that there is a loss of the white spaces between the lines.

Therefore, not only will reproductions appear rougher than the originals, they will also appear to be slightly more heavily printed.

Comparison of the white spaces, particularly those between fine parallel lines of shading, on an original stamp and its Sperati reproduction provides one of the most valuable means of identification of the latter.

#### E. Lines of Shading

Most stamps incorporate a series of parallel lines of shading as part of their design. Under magnification by 10, the genuine stamp will show these as continuous lines of uniform and equal thickness, whereas the reproduction will show lines which appear rough or sometimes broken and thicker in comparison (an example of the loss of white space). If a suspected reproduction of a rare stamp is under examination, comparison may well be made with a genuine but commoner stamp, the design of which was derived from the same master die, such as a stamp of lower denomination belonging to the same issue.

#### F. Frame Lines

Reproductions of typographed stamps will show no sign of the typographic "bite" nor of the "waves" of surplus ink at the edges of their frame lines. Lithographic flaws, of a type never found on typographed stamps, may sometimes be distinguished on or around the frame lines.

### PAPER

Sperati frequently printed his reproductions on paper from which the impression of a genuine but commoner stamp had been chemically removed. Although the reproductions will show the correct watermark and perforation, where these exist, the paper of a suspect should be subjected to examination.

#### G. Surface

The bleaching agent used by Sperati for removing the image also removed the size from the paper, and he attempted, with a moderate degree of success, to restore the original quality of the paper by impregnating it with a solution containing a substance of the nature of gum arabic. In spite of subsequent pressure, the original calendered appearance of the paper tends to disappear. Under magnification by 10, the difference in the surface of the paper is very pronounced. As a simile, if the texture of the original paper under magnification could be compared to the surface of a slice of brown bread, after treatment by Sperati it could be compared to shredded wheat.

This test is not in itself conclusive, because some other incident in the life of a genuine stamp might affect its surface in a similar manner.

#### H. Porosity

Sperati's bleaching process also rendered the paper porous to a far greater degree than normal. A drop of water or of benzine will penetrate the paper of the reproduction with extreme rapidity.

[Note no "I" method—"J" follows "H"]

### CENTERING

#### J. Double Plate Designs

Where a stamp is known to have been printed from two plates [ . . . typically where two colors are involved—i.e. bicolored issues], further test is provided by comparing the relative centering of the key and duty plates on the suspect to that on a known Sperati reproduction of the same stamp or its photograph. This is because Sperati achieved great accuracy when printing from two clichés, and the relative centering on many of his reproductions is identical. On the genuine stamps the centering will, of course, vary from sheet to sheet.

Note that in several instances Sperati manipulated the frames of genuine stamps. For instance, his imitation of the British New Guinea 1901-05 2/6 was made by chemically removing the coloured frame from a low value stamp of the same issue, leaving intact the black center, and then printing around it his reproduction of the frame of the 2/6.

The frame should be tested for recess-printing. In the same class are the reproductions of the Sardinia 1855-61 errors with inverted frames.

The genuine stamps have the frames typographed and the heads embossed in colourless relief. Sperati chemically removed the frame from a normal stamp of little value, and then lithographed around the embossed center an inverted reproduction of the frame. One need only test for typography. [This type of forgery went undetected by experts for many years.]

### MERCURY VAPOUR LAMP

#### K. Stained Appearance

The bleaching agent used by Sperati to remove the original image affected the paper in such a manner that, in no instance, does the back of a reproduction of a De La Rue stamp show the same reaction under ultraviolet light as that of a genuine stamp in fine condition. The paper invariably appears greyish and stained, often with a mauvish or rosy tinge. [Different people have also described the appearance of Sperati forgeries under UV light as blackish, or blackish with a mauve tinge, when compared with a genuine stamp. Differences are attributed to personal differences in verbal description, types of UV light used, and state of preservation of the forgery.]

[This concludes the "Basic Tests," but the following should be noted:]

### SURCHARGES AND OVERPRINTS

Fortunately, Sperati reproduced very few surcharged or overprinted stamps. The problem was tackled in two ways.

- (1) The first method is probably the most ingenious feat of printing achieved by Sperati. It may be illustrated by his reproductions of the Ceylon 1885 "Postage and Revenue/Five Cents" surcharges on the 4 cents rosy mauve and the 24 cents brown-purple. On these reproductions the surcharges are genuine! They were made by chemically removing the coloured impression from a genuine but cheaper surcharged stamp of the same issue, probably the 4 cents rose, and then printing reproductions of the rarer stamps over the genuine surcharge and cancellation (if present). By chemical means the surcharge and cancellation were rendered porous and, the ink of the impression having been absorbed into them, gives the im-

pression of being beneath them. These reproductions may be immediately detected by testing the designs of the stamps for typography.

- (2) The second method applies to the reproductions of the Gibraltar 1886 (Jan.) 2d., 6d., and 1/-. The genuine stamps are typographed from plates used for Bermuda and have a typographed "Gibraltar" overprint. The reproductions are also made in two steps but both the design and overprint are lithographed. The overprints on these reproductions are most dangerous—even the surplus "wave" of ink typical of typography may be distinguished. [It is not clear to me if it is meant that the photo used to make the forged lithographed overprint "picked up" the typographed ink wave and reproduced it to some extent, or if it means something else. Anyway, the point about dangerous overprint forgeries is made clearly enough.] In testing, the overprint should be ignored and the design examined for typography. It is believed that a reproduction of the 1/- value also exists with genuine overprint.

### CANCELLATIONS

Sperati produced his imitations of **used** stamps in three different ways. Two classes of the cancellations found on the reproductions can materially assist in their identification.

- (1) The reproduction of an **unused** stamp was lithographed upon the paper from which the design of a commoner **used** stamp had been chemically removed, leaving the **genuine** cancellation. By chemical means the ink of cancellation was rendered porous, and the ink of the impression having been absorbed into it, gives the impression of being beneath it. The cancellation, being different for every stamp in this class, is of no assistance in identifying a suspect, to which other tests must be applied.
- (2) The reproduction of an **unused** stamp was lithographed upon the paper from which the design of a commoner **unused** stamp had been chemically removed, and a very accurate **reproduction** of a contemporary cancellation was superimposed. In this class, Sperati used the same cancellation cliché to obliterate a number of different reproductions, the cancellations being placed in different positions on the stamps. If a suspect is compared to a known Sperati reproduction or its photograph, and the cancellations are observed to be completely identical, as if printed from the same photographic negative, then there can be no doubt as to its status.
- (3) The reproduction of a **used** stamp was lithographed upon the paper from which the design of a commoner **unused** stamp had been chemically removed.

Inevitably the cancellation would be printed in the same colour as the design of the reproduction. To circumvent this inconvenient consequence of the process, Sperati was obliged to make an additional cliché of the original cancellation alone, and exactly to superimpose a black impression from it upon the coloured one in order to conceal the latter. Consequently numbers of reproductions of the same stamp may be found with cancellations not only photographically identical but identically placed on the stamps, a phenomenon so unnatural as to provide a most simple means of recognition.

If a suspected reproduction is not immediately identified by application of one or more of the basic tests [A thru K], or if a further check is required, then recourse may be made to the specific tests provided for every stamp known to have been reproduced by Sperati. These tests are concerned with lithographic flaws, etc., peculiar to each individual reproduction, and to the qualities of the paper and gum in those cases where the original material was not used.

Since the reproductions are so accurately made, then if the original stamp is plateable so should be the reproduction.

Plate positions are given wherever possible [in the BPA book].

## PART II

### THE 1 MARK 1867 SERPENTINE ROULETTE ISSUE

#### The only Finnish forgery attributed to Sperati

(Again quoting from the BPA "Sperati" book, indicating the range of Sperati forgery of European stamps.)

"The Rest of Europe and Colonies" [including Scandinavia.]

Of the forty-nine different reproductions of forty-four different (Note 3) basic stamps in this group, no less than thirty-four are known to have been reproduced on genuine paper, often retaining the genuine cancellations. The earliest reproduction made was known as early as 1909 and may possibly have been the work of Sperati's elder brother, Mariano. The negative from which Sperati made his clichés for printing some of the Hungary reproductions is dated 1914.

Some of the rarest stamps that Sperati reproduced may be found in this group, notably the Austrian Newspaper 6 kreuzer red and the otherwise unique example of the Sweden 3 skilling banco, error of colour, printed in yellow. It is difficult for the collector in this generation to understand why several stamps of such low monetary value have been reproduced, such as some of those of Monaco, Russian-Wenden and Turkey, but it must be remembered that fashions have changed and that these stamps commanded a much higher price many years ago than they [did in the 1950's]. Sperati made sixty-five different cancellations in this group although the use of all of these has not been seen. There is little doubt that some of them were used as transit and arrival stamps on covers that he had made bearing the stamps of other countries, but all have been illustrated and listed so that they may be recognized with certainty.

Many of the stamps described in this chapter were accepted by well-known Continental experts as being genuine and there is little doubt that hundreds of these reproductions have been lying in Continental collections as genuine stamps for many years. One of the members of the B.P.A., who has a profound philatelic knowledge, examined a large number of copies of a certain stamp that were owned by collectors in one country and to his surprise he found that just over 50% of them were Sperati imitations. These had apparently been sold about 1930 and it is only since the information published in this chapter became available to experts that the status of these stamps has been recognized.

#### FINLAND — 1867 ONE MARK

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated September 1946.

For comparison use a contemporary low value.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The colour of the genuine stamps varies from slightly reddish-stone to reddish-brown and in comparison the reproductions are orange-brown. Under the MVL there is little difference except that the reproductions are generally darker than the genuine.

The paper and perforations are genuine as Sperati removed the impression of a genuine stamp on which to print the 1 mark.

Under the MVL the paper is stained on the reverse and this will necessitate the introduction of Basic test K.

[On the mint forgeries, note that the] gum on the genuine is colourless but on the reproductions it is rather yellow and under the lamp appears to have been applied with a brush.

The impression of the genuine is clear and that of the reproduction rather more heavy.

Basic tests: B, D, E and F.

(Mr. Fraser's Commentary begins here. Ed.)

For the "Specific Tests" described in the BPA book, I have added to them to correspond to the actual Sperati forgery pictured as Figure 1. For comparison, Figure 2 is a genuine stamp.

#### Specific Tests:

1. In the heavy line running below the top value tablet there is a flaw on the underside below the "E." It looks like an upward dent in the (colored) line.
2. Again referring to the top tablet, the background below "RK" is joined to the line below by a spot of color.
3. In the bottom left corner the outer frame line is joined to the inner frame line by a diagonal stroke. Unfortunately this obvious difference is sometimes of no help because the roulette often cuts into the stamp's frame-line, and this critical piece might be legitimately missing.
4. The vertical frame lines at the left bottom run together for 8 mm.
5. In the bottom value tablet the background below the "K" is joined to the inner (colored) frame line below. The (lithographed, remember) separating white line appears very thin, and is broken as if by a dent of color from the tablet above.
6. The vertical frame lines on the right bottom run together for 3 mm.
7. The vertical frame lines on the right top run together for 2½ mm.
8. The frame line of the adjacent stamp shows on the left perf tips. One of the well known rules of thumb for all Finnish serpentine roulette issue forgeries is that they were always printed singly, and the NEXT STAMP NEVER SHOWS! Sperati obviously thought of that and has included the typical "next stamp frame line" that is commonly seen on genuine stamps of this issue. Note the genuine stamp in figure 2 happens to show 3 adjacent stamps.

#### Other Information:

The forgery was probably made in the 1930-1939 period. Excellent plating information on the 1 mark value can be found in Volume II of the Finnish Handbook, *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*. An illustration of a full sheet of 50 is shown there on page 68, along with text (in Finnish) from pages 66 thru 70.

Any additional information our readers can supply would be greatly appreciated. Ed Fraser, P. O. Box 1052, Wall Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10005.

#### Footnotes:

1. An example is the 1866 type 10 penni Finnish serpentine roulette color

- error forgeries. These very dangerous forgeries preceded Sperati, and will be written up in a future POSTHORN.
2. While Sperati was careful and reproduced the exact stamp dimensions very accurately, many photo-based forgeries are not so accurate and often may vary a millimeter or two in height and/or width from the original stamp.
  3. Several additional forgeries that some experts attribute to Sperati have been found over the past twenty-odd years. It is considered very likely that records or samples of some Sperati forgeries were not included in his final inventory that the BPA purchased. It also should be noted that Sperati's prime years of creativity and workmanship were many years prior to the BPA purchase.

#### A note about the British Philatelic Federation

The British Philatelic Federation has generously given the Scandinavian Collectors Club special permission to use the information excerpted and reproduced here from **The Works Of Jean de Sperati, 1955**, in 3 volumes; pages 26-29, 157, and 163. The British Philatelic Federation was formed in 1976 by the merging of the long-established British Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Their activities had previously been complementary to each other in the field of worldwide philately. They are the publishers of **Philately** and the **1979 Year Book and Philatelic Societies Directory**. More information can be obtained from Mr. Herbert Grimsey, Secretary; British Philatelic Federation; 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE, England.

\* S \* C \* C \*

Let our advertisers know you saw their ad in The POSTHORN.

#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Title of publication: The Posthorn  
 Publication no. 603680  
 Date of filing: Sep. 29, 1979  
 Frequency of issue: Quarterly  
 No. of issues published annually: 4  
 Annual subscription price: \$6  
 Location of known office of publication, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044  
 Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the publishers:  
 75 Ravine Ave., Nutley, N. J. 07110  
 Publisher:  
 Scandinavian Collectors Club, 75 Ravine Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110  
 Editor: Joe F. Frye, P. O. Box 22308, Memphis, Tenn. 38122  
 Managing Editor: None  
 Owner: Scandinavian Collectors Club, 75 Ravine Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110  
 Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders, etc.: None  
 Extent and nature of circulation

	Ave. No. copies prec. 12 months	Single issue nearest filing
Total no. copies printed	1200	1200
<b>Paid circulation</b>		
Sales thru dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter	0	0
Mail subscriptions	915	939
Total paid circulation	915	939
Free distribution by mail, samples, comp., etc.	12	12
Total distribution	927	951
Copies not distributed, office use, spoiled, etc.	273	249
Returns from news agents	0	0
Total	1200	1200

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

Joe F. Frye, Editor

## The First Postal System Of Iceland

By Wayne C. Sommer

The first systematic mail service in Iceland was created in 1776 by a decree issued by the King of Denmark, by whom Iceland was then governed. This historic event was commemorated by the set of two stamps issued in 1976 (Fig. 1) and by a special cancellation (Fig. 2). The text on both stamps is the same, being a quotation from the decree in Danish, and reads:

"To Our beloved Lauritz Andreas Thodal, Our Governor over Iceland and Sub-Governor over the South and West District, and Our beloved Ole Stephensen, Our Sub-Governor over the North and East District, regarding the establishment of a postal service in Iceland."



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

But those were difficult times in a land where earthquakes, epidemics, volcanic eruptions, and disastrous climatic conditions, to say nothing of unfortunate political and economic circumstances, were a way of life.

The population at this time was only about 50,000. Ten years later, in 1786, the number of inhabitants dropped to 38,500 because of the suffering inflicted by a violent eruption. Fields were poisoned and livestock decimated so that many people died of starvation. Nevertheless, the survivors, despite some thoughts in Denmark of abandoning the area, were determined to persevere in their uniquely hard-won homeland.

Further understanding of the beginnings of the Postal System is gained from the information that these relatively few people occupied an area of but 20,000 square kilometers (i.e., 20% of the total 103,000 square kilometers, the other 80% being a highland plateau consisting of mountains, glaciers, and deserts, with many impassable river courses). The population was very sparsely settled around the perimeters of the country, living on the coast and in the valleys where grasses, mosses, and shrub-like trees were found. To say the least, travel and transportation of goods overland was very difficult, as was sea-going travel in the extant open boats.

At this time too, there were few if any villages. Reykjavik, later to become the capital, was then (1786) a village of 302 people. The Postal System was based upon foot and pack-horse trails between the farmsteads of Danish-appointed magistrates and tax collectors. The decree specified nineteen places by name, including the Governor's residence through which all communications were transshipped. The map (Fig. 3) shows these "stations."

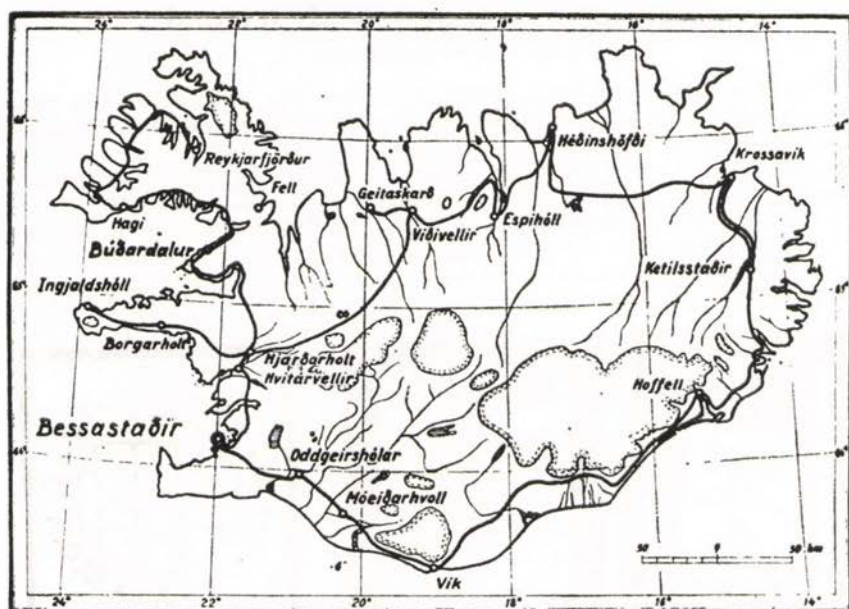


Fig. 3

"Postal" routes and "Postal Stations" as established in 1776. (The author has visited all but three of these sites. Only one is currently unoccupied (Ingjaldshóll, 1977). At Budardalur the current (1975) residents are descended directly from the magistrate Magnús Ketilsson, whose burial place and monument are on the property. The Governor's home, Bessastaðir, has been the Presidential Residence since 1944.)

At first, and for several centuries, Icelanders were mainly farmers, raising sheep, horses, and cattle. Fishing was a part-time, off-season occupation. Foreign commerce was carried on, but such shipping as there was gradually diminished because of the lack of timber for replacements. This gave opportunities for merchant vessels from Norway, Germany, and England to trade in Iceland until, in 1602, Denmark imposed a monopoly upon trade with Iceland so that only Danish merchants licensed by the King could deal there. This so impoverished Iceland that living conditions were reduced to bare subsistence for more than a hundred years.

The residence of the Governor was figuratively the "capital." All ships to and from Denmark used the harbor there. In the schedules for postal routes (not rates, which are covered below), the timing was such that they synchronized to terminate simultaneously, and this was intended to coincide with the departures of ship destined for Copenhagen. It was several years after the decree that the service actually started. Evidently, there was much uncertainty, especially about the financial management of the service and a reluctance on the part of some officials. However, in 1782 the first postman made a trip over the Western Route, the only trip that year. In 1783, a trip was made over part of the Northern Route, and the following year three trips were made from the North and one each through the South and East. From then on, the service was three times a year over each route. The schedule was as follows:



I. Northern Route			
Leave Ketilsstaðir		1 May	Early Sept.
Krossovík		6 May	16 Sept.
Héðinshöfði	1 Feb.	15 May	20 Sept.
Espihóll	7 Feb.	20 May	28 Sept.
Víðivellir	12 Feb.	25 May	5 Oct.
Geitaskarð	18 Feb.		8 Oct.
Hjardarholt	26 Feb.	28 May	14 Oct.
Bessastaðir	Early Mar.	Early June	After Mid-Oct.
II. Southern Route			
Leave Krossavík	Late Jan.	Early May	Late Aug.
Ketilsstaðir	1 Feb.	5 May	1 Sept.
Hoffell	8 Feb.	12 May	1 Sept.
Vík	16 Feb.	16 May	12 Sept.
Móeidarhvoll	22 Feb.	22 May	22 Sept.
Oddgeirshóll	28 Feb.	28 May	28 Sept.
Bessastaðir	Early Mar.	Early June	Early Oct.
III. Western Route			
Reykjarfjörður	10 Feb.	12 May	24 Sept.
Hagi	15-16 Feb.	18 May	30 Sept.
Búðardalur	24 Feb.	22 May	4 Oct.
Hjardarholt	26 Feb.	24 May	6 Oct.
Bessastaðir	Early Mar.	Early June	After Mid-Oct.
IV. Snæfellsnes Route			
Leave Ingaldshóll	20 Feb.	20 May	4 Oct.
Borgarholt	20 Feb.	20 May	4 Oct.
Hjardarholt	24 Feb.	24 May	8 Oct.
Bessastaðir	Early Mar.	Early June	After Mid-Oct.

One severe limitation imposed by the decree was that unless official messages were to be sent the courier (postman) was not to go over the route, private letters having to wait until the next trip or until the senders could find some traveller to convey the mail. However, the fact that private communications were considered at all gave some evidence of enlightenment in the theretofore totally exploitive Danish attitudes toward its remote possession.

An omission in the decree and subsequent rate regulations was the lack of provision of a rate between Iceland and Denmark. It had been the custom for years not to charge for private messages to and from Denmark and apparently was not intended in the proposed postal service. Of course, official mail was carried postfree both domestically and overseas. In a few years, the overseas rates for private mail were established in accordance with overseas rates from Denmark to its colonies and Norway.

The postage rate schedule for domestic mail must have been by the piece because weight is not mentioned in the regulations. Also, it is surprising to find that none of the regulations mentioned the dispatch of letters beyond Denmark. This seemed to the Icelanders to be restrictive of their desires and needs to develop commercial contacts, but it may be that they were being treated the same as the Danes themselves who had to have an acquaintance in Venice or Marseille to forward mail to Africa and someone in Amsterdam or London who could forward mail to America or Asia.

The decree of 1776 said only that rates for carrying private letters should be set, leaving details to be decided by the Governor and magistrates in Iceland. Due to the aforementioned delays, it was not until 1779 that the Governor got around to postage rates. The base was two skillings within a local area and in multiples of 2 skillings as the distance increased by county sub-

divisions (political subdivisions then were almost identical to current 1979 boundaries). For example, the Northern Route outbound from Ressastadir required the following rates: to Hjarðarholt in Mýrasýsla (county) two skillings, with most of the intervening area considered as local to Bessastadir; to Búdadalur in Dalasýsla four skillings; to Hagi in Bardastrandarsýsla six skillings; to Reykjarfördur in Ísafjardarsýsla eight skillings. Other routes were treated similarly, with slight exceptions in the Northern and Southern routes which, as seen on the map, overlapped at their eastern extremities. The rates on these routes depended somewhat upon which direction the mail was carried because, for some unexplained reason, the rate was only one skilling between Vidivellir, Espihóll, and Hédinshöfði. One oddity was a provision for the unlikely event that mail would circumnavigate the country to reach a next-door county—postage 20 skillings instead of 2!

The expenses of the first postal system consisted of "wages" paid to the couriers. The Governor and magistrates who handled the postal business, were not paid and were supposed to furnish horses when necessary. Almost fifty years were to pass before a collecting office was set up in the North, in 1846, when the local pastor was employed at six rigsdaler per year.

The pay scale of the postmen was reckoned in units of about 38 kilometers which was considered the normal distance travelled per day by Members on their journeys to the Althing (Parliament). The rate was set at one rigsdaler per unit of distance. As to the time required to go from station to station, weather conditions were a very important factor. The schedule seems to have provided leeway for some of the hazards along the way. Much is left unsaid in references about how the payments were supported with measurements of distance, but it may be presumed that in such a small country almost everyone had a good knowledge of its geography.

After the trade monopoly was listed in the 1850's, the importance of postal service to the commercial development of Iceland created increasing pressure for improvement. Icelanders formed a committee to work out details with the Danish government. These efforts culminated in 1870 when Danish stamps and cancellations were approved and sent for use in Iceland. Then, in 1873, the full responsibility was transferred to Iceland for operating its own postal system and for issuing its own stamps.

Thus the strugglings of Iceland's first postal system became the foundation of its independent postal service. The reader may well read into this history the implication that these events played a significant part in the development of Iceland as an independent nation.

A footnote to illustrate the hazards of delivering the mail, even in the 20th century, is this real-life experience told to the author by the son of a real-life postman:

In 1918, Jens Gudjonsson, a resident of Reykjavik, was a young boy who lived with his parents in Ísafjordur. His father was the postman whose "beat" was the far northwest County across the fjord. A night or so before a scheduled winter-time trip with the mail, Jens' mother had a dream in which her husband encountered a storm which cost him his life. She told her husband that she believed that such a dream was an omen of disaster and if he took the trip she would leave him. He acceded to her demand and secured a substitute to take out the mail. The substitute never returned, but in the Spring his body was found at the foot of a cliff, victim of an accident which might well have befallen Gudjon Gudmundsson, father of Jens. This story is confirmed with greater detail in *Tales of the Country Postmen*, published in Akureyri in 1942.

### References

- Tales of the Country Postmen, Nordi Pub. Co., Akureyri, 1942.  
 Iceland—874-1974, ed. Johannes Nordahl, Central Bank of Iceland, Reykjavik, 1975.  
 Postal Service in Iceland, 1776-1951, Gudmundur Hliddal, Dir. Gen. of Posts and Telegraphs, Reykjavik, 1951.  
 One Hundred Years of Iceland Stamps, Jon A. Jonsson, pub. by Post and Telecommunications Adm., Reykjavik, 1977.

\* S \* C \* C \*

## STaMpsHOW '79 and SCC

By Wayne Rindone

The SCC regional meeting held in connection with the A.P.S. annual convention at Hynes Auditorium in Boston, MA took place noon to 1 p.m. on August 25, 1979. About two dozen attended, many local chapter members, but some new faces. Perhaps the SCC member who traveled further than any other to attend was **Dr. Arno Debo**, of Munich, Germany, who complimented our gathering with his well-known wide smile and knowledgeable, friendly presence.

The first two parts of **Victor E. Engstrom's** slide program on Danish West Indies philately found considerable interest and warm applause from the audience, and Vic was present and did respond to questions from those enjoying this formidable presentation.

New England chapter 5 of SCC has 18 members for the 1979-80 season, meets first Wednesdays at the Spellman Museum at 7:30 p.m. Membership \$4.50 with name, address to treasurer **D. C. Walden**, 211 Forest St., Arlington, MA 02174.

(Editor's note—the above was boiled out of a very interesting account of the activities mentioned sent by **Wayne Rindone**, president of SCC Chapter 5, whose kind and energetic assistance made possible this gathering at the big APS show. Another of the shakers and movers in philately, along with his many capable assistants in Chapter 5, who make things happen. j.f.f.)

\* S \* C \* C \*

## Chapter News

Chapter 4 Chicago, a founding club of the COMPEX shows in that city, participated again in the 1979 event May 25-27. An excellent Scandinavian exhibition participation was enjoyed, with SCCer Svend Yort taking the Grand Award for his showing of the Denmark first and second issues, 2 and 4 R.B.S. Chapter meets fourth Thursdays (Nov. and Dec. meetings combined, held first Thursday of December) at the Swedish Club of Chicago, 1258 North LaSalle St., dinner at 6:00 p.m., meeting begins 7:00 p.m. Guests welcome.

\* \* \*

Delaware chapter 13's 13th annual auction, advertised in the POSTHORN, May, 1979, found 32 successful bidders—a dozen of whom participated "on the floor"—paying prices ranging from 26% of catalog or estimate for 7 lots of Finland to as high as 96% for 5 lots of Greenland material. Report on this auction from SCCer A. A. Gruber notes "There were some great bargains in Denmark and Iceland!" He notes that the percentages are not really good indicators of enthusiasm since quality and quantity of lots varied considerably, as noted in the published catalog.

\* \* \*

Philadelphia chapter 2's September meeting was devoted to planning an exhibit at SEPAD later that month.

## Library News

By Stanley H. Hanson, SCC Librarian

Thanks to Ron Collin, Efred Rebolledo, Alan Warren, S. Thorsteinsson, Howard Schloss and Norsk Filatelistforbund for their donations to the Library. Most welcome.

To secure library material, send check (USA Funds) for \$4.00 payable to SCC Librarian. Any excess will be refunded. This charge is for insured parcel post. 21 day loan limit on library material and material must be returned by insured parcel post.

The Forgery Project is proceeding slowly, much work needs to be done. We need your help. Contact our President, Alan Warren.

Have you any suggestions on what Library material should be purchased in the coming year? Please advise to the Librarian. Remember this is your Library.

### Supplemental Listing #6 to THE LIBRARY INDEX

September 1, 1979

#### Catalogs and Miscellaneous

- A-142-E The ABC of A.P.O. J. H. Engel. Date (?). English. Lists various types of APO cancels, full-size illustrations. Much background information. 5x5". 52 pp.
- A-143-E Type Chart—Postmarks of the U. S. Army Postal Services in the Second World War, 1941-1946. C. Brenner and M. Baggett. 1951. English. Full-size illustrations of all cancels: hand, machine killers and provisional, that were in use during the war. 8x11½". 15 pp.
- A-144-E Some Scandinavian Provisionals. E. H. Wise. Feb. 1962. English. The story behind those Nordic provisionals. From *The Stamp Lover*. 7x10". 6 pp.
- A-145-E Forty-Fifth American Philatelic Congress. 1979. English. 10x11½". 188 pp.
- A-146-E Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire. Henry H. Heims. 1957. English. Lists all numeral cancellations. Excellent compilation. 8x11½". 85 pp.
- A-147-E Postal Markings of Boston, Mass. to 1890. M. Blake and W. Davis. 1949. English. Illustrates about 3000 Boston postmarks, auxiliary markings and cancellations. Boston was one of the leading ports for outgoing and incoming mails to the various Scandinavian ports. 8x11½". 52 pp.

#### Denmark

- ✓ D-115-G Danische Briefsammelstellen-Stempel (Pr. Stempel). K. Eitner. 1978. German. Monograph on cancels used by the Post Office during the past thirty years. Lists 577 postal offices' cancel usage. Illustrated. By the Danish Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8x11¼". 18 pp.
- ✓ D-116-G Zensurpost aus Danemark. D. Mickel. 1978. German. 2-page illustrated article on censor cancels and markings, 1940 era. By the Danish Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8x11½". 2 pp.
- D11-7-E The Kiosk Posts of Denmark. P. Kelley. Date unknown. English. Article on the Danish Kiosk Posts. Illustrated. 7x7½". 1 pp.

- D-118-G Die Internierten-Post aus dem Lager Tarp bei Esbjerg 1946. H. G. Moxter. 1979. German. Article on the internment camp at Tarp and its stamps. Illustrated. By the Danish Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 2 pp.

### Finland

- F-37-G Finland. File of articles of various studies on Stamps, Postal History, Cancels, Postal Stationery and Watermarks. 1978. German. By the Finnish Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. Illustrated. 8½x11". 48 pp.
- F-38-E Finland's Leading Stamp Designer. J. Brooks. 1952. Article on a famous female designer. Illustrated. 7x9½". 1 pp.

### Faroe Island and Greenland

- G-24-G File on Faroe and Greenland. 1978. German. Misc. items: Faroe registry labels—lists all town and private usage; listing of private postage meters; Postal history during World War 2 by the Faroe Postmaster C. Danielsen; various articles on Greenland postal history. By the Faroe and Greenland Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 24 pp.

### Iceland

- I-21-E Postmarks of Iceland. T. Runeborg. 1973. English. Nine categories of Icelandic postmarks 1870 to 1972. Excellent illustrations and compilations. From **Scandinavian Contact**. 8½x11". 8 pp.
- I-22-G Anlandungsstemple Auf Islandmarken. W. Holz. 1978. German. One of the better monographs on paquebot cancels on Icelandic stamps posted in England, Norway, Germany, Faroe Islands and Denmark. Full-size illustrations and compilations. By the Icelandic Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8x11". 40 pp.
- I-23-G Abarten Island Blatt. W. Fenger and K. Bliese. 1977. German. Extra-large illustrations of various plate flaws on Icelandic stamps. By the Icelandic Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 8 pp.
- I-24-I Poststimplar i Reykjavik. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. 1965. Icelandic. Article on all Reykjavik postmark cancels. Illustrated. From **Frimerki**. 6x8½". 8 pp.
- I-25-I Erlendposthus a Islandi, Skraning erlenra poststimpla a Islandi eftir 1940. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. 1964. Icelandic. Lists Canadian, English and American military and navy postal units. 5½x9". 8 pp.
- I-26-N General Balbo's Eskadreflyving i 1933. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. Feb. 1979. Norwegian. Article on Balbo's world 1933 flight. From **Frimerke Forum**. 6x8". 4 pp.
- I-27-I Islenzk Flora A Frimerkjum. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. 1971. Icelandic. Iceland's flora on postage stamps. Illustrated. 6x9". 8 pp.
- I-28-D Islandske Poststempler 1. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. 1979. Danish. A to Z on Icelandic postal history, cancels and stamps. Illustrated. 5½x8". 25 pp.
- I-29-D Islandske Poststempler 2. S. Thorsteinsson SCC. 1979. Danish. More, as the above. Illustrated. 5½x8". 14 pp.

## Norway

- N-93-N Norsk FN-Post i Libanon. Jeeheim Frimerke Klubb. Feb. 1979. Norwegian. 2-page article on UN participation by Norway's UN battalion forces in Lebanon. Illustrated covers and postmarks. From **Frimerke som Hobby**. 8½x11". 2 pp.
- N-94-N Tysk Post Sensur i Norge 1940. A. J. Bay. Feb. 1979. Norwegian. Article on German post censors in Norway. Illustrated. From **Frimerke som Hobby**. 8½x11". 1 pp.
- N-95-N Mer om Engelsk/Norsk Postsensur. A. J. Bay. Feb. 1979. Norwegian. Article on English post censors. Illustrated. From **Frimerke som Hobby**. 8½x11". 1 pp.
- N-96-N Offentlig Post i Norge i Gammel og ny Tid. A. Larson. Feb. 1979. Norwegian. Article on Official Stamps and usage. Illustrated. From **Frimerke som Hobby**. 8½x11". 2 pp.
- N-97-E Norwegian Postal History. R. G. Jones. April 1964. English. Excellent article on early Norwegian postal history. Illustrated. Source unknown. 7x10". 2 pp.
- N-98-N Sirkulaere fra Postdirektoratet. Norwegian. 10-page circular issued by the Norwegian Postmaster General. 24 issues annually. Updated changes in rates, personnel, etc. Illustrated. Our file starts Jan. 1979. 8½x11". 10 pp each issue.
- N-99-N Norske Maskinstempler Med Tekst 1903-1978. Norsk Filatelistforbund. 1978. Norwegian. Catalogs all slogan machine cancels with text. Over 900 full-size illustrations. Gives 1st and last day usage and where used. Chapter on machine cancellers used the past 75 years. Plus listing for the thematic collector. 6x9". 174 pp.
- N-100-G Norwegen-Die Posthorn-Ausgaben. A. L. Totten. 1978. German. Article on the Posthorn issues from 1872 to 1952. Illustrated. By the Norwegian Study Group of German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 4 pp.
- N-101-G Uber die TUR Stempel-Norwegens. J. Tiemer. 1979. Norwegian. Superior monograph on the Norwegian "TUR" machine cancels. Lists all types and post offices using this cancel. Illustrated. By the Norwegian Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 22 pp.

## Sweden

- S-82-E Sweden: "Tolf Øre 1858," E. Wise. 1963. English. Article on the 1858 12 Øre Blue, explains type, color and plate flaws. Illustrated. From **Stamp Collecting**. 7x9½". 2 pp.
- S-83-E Sweden: The Official Stamps. K. H. Beales. 1966. English. Article on the Official Stamps, 1874, 1881, 1889 and 1891 issues. Illustrated. From **Gibbons Stamp Monthly**. 7x9½". 4 pp.
- S-84-E The Error "20 Tretio." Nils Farmstrom. June 1979. English. Interesting in-depth story on this error. Illustrated. From **American Philatelist**. 8½x11". 3 pp.
- S-85-G Sweden: A file of various articles on Postal History, Stamps, Cancels, Papers and Watermarks. 1978. German. Illustrated. By the Swedish Study Group of the German Philatelic Club. 8½x11". 34 pp.

## Periodicals

- V-20-N Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift. Norwegian. 1942 to date. Bound.
- V-21-N Frimerker Som Hobby. Norwegian. Quarterly. 1979 to date. New.

## President's Message

### SCC Special Awards

One way to give recognition to those who serve SCC and Scandinavian philately through extraordinarily unselfish donation of their time and knowledge is through special SCC awards. The oldest such form of recognition is Honorary Membership. Carl E. Pelander, a founding member of the organization which was the precursor to SCC, and who was the first editor of *The POSTHORN*, was also the first on whom Honorary Membership was bestowed, in 1937.

The By-Laws state that this distinction is conferred on those who exhibit outstanding achievement in Scandinavian philately or for activities extraordinarily benefiting the Club. Nominations for this honor can be made in writing, signed by at least six members in good standing, and submitted to the Secretary.

In 1968 the Club created the Carl E. Pelander award to perpetuate the memory of the founder. It is awarded to an SCC member for outstanding work in furthering the aims of the Club and Scandinavian philately. Nominations can be made by any member or chapter, in writing with qualifications, and submitted to the Secretary.

Finally, the Dr. Earl Grant Jacobsen Memorial Award is conferred on those who exhibit outstanding philatelic research service to further the advancement of Scandinavian philately. This may be via original research, or through extensive and "inspirational" teaching of others. Again, any member may nominate a candidate for this award, and the nomination should be accompanied by the appropriate qualifications. Dr. Jacobsen was a noted student of Norwegian philately in particular.

It should be noted that one of our most energetic members has the distinction of having been presented with all three of the above awards: Carl H. Werenskiold.

### Linn's Special Edition

Don't forget the special SCC edition of *Linn's* scheduled for January, 1980, which will be devoted to Scandinavian philately. We need articles on any phase of the subject. So far one ms. has been received, from Chuck Matlack of Chap. 8. Send all articles to Alan Warren, Box 17124, Philadelphia, PA 19105. Deadline is December 1.

### Awards

SCC member H. F. Plesner took three awards at STAMPOREE 79 in Ocala, FL with his exhibit of Greenland Postmarks. His showing not only took the Reserve Grand and a gold medal, but also the SPA Research Award.

Ron Collin reports that the Awards Committee of NORDIA 80 has accepted SCC's gold, silver, and bronze medals for use at the Malmö show next year, and NORWEX has done the same for the Oslo show scheduled next June.

While not falling in the realm of awards, we noted an honor in having SCC's Vic Engstrom assume a prominent position at the recent STaMpsHOW in Boston with the appearance of his "Postal History of the Danish West Indies" in the show's Court of Honor.

### Membership

Two projects are under way which, it is hoped, will bring in additional SCC memberships. Reply postcards have been printed which will be enclosed by several dealers in routine mailings to their Scandinavian collecting clients. The cards invite recipients to write to Secretary Kauko Aro for further details on becoming a member of SCC.

The second is a solicitation, by letter, to those members of the Society of Philatelic Americans who list Scandinavian area collecting among their interests. The list was compiled by SCC member Robert Brandeberry, who miraculously found the time in his busy schedule as SPA Executive Secretary. The addresses of over 150 prospects have been forwarded to Kauko Aro for follow-up. Kauko also continues to solicit new APS and SPA members listing Nordic countries as their specialties, as their names appear in the new member columns of these Society journals. This has made for a hectic program for Kauko, and we hope the efforts bear fruit.

### Miscellany

SCC Publicity Manager Marv Hunewell had a letter-to-the-editor published in *Linn's Stamp News* in July. Referring to an earlier article suggesting investment in Norwegian stamps, Marv pointed out the increasing popularity of all the Scandinavian countries.

The annual Directory released by COMPEX in May contains a world of informative articles. The 1979 issue offers an article by SCC member G. L. Calhamer on "The Inverted Frames of Denmark and Danish West Indies."

The initial release from the Executive Council of next year's LONDON 1980 show invites membership in the London 1980 Club. At 25 pounds sterling, it is just twice as expensive as the Beaver Club for CAPEX 78. This assessment entitles one to a season ticket to the exhibition, all show publications including the catalog, a "memento" of the club membership, and all official souvenirs of the exhibition. Membership in the Club also allows one to enter a restricted club area for refreshments and light meals during show hours. For those interested, "cheques" should be sent to LONDON 1980, Box 300, Danes Inn House, 265 Strand, London WC2R 1AF, England.

A news item which appeared in the September 24 issue of *Linn's* announces the acquisition of Frimarkshuset AB by Stanley Gibbons International. Frimarkshuset consists of two subsidiaries, which together carry out many philatelic activities including the publication and sale of philatelic albums, accessories and the FACIT Catalog, in addition to conducting stamp auctions. The acquisition broadens the European operations of Gibbons, based in London, but having operations in Frankfurt and Monaco as well.

—Alan Warren

\* S \* C \* C \*

### Additions and Corrections

## Mail From Norway to France and The United Kingdom

1744-1844

By R. G. Jones

(Posthorn 137, Feb., 1979. Ed.)

Page 4.

Fifth paragraph. Change "The second section from 1806-1811" to "The second section from 1806-1808."

Sixth paragraph. Change "The third section from 1811-1814" to "The third section from 1808-1814."

Page 5.

Thurn & Taxis Postal Administration.



Dr. Borge Lundh, well-known Danish postal historian, believes marks 1 and 2 were used in France rather than Hamburg. They are, however, listed under Hamburg in *Die Poststempel von Hamburg*, by Dr. Ernst Meyer-Margreth.

#### Dates of issue.

I have confined dates of issue mentioned to those seen on letters from Norway. Earlier or later marks may be known from Denmark but these I have ignored. I would like to alter dates under heading "Thurn and Taxis Postal Administration" on page 5 to read as follows:

3. 1784-1806                      4. 1786-1802.                      5. 1804 only.                      6. 1806 only.

#### New Transit Mark.

In Dr. Lundh's article "The transit marks of Hamburg on letters from the monarchies of Denmark and Sweden until September, 1806" a new mark, known on one letter from Norway, is listed. This can be added to the same part of my article as marking 4-A.

R-4 in two types. One of these is not known on a cover from Norway and is thus ignored. A large R-4, 9 x 6 mm, used on a cover from Drammen in conjunction with Type 4.

#### Postage rates.

On April 7, 1795 the French currency was changed from 1 Livre=20 sols to 1 Franc=100 decimes. This change did not become operative until 1800. The table should read "sols" instead of "decimes" for dates 1744-1795 inclusive, with the 1806 rate 19 decimes correct as appeared in original article.

#### Page 6.

##### Postage rates.

As page 5, currency should be "sols" for dates 1767-1799 inclusive rather than decimes; the 1802 rate of 15 decimes correct as originally printed.

#### Page 7.

Heading of section two should read "1806-1808" rather than 1806-1811.

Heading of section 3 should read "1808-1814" rather than 1811-1814.

At bottom of page "In 1811 Hamburg" should read "In 1808 Hamburg." The Grand Duchy of Berg transit mark type 3 should, as a result of these date changes, be transferred to Section 3 and appear as type one in the transit marks on page 8.

#### Page 8.

##### Imperial French Post Office.

Type 1. Previous type 3 listed under Grand Duchy of Berg.

Type 2. Straightline Dan. pr. Hambourg. Photostat of a letter from Christiana on 8.3.1810 has been seen.

Type 3. Former type one.

Type 4. Former type 2.

Type 5. Former type 3.

My thanks to all who took time to write and give fresh information. I am always happy to alter an article provided what eventually emerges is the truth. R. Geraint Jones, 37 Woodhill Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 7ES, United Kingdom.

## The Editor's Mailbag

Forgery of the Iceland flight Graf Zeppelin cover, illustrated below, shows hand-drawn cancel—in violet—on the stamp, with balance of cancel—on the envelope—in black. The black portion of cancel may be genuine. Thanks to a valued friend and SCC member, who requests anonymity.



\* \* \*

Svend Yort writes to comment on his receipt and immediate use of the new two-volume handbook *Danske Breve*. A cover franked with a pane from an advertising booklet of the 1930s showed a pen-and-ink cross from corner to corner on the front of the cover, done prior to attaching the pane, then added in the same handwriting "Søndagsbrev" (Sunday Letter). Yort went to the new handbooks and, sure enough, there was a full explanation which, loosely translated (by Yort. Ed.) reads:

"That the concept of a 'Sunday letter' dates back only to 1929 is because up to that time it was taken for granted that mail would be delivered on all seven days of the week. Sundays and holidays included. In the *Post-and Travel Handbook for 1902* it is stated that in the Copenhagen postal district there were 8 (eight) letter deliveries and 3 (three) package deliveries a day on weekdays, while on holidays there were only one letter—and package—delivery.

"By 1929 the Post Office was forced to admit that labor costs were higher on holidays, and that it would have to charge an extra fee for Sunday delivery. In 1972 Sunday delivery had become so expensive that it had to be dropped altogether."

\* \* \*

*Frimerker som Hobby*, the newly-established and quality journal from Norway, gave us a full page of good promotional coverage in a recent issue, according to a copy of the advance proof of that page received from SCC Li-

brarian Stanley Hanson. Equal-size large paragraphs were devoted to the SCC and its journal, including a note about Chapter 17's **Luren; COMPEX '79** and the SCC medals. Thanks to those responsible for this gesture!

\* \* \*

**Ernst M. Cohn** writes to mention his continuing problems in having his philatelic literature exhibition entries actually percolate through the grounds of the mails and the exhibition people to finally arrive before the eyes of the show attendees and the Jury. This time the May, 1979 Bulgarian show. Ernst mailed his entry on November 7, 1978, and after much correspondence determined, despite the exhibition's people stating it was not received, that indeed the item, sent by Registered mail, was signed for in Sofia on November 15, 1978. This was the English language version of his entry, and fortunately the French language version made the trip and was judged. Short of having to make the trip and hand-deliver it, then baby-sitting it until the show is over, I have no suggestions!

\* \* \*

Please keep up your good work! The flow of manuscripts continues to be a welcome pile in my files, and you can tell from this issue that the quality also continues to improve in depth and original research content. A few points to remember, please: typewrite if possible; double-space lines and leave at least an inch margin all four sides; do not underscore (titles, names, etc. wanted in bold face type can be lightly underscored with colored, preferably red or green, ink and noted in one margin "bf"); use correct (or no—it can be easily added by the editor but removal is a problem!) punctuation; indent paragraphs; prepare and retain a photocopy if possible in case lost in the mails. Don't use superior figures like the little number you see, in a smaller typeface, a bit above the line of type in the more scholarly books for footnotes and references. Use (Note 1.) or the like, instead. Photos are always most welcome and should be high-contrast black and white prints if possible. Don't mark the face of your photos. A brief sketch with the manuscript noting what you'd like highlighted in the photo will suffice and aid the editor and printer in achieving your goals.

Please remember these suggestions are for Posthorn manuscripts and not necessarily applicable to other journals requirements. The editor will do all he can to use anything sent in which is not illegal to publish, but your help will make more certain that your submission will (1.) be used and (2.) more likely to appear in the "next issue."

\* \* \*

**Carolyn Briggs**, a partner in the Jay Smith & Associates philatelic enterprise, sends a photocopy from **Seig's Møntkatalog 1979**, the authoritative priced catalog of Scandinavian coinage published by Frovin Sieg, Ulbjerg gl. Skole, 8832 Skals, Denmark. The copy illustrates encased postage stamps, with advertising on reverse of case, of the 1920s issues of Denmark. Similar in preparation and intent to those of the U. S. Civil War era.

\* \* \*

**David Ames** notes ". . . an interesting erroneous cancel (found) in a lot of Finland (kiloware). The error has the incorrect name of Sobankylä instead of Sodankylä.

\* \* \*

**Ed Fraser**, our prolific producer of philatelic papers on Finnish philately, sends a copy of his letter of July 31, 1979 to the Finnish Postal Museum soliciting assistance and cooperation in his, the SCC's and the Posthorn's efforts in promoting philatelic education and enjoyment.

\* \* \*

The Treasurer of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society (of Great Britain), 2(C) Aberdeen Rd., London, N5 2UH, Mr. A. J. S. Riddell, writes to correct my mention in the May, 1979 issue of that group.

". . . the magazine is only available to members who . . . should write to the Secretary, who will be happy to send the necessary forms. She is Susan Worsley, of 71 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13 9RT."

Mr. Riddell kindly adds compliments on our journal and they are eagerly presented to our authors, who make this and any other journal what it is—or may become.

\* \* \*

**Gunnar Jessen**, 39 Dan-Y-Bryn Ave., Radyr, Cardiff, CF4 8DD, England, sends a photocopy of page 47 of "Danske Stålstik Varianter," published by the D.F.U. in 1962 which illustrates as figure 158 the variety of overprint mentioned page 90, Posthorn 148, May, 1979. The item involved is the 1934 4ø provisional overprint on the 25ø blue Caravel Denmark stamp (AFA 221; Facit 238, Scott 244).

\* \* \*

**STaMpsHOW '80**, the American Philatelic Society's 94th annual convention/exhibition, will be held in Spokane, WA on Sept. 25-28, 1980 at the Sheraton-Spokane Hotel in Riverpark Center. Details on all features of the very popular event available soon and free on request sent to: APS STaMpsHOW 80, Bov 800, State College, PA 16801.

The Literature exhibition portion for that event will be bigger and better than before, with prospectus and entry form available about January 10, 1980 from Joe Frye, Box 22308, Memphis, TN 38122 (or from APS as noted). The form will again be printed in the December, 1979 issue of the APS Writers Unit 30 journal, the **News Bulletin**. All POSTHORN readers are urged to solicit entries by all their favorite journals and by all authors/publishers of any philatelic literature items of any and all kinds.

—Joe F. Frye

\* S \* C \* C \*

### COVERAGE

What have you enjoyed in the POSTHORN in the recent past? What have you missed in its pages? Contact your associate editor and offer your knowledge and help to promote your favorite country in our journal. This editor can do very little alone. The authors and associate editors earned a Vermeil medal for the POSTHORN at the APS Literature Exhibition this year, and it certainly would be nice to make it a Gold next year! j.f.f.



Denmark      Iceland      Norway  
 Finland      Greenland  
 Faroes      Sweden      D.W. I.

- Comprehensive price lists
- Wantlist Service
- Complete buying list

**STEPHEN T. SUGAR**

1504 Mission St.      South Pasadena, CA 91030  
 Phone (213) 799-8097

## Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren

The July issue of *FINDS*, the publication of the Scandinavian Philatelic Club of Japan, contains articles on the postal history of Norway, uncatalogued plate flaws on the 1885 10-penni issue of Finland, and philatelic travel in Scandinavia. One slight handicap for many of us is that the journal is printed almost entirely in the Japanese language. Details: Scandinavian Philatelic Club (JPS), c/o Hajime Harada, 895 Koyato Samukawa, Kohza-gun, Kanagawa Prefecture 253-01, Japan.

The June issue of *Scandinavian Contact*, published in England, carries an article by J. C. Stone with some additional comments on the small circle cancels of Finland beyond what is found in the book on that subject by Gummeson, Ossa and Stenberg. In his Danish Notes column, A. E. Beardsmore discusses "Retur" letters, i.e. mail which has been returned for one reason or another to the sender, and so marked on the cover.

*Scandinavian Contact* is published by the Scandinavian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. This year its president Chris Jahr steps down and Angus Parker takes over the reins for the period 1979-81.

The May/June issue of the UPU journal *Union Postale* carries several items of Scandinavian interest. The Danish Postal Administration has issued a 16-page magazine for postal patrons, thus joining other Scandinavian countries which have similar publications. The journal's intent is to inform readers of PTT services and operations.

Another item in the UPU journal points out the problem of pre-dated franking by machine, which gives the impression that the postal service has caused the delay. About 10% of machine-franked mail is pre-dated, and the Danish postal administration has taken up a campaign to encourage users to follow regulations more closely.

A third item tells us that Sweden has initiated a campaign of postal advertising on its postal vehicles. Specific messages can be geared to a local area, and more general messages, such as encouraging use of the posts for sending parcels, can be done on a country-wide basis. The postal advertising may be extended to letter boxes in the future.

The May issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* continues the extensive article by Jørgen Gotfredsen on the Danish Provisionals. In this issue he details the 15/24 Øre surcharge with in-depth treatment of varieties and usage.

*Het Noorderlicht* is the excellent journal published by the Scandinavian section of the Netherlands Philatelic Society. The group numbers 500, and the journal appears four times a year. Items of interest in the April issue include an article on varieties of Danish parcel stamps, Swedish stamps on fluorescent paper, and plate varieties of the Danish 3 Skilling bi-color. Details on the group and its publication (in Dutch) can be obtained from N. F. V. "Skaninavie" Secretary W. A. Rap, Mozartlaan 345, 2555 KC The Hague, Netherlands.

The July issue of *The American Philatelist*, monthly APS journal, carries a reprint of Carl Werenskiold's important article, "The History of Watermarking." This article by our well known SCC member first appeared in the February 1976 *POSTHORN*, and its reprinting brings our efforts before a very wide audience.

The 12th annual APS Literature Exhibition and Competition resulted in awards for two Scandinavian publications in a very strong competitive showing. The *POSTHORN* took a vermeil, attesting to the hard work and high

standards of our authors and our very capable editor Joe F. Frye. SCC Chapter 17's **Luren**, edited by Paul Nelson, received a silver-bronze. The Boston APS show, held in August, was also host to a regional SCC meeting, organized by Chapter 5 in New England, and reported on elsewhere in this issue of the PH.

## A Review

By Stanley H. Hanson, SCC, SPF

**Norske Maskinstempler med Text—1903-1978.** Published by Norske Filatelistforbund, Oslo, Norway. Cost 50 NKR. 175 pp. 6x9". Soft bound. Excellent illustrations. Heavy, coated paper.

The Norwegian Cancel Study Groups under the able leadership of J. Fredriksen and fifteen various Norwegian philatelic clubs have put their efforts into publishing this handbook and catalog.

Lists all slogan machine cancels with text. Gives the first and last day usage. Over 900 crisp and clear illustrations. Identifies each cancel with a number and year.

A full chapter on the various machine cancellers used during the past 75 years. Excellent illustrations.

Includes a monograph on Thematic collecting of slogan cancels, giving the various themes according to FIP rules.

Norwegian text. With the tables and illustrations shown there is no problem in getting the desired information.

Those that put their time and effort into this project are thanked for this excellent handbook which should be in your library.

## Literature Reviews

C. J. Peterson, editor of the *Philatelic Literature Review*, quarterly journal of the American Philatelic Research Library, Inc., sends an advance copy of his review of the recently-published (1978) philatelic dictionary of foreign words *Filatelisk Fremmeordbog*, by Kylling & Søn, Sankt Knuds Vej 10, DK-3000 Helsingør, Denmark at \$13 postpaid. Suffice to say that Charlie—who is an International Philatelic Literature Jurist of impeccable reputation—found the 64 pages it offers rather well filled with errors of spelling and/or editing in his examination of only the letter "A" entries and otherwise, and he adds that the same publisher offers a philatelic dictionary with four-language listings at DKr 125:—, he has not seen it ". . . but on the basis of the multi-language dictionary (mentioned above in this paragraph, ed.) I'm not about to order it." Nuf sed.

\* \* \*

Even those persons who are only casually interested in Danish philately will be fascinated by the two-volume set published this year by Aarhus Fri-mærkehandel, *Danske Breve, 1851-1979*, by Jørgen Gottfredsen and Jesper Haff. The serious collector will find these a "must." The price (approx. \$40 for the set) is a bargain! The two volumes are richly illustrated, many in full color, and the information does not seem to be available so conveniently (if indeed at all) anywhere else. The only drawback is that the text is Danish.

Volume I discusses various items which, over the years, could be sent postally as well as the rates from 1 April 1851 (the date of the appearance of the 4 RBS) until today. New rates went into effect on 17 April 1979, and these are incorporated into the text.

Volume II, a long overdue work in respect of Danish covers, is entitled "Principles of Valuation and Cataloguing." It lists virtually every Danish stamp chronologically, following the AFA system, and prices singles, pairs and 3-strips on covers, address-cards, or whatever sort of postal use the stamp might have had. This sort of breakdown does not entirely apply to the engraved stamps since 1933, and these are generally not listed by individual stamps, but rather various rates are given for different time periods with information about which stamps, current during that period, normally paid that rate.

There are also rules of thumb for assessing covers with mixed frankings. For example, 100 years ago, an ordinary letter cost 8 øre. What should be the value of a cover with a pair of 4-øre stamps? Or a cover with a 5-øre and a 3-øre stamp?

An interesting point is made early in Volume I. Covers with square skilling stamps are relatively more common than covers from around the turn of the century, because in the early years envelopes were not commonly used, and so letters were generally folded and franked on "the other side." Consequently, if the letter were being saved, its franking would necessarily also be preserved. On the other hand, with the introduction of the øre-stamps in 1875, the use of envelopes became almost universal, and now letters could be preserved conveniently without the cover.

Another curiosity is that the valuations show that sometimes a single stamp on cover is worth more than a pair of the same stamp on cover (for example, AFA 16 and 17—the 2-sk. and 3-sk. bicolors). This is easily explained by looking into the rates that the stamps paid. In the case of the 2-skilling stamp, a single paid the local postage, while a pair could be used for the domestic rate; in the case of the 3-skilling stamp, a single paid the relatively uncommon rate for printed matter ("korsbånd") to Sweden, Norway or Germany, with a pair paying for letters to Sweden and Norway as well as heavier printed matter to those countries and certain letters to Schleswig and Holstein.

Note that none of these is the most usual sort of cover, but it is easily seen that pairs on cover would occur somewhat more frequently than singles.

I've only begun to scratch the surface of the over 400 pages in these two volumes. I'm sure that you will find that these two volumes are not only a valuable addition to your philatelic library, but also a joy to look through! I recommend them without qualification.

—Gerald S. Silberman

\* \* \*

**Norgeskatologen 1980**, annual priced encyclopedia/catalog of the postage stamps of Norway, is here seen in larger format of 284 pp 5x9" for the noted edition, and this reviewer feels the inclusion of an increased English-language introduction and English-Norwegian vocabulary reflects the increasing acceptance of this estimable publication by English-speaking collectors and dealers worldwide.

Sufficient—without overpoweringly heavy—coverage is provided the subject and ranges from, but not limited to, the adhesives and their cancellations; souvenir items with facsimile stamps as part of their design; booklets; "known full sheets"; watermark details; postal stationery and a listing of stamp clubs.

Price Nkr 54.— is given as "normal selling price." If not available from POSTHORN dealer advertisers, it may be had from Oslo Filatelistklubb, Box 298 Sentrum, Oslo 1, Norway, the publishers.

Catalogue-committee chairman Arne Thune-Larsen and his obviously large

group of contributors are to be complimented not only for this increased depth and quality of coverage but for what seems to be a definite increase in quality of production of this year's edition. (j.f.f.)

\* \* \*

**Luren**, Chapter 17 (Los Angeles) monthly journal brings in its October, 1979 volume 11, number 10, whole number 124 edition "Finland—Machine Cancellations" by Henry Tester, a remarkably thorough coverage of the subject on just six pages of that journal's 8½x11-inch format, plus the usual wide range of other facts and figures of interest to philatelists of the Nordiska-Ländernas. \$6 per year includes dues or \$5 for the journal only; SCC Chapter 17, Box 57397, Los Angeles, CA 90057. Interesting clash of detail in the masthead-data box page 2 . . . " . . . is published monthly" . . . "Mailed 4 times annually)."

I think I get it monthly. Worth the cost even if it HAS become quarterly! (j.f.f.)

\* \* \*

**Basic Philately**, 68 pages of what the title infers and strongly worth a review frequently by most of us, offers in its 8½x11-inch magazine format a wealth of help to beginner, advanced or "graduate student" philatelists. Author Kenneth A. Wood, editor of **Stamp Collector** newspaper, deserves compliments as well as purchases of this estimable work, \$3.95 from Stamp Collector, Box 10, Albany, OR 97321.

The hamburger and fries compared to the more awesome treatments such as L. N. & M. Williams' monumental work **The Foundations of Philately**, Wood's effort is quite worth the cost to anyone, in this reviewer's opinion. (j.f.f.)

\* \* \*

**Facit Specialkatalog 1979-1980** brings us in its fresh new edition a treatment of postal rates Sweden to South America, Africa 1855-1872; thorough and complete priced coverage of Swedish pre-stamp covers; postal markings after (1855) stamps were first used and values of such markings on covers; a remarkably complete outline by town name and cancel type of Swedish cancels after 1855 with rarity factors or prices on stamp and on cover; Swedish stamps known on cover in various usages to foreign addresses and valuations thereof; rarity grades for stamps of Sweden on cover to other countries 1855-1919; Norway Ship Cancels; pre-stamp covers and cancels; cancels on Norway 1; Denmark 4 R.B.S. cancel values; and so it goes with much information not otherwise available or certainly not "in one piece" as this is, plus of course their thorough and gnat-track specialized treatment of "our" countries of interest philately. My copy cost me \$15.50 by air from overseas POSTHORN advertiser and that was after a 30% dealer discount. Have no idea what the "normal" price is, nor from whence other copies can be had. I learned this source had a few and ordered them. Speaking of FACIT—the parent firm who publishes the FACIT catalog, Frimarkshuset AB of Stockholm, has been acquired as one of the subsidiaries of Letraset Corporation, another of which is the Stanley Gibbons International, Ltd. form of 391 Strand, London WC2R OLX, according to a press release received Sept. 12, 1979 from the latter firm. (j.f.f.)

\* \* \*

**One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps**—a review, by Sir Athelstan Caroe FRPS(L); R.D.P.

The Icelandic Post Office took an important decision in 1970 to publish a book on the Postage Stamps of Iceland to celebrate the centenary of the first



stamp in 1873. In the event, three years proved insufficient time for the production effort and the Icelandic-language version first appeared in 1976, with the English translation edition in 1977 thereafter.

The authorship was entrusted to Jon Adalsteinn Jonsson, a man of letters and compiler of a new Icelandic dictionary. Jon Adalsteinn was not, and did not pretend to be, an expert on postage stamps, though he was a modest collector. More important, he was a skilled researcher and knew how to tap many fruitful sources which for one reason or another had eluded others—including myself.

Much discussion took place as to the scope of the book. Basically it was decided to illustrate every single Icelandic stamp except minor varieties, in original colors, together with information as to dates and quantities issued. Official stamps were included.

Next it was decided to trace—in fullest details—the origins of the postal service, including the brief period when Danish stamps were used, and it is in this field that Jon Adalsteinn's genius is perhaps most marked. The origins of the 1897 and 1902-03 provisionals are also fully discussed.

Finally, with great imagination, many rare early covers are illustrated and appropriately captioned.

It can be argued that the book is to some extent lopsided, inasmuch as it concentrates heavily on certain subjects and skates more lightly over others, particularly the modern issues. This aspect however I find quite natural (though one gets a little tired of reading of the manipulations of Konsul Thomsen), especially as authoritative information on the 19th century is hard to come by. Moreover, Adalsteinn, in the course of his researches in depth, has solved definitely two puzzles which have baffled students until the book appeared.

The first of these puzzles is why the 3 skilling stamp was issued, when other values were all even-numbered. True, the writer Koefoed stated at the turn of the century that it was needed for foreign mail, but he adduced no evidence or list of odd-numbered rates. Now Jon Adalsteinn has unearthed an exchange of letters between the authorities and the Icelandic postmaster-elect, Ole Frisen, confirming Koefoed's statement. Yet, no covers have survived to prove the necessity of an "odd" value, the only 3 skilling extant on cover being in a pair, plus 2 skilling, being the letter rate to Denmark (8 skilling).

The other puzzle was why the second printing of the 10 aur official should have occurred in two distinct shades—dull blue and greenish-blue (the first printing in ultramarine). Careful research proved that the small 10 aur issue—500 sheets—of 1884 was not of postage stamps but of officials. This means that the 10 aur postage must be reduced from eight printings to seven, and the 10 aur official raised from two to three. Philatelically, this is Jon Adalsteinn's greatest discovery.

Jon Adalsteinn also carried out exhaustive research into the sale and distribution of the skilling stamps, office by office, and the subsequent disposal—over nearly 20 years—of the remainders. Some interesting figures emerged. The percentage actually sold of each value was:

2 Sk. 90%	3 Sk. 70%	4 Sk. 69%	8 Sk. 69%	16 Sk. 56%
and officials	4 Sk. 51½%	8 Sk. 93%		

The figures for the officials are remarkable, showing heavy usage of the higher value. Again, considering the rarity of used 2 skillings, the figure of 90% sold is very high. Also most interesting is that very few offices received any 3 skillings at all and, except Reykjavik, Akureyri and Isafjordur,

sales were minimal; even where only one sheet of 100 stamps was received the majority were returned at the end of the skilling period.

These figures have considerable bearing on the relative scarcity of mint and used; allowing for the probability that a large proportion of those used were lost (in wastepaper baskets, etc.) the figures by and large justify relative current prices, except perhaps for the two values most heavily sold which may be underrated unused—especially in prime, well-centered mint condition.

Readers of Jon Adalsteinn's splendid book may notice frequent reference to myself and my writings, often in overgenerous terms. I first met him on a visit to Reykjavik in 1972 when the work was in progress. We became friends and I was able to provide him with copies of British literature on Icelandic stamps—notably in the *London Philatelist*—which he had not seen. We also discussed the general layout of the book and some of the problems he was tackling. Our talks continued during "Icelandia '73."

It was however not until the English version was taken in hand that I became closely involved. The actual translation was done by a first-class authorized translator—an Englishman resident in Iceland—but his work had one important and inevitable defect. He was unfamiliar with philatelic vocabularies and terms. (To say this is no disrespect to a very fine job.) To ensure accuracy over philatelic terms, Jon Adalsteinn sent me the galleys of the Icelandic text as well as those of the translation, and I think we have got it right.

I found flaws (I will not say mistakes) in the Icelandic original text, and even at a late stage many of these were eliminated. All such were, I think, eliminated from the English version prior to going to press. I claim no credit for this, merely much satisfaction in being privileged to put a few finishing touches to a splendid work. A work, in fact, which should be in the hands of every serious collector of Icelandic stamps, and which—despite a pretty stiff price—is worth every penny.

\* S \* C \* C \*

#### D. W. I. ENCYCLOPEDIA VOLUME I NOW AVAILABLE!

The first of the four planned volumes of the Danish West Indies encyclopedia, Victor E. Engstrom's labor of love so long in preparation and the realization of the dreams and efforts of so many authors and contributors, has now come to light as the definitive study, "Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917: Postal History" in its five chapter, 180-page main text and 12-page bibliography in 6x9-inch hardbound format.

This first entity brings its enthralled readers chapters entitled "Brief Danish West Indies Geography and History"; "Danish West Indies Postal Service, 1954-1917"; "British Packet and Postal Agencies at St. Thomas and St. Croix"; "Foreign Postal Services at St. Thomas" and "Forwarders and Merchants, Private Post Offices and Ship-letters 1790-1917" in its excellently and sufficiently illustrated pages of text from author Robert G. Stone.

S.C.C. members may order Volume I for \$24.50 plus \$2.00 (postage by 4th class Book Rate and postal insurance, wrapping and handling) from Scandinavian Philatelic Literature Service, Box 175 Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044.

Dealers or clubs interested in acquiring six or more copies in a single order should write for quotations to the same address.

Non-members of S.C.C. purchasing less than six copies should remit \$34.85 (plus \$2.00 postage, etc.) as noted above.

Details on subsequent volumes will be announced later—perhaps in the February Posthorn, among other journals.

## Norma—1980

As of August, 1979, the printing of NORMA—1980 Catalog of Finland was sold out according to its publisher, Ilppo Ylismaa of Suomen Postimerkkeily, in Helsinki.

Price changes abound throughout many of the philatelic periods. NORMA's price increases (and occasional decreases) are determined and rationalized by keeping a veritable philatelic stethoscope on the pulse of the international auction market activities. Private Treaty sales details given to the editors of NORMA contribute to the soundness of the evaluations.

Records are kept of many hundreds of Finnish auction items to determine the cost and the availability of material which results in evaluations predicated on "supply and demand."

Happily, NORMA has again added some new features and enlightening notes to make more interesting and comprehensible those emissions which are difficult to understand.

One of the new features of the 1980 issue is a table of the stamps of Russia used and postally cancelled in Finland during the so-called period of "Russification" which started in 1891 and culminated with Finland's Declaration of Independence in 1917.

This table was a sorely needed barometer. One Finnish writer described these mail items, bearing Russian stamps and because they have been ignored as, "The Missing Link in Finnish Philately." To date, exhibitions almost never include these items. Understandable though it may be, the fact remains that Russian stamps were legal and postally valid in Finland during the era of Russification as were the Finnish "ring-stamps" valid in Russia or its vast Grand Duchy. For certain, though Russian Stamps and postal stationery were not part of the Finnish Postal System (and not welcome), they surely should be studied and researched—not only to create another interesting topic for exhibition, but to maintain the "link" that existed during this period as a segment of Finnish history.

The late Jaakko Kempainen was a strong advocate for the acceptance of this category and for the integration of such into exhibition. I understand that respectable collections are being formed and considerable research is being done on these issues in Europe. Should the Finns fall behind???

No matter how this issue is viewed from a personal aspect, NORMA adds another "FIRST"—letting the collector decide.

A brief description of the Postal Manifest of 1890 prefaces the table, concisely explaining the term of events. The table covers Postal Stationery values; Romanov issues; Russian stamps and imprinted values on newspaper wrappers, etc., encompassing the years 1889-1918.

### Cancellations:

A second new feature is a table listing the extra value of many cancellations used on letters from the Classic periods. Some of these values are "eye-openers" and essential information to the collector.

### Postal Rate Tables: 1856-1979

One of the real puzzlers facing the collector of Finnish covers is whether or not an item is properly postaged. This guide will serve to reduce the possibility of anyone buying one of the over-postaged, made-up junk letters which continue to plague the market.

### Price Changes: 1856-1866

There has been a strong price rise in the mint or unused stamps of the

early issues. My viewing of Finnish exhibits abroad, collections, and scads of foreign auction catalogs for many years shows me that good, unused copies of the Classics are conspicuous by their absence. Thus, these sharp increases are justified, having been "held in two" all too long.

Modest to substantial price rises are reflected in good used copies, too. Classic, flawless material, used or unused, get bids well over catalog estimates.

#### 1875-1882

This interesting and popular period's prices remained stable, with normal increases of 10-20%. I'd venture that many areas of this period are underrated. However, NORMA does not arbitrarily raise prices without solid substantiation. My recommendation to collectors of Finland . . . BUY!

#### 1925-1929

The Watermark positions of the Swastika and Posthorn designs of the Saarinen Lion-type stamps of the Republic remained pretty much the same although there has been an accented interest of this period in Europe. It is hard to find enough of the rarer items to determine a sound market view. Some of these hard-to-get high-values are very hard to find. Again, I like the caution.

#### Zeppelin

Finland's only Zep issue, the 10 Marks, rose solidly, influenced by the Zep specialists. The error of date, "1830" instead of "1930" went from \$1500 to \$1750 for an unused copy. A used copy zoomed to \$2000 from \$1625.00.

The most fascinating price rise occurs with the 1963, Blue, Field Post issue, NORMA #8 (Facit M-8). Take a look at the progress of this little item.

	NORMA-1977	NORMA-1979	NORMA-1980
Unused	130 Marks (\$32.00)	300 Marks (\$75.00)	600 Marks (\$150.00)
Used	180 Marks (\$45.00)	350 Marks (\$87.00)	600 Marks (\$150.00)
On Cover	220 Marks (\$55.00)	400 Marks (\$100.00)	650 Marks (\$162.00)

This item has been in demand and has at long last "come out of the closet." (I rounded out the above figures for convenience.)

Of course NORMA is still in color and Finnish/English. Copies while my supply lasts available from: A. Hvidonov, P. O. Box 1231, Great Neck, N. Y. 11023. Check or Money Order with order, \$7.50 post paid.

. . . Mike Hvidonov

# SCANDINAVIA

JAY SMITH & ASSOCIATES

P.O. Box 5485

Madison, WI 53705

608/233-4374

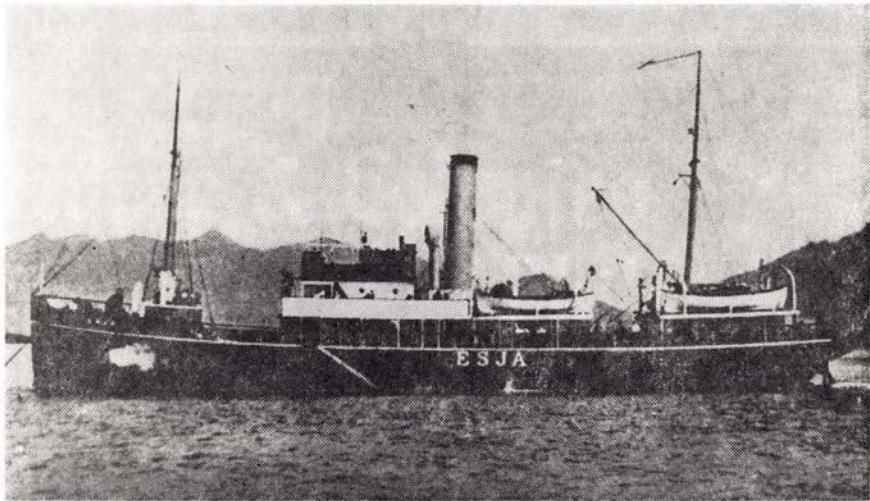
BUYING • SELLING

APPROVALS FROM WANT LISTS

*Scandinavia Is Our Specialty*

## Skip Nr. 1

c 1979, Sigurdur Thorsteinsson



The M. S. ESJA, owned by the Icelandic Steamship Company, was the only Icelandic ship to have a fully-operating post office on board. The ship travelled along the coastline and received mail from the ports of call. The mail was sorted and put ashore at the appropriate places.

If the mail was mailed on the ship and thus uncanceled, the ship had its own canceler. As a branch of the Reykjavik Post Office (the first branch as such) it had the place name REYKJAVIK and in the lower part of the cancellation, the words "Skip Nr. 1." This points out to us that there were plans to equip more ships with cancelers, although this never happened.

Most of the mail that came aboard the ship was cancelled mail from Post Offices or collecting stations ashore. However there was always some mail at shipside that received the ship's cancellation and some transit mail, in the form of registered letters and parcels, that needed transit cancellations.

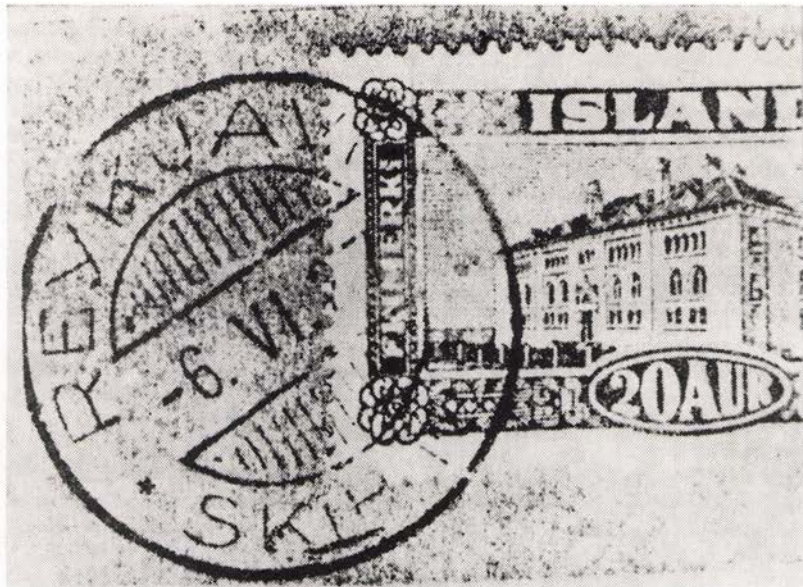
When the ship came to Iceland in 1923, it had a rather large smoking salon which, when it became a post ship, was transformed into a post office and an office for the Purser.

Four postmasters were appointed to the job aboard the ship, apart from several men who served as such when the others were on holiday or sick leave. In the end, when Karl Hjalmarrsson went ashore, some postmen took his place, but each one only for one trip.

These four postmasters were: 1. Jón Leós, 1924-1926; 2. Jens Stefánsson, 1927-1928; 3. Sigurgeir Einarsson, 1929-1935; and, 4. Karl Hjalmarrsson, 1936-1938.

The reason that so few letters are found with "Skip Nr. 1" is that the ship received most of its mail from other postal stations and these were already canceled. This accounts for the scarcity of cancellations although the ship operated as a branch post office for 14 years.

When the ship came to a port on its voyage, a mail box was hung on the side of the gang plank, so people from ashore could put their mail in it. However, people from ashore could not buy stamps from the postmaster of



the ship because he was too busy delivering and receiving mail and thus sometimes was not on board. Thus only the passengers on the ship could buy stamps from this Post Office aboard.

The service thus rendered was established on the ship in 1924 but finished when the ship was sold in 1938. Then the Post Office was not moved to the new M. S. ESJA so the so-called Old ESJA was the only ship ever to have a special canceler aboard. Other ships in similar services have only had numeral cancelers aboard or at their offices ashore.

The technical details of the M. S. ESJA are:

Built in Copenhagen in 1923, for the Icelandic State, for use as combined cargo and passenger vessel. 749 brutto cubic tons. 118 passengers. Used as a passenger and cargo ship around the coast of Iceland between ports there in the years 1923-1938; and as a branch of the Reykjavik Post Office from 1924-1938, when it was sold to Chile. The Captains were Thorolfur Beck, 1923-1929; Pálmi Loftsson, 1929; and, Asgeir Sigurdsson, 1929-1938.

## SCANDINAVIA Large Stock — Moderate Prices

Strong in 19th Century, including the better items; Covers, Postal Stationery, Cancels, Errors, Proofs, Varieties, etc. Please call for an appointment before coming.

### HENRIK POLLAK

55 West 42nd Street

New York, N. Y. 10036

Phone (212) OX-5-1348

APS

SPA

SCC

ASDA

## NEW MEMBERS

- 2243 OH, Gunilla Nunne, 1916 Vinewood St., La Verne, CA 91750  
Sweden, US by J. Frye #1031
- 2244 SCHODROF, Donald, Box 387, Sheridan, IL 60551  
Iceland by K. Aro #1338
- 2245 LARSEN, Gerald H., Unicorn Systems Co., 3807 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010 Denmark, Faroes, Greenland by K. Aro #1338
- 2246 CHAMBERS, Jo Earl, 2030 Brookmount Ave., Coquitlam, B. C., Canada V3J 6V4 Norway, Denmark, Canada by K. Aro #1338
- 2247 WESTGAARD, Dag S., 2827 Niixon Cres., Prince George, B. C., Canada V2K 3K8 Scandinavia, India, Egypt, Colombia by K. Aro #1338
- 2248 WINETEER, Stephen A., 13655 Ravenswood Dr., Choctaw, OK 73020 Greenland, Faroes by K. Aro #1338
- 2249 LAHTI, Erik A., 1840 Delany Rd., Apt. 415, Gurnee, IL 60031  
Iceland, Denmark, Greenland by K. Aro #1338
- 2250 STATMAN, Max, P. O. Box 56, Judson, TX 75660  
Scandinavia by K. Aro #1338
- 2251 SATTERLY, Robert A., Veterans Medical Center, Sepulveda, CA 91343  
Scandinavia, Canada by K. Aro #1338
- 2252 CARLSON, Charles R., 7449 Stonefruit Dr., San Antonio, TX 78240  
Sweden by K. Aro #1338
- 2253 MELBERG, Ingolf B., 4 Snow Terrace, Somerville, MA 02145  
Denmark by W. Rindone #2101
- 2254 ANDERSEN, Ib Falk, 57 Duer Lane, Staten Island, NY 10301  
Denmark and Scandinavia by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2255 PEDERSEN, Thomas, 112 Newham Ave., Brentwood, NY 11717  
Scandinavia and U.S. by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2256 CAFFREY, John, 48 Park Ave., Suffern, NY 10901  
Norway, Faroes and Greenland by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2257 BANTZ, Keith, 222 Artist Lake Dr., Middle Island, NY 11953  
Sweden by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2258 ALBERT, Lise, Annursnac Hill Rd., Concord, MA 01742  
Scandinavia by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2259 STEMMER, Kurt F., 528 Roberts Ave., Bellmawr, NJ 08031  
Scandinavia by A. Silverstadt #1291
- 2260 HARFORD, Joyce, 40 Arthur St. #1202, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7T5  
Canada Norway by F. Bloedow #L-24
- 2261 LUTTIO, Michael L., Btry C OSB, FAOBC 9-79, Box 840, Ft. Sill, OK 73503  
Scandinavia, Dominica by K. Aro #1338
- 2262 KLEIN, James H., 1852 Crestridge Dr., Littleton, CO 80121

SWEDEN - ICELAND - FAROES  
DENMARK - NORWAY

Recent Issues

Year Sets

New Issue Service

Vikingskepp Philatelic Service

Box 5072, Station F

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2C 3H3

- Greenland, DWI, Danzig, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania—by K. Aro #1338  
 2263 STRANDFELDT, Jack W. R., P. O. Box 552, Yorktown, VA 23690  
 Sweden, Scandinavia, Baltics by F. Bloedow #L-24  
 2264 THOMPSON, Eunice L., Rural Rte. #3, Pontiac, IL 61764  
 Norway, U.S. by F. Bloedow #L-24  
 2265 KONDO, Yutaka, 21-28, Honmachi, 4-chome, Ichinomiya City, Aichi-  
 Pref. 491, Japan  
 Sweden, Finland, Norway, Spain, Portugal by K. Aro #1338  
 2266 BOARDMAN, Tim, 3212 S. E. 85th, Portland, OR 97266  
 Sweden, Scandinavia by C. Whittlesey #645  
 2267 BERNSOHN, Ken, 1413 Nation Crescent, Prince George, B. C. V2M 4E1  
 Canada Iceland, Norway by J. MacLatchy #1229  
 2268 HALPERN, Arthur, 63 Harbor Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094  
 Scandinavia, Canada, Europa by K. Aro #1338  
 2269 BURKE, William S., P. O. Box 1270, Brooklyn, NY 11202  
 Scandinavia by K. Aro #1338  
 2270 MONTELLO, Lawrence J., P. O. Box 474, Stevens Point, WI 54481  
 Scandinavia by K. Aro #1338  
 2271 HELMISTO, Henry A., 657 Jopling, Ishpeming, MI 49849  
 Finland, U.S. by K. Aro #1338

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 1548 VON HELLENS, Bjorn, 2004 North Hoover St., Los Angeles, CA 90027  
 1746 VOSS, Robert T., 317 43rd Ave. Court, Greeley, CO 80631  
 2028 LENTZ, Paul J. Jr., 431 Carey Ave., Wilkes Barre, PA 18702  
 L-29 THORSTEINSSON, Sigurdur H., Ovre Båstadveg 2, N-1370 Asker,  
 Norway  
 2218 STEIN, Samuel, 1590 Dahill Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11204  
 2112 MILLER, Bud S., 240-38 68th Avenue, Douglaston, NY 11362  
 1594 ELLICOTT, Richard W., c/o Eurostamps, Box 13104, Baltimore, MD  
 21203  
 844 BERNSTEIN, Herbert, P. O. Box 1811, Philadelphia, PA 19105  
 694 WAHLBERG, Richard S., 142 Meadowbrook Dr., Bethel Park, PA 15102  
 1417 OMBERG, Robert E., 1405 NW 90th St. #12, Seattle, WA 98117  
 832 POLLAK, Henry, 55 West 42nd St., Roob 821, New York, NY 10036  
 2207 DIRAN, Richard, P. O. Box 97, Belmont, MA 02178  
 1775 LADENTHIN, Lawrence R., 1130 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, IL 60614  
 1870 MOONEY, Frank C., Reykjanesveg 46, 230 Y-Njardvik, Iceland  
 1070 NELSON, Lawrence E., 1527 Bathurst Pl., El Cajon, CA 92020  
 1885 VOSTER, Gary, P. O. Box 1569, Albany, OR 97321  
 1774 GOINS, Ova David, 7349 Landau Dr., Minneapolis, MN 55438  
 1832 MOORE, Willis M., III, 521-J Oakdale Rd., Newark, DE 19713  
 1482 HELD, Lawrence C., 1324 Weber St., Alameda, CA 94501

#### DECEASED

- 851 BERGREN, William R., 1446 Morada Place, Altadena, CA 91001

#### RESIGNATIONS

- 2052 PANKRATZ, Aubrey W., 9 Hillcrest Dr., Fairport, NY 14450  
 1980 EKMAN, Elon V., Jr., Floraratan 2, 11437 Stockholm, Sweden  
 1427 COLE, J. Robert, 8455 Fountain Ave. #308, Los Angeles, CA 90069

#### MEMBERS NOT IN GOOD STANDING

To be dropped for non-payment of dues

- 228 K. S. Johnson, 864 N. Evans St., Pottstown, PA 19464



- 562 C. D. Sneller, 320 Jefferson Bldg., Peoria, IL 61602  
565 H. A. Anderson, Sodermalmsgatan 12, Vastervik, Sweden  
670 George W. Bostwick, P. O. Box 389, Newcastle, ME 04553  
671 William A. Daubert, Box 56, R Drive Park, Toronto, Ont. LOG 1SO Can.  
678 Eino Korhonen, Wells Rd., Apt. 2A, Lincoln, MA 01773  
764 Erick Erickson, 811 Cedar St., Anchorage, AK 99501  
806 Franta Prokes, Frani Sramska 19, Praha 5, Czechoslovakia  
x 832 Henry Pollak, 55 West 42nd St., Room 821, New York, NY 10036  
897 M. J. Hershberger, P. O. Box 35, Roebling, NJ 08554  
946 O. J. Spendrup, 333 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022  
978 D. R. Peterson, 700 Hereford Dr., Athens, AL 35611  
980 R. A. Booman, 109 Silverthorn Rd., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561  
1054 W. G. Bogg, 643 Fifth Ave. S., Naples, FL 33940  
1056 S. Lujnggren, Box 291, Goteborg 1, Sweden  
1057 C. B. Peterzen, 2224 First Ave., Hibbing, MN 55746  
1075 R. B. Preston, Box 20999, Rio Piedras, PR 00923  
1119 R. S. Lockeberg, 1949 Ronald, Ottawa, Ont. K1H 5H7, Canada  
1139 F. Stockberger, Box 545-Crissair, El Segundo, CA 90245  
1243 Olav Rodland, Leverhogen, S-67200 Arjang, Sweden  
1258 T. Soot-Ryen, W. Wilhelmsens Vei 4F, 1347 Hosle, Norway  
1262 O. E. Mittelstaedt, 4145 Fulton Pl., Royal Oak, MI 48072  
1273 Torben Hjerne, Box 2047, DK-8240 Risskov, Denmark  
1296 C. I. Belletynee, 5860 38th Ave. No., Apt. 36, St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
1304 J. A. Graves, 2118 Wilkes Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530  
1311 F. C. Moldenhauer, P. O. Box 65, N-5032 Minde, Norway  
1313 Nils J. S. Nilon, 25 N. Pine Circle, Belleair, FL 33516  
1331 R. C. Ross, 28 Kenmore Pl., Glen Rock, NJ 07452  
1336 W. O. Johnson, 10 Laurel St., Arlington, MA 02174  
1354 B. R. R. Whipple, 1205 Spruce, Berkeley, CA 94709  
1425 C. A. Parker, 55 New Bond St., London, England W1Y 9DG  
1427 J. R. Cole, 8455 Fountain Ave. #308, Los Angeles, CA 90069  
1503 A. A. Bateman, 4541 Larado Pl., Orlando, FL 32806  
1530 Olga Amann, 460 S. Lafayette Pk. Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90057  
1552 J. C. Alleman, 377 North 200 West St., Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
1556 Tomas Bjaringer, 225 Ave. Winston Churchill, Brussels, Belgium  
1643 Marvin Garfinkel, 18 Dartmouth La., Haverford, PA 19041  
1656 Jerry Davis, 17710 Palora St., Encino, CA 91316  
1666 A. C. Williams, 4554 Doverdell Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
1669 William Kahn, 26 East 22nd St., New York, NY 10010  
1682 Walt Jellum, 235 So. Beach Blvd. #96, Anaheim, CA 92804  
1693 George Ganim, 13 Kevin Dr., Suffern, NY 10901  
1752 Robert Jernigan, P. O. Box 34417, West Bethesda, MD 20034  
1754 I. J. Krafts, 8884 Lexington Ave. N., New Brighton, MN 55112  
1765 Richard H. Carlson, 3101 W. Pratt Ave., Chicago, IL 60645  
1768 John F. McGee, 805 W. Oak, Independence, KS 67301  
1800 D. C. Trounce, 51 Chiimo Dr., Kanata, Ont. K2L 1Z1 Canada  
1828 L. V. Fleming, 1454 Woodward Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107  
1829 Richard L. Harris, Univ. of Saskatchewan, Sask. S7N OWO, Canada  
1841 M. A. Owens, P. O. Box 191, Waukesha, WI 53187  
1846 C. Norman Andrews, P. O. Box 731, Oak Ridge, IL 60068  
1866 Florence H. Olsen, 101 W. 57th St., Apt. 5H, New York, NY 10019  
1884 Bengt T. Lilja, Kalendegatan 16, S-21135 Malmo, Sweden  
1885 Gary Vosper, P. O. Box 2284, Salem, OR 97308  
1889 Maurice Schaeffer, P. O. Box 274, Southampton, PA 18966

- 1901 Timo Taskinen, 48 Dunn St., Kitmat, B. C. V8C 1C7, Canada  
 1916 Murray D. Cauble, 308 W. Monroe St., Salisbury, NC 28144  
 1918 C. M. Nicholson, USS Samuel Gompers AD37, FPO San Francisco, CA 96601  
 1937 Howard P. York, 2346 E. Orange Dr., Upland, CA 91786  
 1981 Willie E. Fields, 2706 Blueberry, Pasadena, TX 77502  
 1982 John O. Guyer, P. O. Box 231, Seahurst, WA 98062  
 1986 Pat Erickson, W. 1013 Sprague Ave., Spokane, WA 99204  
 1991 Gene L. Albert, 5954 Hansen Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566  
 2008 Edward M. Vickers, P. O. Box 2303 Sta. A, Meriden, CT 06450  
 2021 Richard H. Boyle, 463 Connecticut S. E., Salem, OR 97301  
 2036 R. Michael Senterfit, 540 University, Boulder, CO 80302  
 2063 A. R. Swanson, 129 Tache Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R2H 1Z4, Canada  
 2073 Stephen R. Falken, 500 East 4th St., Boyertown, PA 19512  
 2091 T. H. Rodgers, 36 Royal Ave., Onchan, Isle of Man  
 2097 Randi Fjaeran, P. O. Box 1998, Chula Vista, CA 92012  
 2104 Michael Brunt, 200 Foster Dr., Normal, IL 61761  
 2110 Torbjorn Lothman, 154-09 35th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354  
 2114 G. Donald Schmidt, 80 Schuyler Dr., Commack, NY 11725  
 2117 Stanley Zaslow, 220 Kelbourne, No. Tarrytown, NY 10591  
 2118 William R. Fors, 5215 N. Virginia Ave., Chicago, IL 60625  
 2122 Vittorio F. Cavalli, 21206 123rd Ave., Maple Ridge, B. C. V2X 4B4 Can.  
 2131 Lawrence R. Johnson, 100 California St., 12th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94106

If your name is among the above, please contact SCC Treasurer as our records show that you have not yet paid your dues for 1979.

#### S. C. C. OFFICERS 1979-1980

- President** — Alan Warren, P. O. Box 17124, Philadelphia, PA 19105  
**Vice-President** — Fred H. Bloedow, 810 Dobson St. 1-A, Evanston, IL 60202  
**Secretary** — Kauko I. Aro, 75 Ravine Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110  
**Treasurer** — Ronald B. Collin, Box 63, River Grove, IL 60171  
**Directors-at-Large** — Willard S. Johnson, 16616 Elm Dr., Hopkins, MN 55343  
 George B. Koplowitz, Box 183, Brooklyn, NY 11218  
 Jared H. Richter, 1353 Plum St., San Diego, CA 92106  
**Immediate Past-Pres.** — D. F. Halpern, Box 846, New Providence, NJ 07974

- MART Manager** — Wade H. Beery, Box 3781, Orlando, FL 32802  
**Librarian** — S. H. Hanson, 4317 N. Monitor Ave., Chicago, IL 60634  
**Publicity Manager** — M. D. Hunewell, 6831 Ardale Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123  
**Business Manager** — Eric Roberts, 2763 N. Westfield Pl., Claremont, CA 91711  
 (All Advertising matters are handled by the Business Manager.)

#### Associate Editors:

Chapter News—Paul A. Nelson, P. O. Box 57397, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Individual Countries' articles

**Faroe Islands:** M. D. Hunewell, 6831 Ardale Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123

**Finland:** M. E. Hvidonov, 4 Dwight Lane, Great Neck, L. I., NY 11024

**Iceland:** Barbara R. LeBlanc, 997 Alameda, Redwood City, CA 94061

**Norway:** Jared H. Richter, 1353 Plum St., San Diego, CA 92106.

**Sweden:** Gerald H. Grosso, 1131 Mitchell Ave., Post Orchard, WA 98366

**Denmark and Greenland:** Svend Yort, 7707 Meadow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20015

**D.W.I.:** V. E. Engstrom, 195-C Newport Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512

# The easy way to collect Swedish stamps

The Swedish Post Office, Stamps and Philatelic Service PFA, pampers American philatelists with a varied service and information.



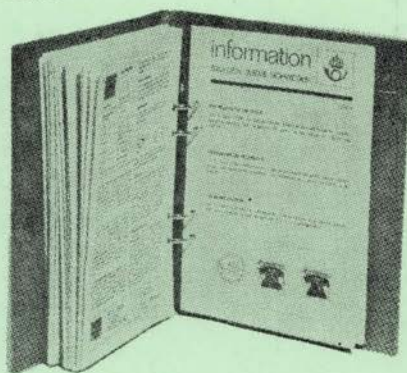
An annual catalogue of all stamps, sets and postal stationery available at the time of publishing at the PFA. Your order is executed at no additional postage or delivery cost.



A subscription is the easiest way to get all new issues or FDC without missing any single item. Order your free copy of the full colour trilingual subscription booklet.



A Year set in a neat package, containing all the stamps and variants issued during a year, is an attractive gift and a good start for your collection.



"Information Sweden" is a trilingual circular sheet, which informs about each new stamp issue. 15-20 sheet issues are published annually. Subscription is free. Binder for holding "Information Sweden" is \$2 postpaid.

To the Philatelic Marketing Representative of the Swedish Postal Administration in the United States and Canada

PHILLIP F. ROBBINS, Suite 28, 445 Northern Blvd., Great Neck, NY 11021

- Please send me your  
 PFA Catalogue  
 Sweden, subscription booklet  
 Information Sweden



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \$1000. 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?



### DANAM STAMP COMPANY

Licensed & Bonded Auctioneers

800 Kings Highway North  
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034

(609) 779-0779