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NORWEGIAN OVERPRINTS

By Roe C. Blume



The Krone provisionals are not commonly seen on cover. Here is the 1 Krone value sent from Kristiania to Dresden, Germany. It was cancelled 1 July 1905, a few days after the issue date of 26 June 1905. It bears the special "NORGE R" machine cancel only used on registered letters for a short time. (Illustration courtesy of Frederick A. Brofos.)

There are three distinctly different reasons for overprinting stamps. The most common reason is that an issue was exhausted before a new type could be prepared and the related situation in which a new postal rate required a new value before the definitive was ready for distribution. In both of these situations the overprint is known as a provisional because the overprint was a stamp issued temporarily until the "permanent" stamp became available. The second, and more interesting, reason for overprinting is political. Finally, an overprint may serve a commemorative purpose.

In the case of Norway, the political overprintings were the result of major governmental upheavals. One of these upheavals, in 1905, was the peaceful withdrawal of Norway from union with Sweden (since 1814) and the creation of an independent country for the first time since the plague of 1350 decimated the Norwegian royal family and the country came under the domination of Denmark for nearly 500 years. Denmark lost Norway in 1814 when a treaty settling the Napoleonic Wars reorganized Norway as a semi-autonomous state under the Swedish Crown and gave to Sweden the agriculturally rich province of Skåne. The second governmental upheaval resulting in an overprinted series was the Nazi occupation of 1940-1945. In this case the V overprint was meant by the occupiers to subvert the Allies' propaganda use of the "V for Victory" which the Norwegian underground was using as a symbol for "Vi Vil Vinne" as one of many devices to annoy the Germans.



The commemorative overprints have been used on only two occasions on Norwegian stamps, both to commemorate philatelic events.

Each of the overprints is discussed below giving Norgeskatalogen (Nk) and Facit (F) numbers (#), date, and the apparent reason for the overprint. The overprint color is black except for Nk# 85, 86, 87.



Facit 85



Facit 86



Facit 122

Provisional Nk#48, 5 June 1888 (F#47) was overprinted **2 Øre**. On Nk#45 12ø brown because Nk#50 was not yet available. It was issued 14 March 1890.

Provisionals Nk#85 I,II; 86 I,II; 87 I,II (F#87,88,89) were overprinted **Kr. 1.00, 1.50, 2.00**, 26 June 1905 on the notoriously badly centered Nk#12 (F#12). These overprints were made because there were dwindling supplies of Nk#32, 33, 34 (with their portrait of Swedish King Oscar II) and it seemed certain that there would soon be a new Norwegian king. It was decided to fill the niche via overprints. It is worth noting that these are the rarest of Norwegian stamps with as few as 11,400 of #86 II printed and, of course, they are especially rare as well-centered specimens. Despite the small number issued, these stamps are not much desired, hence not expensive, because they are rather unattractive. They did serve their purpose and King Haakon VII (a Danish Prince) became king of Norway in 1907 with his own portrait on Norwegian stamps (Nk#89, 90, 91, August 1907). The I and II represent different colors of overprint. Specifically, #85 I,II is yellow-green and olive-green, #86 I,II is blue and ultramarine and #87 I,II is red and carmine. The old Oscar II Kroner stamps became invalid as of 1 April 1908.

Provisional Nk#88x,y (F#86) was overprinted **30 ØRE** on Nk#21,7 sk brown, July 1906, in anticipation that the supply of Nk#81, 30 øre gray would not last until Nk#105, 30 øre gray was to become available (5 March 1910). The x and y represent different papers.

Provisional Nk#92a,b (F#85) was overprinted **15 ØRE** on Nk#19(x, y) 4sk violet, April 1908 in anticipation that the 15 øre brown printing, Nk#75, was not in sufficient quantity to last until Nk#102, 15 øre brown, was to become available (26 April 1910). The a and b represent different shades.

Provisional Nk#117a,b (F#122) was overprinted **5 ØRE** on Nk#104 lilac, 1 March 1922, in anticipation of Nk#118, 5 øre lilac 1 March 1922 (sic). Apparently, it was misjudged how quickly Nk#118 would be printed!



Facit 149

The a and b represent different shades. There are several different varieties of these stamps of which the “thick-throated 5” is the more common (2 percent of the printing) and the remainder involve overprint placement or other irregularities. The “thick neck on 5” variety occurred twice in a sheet, on both a and b shades in positions 2 and 10.



Facit 165

The provisionals Nk#156, 157, and 158 (F#148-150) are treated as a group because all involve overprints of simply a number with a double strike over the original number.

Thus #156, 3 December 1928, has 20 \equiv
 on Nk#146 red; #157, 13 June 1927, has 30 \equiv
 on #129 blue and #158, 13 June 1927, has 30 \equiv
 on Nk#140 blue.



Facit 168

The stamps Nk#163-171 (F#163-171) are the unique “Postage-due Provisionals.” They have two different overprints: (A) **Post Frimerke**, and (B) **POST** ■

# of Overprint	# of Overprinted Stamp	Type of Overprint	Color
163	P8	A	Br Olive
164	P13	A	Lilac
165	P14	A	Yel Green
166	P11	B	Brown
167	P18	B	Red Violet
168	P15	B	Drk Blue
169	P5	B	Carmine Br
170	P5	A	Orange Yel
171	P17	B	Bluish Violet

The provisional Nk#176 (F#176) was overprinted **14øre14** on Nk#12,2sk2, brownish orange to yellow in July 1929, apparently because the previous 14 øre, Nk#142 yellow orange (1 July 1929) had been delayed in printing and the authorities were fearful that they would not have 14 øre in time to meet a new rate requirement. As it turned out, they had both 14's in the same month! Fine centering and perforations are scarce for Nk#176 because of the generally poor quality of Nk#12.

The V overprintings, Nk#261-292 (F#266-298) August 1941, are the most interesting of all the Norwegian overprints. They represent an attempt by the Nazi occupiers to subvert the Allies propaganda usage of the “V for Victory” sign and the opening notes of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony, which were widely popular with the Norwegian people who took them to mean “Vi Vil Vinne” and associated them with the BBC broadcasts to which everyone listened as often as possible — even if listening was a risk. The “Vi Vil Vinne” symbol may also be seen on Nk#335 of the London issue and was used as a signal to Allied aircraft that were over Norway!



Facit 272

It is prudent to point out that these and other propaganda stamps issued under the occupation were not only forged but are often seen with false postmarks, or cancelled-to-order after the war. These V stamps were the only ones on sale in post offices. All others were forbidden to be sold. Patriots protested by using them upside down. Sales stopped 29 November 1941 and stamps became invalid from 29 March 1944.



Facit 371

The stamps Nk#331-338 were printed in Great Britain and #333-338 were issued by the Norwegian government (in exile) for use on Norwegian ships during World War II. Four thousand copies of #333-338 (F#335-340B) were overprinted **London 17/5/43** in addition to a serial number and sold for benefit of the resistance movement. They were used for franking from the liberation, 8 May 1945, until 2 September 1946.

The provisional Nk#374 (F#371) was overprinted **25^{±5}** in three different types on Nk#242 (F#344) in December 1948 apparently because the single letter rate had increased to 25 øre. The three different varieties vary in placement of the strike under the small numeral 5 and in the design of the small 5 itself.

The provisional Nk#375 (F#372) was overprinted **25** on Nk#246 Iib in March 1949 with three different varieties which vary in the formation of the lion’s foreleg and in placement of the overprint. The variants are rather scarce and priced as such. Similarly, the provisional Nk#376 was overprinted **45** on Nk#356 in January 1949 with a single variant in which the G of Norge has a color streak. This variant is only modestly scarce, perhaps 1 in 50 of the issue.



Facit 400

The provisional Nk#410 (F#400) was overprinted **30** on the 25 øre red Nk#393 in December 1951 with two variants. The more common has a white spot in the G of NORGE and is only modestly scarce, while the second has a grossly misplaced 30 and is very scarce (the value is ~1,000 times that of the normal copy).

The provisional Nk#413 (F#411) was overprinted **20** on the 15 øre dark green Nk#389 in November 1959 with 5 variants of which four are only moderately scarce but the fifth with misplaced overprints is quite rare (~900 times the value of the normal stamp).

The first of the commemorative overprints are Nk#428-430 (F#426-428) issued to mark the beginning of the Norwex International Exhibition in June 1955. These attractive overprints on Nk#425-427 have **Oslo** at the top and **Norwex** at the bottom arranged as a wreath with the bottom letters in the shape of a Viking ship.



Facit 427

The second commemorative overprints are Nk#695-696 (F#680-681) which incorporated **Interjunex 72** on Nk#693-694. They were issued to mark the beginning of the International Youth Exhibition in Kristiansand, 25 August-3 September 1972.



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SURCHARGED NORWEGIAN REVENUES

By Frederick A. Brofos

Overprints are mostly used as a temporary measure when haste is needed or to fill in a gap before regular stamps are available. Surcharges are overprints that change the face value. It is unwise to surcharge cheaper stamps with increased denominations. No need to encourage forgers to make a profit. So it is generally stamps of a higher value that are reduced downwards by surcharging with a lower value. However, this has not always been the case, even in Norway, the notable exception being the three different Krone surcharges on the 1867 orange 2 skilling stamps. It was considered safe since the remainder stock was in Post Office hands, having been withdrawn some 28 years before. After Norway's independence in 1905, the Swedish King Oscar stamps had to be replaced. Surcharges were used until the new King Haakon stamps were ready.

Quite a number of Norwegian postage stamps have been overprinted or revalued. However, surprisingly enough, only five documentary revenue stamps have been surcharged. All of the early stamps to be examined here were revalued downwards (from 1 Krone to 80 øre, from 25 øre to 20 øre, from 8 Kroner to 80 øre and from Kroner 12 to 3.00 Kroner). This left no room for forgers.

The revenue stamps we are first going to focus on are part of a set of nine printed by the Central Printing Works (Centraltrykkeriet) in Christiania. They held the printing contract at the time (1885) both for revenue and postage stamps. The large sheets of 200 stamps they produced were later divided by cutting into four smaller sheets of 50 stamps. They were perforated 13-1/2 x 14-1/2. The paper, from Harald Lyche & Co., Christiania, was arranged to have a crown watermark appear on each stamp. This can sometimes be found inverted if the paper was inserted wrongly. Printing was done in two colors and black. A basic color was used for the stamp itself and a pale color for a security underprint consisting of a network of vertical curved lines. Both this underprint color and the basic color can vary quite a bit in the different printings of the same stamp. Black was used for the denomination in all; therefore, three press runs were needed to produce a stamp as well as the perforation run. At some point or other, the paper was gummed. Of course, strict security and accounting measures were taken at all times. Most revenue stamps at the time usually had a higher face value than ordinary postage stamps.

According to the new Sportel (Fee) Law of 1877, it was determined that the fees for copies, attestations, and various other things should be paid with revenue stamps of 80 øre value. As this was a new denomination, the Finance Department decided to use some of the Kr 1.00 stamps on hand as provisional





Fig. 1



Fig. 2

80 øre stamps. In July 1897, therefore, the small printing works at the Christiania Opfostringshus (orphanage) was awarded the job of producing the surcharges. Some 601,000 stamps of the 1 Krone value were turned over to them, of which 1,000 were used for trials. The printers tried first with a hand-made arrangement of small and low standing figures (Figure 1). Several trial proofs were submitted and the type was changed 4 to 5 times, but without a useable result. Thereupon, one arranged for clichés to be made by New York Stempelfabrik of Christiania. The new figures were now larger and they were placed higher on the stamp (Figure 2).

Printing of the new 80 øre stamps was finished by July 28, 1898, but the majority had already been delivered earlier. Of these, 500,000 were considered satisfactory and 100,000 less useable. The Superintendent of Revenue Stamps received the first portion of 25,000 on December 10, 1897. Among these were small portions of the hand-set surcharge stamps, but just how many is unknown. The other type was in use at least until 1910. The combined figure used seems to have amounted to 486,000.

As regards to the original 1 Krone stamp that was used, the colors vary a good deal from pale green to light gray green. The underprint varies from light grayish red to light gray orange. These had been printed in a quantity of 1,621,350, of which approximately 1 million had been delivered to the Superintendent of Revenue Stamps by March 7, 1912. As mentioned, 601,000 of these were used for the 80 øre provisionals.

The next revenue stamp to be surcharged happened some years later, when it was found that there was an oversupply of 25 øre stamps and a need for 20 øre stamps. In October 1909, Bureau Chief J. E. Thomle at the Finance Department wrote a memo suggesting that 750,000 of the old 25 øre stamps be converted to 20 øre. He stated that the supply on hand amounted to about 850,000 and that only about 2,000 of these 25 øre stamps were used in a year.

The surcharge was produced at the printing works of "Norsk Kundgjørelsestidende" (i.e., Norwegian Official Announcement Times) who, on December 31, 1910, sent their bill for Kr 180. In order to get the overprint in the correct position, the printers were allowed to cut off the edges of the sheets at the top and on the right side. The stamps therefore, often occur with

cut off perforations where that was done. The bar line that crossed out the old value ran across the whole sheet, but did not reach quite out to the side edges. Refer to Figure 3.

It was now discovered that the gumming on the old stamps had deteriorated and become rather unsatisfactory. Therefore, on December 8, 1911, a majority of the issue (568,000) was destroyed. A further elimination, on December 5, 1912, left a total number for the 25 øre provisional issue at about 175,000.

The original stamp varies in color from light blue to ultramarine, with a light reddish to orange underprint. A total of 1,073,150 stamps were printed. Of these, 750,000 were used for the 25 øre provisional issued in 1911. Out of the remainders in the hands of the Superintendent of Revenue Stamps, some were in use for many years, but thousands were destroyed due to continual complaints about the ineffectual gumming.

The contract for printing documentary revenue stamps for the next term was acquired by Chr. Holtermann Knudsen of Christiania. The two surcharges that he did are another story. Suffice it to say here that they were black surcharges of 80 øre on Kr 8 (reddish brown) and Kr 3.00 on Kr 12 (pale violet). Refer to Figure 4. This produced needed values, using up stocks of uncalled-for denominations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted for much of the data for this article to the authoritative work on the subject by my friend, the late Tron Soot-Ryen. I am proud to say that I was also able to contribute in some measure (and was mentioned five times) in his pioneering handbook, which remains today the ultimate reference (for those who read Norwegian).

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 F. A. Profos: "Revenue Stamps of Norway," American Philatelic Congress Yearbook, 1961.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



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THE AMERICAN ISSUE OF GREENLAND

By Dr. Dan Laursen

Part Two: The Overprints



Fig. 4. Envelope with a combination of stamps from the Chr. X - Polar bear series, the overprinted American issue, the Frederik IX series plus the 1958 provisional issue. Made in memory of the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Denmark and benefiting "Foreningen til Hjælp for grønlandske Børn" (Society for helping children in Greenland).

Greenland's "American issue" had hardly reached all postal stations in Greenland when the liberation of Denmark occurred on May 5, 1945. The suggestion was made that the American issue stamps be overprinted with:

DANMARK BEFRIET 5 MAJ 1945

Otto Kjærsgaard of DGP maintains (personal written information) that Eske Brun, the chief governing official in Greenland at the time, came up with the idea for the overprints. Brun, however, has publicly declared that he did not know where the idea came from, but he agreed wholeheartedly and approved. This does not mean that he also approved of the so-called variations that subsequently became known. Most likely, the idea came from somebody in New York considering the short time between when the liberation message reached New York to when the order was given for printing.

The job of printing was first offered to the American Bank Note Co., which declined due to already having an overload. The Greendel office then asked the consulate's printer, Commercial Stationery Co., to do the work. The company accepted and negotiations took place about the text, color, and the costs. When everything was agreed upon, the Greendel office accepted. Ib Pedersen of



Greenel gave the order to Commercial Stationery Co. of New York in a letter dated May 17, 1945:

Commercial Stationery Co.
54 New Street
New York City
Att: Mr. J. Werner
Gentlemen:

We hereby confirm our order to overprint 2718 sheets of Greenland Postage Stamps with the wording:

“DANMARK
BEFRIET
5 MAJ 1945”

The printing to be partly in red and partly in blue according to detailed description already submitted to you. The total cost of making the necessary plates and printing will be \$600.00.

You are to return to us all sheets delivered to you including such which may be spoiled or damaged.

We understand that you will make delivery within 3 weeks from today. It is also agreed that you shall furnish us with print proofs to be OK'd by us before the actual printing is begun.

Very truly yours
Danish Consulate General
Greenland Section
Ib Pedersen

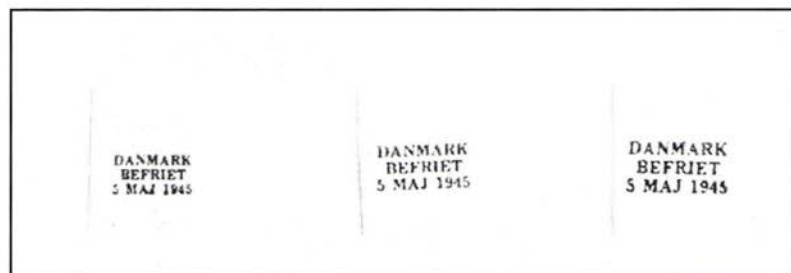


Fig. 5. The three plates of overprint “DANMARK BEFRIET 5 MAJ 1945”. 1. Size 11 x 6 mm; 2. Size 12 x 6 mm; 3. Size 12 x 5 mm.

TABLE E
Cataloging the Overprinted Stamps

	AEA	DAKA	Facit	Hjlt me	Michel	Scott
1 re gray/violet, red overprint	17	17	19	17	17	19
5 re rose lake/olive green, blue overprint	18	18	20	18	18	20
7 re green/gray, red overprint	19	19	21	19	19	21
10 re purple/olive green, blue overprint	20	20	22	20	20	22
15 re red/ultramarine, red overprint	21	21	23	21	21	23
30 re blue/gray brown, blue overprint	22	22	24	22	22	24
1 Kr. brown/green, red overprint	23	23	25	23	23	25
2 Kr. dark brown/green, red overprint	24	24 </td <td>26</td> <td>24</td> <td>24</td> <td>26</td>	26	24	24	26
5 Kr. dark purple/gray brown, blue overprint	25	25	27	25	25	27

Assuming the number of sheets were equally distributed between the nine values, 302 sheets of each value were overprinted ($2,718 \div 9 = 302$). See Table E for the cataloging of the overprinted stamps.

For the overprinting, three different plates were used. The 1, 5, 7 Øre stamps were overprinted with a text size 11 x 6 mm; 10 and 15 Øre with a text 12 x 6 mm, and 30 Øre, 1, 2, and 5 Kr. with a text 12 x 5 mm. The 1, 7, 15 Øre and 1 and 2 Kr. stamps were overprinted in red color; 5, 10, 30 Øre and 5 Kr. stamps were overprinted in blue. (Fig. 5 & Fig. 6.)



Fig. 6. The American issue overprinted DANMARK BEFRIET 5 MAJ 1945





Fig. 7. Examples of inverted overprints.

Rumor had it that the well-known New York stamp dealers, J. and H. Stolow, were the ones who got the idea of overprinting the American issue. So far, there is no proof of this but it is a fact that the Stolows very early were in contact with the Greendel office concerning the overprinting. On May 14, the Stolow firm wrote to Greendel as follows:

To the Danish Consulate General
 Greenland Section
 17 Battery Place
 New York, NY
 Att: Mr. J. Peterson
 Gentlemen:

We took good notice that the Danish Government is going to release 9 stamps with the surcharge "Denmark befriet May 5, 1945," commemorating Denmark's liberation.

We are herewith placing our order for ten thousand complete sets for immediate delivery in accordance with our verbal agreement. The price per single set is \$1,736, and we shall pay the total amount of \$17,360.00 in cash against receipt of the ten thousand sets ordered, and we also agree to take the balance of 10,000 sets within one year. You, in turn, consented to return any remainder of this stock to Greenland and refrain from selling it to the public here in the States.

Very truly yours,
 J. and H. Stolow

The letter is most remarkable in giving the Stolow company monopoly on the sale of these stamps in U.S. (The J. Peterson mentioned in the letter is most likely Ib Petersen.) The merchandise was delivered on June 18, 1945 in accordance to the following invoice.

June 18, 1945

Messrs. J. & H. Stolow

475 Fifth Avenue

New York City, N.Y.

Your order May 14, 1945

Terms: Net Cash against delivery

10,000 Sets 1945 Greenland postage stamps mint

overprinted "Danmark befriet 5 Maj

1945"

each set (9) stamps at \$1.736 \$ 17.360.00

10,000 short sets (1,5, & 7 øre) Grønland 1945

postage stamps, overprinted as

above at \$0.026 per set 260.00

\$ 17.620.00

The balance of your order, 10,000 each of the following denominations:

10, 15, 7 30 Øre Kroner 1, 2 & 5, remain in our possession until you are ready to take them in accordance with our mutual agreement.

As will be seen from the invoice, J. & H. Stolow got possession of no less than 20,000 of each of the small values, or about two-thirds of the overprinted issue. What is not mentioned in the communication is that J. and H. Stolow got the delivery directly from the printing office which made it possible to carry out the largest swindle in the Greenland postal history.

The invoice indicates that 10,000 of each of the higher values should remain in the possession of Greendel for a year. According to later correspondence, the Stolows only took half of those stamps. The rest were sent to Copenhagen in 1950 and placed in the archives of the Ministry of Finance. Both Torben Hjørne and Anker Block later tried to see the parcel which, however, was missing and nobody knew where to find it. Jens Fynbo, the later director of the Royal Trade (KGH), has verbally and in writing informed me that he personally at a certain point in time picked up the parcel against giving a receipt and burned the entire contents of the parcel without any more ado. The reason for this, according to Fynbo, was that the Greenland Administration and the Royal Trade already had more than enough trouble with these stamps, and it would be better to destroy them in silence rather than risking the possibility of somebody some day getting the idea of selling these stamps and thereby renewing the former hullabaloo. Fynbo was, of course, aware of earlier internal letters, such as one on July 10, 1947 which stated (in translation):



“There surely is a risk that the philatelists will rake up the stamp case if the said part (the filed parcel) of the war issue suddenly showed up on the market even if it was through charitable institutions.”

THE REACTION IN DENMARK

Danish collectors learned about the overprinted stamps in the early summer of 1945. It was obvious why the overprint took place, but it was difficult to decide whether it was due to the result of the liberation or in order to earn some money that the Greenland Administration had the stamps overprinted. In spite of all the official assurances, the budget situation might have been rather tense.

The information about the overprints immediately caused a lot of print in the press, both daily papers and philatelic publications. Of the latter, the stamp magazine *Frimerkesamleren* was very active. Hjørne (1983, p. 159 et seq) gave a brilliant summation of the discussion in that magazine. By permission, we present a short resume here. The story begins in the September 1945 number where the rumor about the overprinted issue being made on speculation is first aired. In the October number, the rumors were confirmed and important information was added. According to an advertisement in a Swedish stamp magazine, the following stamps were offered: 9 values with overprint 52.50 Skr. The same stamps with overprint in red and blue 190.00 Skr. The advertisement, furthermore, indicated that color variations were printed in a total of 2,500 stamps. This is the only place we have information about the number of the color variations. In the January number, an interview with Eske Brun confirmed that the total number of stamps printed was 100,000 sets of which 30,000 were overprinted. Of these, two-thirds were sold immediately in the USA and 5,000 were sent to Greenland to be used postally. Unfortunately, they disappeared on their way from New York to Godthåb. Finally, 5,000 sets were sent to Copenhagen. Five hundred of these sets were sent to Greenland as replacement for the “disappeared” stamps. They were supposed to be sold there and thus make it evident that the overprinted stamps were used postally correct.

During this entire delicate case, the Greenland administration was criticized from various quarters for the way the stamp issuing and the overprinting was handled and manner in which various postal situations were dealt with. The blame was laid on the administration’s lack of knowledge about such matters. I do not believe the people involved knew or cared about the international rules. The buyers in New York, who prompted the sending of the overprints to Greenland, told the officials the importance of the sale of the stamps from the Greenland post offices.

On February 5, 1946 Ib Eichner-Larsen wrote an article in *Berlingske Tidende* under the headline: “The scandal about the Greenland stamps culminates.” On March 6, 1946 a meeting arranged by the Frederiksberg Stamp Club resulted in formation of a committee headed by Bruun Pedersen,

then-president of Københavns Philatelist Klub (KPK, Copenhagen Philatelist Club), who applied for and got an audience with the State Minister. The minister promised to look into the case – and, as usual, that was the last we heard from the superior, legal authorities of the country.

The excitement did not diminish when the changed colors and the overprints hit the market. The authorities in Copenhagen – Grønlands Styrelse (The Administration of Greenland, GS) and Den Kongelige Grønlandske Handel (The Royal Greenland Trade, KGH) – tried very hard to get some material of the issue from the New York office to Denmark for sale there. They succeeded in getting 1,800 covers originally supposed to be distributed and sold at 19 of the 20 post stations (Thule covers were not on the market until 1958). These covers were auctioned off the first days of December 1945. The sale, however, did not pour oil on the troubled water and especially not after the appearance of the color “variations.”

On February 6, 1946, the following note was printed in the larger daily newspapers (here in translation):

Announcement from the Administration of Greenland.

Announcement is made that after numerous inquiries and requests from Danish stamp collectors the Administration has recalled the remaining stock of those during the war in America printed Greenland stamps that exist in the following values 1, 5, 7, 10, 15, and 30 Øre plus 1, 2, and 5 Kroner. The stamps have now arrived in two issues

1. Mint stamps without overprint and
2. Stamps of the same kind overprinted *Danmark befriet- 5 Maj 1945*.

Orders are received on the following conditions:

The amount Kr. 8.68 per set is sent to the administration of Greenland, Slotsholmsgade 10, K, in a registered envelope marked “Stamps” and including a SASE (registered postage). Payment only cash or certified check. Private collectors may buy until 5 sets of type 1, dealers until 100 sets and wholesalers of the stamp trade until 500 sets. The association of the persons to the stamp trade may if necessary be demanded documented. Only a single set of type 2 is sold to every buyer. These stamps are only sent to private addresses. Of this type is available 43 complete sets and about 4700 incomplete sets the 1, 5, 7 Øre stamps missing. 13 Øre in Danish stamps are therefore enclosed in orders in excess of 4700 sets of type 2 as a compensation for the lacking Greenland stamps. Orders for both types may be sent until Saturday 23 inst. Time of delivery about 3 weeks. If the number of orders are larger than the available the Administration reserves the right to a reduction respectively returning of the forwarded money.

Cash sale to persons appearing [at the GS office] does not take place. The orders are dispatched via mail only according to the rules stated above. Complaints are received within 5 days from the day of dispatch. Exchange will take place in Danish stamps or money.



As can be seen from the above, about 4,700 sets of the small values were missing. They seemed to have disappeared on their way from New York to Godthåb. Rumor had it that a man who looked like a sailor tried to sell a large lot of these three stamps to a New York dealer, who declined. After having read an article on this subject in *Luren* (Laursen, 1985), Phil Robbins of the stamp company Almar told *Luren* he was working for Carl Pelander during World War II when a man who claimed to be a sea captain came into the shop and offered to sell some Greenland overprint sets. There were no color varieties or errors in these sets. Robbins said Pelander purchased some for his customers and a few for stock and suggested he should offer some to Stolow. Shortly after Pelander advertised the Greenland sets, he had a call from dealer Avery Wells, who accused Pelander of having had the overprints made. Robbins said he joked with Wells that he (Robbins) had them printed on a rainy day in his back yard. Robbins said Wells then realized that Pelander had nothing to do with making the overprints.

In 1957, these stamps finally showed up for sale in Denmark. A certain amount of them were used as postage on a charity envelope issued by "Foreningen til Hjælp for grønlandske Børn" (Society for helping children in Greenland). According to Hjørne, about 7,700 envelopes were sold (Fig. 4). The administration also sent some sets of the overprinted stamps for sale in Greenland in order to legalize these overprinted stamps. At the same time, it should also be repeated that none of the changed color and/or the inverted overprinted stamps was ever sold from any postal station in Greenland or from the GS or KGH in Copenhagen.

SALE IN GREENLAND OF THE OVERPRINTED STAMPS

According to Hjørne (1983, p.148) the overprinted stamps did not arrive in Godthåb, Greenland, until November 22, 1945. One may wonder why it took that long. The overprint was ordered May 17, 1945 and delivered June 18, 1945 after which it took five months to get 700 sets of the 2,718 overprinted sheets to Greenland. As I remember, it was done only after some pressure was applied on the New York office from the administration in Copenhagen.

From a list of the Central Office for Greenland dated December 28, 1945, it appears that, in fact, very few of the overprinted sets were sent to the postal stations in Greenland.

As indicated from Table F, the allotment of the overprints to the various post stations was extremely small – only 10 percent of the amount of the non-overprinted stamps. Consequently, the stamps were snapped up right away; in some places the stamps did not even reach the window but were bought by the employees on arrival. I was traveling the west coast the summer of 1946 and asked about the overprints everywhere – they were no where to be found. I got my set from an old friend in Greenland who knew I was a Greenland stamp collector. Most likely, not a single stamp of the overprints was used as private or business postage on cards or covers. Philatelic mail is known; also known are cancellations with turned back cancellers.

THE SO-CALLED VARIANTS

A variant or a variation is a stamp that in one way or the other accidentally is different from the original. If the same error is repeated on every stamp in a sheet, we call it a sheet variation or sheet variant.

Therefore, variations of the overprinted American issue should be called sheet variations, as will be seen from the following cataloguing (See Table G).

One sheet of the 15 Øre was printed with, (1) the small overprint normally used for the 1, 5, 7 Øre stamps, and (2) with the wrong color. So far, only a dozen copies or so are found and never in pairs or larger continuous units.

Because the horizontal distance between the overprints of the 1, 5, 7 Øre plate is 24 mm whereas it is 34 mm on the 10, 15 Øre overprints (type II), the fabrication of this special sheet is not done with the entire type I plate. It was done by using one or more single clichés put together for this special forgery. This suggests that the entire fabrication of all the falsified stamps was carried out at the end of the printing of the "Danmark befriet" sheets (Hjørne, 1983, p.180). Several plate flaws have been recorded but they should be regarded as printing flaws.

Figure 8 (from Hjørne, 1983, p.154) shows a lot from an auction catalog (Skandia nr. 23, Dec. 5, 1973) that carried the following description (translated): "1945. 30 øre overprint. Color error. Made by the J.H. Stolow Company in New York with permission of the Danish Embassy in USA. This stamp is of another type that under the quartz light is brownish when the normal type is aniline-red. The stamp is by experts and in AFA special catalog indicated as 'forged' what I (the text writer) here will put a question mark against because the 'manufacturer' is the same who made the 'genuine' ones. More likely he was short of a single sheet of 30 øre and reprinted a sheet with another pot of red color. This must have been done at the American Bank Note Company."

The describer was in error about where the printing occurred and the remark about permission from the Danish Embassy can be discounted as the author's ignorance of the facts.

TABLE F
Distribution of
Overprints in Greenland

Post Office	Sets
Julianehaab	85
Frederikshaab	25
Godthaab	160
Sukkertoppen	45
Holsteinsborg	35
Egedesminde	65
Christianshaab	5
Jakobshavn	35
Kutdiligssat	30
Godhavn	20
Umanak	40
Upernavik	35
Thule	5
Scoresbyund	5
Angmagssalik	10
Ivigut	100
TOTAL	700



TABLE G
Changed Colors of Overprints

	Over print	Qty	AEA	DAKA	Facit	Hjlt me	Michel	Scott
10	re purple/olive green	red	2,500	20a	20A	22v ²	20 I	22a
15	re red/ultramarine	blue	3,500	21a	21A	23v ²	21 I	23a
30	re blue/gray brown	red	3,500	22a	22A	24v ²	22 I	24a
1	Kr. brown/green	blue	3,500	23a	23A	25v ²	23 I	25a
2	Kr. dark brown/green	blue	3,500	24a	24A	26v ²	24 I	26a
5	Kr. d. purple/gr. brown	red	3,500	25a	25A	27v ²	25 I	27a
1	re gray/violet		400	17x	17x	19v		
5	re rose lake/olive green		400	18x	18x	20v		
7	re green/gray		400	19x	19x	21v		
10	re purple/olive green		400	20x	20x	22v		
15	re red/ultramarine		400	21x	21x	23v		
30	re blue/gray		400	22x	22x	24v		
1	Kr. brown/green		400	23x	23x	25v		
2	Kr. dark brown/green		400	24x	24x	26v		
5	Kr. dark purple/gray brown		400	25x	25x	27v		
15	re red/ultramarine with the small (1,5,7 re) overprint			21xa	21Ay			

The stamps with changed colors of the overprint and inverted overprints are obviously not what we in general understand as variants. When they come in multiple full sheets, as in this case, they are created by a human hand and not by coincidence. An honest printer would never allow 4, 20, 28 and even 60 sheets with errors to run off the machine. He would have stopped the press, removed the waste, and delivered the same to the customer with the rest of the order in accordance to the written agreement. Why did this not take place?

As soon as the number of variation sheets was known, the question was discussed among those interested. Hjorne wrote at some length about it (1983) and indicated that we were not looking at what we normally think of as variations. The Greenland Posthistorians completely rejected this idea. DGP argued that the changed color prints were test runs to see which overprinting color looked best on the stamps. This is questionable, as one does not need several hundred of the test prints to determine desirable color. DGP's various explanations sounded unreasonable when published and the later disclosure of facts in the case proved that they were in error. On various occasions, I have talked and written about the question, agreeing with Hjorne.

THE TRUE FACTS

According to the well-known Danish philatelist Peer Lorentzen, the printing of all the "variation" sheets was done by John Stolow and his brother in the night hours when the shop was closed and no workers present. (Verbal

information from Peer Lorentzen.) The owner of Commercial Stationery Co. must have been involved in this deceit, probably getting his cut of the profit when these “variations” were sold. Lorentzen, who plans to publish his knowledge of the case, reports that John Stolow admitted having done the “variation” printing.

It is obvious that the part of the overprints that J. & H. Stolow bought was delivered directly from the printer to the Stolow business. If not, the Grendel office would have discovered “the misprint” and either had to discard them or be privy to the case. It is important to note that the entire sum of the overprinted variation stamps was never in the hands of the Greenland postal authorities in New York or in Greenland. They were all sold first in the United States, more precisely from J. & H. Stolow’s stamp dealership in New York. The “variations” were never in the hands of the Grendel office and never distributed to the Greenland post stations.

DGP, in dealing with this question (DGP, 1987), maintains that the Stolows did not have anything to do with the printing and the “variations.” DGP contends that the variations occurred during the test printing of the various suggestions of the colors to be used. After the admission by Stolow to Peer Lorentzen, there is no longer any reason to consider DGP’s allegations about the printing.

It is easy to repudiate another DGP assertion – that the original printing of the American issue and especially of the overprint *Danmark befriet* was done to raise money for the slender treasury of the Greenland administration. Eske Brun has in several communications given exact information about the monetary and supply situation in Greenland during the war years. As an illustration, I refer to Brun (1950) where he says (in translation): “Thanks especially to the cryolite earnings it was possible already the first year in America to buy a complete year’s supply for Greenland; it was the shipping that caused the most difficulties.” The same information is reported by Otto Lerche of the Kryolith Mine og Handels Selskab and by KGH’s trading inspector, A. Malmquist.

The wartime distress and misery that DGP indicates is based upon a paper of Finn Løkkegaard (1967) concerning the economic situation between U.S.A. and Denmark proper during the German occupation. Bente Gad and her late husband, historian Finn Gad, spent the war years in Greenland. I specifically



Fig. 8. Stamp from the auction catalog “Skandia,” nr. 23 of December 5, 1973



asked her about this period and she expressed the same opinion about the situation as that of Eske Brun. I asked her because she was not a part of the administration in any way. Also, I think that every administration under whatever situation will always be looking down into a more or less empty coffer. The importance of the booklet about the American issue by the Greenland Posthistorians is in the publication of the many documents concerning the case.

CONCLUSION

When Eske Brun decided to issue a new set of Greenland stamps made in the United States, it was a good and farsighted step.

In spite of the raise in the Danish postal rates, the choice of the values was under the given circumstances acceptable.

The American issue, as it became known, was sold from all the Greenland post offices making the stamps legal in every respect.

The idea of an overprinting with "Danmark befriet 5 Maj 1945" is understandable whether economical considerations were behind the decision or not.

It was a major error that the Greendel office did not make a counting of the stamps to verify the number when they were delivered from the printer. It also was a major error by the Greendel office to allow the large part of the stamps bought by the J & H Stolow Co. to be sent directly from the printer to the company. That made it possible to allow the fabrication of the falsified color and reversed variations.

These "variations" were never sold from any Greenland post office! They, therefore, do not fulfill the international rules and ought to be blacklisted, making it illegal to exhibit them in exhibitions sponsored by FIP.

POSTSCRIPT

This entire tangled affair should not pass without some kind of an investigation. The main office in Copenhagen demanded explanations concerning a lot of questions and wanted an exact account of the delivery, distribution, and sale of what the office termed the war stamps, as well as a list of the dealers to whom larger quantities were sold, and so forth.

It took exceedingly long for the New York office to answer, but finally a report was received in which no one seemed to have taken the responsibility for anything. I think it is safe to say that largely the entire case came to nothing. Who really cared? We were all so delighted that the war was over and the connection to our beautiful polar island was re-established.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to express my gratitude to Torben Hjørne for many a good discussion about these stamps and for allowing me to use his books to get some information it was difficult for me to get living so far from Copenhagen. I also owe thanks to Jens Fynbo, the former director of the Royal Greenland Trade, for important information, and to Gunnar Kaspersen, the former Postmaster

General of Greenland, for reading and criticizing the manuscript of this article. They both had an extensive influence in forming the budding postal system in Greenland. I thank Otto Kjærsgaard of the Greenland Posthistorians for his positive criticism and some new information that I incorporated in the text. My good friends, professor Warren Franzen and editor Paul Albright, proofread the manuscript and made corrections and suggestions to improve it. Thanks to Bente Gad and Jens Rosing for valuable information and to Peer Lorentzen for letting me use information from his unpublished article about his meeting with John Stolor.

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THE SCC AT SANDICAL

Many of the top exhibiting awards were won by Scandinavian entries at SCC's regional meeting in San Diego, CA in January. Five SANDICAL golds went to SCC members, including the show's Grand Award to William Benfield for his "Denmark Essays and Proofs," and the Reserve Grand to Ross Olson for "The Definitive Postage Stamps of Sweden 1920-1938."

Board members Roger Quinby, Don Halpern, and Gregory Frantz snagged the other golds. Board member David Anderson won SCC's John Siverts award for the best single frame entry. Scandinavian entries received 15 additional ribbons below gold.

The first Frederick A. Brofos award for the best article in *The Posthorn* (in 1999) was presented to Sigurður Thorsteinsson. He and SCC President Roger Quinby

announced that SCC's Chapter 11 at Reykjavik, Iceland, had applied for reinstatement as an active chapter again.

Guest speaker Bo Söderholm, president of the Philatelic Federation of Finland, addressed the general membership meeting on "Maritime Mail Service from and to Finland."

The board selected Philadelphia for SCC's annual meeting in 2002 and Denver for the regional meeting earlier that year. — *Paul Albright*



Bo Söderholm discussing his maritime mail exhibit with SCC Secretary Don Halpern and SCC President Roger Quinby, right



Dave Anderson is pleased with his selection as Siverts Award winner for best one-frame exhibit at the SCC regional show. Presenting him the award is guest speaker Bo Söderholm, the president of the Philatelic Federation of Finland.



SCANDINAVIAN EXHIBITS SCORE AT SANDICAL

Gold

William Benfield (also Grand Award, SCC gold, and APS research medal); **Gregory Frantz** (Court of Honor); **Don Halpern** (also SCC silver, Postal History Society medal, and American Philatelic Congress award for write-up); **Ross Olson** (also Reserve Grand Award and SCC silver); **Roger Quinby** (also SCC bronze and Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California award).

Vermeil

Donald Brent (also SCC bronze and APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence); **James Burgeson**; **Charles Shoemaker**; **Bo Söderholm**; **Dave Anderson** (also two *Silver-Bronze* awards and SCC Siverts Award); **Stuart Silverberg** (also SCC bronze, and best single frame exhibit).

Silver

John DuBois (two awards plus AAPE award); **Robert Lang**; **Roger Schnell**; **Gayland Ricklefs**; **Alan Warren**.

Bronze

Paul Nelson



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THORSTEINSSON WINS SCC BROFOS AWARD

The Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC) has inaugurated the Frederick A. Brofos Award for the best article appearing in its quarterly journal *The Posthorn*. The first recipient is author Sigurður Thorsteinsson of Iceland who won the honor with his article in the May 1999 issue, "The Royal Mails in Iceland."

The honor was announced by SCC president Roger P. Quinby at the club's regional meeting at SANDICAL on January 22. For many years, Thorsteinsson has been a regular contributor not only to this journal but also to a variety of periodicals the world over. He has written over 3,000 articles in his native country's journals, and 500 more that have appeared internationally.

The author is a life member of the American Philatelic Society and an honorary member of SCC. In 1996, he was elected to the APS Writers Hall of Fame. For many years Thorsteinsson wrote and published the standard catalog of Icelandic stamps *Íslensk Frímerki*. He was founder and former president of the Reykjavik Philatelic Society and has held leadership positions in the Iceland Philatelic Federation and the Icelandic Philatelic Congress.

His article focused on the handling of mail by the royalty in Iceland from the signing of the postal charter of 1776 until the establishment of the Icelandic Mail in 1872. With the issuance of the first stamps in 1873, the Royal Mails period had ended in Iceland.

The Brofos Award honors a former editor of *The Posthorn* and a contributor of many articles to the philatelic literature himself. Frederick Brofos was born in London and spent the World War II years in Norway where he developed an interest in military mails and civil censorship. His philatelic interests span railway mail as well as machine cancellations and many other topics. He has contributed papers to the Billig handbooks and the American Philatelic Congress books.

The Brofos Award is presented for the best article in *The Posthorn* in a calendar year. Criteria include depth of philatelic knowledge, elements of research, and clarity of presentation. One purpose of the award is to help attract new writers and articles for the journal.

— Alan Warren



ONE SCC SLOT FILLED, TWO OTHERS NEED VOLUNTEERS

Publicity Chairman — University Professor John Knutsen of Tacoma, WA is SCC's new Publicity Chairman. Knutsen brings 25 years of marketing and strategic planning experience to SCC. He is a professor of marketing and international business at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

Still open are SCC positions as:

Awards Chairman — To manage the process of selecting, acquiring, presenting, and publicizing the various awards sponsored by SCC.

Business Manager (*The Posthorn*) — To handle the advertising in SCC's journal, including pricing, soliciting, accepting, and billing of advertising.

For complete position descriptions and other information, contact SCC President Roger P. Quinby, Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065 or email him at rpquinby@aol.com — *Paul Albright*



REPORT FROM #24: A REVIEW

(Editor's Note: More insight concerning the World War II overprints described in this issue of *The Posthorn* will be found in this memoir that is now back in print.)

Report from #24, Gunnar Sonstebj, soft cover, available for \$19.40 from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, 15 E. 65th St., New York, NY 10021.

Although there is no direct bearing on Scandinavian philately, this memoir republished by the American-Scandinavian Foundation will be of interest to Norway collectors. Sonstebj's "report" is a running narrative of not only his underground exploits but also many of those who worked with him under constant fear of capture and death.

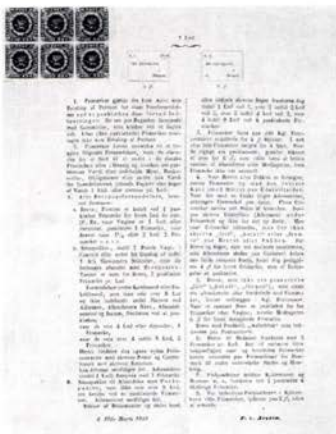
The exploits of Sonstebj and others in the Norwegian underground during World War II make a fascinating tale as background for the stamp issues of the period – the infamous Quisling set; the 1943 Grieg issue; the 1944 shipwrecks; the 1944 people-at-work issue; and, of course, the 1945 London stamps.

I would hazard a guess that Sonstebj one day will grace a World War II anniversary issue as representative of the unsung heroes of the Norway underground during the period.

Another fine book about the Norwegian underground is *The Shetland Bus*, available through interlibrary loan as a rule.

— *Russell H. Anderson*





DANISH BIRTH CERTIFICATE SELLS FOR RECORD PRICE

Denmark's "birth certificate" has been sold – and for a record amount!

"The Birth Certificate" is an official circular from the Danish Postal Administration announcing Denmark's first issue of stamps and how they should be used. A block of six 4 RBS stamps (Ferslew printing, plate II, positions 62-64 and 72-74) were affixed to the circular, which was issued on March 27, 1851. The 4 RBS was issued on April 1.

The birth certificate (see illustration) sold for the starting price of Euro 275,000 (approximately \$279,000) as the featured item in the auction of Gene Scott's Denmark Skilling Issues by Postiljonen in Malmö, Sweden on October 1. According to Postiljonen, this was a record price for a Danish item.

The Posthorn has learned that Peer Lorentzen, a well-known Danish collector, was the purchaser. He plans to exhibit the birth certificate at Stamp Show 2000 in London on May 22-28.

Toke Nørby and Paul Nelson contributed to this report.



NEXT SCC SHOW IN CANADA

Some 75 to 100 exhibit frames will be available for SCC members at our annual meeting at the Royal • 2000 • Royale show in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2000. Exhibiting and registration forms

will be on the Winnipeg Philatelic Society Web page, <<http://www.wps.mb.ca>> or available from Robert Zacharias, 808 Polson Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2X 1M5; telephone 204-582-1334; email <zachar@escape.ca>.

A useful article by SCC's Roger Fontaine concerning Canadian customs and immigration is posted on SCC's Web site <www.scc-online.org>.

— Robert Zacharias



THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

Founded November 25, 1935

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Roger Quinby, PO Box 738, Clifton Park NY 12065
 VICE PRESIDENT: Dr. Warren Pearse, 350 S. River Landing Rd, Edgewater MD 21037
 VICE PRES, CHAPTERS: Robert W. Lang, 23 The Horseshoe, Newark DE 19711-2066
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 DIRECTORS: David A. Anderson, 33780 Feldspar St NW, Princeton MN 55371
 John DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Dr,
 Hudson MA 01749
 Michael E. Falls, 575 Virginian Dr, Norfolk VA 23505-4242
 Gregory Frantz, 18314 E Geddes Pl, Aurora CO 80016-1608
 Jerry D. Moore, 615 Woodbine Dr, San Raphael CA 94903
 Stuart Silverberg, 709 Elm Circle, Golden, CO 80401-5819

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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 HISTORIAN: Roberta Palen, PO Box 840, Loop Station, Chicago IL 60690-0840
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 STAMP MART MGR: Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201 Galleria Sta, Houston TX 77056
 CANADIAN MART MGR: Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cr, Winnipeg MB Canada R2J 1H9
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 PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN: John Knudsen, 11402 58th Ave SW, Tacoma, WA 98499
 LITERATURE PROMOTION: Alan Warren, PO Box 39, Exton PA 19341-0039
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 COMPUTER COORD: Paul Helgesen, 34 Plymouth Rd, White Plains NY 10603-1129

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 Hudson MA 01749
 SWEDEN RING: George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle NC 28594
 FINNISH STUDY GROUP: Roger Quinby, PO Box 738, Clifton Park NY 12065



TRIVIA QUESTION

Who is this man?

Hint: It is not who you think it is. Turn to page 38 for the answer.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

ROGER QUINBY

Following a decade of attrition, suddenly stamp collectors, dealers, show organizers, publishers and club officers have reached a qualified consensus that our hobby has undergone significant changes over the past several years, and we now face the fundamental task of reinventing ourselves or face continued erosion of membership and participation.

Without going into a long statistical analysis, suffice it to say that numbers are down across the board. Irrespective of what action other societies have initiated to reverse the trends, your Board has undertaken a serious discussion to promote and instill new life into the SCC.

At its January meeting in San Diego, the Board voted to move forward with a new membership incentive program targeting experienced collectors, judges, and exhibitors willing to make a multi-year membership commitment to the SCC. The incentives include a discount on the annual membership fee and the choice of *Facit* or one of the DAK/GF catalogues. Dealers Lizabeth Stamp Company and Jay Smith & Associates are working with us to make this program a success. A parallel program for renewing membership is planned for the fall. Details of the programs will be announced in the May issue of *The Posthorn*.

Your *Posthorn* Committee also met at SANDICAL. In addition to moving forward with invigorating the quarterly journal, the committee will take a close look at how the SCC Website might be improved. Certainly, the Website can be the vehicle for publishing the member handbook, providing member information exchanges, and publishing articles in full color.

We have many opportunities to capture the future and an active and talented Board to grapple with the challenges we face.

One last word. SANDICAL was a very successful meeting. We congratulate William Benfield for taking the Grand Award and Ross Olson for taking the Reserve Grand. As reported elsewhere in this issue, Sigurður Thorsteinsson of Iceland received the first SCC award for writing excellence and Bo Söderholm of Finland gave a very interesting talk on maritime mail to Finland.

All members are welcome to the club's regional and annual meetings where you will find a warm welcome, friendship, and interesting programs. You are invited; come join us!





SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE NOTES ALLEN WARREN

Issue 4/99 of *News from the Faroes*, in its continuing series on post offices of that country has an article on Vágur. If you want to purchase or subscribe to new issues of the country, write to Postverk Føroya, Frímerkjædeildin, 159 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. In the October issue of *Luren*, Þór Þorsteins illustrates some unusual usages of stamps such as on export documents, a waybill, sight draft, and invoices. A subscription to *Luren* may be obtained by sending \$10 to the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California, Box 310, Claremont CA 91711.

In issue 3/1999 of *Info*, published by the Oslo Filatelistklubb, Arvid Løhre describes an interesting handstamp on a 1958 post card. Club members are also planning for the exhibition Oslo 2000 to be held November 17-19. The theme is 1000 Years of Oslo in 2000. Bruno Nørdam's series on essays of Danish stamps continues in the September issue of *Skilling* and includes the designs by Knud Møller for the Vitus Bering issue.

DUTCH PERFIN ON NORWAY STAMP

Ton Steenbakkers illustrates an unusual Norwegian perfin in the September issue of the Dutch journal *Het Noorderlicht*. The stamp is a 1922 Lion definitive of Norway and the initials punched into the stamp are K.N.S.M., which stand for Koninklijke Nederlandsche Stoombootmaatschappij. The steamship company ran tourist boats during the first part of the 20th century. In the same issue Henk Burgman presents tables of postal rates of the Faroes, compiled by Brian Flack from various sources. The period covered is 1875 to date.

The October issue of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* carried reports on the China 99 international exhibition in Beijing, and Erik Sjögren provides the eighth installment of his series on railway cancels of Sweden.

In the August 13, 1999 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*, Geir Sør-Reime illustrates a cover bearing Norwegian returned mail seals. The letter was sent from Stavanger, Norway to London in 1966. The addressee could not be located so it was returned to the sending post office. However, there was no return address so, after advertising the cover without success, it was sent to a special "Letter-opening Commission." There it was opened and an address apparently found. The commission used special red colored embossed seals to reseal the envelope and returned it to the sender.

In the September issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidskrift*, Niels Klotttrup provides the second part of a series on U.S. mail to Denmark of the 19th and 20th centuries. The subject is post cards that have been assessed postage due. This issue also carries a table showing membership count for the past two years



for each of the more than 100 clubs that make up the Danish Philatelic Federation. In the October issue of the same journal, Klottrup continues his mail from the U.S. series using postal cards for illustration. SCC's Dan Laursen has a running series in each issue in 1999-2000 about the Legends of the West stamps of the U.S. to whet the appetites of potential visitors to NORDIA 2001 in Tucson, Arizona. A. Quist Christensen examines the paper used to produce the 8 øre wavy line issue of Denmark.

Toke Nørby reports on NORDIA 99 in the November issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. In the same issue, Thomas Moshage tells about a Schleswig soldier who was captured during World War I and sent to a number of prisoner camps, including ones in Siberia and the Ukraine. The author shows some prisoner of war cards sent to the prisoner at some of these locations.

NORWEGIAN METERS & STAMP MONEY

In the 3/99 issue of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*, Anders Langangen continues his series on the meter marks of that country with a listing of those in the 1941 to 1947 period. Gerhard Panzner discusses two self-adhesive coil stamps issued by Finland in 1998 in the August 1999 issue of the German publication *Philatelistische Nachrichten*.

Pacific Island and Polar region specialist Steve Pendleton writes about Bouvet Island (although this one is in the Atlantic Ocean) in the October issue of *Global Stamp News*. He discusses the interest that Norway has held in this island over the years.

In issue 1/2000 of *New from the Faroes*, the featured post office is Hvannasund and the sub-office of Norðdepil. The latter was established in 1914 and for many years supplied mail to Hvannasund on the other side of the Sound. The residents petitioned the government to provide an office so the steamer would stop there also. The Hvannasund post exchange office opened in 1933.

In the October issue of Denmark's *Skilling*, Jørgen Sømød discusses the evolution of currency—skilling, øre, cent, and bit—essentially in Denmark and DWI. Bruno Nørdam continues his series on Danish essays, illustrating some designs submitted in 1942. In November's *Skilling*, Birgitte Rostoft analyses the contents of two kiloware packs of Greenland, providing the total count of each item found by catalog number and value. In the same issue, Vilhelm Schmidt discusses slogan machine cancels that developed following the introduction of Krag machine cancellations in 1904.

In the December issue of *Skilling*, Jørgen Sømød presents the first of a two-part series on stamp money of North Schleswig. Similar to the encased postage stamps of the United States, the wrapped stamps came into use around 1940 with the shortage of minting metals such as copper and nickel. Stamps were placed on cardboard and wrapped in cellophane.

In issue No. 45, November 1999, of *The Post-Rider*, published by the Canadian Society of Russian Philately, Erling Berger illustrates a cover sent in 1861 from Frederikshavn, Denmark to Cronstadt, Russia and provides an analysis of the rate structure.

The International Association of Philatelic Experts released the second issue of its journal, *Fakes Forgeries Experts*, in July. In that issue, Helena Obermüller Wilén illustrates and describes forgeries of the 20/Tretio error of 1879. Examples of forgeries are shown on and off cover, including the Fournier creations. Information about the FFE journal may be obtained from Paolo Vollmeier, Box 108, 6976 Castagnola, Switzerland.

Axel Miltander writes about the Norwegian posthorn issues as the world's oldest stamp design in the November issue of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift*.

Airmail rates of Iceland during the period 1928-1939 is the subject of an article by Ólafur Elfasson in the Issue No. 2 of Iceland's new journal *Frímerkjablaðið*. Rate tables in the article show airmail rates to Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Australia.



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SCANDINAVIAN AREA AWARDS ALAN WARREN

At the international China 99 show held in Beijing, William Benfield won a vermeil for his "Denmark Essays and Proofs: The First Seventy Five Years." Ross Olson's "The First Definitives of King Gustaf V of Sweden 1910-1919" received a vermeil at the Omaha Stamp Show, and Greg Frantz won a silver for "Bypost of Norway."

In 1999, the MIDAPHIL exhibition in Kansas City featured a national philatelic website competition. The NORDIA 2001 web page, administered by John DuBois and Tøke Nørby, received a silver award. Nørby also received a gold award and special commendation for best international site for his personal Web page.

Convening at the VAPEX show in Virginia Beach were the American Society of Polar Philatelists and the Military Postal History Society, which helped attract some Scandinavian area exhibits. A gold medal and the SCC medal were awarded to Gerhard Müller of Germany for his "Greenland—Island of the Arctic". Müller took another gold with his "Iceland During World War II." Still more gold awards went to Charles Shoemaker for "Greenland: The American Issue," and to Otto Kjærgaard for "The Postal History of Greenland Until Immediate Post War." Michael Falls received a silver-bronze for "Allied Military Mail in Iceland During WW II."



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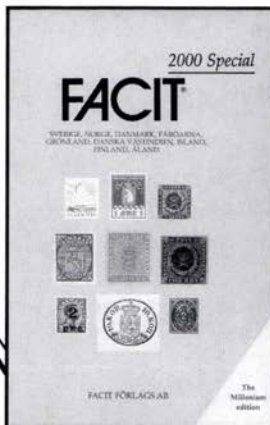
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TRANSFERS & RE-ENTRIES ALAN WARREN

ALLIANCE OF SMALL POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS

Ten of Europe's small country postal administrations held a conference in the Channel island of Jersey last year. They compared notes on how to survive in the international market place, according to a report in the August 1999 issue of *Gibbons' International Stamp News*. The postal administrations are Jersey, Åland, Faroes, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Malta, Monaco, and the United Nations. They discussed methods to encourage the hobby of stamp collecting including use of the latest means of electronic technology.

Several representatives from each of the countries' postal services took part in the conference, which they plan to continue on an annual basis. The next alliance meeting will take place in Vienna in June following the WIPA 2000 exhibition. Incidentally, this was the last issue of the Gibbons journal, which will be replaced by a customer newsletter to be called *Stanley Gibbons Through the Letterbox*. Information about their publications is available from Gibbons, 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH, United Kingdom.

ÅLANDSPOSTEN

The Åland philatelic service advises that the following special cancellations are planned for the first part of the year 2000:

24 December, 1999: 29 February, 2000 – Millennium 2000

1 March – 1 May: @ with dot

2 May – 30 June: The Old Post Route

1 July – 24 July: The Cape Horn Congress

25 July – 27 August: ÅLEX 2000

They also announce the publication of the 1984-1999 Åland Stamp Catalogue in conjunction with Finnish dealer Lauri Petltonen. Prices shown are that of the dealer but many of the stamps are still available at face value from the postal service. The catalog will be limited to 1,000 copies with text in Finnish and Swedish.

If you would like to get on the mailing list of the postal service, write to Posten, Filateliservicen, Box 100, FIN 22101 Mariehamn, Åland, Finland, or email to <gunilla.haggblom@posten.aland.fi>.

SLANIA STUDY GROUP

For a number of years there was a Czeslaw Slania study group in Copenhagen that focused on the fine work of this well-known stamp engraver. However, the group disbanded and now there is an effort to re-establish the



study group. Interested collectors should write to Klaus Müller, Alléen 117, 4.th, 2770 Kastrup, Denmark. The famous engraver Czeslaw Slania has topped 1,000 stamp engravings. An item in the September issue of the Danish magazine *Skilling* noted that engraving No. 1,000 was a Swedish stamp and 1,001 was prepared for a Poland issue.

SWEDISH POST MUSEUM RENOVATION

Paul Nelson, former SCC president, reports that the Swedish Postmuseum in Gamla Stan, Stockholm, has reopened after a massive renovation. In a new knowledge center called Post F@ktum, computers allow visitors of all ages to access the library, the archive, and the collections. In addition to books, pictures, and maps there also are videos, databases, and multimedia. Postcards have been added to the permanent exhibition of stamps and stamp collecting. One exhibit is an 1850s sketchbook by Swedish artist Olof Arborelius that includes 22 pasted-in stamps. Another exhibit shows the range of large and small post offices in Sweden. There is an extensive area to interest children and a newly designed museum shop.



Answer to Trivia Question (see page 31).

This 1942 Swedish commemorative (Facit 342-343) purports to show 18th century pharmacist and chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele (1742-1786) who is credited in Facit with discovering the elements of fluorine, chlorine, manganese, and oxygen. According to a 1993 article in *The Posthorn*, Scheele also was the first to identify wolfram, more commonly known as tungsten.

Unfortunately, the portrait is not that of Scheele but is one of his relatives.

Philatelia Chimica et Physica, the journal of the Chemistry and Physics on-Stamp Study Unit, quoted several sources (Vol. 21, No. 3, 1999) saying that Scheele's nephew is shown. One collector quoted the Swedish National Encyclopaedia as saying all portraits of Carl Wilhelm Scheele were done after his death and the stamp was engraved from a miniature belonging to the Swedish Pharmacist Society which erroneously states it is Scheele at 25 years of age. Other pharmacist/collectors reported the engraving was that of a nephew.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to SCC's Al Gruber for bringing this elemental Swedish error to *The Posthorn's* attention.)



NORDIA 2001 UPDATE ALAN WARREN

Bulletin 1 for NORDIA 2001, together with an application form for exhibiting, is now available. The book has pictures on the cover of the three major awards—the Grand Prix NORDIA 2001, the Grand Prix Nordique, and the Grand Prix International. These three top prizes consist of Hopi Indian pottery created by native craftswomen in Arizona. The bulletin also contains the General Rules for NORDIA exhibitions and the Special Rules for this particular show.

A feature of the book is a postal history article by Don Halpern, a director of NORDIA 2001, on use of the unusual HB handstamp marking at the Danish Post Office in Hamburg in the latter part of the 18th century. Requests for Bulletin 1 should be sent to NORDIA 2001, INC., P.O. Box 59305, Potomac MD 20859 USA. It will be forwarded by your U.S. regional commissioner, to whom the completed application form should be returned.

NORDIA 2001 will take place January 19-21, 2001 at the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, AZ. A two-morning postal history symposium and three days of tours will precede the exhibition. More information is available at <www.nordia2001.org>.



SCC MEETING SCHEDULE

	ANNUAL	REGIONAL	NORDIC	INTERNATIONAL
2000	ROYAL 2000 Apr 27-30 Winnipeg, MB		NORDIA 2000 Feb 25-27 Sollentuna, Sweden	<i>March 17-19</i>
2001	NORDIA 2001 Jan 19-21 Tucson AZ		NORDIA 2001 Jan 19-21 Tucson AZ	HAFNIA 2001 Oct 16-21 Copenhagen, Denmark
2002	PNSE 2002 October Philadelphia PA	ROMPEX May Denver CO		

ALBUM CLOSED



Carl Davenport, 1919 - 1999

Carl Davenport, a founding member of SCC's Chapter 17 (Southern California), died in Sun City, CA on Christmas four days after his 80th birthday. Davenport was a stevedore by trade and worked on the docks in San Pedro and Long Beach for many years. He collected all of Scandinavia with a slight emphasis on Sweden.

During his years on the docks he enjoyed access to the incoming ships and acquired many interesting, contemporary covers from the merchant sailors. Working on the docks, he also gained access to sugar wrappers, and he formed an extensive collection of those items. Davenport joined SCC in 1971. He exhibited at local shows and was an exhibition judge in years past.

Two sons, a daughter, a stepson, and a step daughter-in-law survive him.

James Burgeson



F. C. Moldenhauer

Frantz-Caspar Moldenhauer, Jr., considered the doyen of Norwegian philately, died September 8, 1999 after a brief illness. He established the auction firm F. C. Moldenhauer in Bergen, which continues under the management of his sons. He was an expert on Norway and served on the FIP Commission for Prevention of Forgeries. In 1971 he authored the book *The Maritime History of Norwegian Steamships*, and contributed articles to the journal *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* for over 50 years. He worked on the publication of the new Norwegian handbook series.

Moldenhauer's exhibit of early Norway won a grand prix at NORWEX 80. Other award-winning exhibits were on 19th century Norwegian steamship handstamps, foreign letter rates of 1855-1880, and Danish West Indies. He was an internationally accredited judge.

Alan Warren





Lauson H. Stone, 1904-1999

Lauson H. Stone, a past president of SCC and Honorary Member H-16, died November 7, 1999 at the age of 94. He served as president 1952-53 and was awarded honorary membership in 1975. In 1990, he was awarded the Strandell Medal by the Swedish Philatelic Federation for outstanding contributions to Swedish philately.

Stone's outstanding collection of classic Sweden won a gold at SIPEX in Washington, D.C. in 1966 and a large gold at PHILIMPIA in London 1970. He went on to win a large gold and the grand prix national at STOCKHOLMIA 1974 and a large gold with special prize at both INTERPHIL in 1976 in Philadelphia, and LONDON 1980. His exhibits were featured in the court of honor at STOCKHOLMIA 1986 and World Stamp Expo in Washington in 1989.

He was co-author with Jan Billgren and Thomas Bjäringer of *Swedish Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1855-1895*, published in 1986. This important book reflected his extensive collection of early Swedish covers to foreign destinations, and helped develop the pertinent rate tables. His Swedish covers collection was exhibited only twice—at AMERIPEX 86 and STOCKHOLMIA 86—winning large golds both times. At an advanced age he wrote, with the help of his son Harlan, a series of articles on some of these classic Swedish covers that appeared in the 1995 and 1996 issues of *The Posthorn*.

Lauson Stone was the son of Harlan Fiske Stone, former Chief Justice of the United States from 1941-46 (See Scott U.S. 965). Lauson Stone obtained a bachelor's degree at Harvard in 1925 and his law degree three years later at Columbia. He was a corporate lawyer for 52 years in Manhattan, retiring in 1980. He helped establish the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation (SPF) in 1978 by preparing the legal documents. The SPF is devoted to translating into English and publishing key works in the field of Scandinavian philately. Stone served many years as a trustee of the foundation and was trustee emeritus at the time of his death.

In 1942, as an Army major, Stone was appointed by the War Department as a defense lawyer for eight German saboteurs who landed in the United States with the intention of exploding major targets. Before they could do anything destructive, they were caught, tried and convicted by a military commission requested by President Roosevelt.

Lauson Stone is survived by his wife Jane, sons Harlan and Peter, and two grandchildren.

Alan Warren

ALBUM CLOSED**Lauson Stone: My Memories****By Donald Halpern**

Alan Warren sent me a copy of Lauson Stone's obituary from the *New York Times*. I had heard from Harlan, his son, about Lauson's passing. When I read the *Times*' obituary, I thought to myself that this was not the Lauson Stone I knew.

I first met Lauson at a Chapter 7 meeting of SCC. I was a new kid on the block at the time and realized that I had just met a great philatelist. I did not know that I had also met a giant of a man.

Having held a number of elected positions in Chapter 7, I often needed help — a speaker for a monthly meeting program, advice on how to handle a given political situation in SCC, or even advice concerning my personal life. It would have been easy for Lauson to decline all of this. To his credit, he not only responded but he was warm and helpful.

At one of the many times he was called upon to speak at a monthly chapter meeting, he told the story about how he was able to amass his spectacular Swedish exhibit that won the Grand Prix National at Stockholmia 1974. He said that he had shocked a number of SCC members when he sold all of his philatelic holdings and kept only Sweden. Then he used that money to buy what he wanted and needed for his Swedish exhibit. A lot of us could learn from this and concentrate on one theme rather than spread ourselves over several countries or continents.

In recent years, I became friendly with his son Harlan who kept me posted on Lauson's health and current interests. Often Harlan and I shared experiences about dealing with our aging parents. I'm sure it was helpful to both families.

Lauson Stone not only lived in "interesting times," he had the opportunity to shape events having international significance during those times, professionally and in philately.

**EDITOR'S NOTES PAUL ALBRIGHT**

Notice anything different about the look and feel of this issue of *The Posthorn*? We are changing from a plain paper to printing on a higher gloss paper for both the cover and inside of SCC's journal. With this paper switch, we expect to see enhanced reproduction of illustrations and other graphic material.

This production change is the first of several discussed by the *Posthorn* Committee in recent months. Look for more production changes in forthcoming issues as the staff and committee endeavor to improve the print quality of *The Posthorn* along with its content.





NEWS FROM THE HOME OFFICE

DON BRENT

I am writing this on the first day of the new century (in between football games) and I have been urged to be "brief." So, let's get right down to business. The most important item is that as of this date there remain 136 members who have not sent in your dues renewal. This is the last issue of *The Posthorn* that you will receive if you fail to renew. Please get your renewal in right away to continue your membership.

I was pleased that many members added notes with their renewals that included personal comments or suggestions for the *Posthorn* or SCC activities. I have or will pass on these items to the respective Board member in charge of the area of concern.

The most changes to the membership roll were the addition of email address. More and more members are getting online. Another item that is so important to SCC is the large number of members who included donations with their renewals. We really appreciate your contributions.

During the last quarter, we gained 15 new members. We extend our welcome to you and offer our help with any SCC-related matters. I am sad to report that we lost 14 members who resigned and four who passed away.

By the time you read this our regional meeting at SANDICAL will be history and the annual meeting at ROYAL 2000 ROYALE will be right around the corner. I hope to meet in person with as many of you as possible. We should have lots of new Nordic exhibits as we get ready for NORDIA 2001 next year. There seems to be so much more to relate but in the interest of brevity, I will save it for another time and close by wishing you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 12/31/1999

New Members

3760 Canady, Darryl - DNP
 3761 Kust, Edward N., 900 New Haven Dr., Cantonment, FL 32533-8900
 3762 Swanson, John C., 206 W. Custer Park, Bismarck, ND 58501
 3763 Morrison, James, 1145 St. Finegan Drive, West Chester, PA 19382
 3764 Stewart, Robert W., 12721 Paddle Ct., Orlando, FL 32828-9138
 3765 Holtsmark, Erling B., PO Box 1967, Iowa City, IA 52244-1967
 3766 Matson, George G., 219 S Lafayette St., Denver, CO 80209-2523
 3767 Fath, Bengt O.G., 311 E 72nd St., New York, NY 10021
 3768 Ruttkey, Suellen, 55 Westhaven, Troy, OH 45373
 3769 Cooil, Robert W., Rte 13 Box 422, Lake City, FL 32055
 3770 Dant, Denis M., 3555 NW. Conrad Dr., Bend, OR 97701
 3771 Røing, Mats O., 1934 Sheridan Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55116
 3772 Stone, Carl E. DNP
 3773 Anderson, Iver J., 8641 Wentworth Ave. #236, Bloomington, MN 55420-2886
 3774 Grindem, Bjarne, 14501 Atrium Way 239, Minnetonka, MN 55345-4762

Resigned

826 Hemmingsen, Erik
 3380 Seaman, Charles D.
 3744 Palmquist, Ron
 3544 Korpinen, Matti
 3602 Andrade, Mrs. Jose E.
 2634 Lee, P.D.
 3368 Charest, Alexis N.
 2788 Teed, Mrs. Lois A.
 2193 Colvard, George
 3462 Anderson, Pirkko
 3222 Bennett, Gerald
 3638 Rasmussen, Knud (from Winnipeg)
 3305 Osper, Horst
 1404 Peterson, David A.

Deceased

1536 Davenport, Carl
 1157 Knutson, Bent
 1311 Moldenhauer, F.C., Jr.
 H-16/0483 Stone, Lauson H.

Donations

3766 Matson, George G.	3466 Tuchman, A.
3294 Svensson, Dr. E.	1956 Schloss, H.
1535 Sickels, G.	3732 Smith, M.
3101 Winden, A.	1611 Ostergaard, P.
3242 Morison, G.	724 Lind, A
2403 Bjorklund, H.	3675 Hammer, T.
2803 Lorentzon, L.	3746 Tann, Rabbi L.
2252 Carlson, C.	3009 Sholder, S.
2125 Schubert, F.	3004 Savage, W.
1788 Sorenson, B.	3221 Roberts, R
3096 Ferber, L.	3053 Klaus, K.
3693 Herren, C.	1714 Smith, W.
3687 Angus, J.	1462 Deisz, G.
3451 Wilson, R.	3314 Jonsson, M.
3067 Wolfel, W.	1338 Aro, K.
	2907 Korn, G.

Change of Address

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