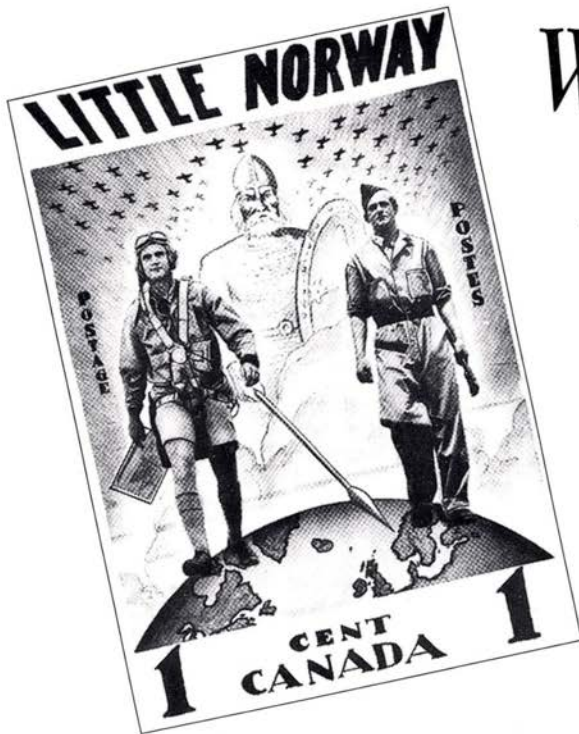


The

POSTHORN

May 2001



Wings For Norway



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The Star Gazer with a Silver Nose

by Alfred A. Gruber

One might suppose that 2001 being the 400th anniversary of Tycho Brahe's death will result in some sort of memorials. It is doubtful they will be as interesting as the 300th year activities.

Copenhagen journal *Dannebrog* translated a report from *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna concerning the removal of the famed Danish astronomer's remains from his tomb on June 28, 1901:

"On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of Tycho Brahe's death the Prague Town Council decided to gather together the remains of the celebrated (Danish) astronomer, which were in the Teyn Church, and bury them anew." *continued on page 4*



Figure 1. Brahe on Denmark Facit 321, issued in 1946 in observance of the 400th anniversary of his birth.



Figure 2. Denmark Facit 574, issued in 1973 on the 400th anniversary of Brahe's book, *De Nova Stella*. The 2-kr stamp shows a sextant with the constellation Cassiopeia and the bright star *Stella Nova* (at the top). A joint issue by Denmark (Facit 1137-1138) and Sweden (Facit 1928-1929) in 1995 also commemorated Brahe's astronomical accomplishments.

“Wings for Norway” – Almost Canadian!

by Tor Østlund

(Translated by Frederick A. Brofos)

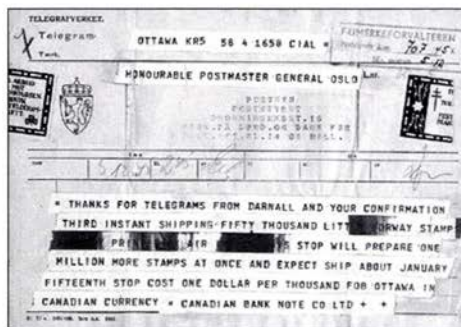
The stamp “Wings for Norway” was issued in Norway on March 28, 1946 in memory of the Norwegian fighter pilots trained at Little Norway in Canada. But did you know that this stamp almost was issued in Canada in 1942? Here is the story:

“Little Norway” was the name of the Norwegian Air Force training camp in Canada during the last World War. The camp was opened in November 1940 at Island Airport near Toronto, under the command of Hjalmar Rüser-Larsen. From New Year 1941, Major Ole Reistad took over. In 1943, “Little Norway” was sold to the Canadian government and the training camp was moved to Muskoka, about 110 kilometers north of Toronto. Here the training continued until the autumn of 1944, when the camp was moved to the air base Winkleigh in Devon, England.

It was Major Reistad who, after a suggestion by one of the camp’s photographers, gave an order to its information office to follow up the idea for a stamp, which he liked. A volunteer worker, John Darnall from Glendale, Ohio, worked hard on the stamp case in close cooperation with Reistad and the Canadian



Captain Harold Nicolaysen's essay for a Canadian stamp. The two people are, on the right, Quartermaster and plane mechanic Henry Bernhard Malmøe and, on the left, Sergeant and flyer Ulf Wormdal, both of whom lost their lives later.



Telegram from Canadian Bank Note Co., Ltd. to the Norway Postal Administration (received May 12, 1945) that 50,000 stamps were being sent by airmail and that they will print and send one million stamps by ship around Jan. 15, 1946.

authorities. The latter agreed for the stamp to be used in Little Norway. However, the Norwegian government in London opposed the plan, as they were working on a similar issue (the London stamps of Jan. 1, 1943).

Nevertheless, Major Reistad didn't give up the project and in January 1942, the stamp was proposed as a Canadian issue and as propaganda for Norway's war contribution. But again the plan was unsuccessful.

On December 9, 1942, the Canadian Bank Note Co., Ltd. at Ottawa, had prepared a supply of 50,000 stamps. The Norwegian-American George Unger Vetlesen financed the stamps, and it ➤

was suggested that it be included in the London set - as a Norwegian stamp.

The exile government in London continued to oppose the issue, and in a telegram of March 31, 1943, stated that they did not wish to risk that "Norway would be placed in the same class with certain small states which have the reputation of printing stamps, not for postal use, but mainly to make money out of them."

The stamp was therefore never issued or used in Little Norway, but was later presented as a gift to the Post Office in Norway. After the Liberation, there was ordered a supplementary issue of one million stamps from the printers in Canada. The stamp was issued in Norway on March 28, 1946 - on Crown Princess Märtha's birthday. The stamp was so popular that it had to be rationed to 10 stamps per person and the whole issue was quickly sold out. ■

This article was translated from "Frimerkeposten," published by Norway Post's Philatelic Service, issue 5/2000. The author, a collector since childhood, has edited "Budstikka," the journal of the Norwegian Postal History Society, and now is editor of "Frimerkeposten."



The Military Attaché at the Norway Legation in Canada received a sheet of the stamps overprinted SPECIMEN (proofs).

The Star Gazer with a Silver Nose continued from page 2

Nearby was a full-length stone effigy of the great man. Identification was quickly established, as the body in the coffin was a wonderful likeness. The bones of the face had the peaked Spanish beard, the head a skull cap, the legs military boots and the neck a well-preserved Spanish ruff. The confirming item was the absence of the nose. Tycho lost his in a duel and wore a silver one in its place.

Brahe (1546-1601) discovered the constellation Cassiopeia and became one of the leading astronomers of the late Renaissance. ■

—Dr. W. E. and Florence Melberg provided information and illustrations for this article

Reference: *A Bedside Nature: Genius and Eccentricity in Science 1869-1953*. Walter Gratzer, ed., (W. H. Freeman and Co., 1997). The anecdote was taken from the British publication, *Nature*, Vol. 64, 261, 1901.

Danish West Indies

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More Concerning the “Wings for Norway” Stamp

by Frederick A. Brofos

“Little Norway” Postmarks

There were two metal cancellers. One small, with text: LITTLE NORWAY ONT. The other, a little larger (as shown on Figure 1) with text: TORONTO-LITTLE NORWAY ONT. My cover has a cachet with the “V” for Victory symbol and the three dots and a dash telegraph code for “V” along with a red and blue sticker, which supported the Norwegian Relief organization.

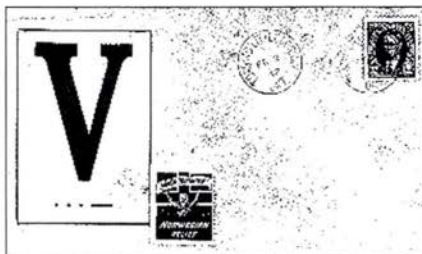


Figure 1.

Postage Meter Mark

A franking meter mark in red was used, including the slogan: WINGS FOR NORWAY, the same slogan as used later for the postage stamp issue. The dates I’ve seen are Oct. 14, 1941 and Apr. 19, 1945. The machine also produced gummed tapes for use on parcels. These had a multiple security underprint reading: CANADA POSTES or CANADA POSTAGE on ribbons surrounding a crown and maple leaf design. (See Figures 2 and 3.)

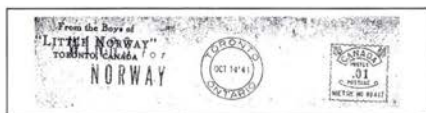


Figure 2.

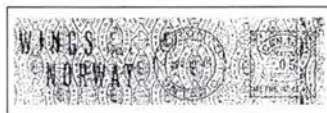


Figure 3.

Cigarette Cards



Figures 4 and 5.

It was probably during World War II that the Wings Cigarette Co. issued a series of 50 different small, colored cards of “Modern Airplanes.” One of each was included as a bonus in every pack of cigarettes. This was done until a different set was later produced. Among the many planes of various types shown, cards no. 32 and 35 are of particular interest. Figures 4 and 5 show planes with the Norwegian red, white, and blue stripes on their wings. These were patrol and attack bombers used by the Norwegian Air Force in Canada. ➤

Marginal Plate Imprints

Two printing plates for the “Wings” stamp were used with marginal imprints showing the Canadian Bank Note name and either “No.1” or “No. 2.” It would be convenient to know whether these numbers distinguish the two printings. (See Figure 6.)

Although the two printings were produced with a four-year interval, and one might expect some difference, I haven’t noticed anything. Without a marginal imprint attached, I don’t believe a loose stamp could be identified as to what printing it was from.

The paper both times came from the Eddy Co. of Hull, Quebec, without watermark and line-perforated 12.

Both printings were issued at the same time in Norway, so both plate imprints were available to the public then.

The first small printing of 50,000 stamps (1,000 sheets of 50 stamps each) may have only required one printing plate back in 1942.

Afterward, the plate was perhaps scrapped for its metal. Then, in 1946, when an unexpected further order arrived, a new plate (No. 2) had to be made. Then again, on this new larger order of one million stamps (20,000 sheets of 50 stamps each), speed may have been a requirement. If it still existed, the old plate No. 1 may have been used together with the new plate No. 2, allowing two presses to be utilized. Just what happened needs to be determined.

A telegram exists stating the cost of the million stamps at \$1 (Canadian) per thousand, making a cost of \$1,000 for the million and \$50 for the first 50,000. That seems rather cheap, but there may have been additional charges for redesigning and engraving on the first lot and later shipping expenses to Norway for it all.

“Wings” Used in Canada

Although originally intended for Canada, the “Wings for Norway” stamp was redesigned for eventual use in Norway itself. It was never on sale or used at any Canadian post office. However, in theory it could be used if a Norwegian post office existed on Canadian soil.

This unlikely situation actually did occur briefly at an international stamp show held at Montreal, Canada, in 1992. Various countries had extraterritorial post offices established temporarily for selling their nation’s stamps. Of course, the Norwegian post office did not stock any of the long-sold-out “Wings for Norway” stamps. Nevertheless, I brought with me from New Hampshire several older Norwegian stamps and had them cancelled at the show. ➤



Figure 6.

A remarkable cover (Figure 7) was concocted that included the "Wings for Norway" stamp, as well as the Flier (probably trained in Canada) stamp from the London Exile set. Furthermore, the 5-cent U.S. Flag of Norway stamp was added and postmarked at the U.S. stand (after a full 30 cents postage was stipulated).



Figure 7.

Altogether, I was quite pleased with this rather eccentric, but unique and certainly legitimate creation of mine. Later, I noticed there was even a small error in the Norwegian postmark, where the "u" in "philateliq[ue]" was missing (Figure 8). ■



Frederick A. Brofos is a former editor of and frequent contributor to The Posthorn and other publications, mostly about Norway's stamps and postal history. Born in England, he spent World War II in Norway before coming to the U.S. in 1946.

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Finnish Steamship Post Offices Between Åbo and Stockholm, 1912 - 1914

by Bo Söderholm

The first maritime post office existed between August 3 and November 25, 1876 on board the paddle steamer "Express" that traveled the Hangö-Stockholm route. The post office was closed quite soon due to the high cost. The next time, the following statement was made regarding post offices on board steamships.

Circular

1912

From the Finnish Post Office

Number VIII.

Regarding establishment of post offices on board mail-carrying steamships traveling between Stockholm and Åbo.

In the agreement signed on December 30, 1911 between, on the one hand, the Finnish Post Office and, on the other hand, the Finnish Steamship Company and the Steamship Company "Bore," regarding the keeping of daily sailings and mail service between the cities of Åbo and Stockholm, it was agreed that the steamship companies are to, as soon as possible, furnish and keep in usable condition, a post-office cabin wherein the mail is to be sorted and otherwise processed during the trip. Since the post-office cabins were then in a usable condition, the Post Office has decided that these steamship post offices shall officially be in use starting May 1.

Regarding the rules and regulations for work in these (aforementioned offices), the Post Office has ruled as follows:

1. These post offices are to be called Åbo å utr. (Åbo ångbåt utrikes, or Åbo steamship abroad) initially to function only as sub-post offices and will report directly to Åbo Post Office. These post offices will until further notice only process insured, registered and ordinary letter mail, as well as newspapers, but not postal cheques, cash-on-delivery, and parcel mail. Mail will be processed according to the rules and regulations for such mail in effect at Åbo Post Office.
2. Insured, registered and ordinary letter mail as well as newspapers to and via Sweden from Finnish post offices, except for Helsingfors, which has the right of exchanging mail directly with Sweden, processed by these post offices shall be directed to these post offices and not to Åbo. Except for this direction of mail, the in-force rules and regulations shall be observed.

P. Jamalainen.

According to the journal of the Åbo harbor office, the traffic was handled by six ships, the Finnish Steamship Company's "Wellamo," "Oihonna," and "Uleåborg," and the Bore steamers "Bore I," "Bore II," and "Nordstjernen." Two or three ships were regularly traveling, including in the winter, with few deviations from schedule. Because of fog, there were delays October 29 and 30, 1913. Bore II arrived 26 hours late and Wellamo arrived 14 hours late.

Three different cancellations were used by the postmasters, who circulated between the different ships from May 1, 1912 and August 3, 1914 when the traffic ceased because Russia had declared war on Germany the previous day. ➤

The cancellations depict a ship and two post horns and contained date and time. The Swedish text was abbreviated to "Åbo å. Utr" and was translated to Finnish and Russian. Type 1 had large five-pointed stars between the texts in the three languages; type 2 had large dots there, and type 3 had three small stars there. (See Figure 1.)



Figure 1. Type 1, large stars between texts. Type 2, large dots between texts. Type 3, Three small stars between texts.

By consulting the journal of the Åbo harbor office, one can determine which ship transported a given piece of mail; in a few cases is the ship name written on the letter or post card. According to the material available to this writer, no mail was sent on *Uleåborg* or *Nordstjerman*. These were only used as substitute vessels when the other ships were docked.

Most of the mail cancelled by the steamship post offices has gone from Sweden to Finland; mail from Finland to Sweden is quite rare. Extant cards written and mailed on board exist addressed to Sweden and Finland. A rare letter (Figure 2) is one sent from Stockholm on *Bore II*, addressed to St. Petersburg and arrival stamped there 7.2.13 (Feb 2, Gregorian calendar; 20.2.13 per the Julian calendar.)

The earliest known cancel is from May 21, 1912 and the latest known is dated July 31, 1914. (See Figures 3 and 4.)



Figure 2. Letter from Stockholm sent on "Bore II" February, 1913 to St. Petersburg.



Figure 3. Letter with the earliest known date, May 21, 1912

The time in the cancellers seldom was adjusted. Most imprints bear "8i" (8 iltapäivä/eftermiddag, or 8 p.m.) There were, however, exceptions:

- Type 1 14.3.13.7e (7 eftermiddag)
- 19.8.13.9a (9 aamupäivä)
- 9.3.14.9f (9 förmiddag)
- 25.7.14.5i (5 iltapäivä)
- Type 2 All mail marked with cancel 8i.
- Type 3 21.5.12.9f (9f förmiddag)
- 23.3.13.2a (2 aamupäivä)
- 29.5.13.2a (2 aamupäivä)
- 12.3.14.4a (4 aamupäivä)
- 24.3.14.9a (9 aamupäivä) ➤

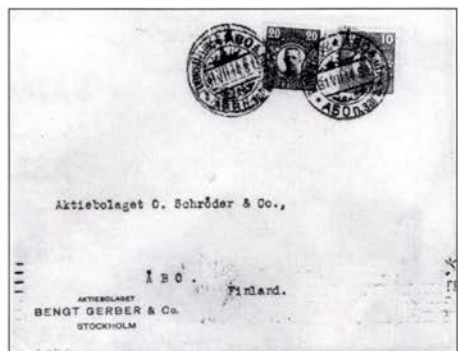


Figure 4. Letter with the last known date, July 31, 1914

Certainly, these steamship post offices were not profitable, but they were made as a part of the Russian system of sea mail. Because the ships called at the Skeppsbro quay in the center of Stockholm, this fast and reliable method of forwarding mail was used by nearby shipping firms and other companies that did business with Finland. There was very little private mail.

Later, the Russian text was removed from the cancels. From 1923 and into the 1950s, these cancellations were used at Åbo for incoming foreign sea mail. ■

Author's Note: *I would be grateful if readers would contact me with earlier or later dates and/or with other time imprints. I thank all colleagues who have contributed help and data for this research.*

Editor's Note: *This article resulted from the combined efforts of several individuals. Foremost, of course, was the author, Bo Söderholm, the past president of the Philatelic Federation of Finland. This article was published first in Bulletin 2 for the NORDIA 99 Exhibition. SCC President Roger Quinby recommended publication in The Posthorn. Peter Bergh and Carita Parker provided independent translations. The author reviewed one of these translations before the manuscript underwent the usual editorial process.*

Translators' Note: *The word iltapäivä is Finnish for afternoon, eftermiddag is Swedish for afternoon, aamupäivä is Finnish for forenoon, and förmiddag is Swedish for forenoon.*

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Russian Stamps Used in the Åland Islands

by William Ross & Leonard Tann

The Åland islands form a rocky archipelago off the west coast of Finland, not far from Abo/Turku, at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia. Militarily – and Russia regarded this as important – the Ålands could control the approaches through the eastern Baltic waters to St. Petersburg and offer protection to the coasts of Finland.

The Ålands were included when Finland was ceded to Russia as part of the Swedish-Russian treaty of 1809. The League of Nations about 1920 confirmed the Ålands as an autonomous region of the Finnish Republic.

Covering 581 square miles, the Ålands had an estimated population of about 27,000 during the final years of czarist rule. Most hamlets consisted of a few houses and farms, a village shop, perhaps a church. Mariehamn (Mary's Town), the only real town, was founded in 1861 by Czar Alexander II in honor of his wife, the Czarina Maria Fyodorovna.

Postal history of the Ålands goes back into the early "Swedish period" pre-1809, and thereafter when the Ålands were a fragment of the vast czarist empire. In the 19th century, the Finnish stamps of various types were available and used at the post offices in the Ålands. Recently, one of the first Finnish stamps - the imperf 10-kopeck oval type was found with oblong postmark of October 6, 1858 from Kastelholm, one of the oldest Åland post offices (Figure 1).



Figure 1.

Finnish Autonomy in the Russian Empire

Finland was an oddity within the Russian Empire. It had its own constitution, an elected representative assembly, freedom of speech, press, and religious rights. None of these applied anywhere else within Russia. The Czar was a constitutional ruler in Finland, but an absolute autocrat in the rest of Russia.

The Finnish Post enjoyed autonomy – issuing its own stamps, arranging its own rates. The Finnish currency – the Markka – was independent of the Russian ruble. It was only in matters of the overall administration of foreign and defense policies that St. Petersburg predominated.

Only one point in postal matters linked Russia and Finland. All Russian stamps and postal stationery were valid for postage if carried into Finland by visitors and tourists. Finland and the Ålands were popular holiday locations for the wealthy nobility and upper classes of St. Petersburg and Moscow. If they carried Russian stamps and stationery with them, they were valid for postal use. This was not considered a point of dispute, as the overall numbers would have been negligible.

Until the 1850s, the only Åland post offices were at Kastelholm and Ekkerö. By the 1880s, post offices had been opened at Godby, Kumlinge, Lumparland, Degerby, and, of course, Mariehamn. More were opened later: Flakka, Granboda, Lemland, Hammarland, Haraldsby, Trask, Nafsby, Palsbole, Sottunga, Sund, Jomala, Odkarby, and a few more. While this list might seem extensive, material was never plentiful and surviving material is sparse. In the middle to late 19th century, specific Russian items (rather than the local Finnish stamps and stationery) are very sparse and desirable.

By the end of the 19th century, there was a sophisticated mail service within the Ålands and connecting the archipelago to Finland, Russia, Sweden, and other European ►

locations. One steamship route was from Finland, via the Ålands, to Copenhagen, and Hull (UK). There were steamship routes around the islands carrying mail and mail-exchange.

The Czarist Crackdown

The postal situation changed during the reign of Czar Alexander III from 1881-1894. An autocrat in practice as much as in title, he began to infringe the provisions of the Finnish constitution, declaring that his divinely granted autocracy brooked no restrictions. A set of stamps bearing the Russian double-eagle was issued in 1891 with dots or rings in the design, and it was decreed that all mail to Russia had to be franked with this Russian issue rather than the local Finnish issue. This “ring” set remained valid into the first decade of the 20th century.

Czar Nicholas II, who succeeded his father in 1894, further infringed the provisions of Finland’s autonomy. The most important – for us – was that from 1901 all mail sent out of Finland, regardless of destination, had to be franked with Russian stamps only. At a stroke, the Finnish Post was reduced to a local post, the Finnish stamps being valid only within Finland, including the Ålands. Furthermore, all Finnish stamps now had to bear the Russian Arms – the crowned double-eagle – but remain in Finnish currency. But all Russian issues were now issued to Finland: residual supplies of the 1889-94 issue, the 1902-06 issue, and the 1909 issue.

New postal regulations also required the postmarks to include the Russian/Cyrillic name. Within the last decade of the 19th century, postmarks of Finland and the Ålands became bilingual – Latin characters around the top, the Cyrillic around the base. A few were trilingual to accommodate Swedish and Finnish versions. Helsinki/Helsingfors in Finland is one such and on the Ålands, Mariehamn was trilingual. In fact, Mariehamn had bilingual and trilingual postmarks, but there appears to be no clear reason or distinction for these.

Consider the difficulty of purchasing stamps for mail destined abroad – denominated in Russian kopeck while paying in Finnish pennia. Fixed rates were established: a 2-kopeck stamp cost 5 pennia. A 10-kopeck stamp cost 27 pennia. The Finns quickly calculated that by buying five 2-kopeck stamps for the 10-kopeck letter-rate abroad they could pay 25 pennia, thus “cheating” the Russians of 2 pennia. This explains the plethora of items mass-franked with 2-kopeck stamps. Probably 2-kopeck stamps of the various Russian

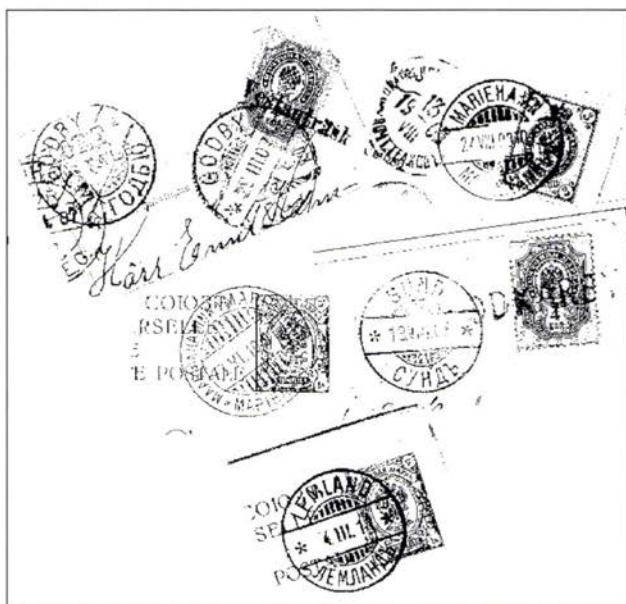


Figure 2. An assortment of bilingual and trilingual postmarks from the Ålands.

issues account for one-half or more of all Russian items recorded from the Ålands. Any examples of postal stationery with Russian-imprinted stamps - and there are a few known - are very scarce.



Figure 3. Cover registered from Mariehamn with bilingual registration label, addressed to Helsingfors. Censored and resealed, December 12, 1914.

Figure 4 shows a rare Mariehamn cancel on a 3-kopeck Romanoff (Alexander III) stamp used on a postal card to Moscow. Although the Moscow machine arrival postmark somewhat smothers the stamp, the tri-lingual Mariehamn postmark is clear to all who have seen the card. Although some specialists contend Romanoff stamps were not on sale in the Ålands or, for that matter, anywhere else in Finland, there is no doubt that this stamp was carried to Mariehamn by a visitor or tourist and validly used there. Some years ago,

Finnish specialist Rene Hillesum of The Netherlands stated that a few loose Romanoff stamps are known used with Mariehamn postmarks. It is likewise believed that one or two of the Russian 1914-15 war-charity stamps have Mariehamn postmarks.

Some of the Ålands hamlets, such as Flakka and Vestantrask, had straight-line postmarks. These were collected by the “rambling rural postman,” taken to the nearest “main post office,” postmarked there, and carried onward. Some cards and covers were written on steamers from the Ålands or had the Åland town recorded at the top of the message. Thus, we know these originated in the Ålands.

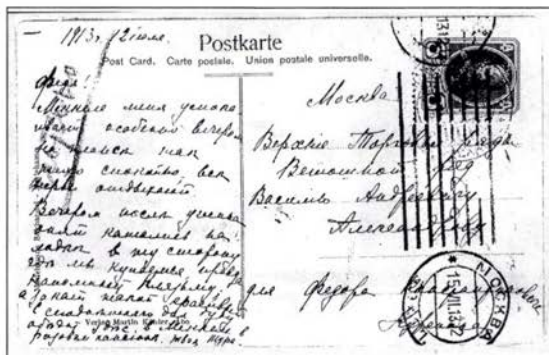


Figure 4. Postal card with a 3k Romanoff stamp to Moscow, Mariehamn postmark.

Collapse and Independence

The colossal strains that the Great War placed on the creaking czarist system caused the sudden and unexpected collapse of the Russian monarchy in early March 1917, and Nicholas II was forced to abdicate. This ushered in a short period of a Russian “republic” under Prime Minister Alexander Kerensky and hastened the Bolshevik coup in October/November 1917.

This allowed Finland to loosen its ties with Russia. There was an attempt to create a Finnish monarchy in the summer of 1917, inviting a German prince (actually a relative of the Czarina Alexandra) to be the new Grand Duke of Finland, but Kerensky used the Russian garrisons in Finland to forestall any attempts at independence. By December ➤

1917, with Russia under Bolshevik government and descending into the chaos of civil war, Lenin had no choice but to recognize Finnish independence as a republic.

In the spring and summer of 1918, the Cyrillic in the postmarks was defaced or cut out. Russian stamps remained valid for ex-Finland mail (the U.P.U. had not recognized the validity of the new Finnish republic stamps – the Saarinen issue – for international mail). But mail from the Ålands began to show postmarks with the Russian text removed.

Use of Russian stamps denominated in rubles and kopecks was allowed for internal mail (within Finland and the Ålands) until November 28, 1917. The Kerensky governor-general of Finland authorized the new Saarinen issue showing the proud Finnish lion, but it had not yet been authorized by the U.P.U. for foreign mail. Thus, Russian ruble and kopeck stamps remained valid for foreign mail until March, 1918.

And as Finland embarked on a new era in its history, so did the Åland islands. ■

Authors: *William Ross is an expert in the field of Finland and the Ålands, and he has written extensively on the postal history of the Ålands. Leonard Tann has specialized in Imperial Russia for 36 years, having written two handbooks in the field and contributed articles to Russian specialist journals. Both are residents of England.*

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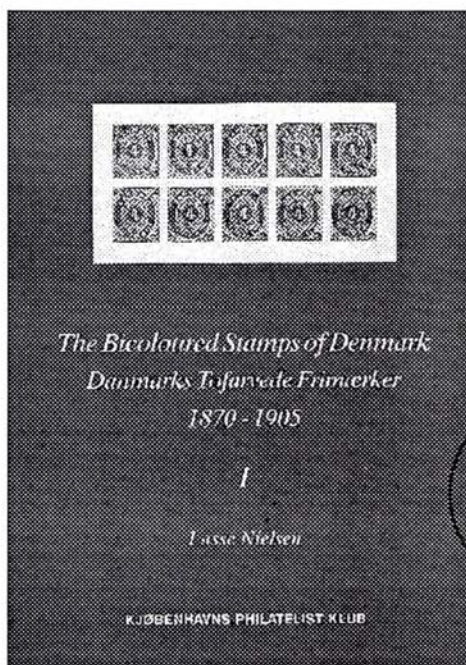


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Tale from the Tagas

Interrupted War Mail to Sweden

by Roger G. Schnell, M.D.

The primary airmail route to neutral Sweden from the U.S. during World War II was by Clipper flying boats via the Azores and Lisbon, Portugal. Mail was off-loaded at Lisbon, sent via Lufthansa to Berlin and Stockholm, or to England and Leuchars, Scotland, and then to Stockholm. (The route via Lufthansa ended March 27, 1942.)

On February 22, 1943 the "Yankee Clipper," under the command of Captain R.O.D. Sullivan, was about to land at the European terminal of FAM 18¹ when it hit a down draft of air and crashed after the right wing hit the water of the Tagas River near Lisbon.² One of the engines exploded and the flying boat burst into flames. Of the 39 passengers, 15 survived.

This was the first major accident on the trans-Atlantic service since its inauguration in 1939. The "Yankee Clipper" had made 150 crossings as

well as 55 trans-Pacific flights. Ninety-three bags of mail were salvaged from the water in damaged condition. Approximately 70,000 letters were sent to London with explanatory bulletins of verification for sorting. Mail to Sweden carried the label shown on Figure 1.

As seen in Figure 2, the registered letter left Boston, January 27 1943, New York January 30, and was sent to Sweden via Pan Am FAM 18 New York-Bermuda-Azores-Lisbon. New York censor resealing tape is noted on the left, with the British Bermuda "EXAMINER 4678 IC" resealing tape on the right. The letter was salvaged from the river and sent on to London for distribution. The British Airline BOAC carried the letter to

Stockholm with a March 16, 1943 arrival marking. The U.S. rate was 30 cents per one-half ounce with a registration fee of 15 cents for a total of ►



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

45 cents postage. However, the water removed the adhesives. Thus, the letter arrived at its destination in spite of the tragedy.

Other Interrupted Flights

Interrupted flight covers also are known on the Leuchars, Scotland-Stockholm leg of the journey carried by BOAC. One plane crashed at Barkarby, Stockholm after being hit by German gunfire, April 1943. A second plane crashed in Scotland in autumn 1943, with a third crash at Leuchars in the summer of 1944. A fourth crashed at Kinnekulle, Sweden August 1944. Because of the war, these interrupted flights received cachets in England such as: "Damaged through an airplane accident in course of conveyance."

Swedish planes from the Swedish Airline ABA (Aktiebolaget Aerotransport) also participated in the wartime traffic to Scotland. One plane crashed on a flight from Scotland August 28, 1943 and no mail was found. A German fighter shot down a second plane, "Gripen," on October 22, 1943. It reached Swedish territory, and some mail was saved from the wreck. ■

The author is a collector, exhibitor, philatelic judge, and former President of SCC.

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Air Post Journal, March 1943, Vol. XIV Issue 155, p.183-4

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Filatelist-Forbund, Stockholm, 1978, pps. 264-265.

¹ FAM = Foreign Contract Air Mail Route, which is a number assigned by the government to U.S. airlines over which mail is carried from U.S. points to foreign countries. This practice continued until 1968 when numbers were abandoned in favor of Civil Aeronautics Board certificate numbers.

² Also written as "Tagus" or "Tigrue" River.

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The St. Thomas “Rebuts Commission”

By John L. DuBois

The illustrated “Rebuts Commission” mark was made by a St. Thomas handstamp now in the Copenhagen Postal Museum. This handstamp (Figure 1), along with 11 others that were used by the St. Thomas post office and withdrawn in 1898-99, were collected by one Olaf Bøgh and donated to the Copenhagen museum.

This mark has turned up on DWI postage due stamps. Below are illustrations of two four-cent postage dues bearing the “Rebuts Commission” handstamp. (The stamps are owned privately.)

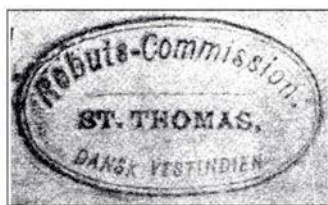


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

The question immediately arises: what was the Rebuts Commission and what is the significance of the handstamp on the postage dues? As often happens in postal history, the answers are not completely clear, but thanks to Torben Hilberg and Frank Banke, enough detail has emerged to form a likely story.

The Rebuts Commission was a dead letter office. According to Erik Jensen of the postal museum in Copenhagen, Denmark opened such an office ca. 1869 and the counterpart in St. Thomas, probably started about the same time. There are notations on the archived St. Thomas postage due accounts from 1901 on, that refer to letters returned “...with the rebuts notes...” and, in one footnote: “Of this amount \$4.75 (for 1901) are not equipped with postage due stamps.”

This information seems to connect the Rebuts Commission with postage due stamps in some way, but nowhere has any information been found regarding instruction for use of the handstamp on postage dues.

It is likely that the Commission opened “dead” letters and tried to get them back to senders if an address or location could be determined from the contents. From the archival notes, it appears that at least some of these returns bore postage due stamps, but it is not at all clear that the Commission “cancelled” these stamps with their mark. It could be equally likely that they handstamped some quantity of postage dues not affixed to letters as a fiscal device to account for letters whose senders could not be determined.

More to the Story

But, the story does not end here! It is well known that Bøgh, who had the 12 various St. Thomas handstamps, made “helpful” use of them for stamp collectors who preferred used stamps rather than unused, before their donation to the Copenhagen Postal Museum

For instance, he stamped blocks of the DWI classic issue with a four-ring cancel in his possession. This is obviously bogus because the classic stamps were withdrawn in 1873, and the St. Thomas post office did not begin using the four-ring cancel until 1877. Another case exists where a DWI#1, with white gum, has been struck with a Danish numeral ring cancel number 1, also a Bøgh creation.

In 1898-99, 22 “special” handstamps were withdrawn from the St. Thomas post office, probably including the “Rebuts Commission” mark. It apparently was from this group that Bøgh obtained his collection. ➤

A strong argument can be made that Bøgh and not the post office made the "Rebuts Commission" marks on the four-cent postage dues because:

(a) The handstamp probably was withdrawn before the printing and use of postage due stamps in the DWI.

(a) Bøgh was in possession of the handstamp later in the 1900's.

(b) Bøgh was known to have made other "favor" cancels. ■

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Torben Hilberg, who provided many of the details of this account, and to Frank Banke, who provided the photocopied illustrations.

The author coordinates SCC's Danish West Indies Study Group. This article first appeared in the Study Unit's newsletter, Issue 29, December 2000.

VAT Boosts Norway Rates by 24 Percent

Norwegian postal users – and Norway collectors – are facing the second rate increase in six months when Norway adds a 24 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) to postal services on July 1.

New rates were announced in April by Norway Post in response to decisions made by the country's national assembly, the Storting. All four rate categories – domestic, Nordic countries, the remainder of Europe, and other countries – will increase approximately 24 percent rounded to the nearest 50 øre or 1 krone.

For example, First Class (A Post) Domestic rates will increase from 4.50 to 5.50 NOK for letters up to 20 grams and from 8.00 to 10.00 NOK for the same letter to the U.S. The rates during 2000 for the same categories were NOK 4.00 and NOK 7.00 respectively and rose to the present level on January 1.

"With the general addition of 24 percent VAT on all stamps, it will now be a bit more expensive to collect stamps," acknowledged Morten Berner, the director of Norway Post's Philatelic Service.

VAT will not be added to postal services in Svalbard since the parliament has declared it a tax-free area. Norway Post is preparing a label to be placed on mail from Svalbard declaring that the existing rates are acceptable and that no VAT should be assessed in Norway. Norway Post said the labels would be handed out at the post office in Longyearbyen.

The swift pace of rate increases in Norway has necessitated changes in the 2001 stamp program as well. The revised program means Norway will issue 44 stamps in 2001 – a record number for one year.

"This is not a record we are particularly proud of," Berner said. "We have always emphasized the importance of a moderate stamp-issuing policy and have defined this normally as about 30 stamps each year. However, with new postage rates on both 1 January and 1 July, the need for new stamps is unusually high this year." ■

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Sherlock Holmes – Sleuthing in Iceland

by Don Brandt

Reykjavík stamp dealer Magni Magnússon recently returned from an overseas buying trip to discover among his newly-acquired crown cancellations one that may be unique.

As you can see in the accompanying illustration, the beginning and end of the place name appear on the 10 aurar stamp. Three of the last four letters are unmistakably O, T and U. The final letter looks to be M or N, but N can be eliminated for two reasons: (1) -TÚN (meadow), an uncommon although possible place name ending, cannot be preceded by the letter O in Icelandic, and (2) the width of the letter in the strike indicates an M.

The first two letters present more of a challenge. Examining the bottom of the cancel, the rounded second letter with visible serif can only be an S, which means the initial letter must be a vowel. The choice is between Á and Í, based on appearance, but O, U and Y (either as long or short vowels) would not have been possible anyway.

The letters -UM at the end indicate a dative ending: a place in or at another place. Thus, more than one word in the place name - something in (Í) some place (-M). Because the initial letter has, at first glance, the appearance of an I, this letter must be considered, or rather a long Í.

A search of the 1915 *Bæjartal á Íslandi*, which lists every village and farm in Iceland (and would be virtually unchanged since the auramerki was cancelled) lists only three place names beginning with ÍS (ice) and all are too long: Ísleifsstaðir, Ísólfssstaðir and Ísólfsskáli (two) - plus they are derived from men's names. ÍS, by itself, seems impossible (as in ÍS Í -UM) because no farm would be named ICE!

So we must infer that the initial letter is Á (not A). It is wide enough and the crossbar seems to be there. The possible number of letters and spaces ranges from 10 to 12, of which two must be spaces. Many place names in the *Bæjartal* begin with Ás, but any name longer than Ás, from Ásakot to Ásunnarstaðir, is too long. Ás alone, however, is a common place name (meaning rocky ridge) with at least 17 listings. By a process of elimination, the 17 can be narrowed down to two, one in Austur-Húnavatnssýsla and the other in Skagafjarðarsýsla. In Skagafjarðarsýsla, a modern postal station was located at Fljót from 1978 to 1996.

Long vowel marks appear in some crown cancellations and not in others where they belong. The -OTUM in our mystery cancellation, however, should be -ÓTUM. The only possible place name that seems to fit our puzzle is ÁS Í FLJÓTUM.

Readers who have stayed awake this far are encouraged to search through any unidentifiable crown cancellations in their collections for what looks like ÁS Í FLJÓTUM or AS I FLJOTUM. If another happens to be out there somewhere, Þór Þorsteins in Reykjavík is the person to contact. ■



Figure 1.

Destinations of Sweden Postal Card Number 4

By James Burgeson

The 10 öre red Swedish postal card of 1879 - Sweden Facit 4* - is known to many foreign destinations. That rate paid the international post card rate to Group 2 countries beginning July 1, 1875 and continued until long after card No. 13 was introduced on February 25, 1889 to replace No. 4

While the vast majority of Sweden's No. 4 cards went to Germany and Finland, many other destinations can be found. Previously, there had been a 10-öre post card rate to Denmark and Norway, but this was reduced to 6 öre on July 1, 1877. Nevertheless, No. 4 is known used to both of these countries, overpaid of course. I have one to Denmark cancelled 1883 and one to Norway cancelled 1886.

During the No. 4 decade (May 1, 1879-February 24, 1889) the international rate to Group 3 countries was 15 öre, and it is possible to have a No. 4 card with a 5-öre stamp added to pay this rate. I have an idea such a card would be a very good find. Does anyone have such a card?

Before January 1, 1895 international postal cards were permitted sent only to countries belonging to the U.P.U. On that date, the rate to Group 3 countries was reduced to 10 öre but few if any No. 4's were used that late.

Among destinations I have on No. 4 are Austria (Figure 1) and Russia (Figure 2). The card shown in Figure 3 is addressed to "Elberfeld, Villa Clara." According to Britannica 2000, there was an area of Germany known as "Elberfeld" in the 19th century. A few noteworthy events and people were connected with this area. Among others, Bayer aspirin and the Theosophical Society developed there.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

The "Villa Clara" part of the address is unresolved. Britannica identifies an area of Cuba that has been known as "Villa Clara" but only in recent years. Furthermore, Cuba was a Spanish colony in Group 3. I don't think the card is addressed to Cuba.

The card has a circular hotel corner card stamp in violet from a hotel in Göteborg and two different, Swedish railroad cancels, neither of which show foreign mail processing.

There are no transit or arrival markings and no markings on the back. The card, with a railroad cancel of July 17, 1886, is written in German in light, faded pencil on both the address and message sides. ➤

Hotels named “Villa Clara” existed in the 19th century in Italy and in France where the Duke and Duchess of Windsor once resided. Perhaps there was a “Villa Clara” in the Elberfeld area of Germany in 1886. This card makes a good case for arrival markings. ■

Author’s Note: *After preparing this article, I found another cover to Elberfeld, Germany and it is arrival stamped.*

* - Sweden’s single post cards are known as Brevkort enkla (bKe). For example, Sweden Facit Card 4 is also catalogued as bKe4.

The author is a Sweden specialist and exhibitor.

Reference:

Facit Postal VI, 1997 (or any edition of Facit Postal).

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That which is desired by many is owned by few.

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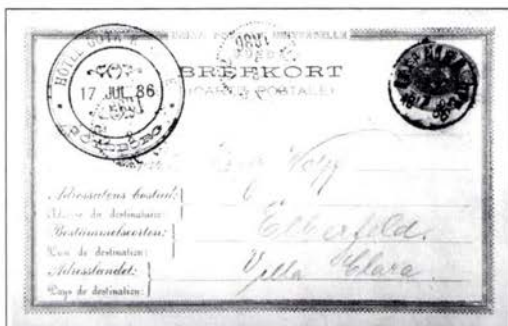


Figure 3.

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DWI Mails: A Review

Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917, Vol. I - Postal History, 2nd edition, revised and enlarged by John L. DuBois, edited by J. A. Farrington and R. G. Schnell, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, 198 + xiv pages, hardbound. Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp, NC, 2000, ISBN 0-9656592-4-0. \$75 postpaid to USA addresses; foreign postage extra.

The original three-volume set has been out of print and demanding significant prices at auction. This new volume is the first in a new series, which expands on the original with improved illustrations and in a larger format.

Robert G. Stone prepared the original volume. His material has been reorganized to some extent, expanded upon, and updated with new information. The new series results from a collaboration of specialists, many of whom are members of the Scandinavian Collectors Club's Danish West Indies Study Group.

The first chapter provides an overview of the geography and history of DWI. The Danish West India Company was dissolved in 1754 and the colony came under the direct control of Denmark. From 1754 to 1807, only 47 letters are recorded. New research has increased the census figures for known covers bearing the first four stamps of DWI, covers bearing stamps of more than one country, and covers bearing the bi-color issues of DWI.

Topics covered in subsequent chapters are the British packet and postal agencies, including packet schedules and rates, the French mail services, and U.S. mail services of St. Thomas (with usage of U.S. stamps), forwarders, and private post offices. The illustrations of the forwarders' cachets are vastly improved over the first edition.

The discussion on ship letters has been broken out into a chapter of its own. Two new chapters are added – one on German packet mail and one on St. Thomas transit mail – 1842-1877.

Another improvement is a price guide for early DWI postal history, indicating low and high values depending on condition and demand. Where more than one marking enhances the value of a cover, a premium is indicated. A second appendix lists postal, e-mail, and website addresses for organizations that are concerned with DWI philately. An extensive listing of sources and bibliography along with a list of important auction sales, plus an index, conclude the book. A major asset of the new edition is the detailed index, which runs over 20 pages.

The book size, typeface, layout, and especially the illustration quality are greatly improved over the first edition. Typographical errors are rare in the new edition.

– Alan Warren

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A Rare Look at a Misplaced Post Horn

The illustrated stamp (back of Sweden Facit 46) is a rarely seen variety of the third issue of Sweden Rings - those printed with the blue post horn on the back. This 20-öre stamp from Diether Pascher's collection is an example of part of the large post horn found in the margin of the sheet. Part of the large post horn is seen at the upper right and part of the normal horn is seen at the bottom.

As was noted in the May 2000 *Posthorn* (p. 21), these rarities occur with a few stamps from the top or outside rows of the 100-stamp sheets. When the paper was not positioned correctly, one of the eight large blue post horns printed in the sheet margins could appear on a few stamps in the outside margins. Pascher reports his stamp is from position 51.



– George Kuhhorn

New Sweden Ring Varieties Turn Up

The list of Swedish Ring stamps with colored lines in the margin continues to expand. The Sweden Ring Study Group has been recording these varieties and reported its initial listing in *The Posthorn* (November 2000, p. 36).

Subsequently, the following have been reported:

Facit 38, color line in the top margin (see Figure 1 from Diether Pascher); Facit 22, right side margin (from Martin Trouillon); Facit 46, top margin (purchased by George Kuhhorn at NORDIA2001). New varieties of Sweden Rings can be reported to George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594, or email geokuhh@starfishnet.com.

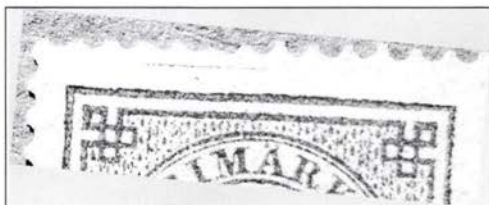


Figure 1.

Ring Study Group Seeks Broken Frame

Participants in SCC's Sweden Ring Study Group have their magnifying glasses out looking for frame breaks on the 6 öre, 13 perf ring stamp (Facit 31). Study Group leader George Kuhhorn launched the hunt after spotting a frame break on one of his ring stamps. He quickly found 13 examples in his collection, all on the same stamp.

Kuhhorn contacted other members of the study group. Erik Hamberg of Sweden reported having seven copies of Facit 31 with frame breaks.

Now, Kuhhorn is tossing a wider net and asking other SCC members to check their Sweden ring stamps to see if they have examples of the frame break. So far, the break has appeared three or four perforations from the bottom left corner of the Sweden Facit 31.

"I just want to widen the base and come up with more examples," says Kuhhorn. Electronic scans, photocopies, or descriptions with a sketch would be appreciated by Kuhhorn, who can be reached at PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; email geokuhh@starfishnet.com.

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Iceland to 1918, Greenland to 1958, Faroes until 1945: stamps, postmarks, frankings, postal history. The Iceland chapter has updated data on covers to foreign destinations, postmarks, crown marks, prices for numerals on different stamps, prices for numeral cancels on cover. In English and Danish. (208 pages. \$27.50)

GREENLAND PAKKE-PORTO (1988)

Most complete study of Pakke-Porto stamps ever, this Eric Wowerm catalog and reference work is unsurpassed. In English and Danish. (GF1. 96 pages. \$15.50)

GREENLAND THULE (1985)

The authoritative catalog/handbook on the five Thule stamps, with extensive chapters on plate flaws and postal history. In English and Danish. (GF4. 40 pages. \$10.00)

ICELAND I GILDI '02 - '03

In 1941, Erik Lundgård wrote a treatise based on primary sources and interviews. This work, now published, throws new light on the stamps, covers philatelic side in detail, with information on the overprints and varieties. In Danish, but many illustrations and tables. (80 pages. \$36.50)

Lizbeth Stamp Company
P. O. Box 321, Bloomsburg, PA 17815

President's Letter

Roger Quinby



This is a quiet time for the SCC after the excitement and hard work of NORDIA 2001. The NORDIA 2001 Organizing Committee is preparing a final report on our most successful show. It is possible that some (or all) of the seed money that the SCC put up to get the ball rolling for NORDIA 2001 will be returned to the SCC treasury.

The SCC Board will take this up in August when it meets in conjunction with the APS StampShow in Chicago. All Board meetings are open to the members; you are welcome.

Last year, we reactivated a chapter in Reykjavik. This year at HAFNIA 2001, we will form a new chapter in Copenhagen under the aegis of FIP President Knud Mohr and the Copenhagen Philatelist Club (KPK). We welcome this new chapter and the strengthened ties with our colleagues in Denmark.

Earlier this year, we initiated a membership incentive program. It is off to a slow start so we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to receive the current 2001 *Facit* catalogue at a 50 percent discount while locking in your dues at the \$15 annual rate for the next three years. See the display notice on page 43 and be sure to contact Executive Secretary Don Brent. Also, Life Members may order the catalogue at the discount. We encourage all members to invite friends and fellow Nordic stamp collectors to join the SCC.

Also on the matter of membership, George Kuhhorn has been appointed Membership Chairman. He has been sending out letters to known Nordic area collectors who are not now members of the SCC. This program will continue through the summer and we hope to gain a few members from this effort.

The Posthorn Committee, working closely with journal Editor Paul Albright, has brought about a number of excellent improvements in both content and format. Our journal captured a Grand Award for periodicals at COLOPEX recently - a positive step forward from previous competitive levels. This program is ongoing with more exciting improvements to come.

SCC exhibitors blossomed at NORDIA 2001. Now, I hope to see your exhibits at national shows during the coming year. We have many exhibitors with first-rate collections that are at or very close to national gold, reserve, and grand award levels. It is important to show your exhibits from time to time in order to reach as many members of the jury pool as possible. Educating the juries is a continuous process and does not happen at one or two shows.

A final note: Anyone interested in exhibiting at NORDIA 2002 (October 10-13, 2002 in Kristiansand, Norway) should contact me for applications. October is a wonderful time to visit Oslo and southern Norway. It will be a superb weekend of philately and good cheer; join us. ■

Columbus Used a Norwegian Map!

– Bumper Sticker

Scandinavian Literature Notes

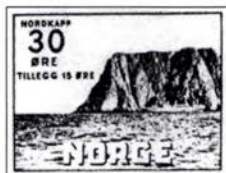
Alan Warren



Samlarföreningen Bältespännarna is the society for collectors of back-of-the-book items such as locals, revenues, labels and such. They publish a journal twice a year and the 1/2000 issue contains articles on New Year's seals (as opposed to Christmas seals), postage due stamps which are locals, and labels issued for national (non-philatelic) exhibitions. Åke Torkelstam presents a history of the Postgiro system as it marks its 75th anniversary, and he illustrates his article with some of the forms used over the years. Information about the society can be obtained from the secretary, Leif Bergman, Kvällsvägen 14 tr. 5, 14631 Tullinge, Sweden.

The October-December issue of *Luren* carries an article on Faroes revenue stamps for import licenses by Arthur Quarles, and a number of items on Iceland by Þór Þorsteins. One particularly interesting article of his examines the markings found on mail saved from ships that had problems at sea. Some examples are "Damaged by Sea Water," "Damaged by Immersion in Sea Water," and "Damaged as a Result of Enemy Action." The Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California publishes *Luren*, and information about it is available from Paul Nelson, Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711.

In the 4-2000 issue of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*, Birger Løvland presents a profile of the photographer Anders Beer Wilse, and shows some of the country's stamps based on his photos (see example on the right). In the same issue, with no author's byline, is an article that reviews 175 years of Norwegian emigration to the United States, using photographs and stamps.



David L. Straight writes a column in *Stamp Collector*, emphasizing back-of-the-book materials. His article in the January 15 issue focuses on some of the locals issued in the Arctic areas and is illustrated with examples from Thule and Spitsbergen.

News from the Faroes carries articles on the postal history of the towns of Nólsoy (1/2001 issue) and Kalsoy (2/2001 issue). Claus Andreasen presents the third part in his series on the Arctic Vikings in Greenland in the January issue of *Greenland Collector*, published by Post Greenland. Knut Glasø discusses the local posts of Norway's Hammerfest, Levanger, and Namsos in the December issue of *NFF-Varianten*.

Skilling Column Lives On

With the demise of the Danish journal *Skilling*, at least one of the columns carried by that magazine has been picked up by *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* in the February issue. The long running feature illustrating "Danmarks Poststempler," or the country's postmarks alphabetically by town name, continues with the listing from Leby Ærø to Lemvig JPX. The listing is provided from the database maintained by Vagn Jensen. In the same issue, Ib Krarup Rasmussen describes varieties of the "Porto" overprint on the Christian X issue.

Charles Leonard tells the story of Finland's so-called "mourning stamp" in the November 2000 issue of *The Post-Rider*, journal of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately. The stamp, issued in 1901, was a nationalistic protest in response to the Russian dictum that the coat of arms issues of Finland could no longer be used on mail abroad, and later within Finland.

Michael Baadke describes the new block of four stamps of Denmark that mark the ►

sesquicentennial of the country's first stamp, the famous 4 RBS, in the March 19 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. The stamps also depict four men who had great influence on the country's early stamps: engraver M. W. Ferslew, printer Andreas Thiele, Copenhagen postmaster Frantz von Jessen, and Director of Posts Sophus Danneskjold-Samsøe. Brief biographies of the four men are available on Ann Mette Heindorff's website, <http://w1.1429.telia.com/>. Post Denmark is commemorating the anniversary with a 156-page "jubilee book" containing summaries in English.



Former SCC director Mike Falls writes about Iceland's 1930 parliament airmail issue in the March issue of *The Airpost*

Journal. Christer Brunström of Sweden illustrates what might be the smallest registered cover in the March 2 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. The cover, measuring 30 x 39 mm (approximately 1 1/4 by 1 1/2 inches) was sent from Stockholm to Strömstad in 1889. The address and registration marking appear on the face of the cover and the reverse bears a 30-öre ring type stamp to pay the inland letter rate and the registration fee.

G. Hendriks provides the second part in a series on censored mail of the Scandinavian countries in the March issue of the Dutch journal *Het Noorderlicht*. Erik Lørdahl writes about General Otto Ruge and other Norwegian officers in German captivity 1940-1945 in the January-February issue of the *German Postal Specialist*.

SCC's *Posthorn* editor Paul Albright discusses the latest issues from Norway in the *Posthorn* series—the world's longest running definitive series—in the April 2 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

Military postal historian E. Menne Larsen describes the airmail arrangements between Sweden and Scotland during WWII in the March issue of Denmark's *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*. In the same issue, Jens Chr. Diermæs lists meter stamps of Denmark that carried a Christmas message in 2000. The listing is by machine manufacturer and meter number sequence.



In the March issue of the Norwegian journal *NFF-Varianten*, Knut Glasø provides part 2 of his series on peace stamps and labels. This issue also salutes veteran collector

and author Tore Gjelsvik who has just published a new book on the Thronhjelm-Støren railway and its parcel stamps.

Swedish postal historian Lennart Ivarsson continues his discussion of the charter numbers on Swedish prestamp letters in the February issue of *filatelisten*. The March issue carries the 22nd (!) installment by Erik Sjögren on the railway postmarks of Sweden while Karl-Erik Samuelsson continues his series on the plating of the large officials of Sweden.

Writing in the March issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Henrik Stilling describes plate flaws and watermarks of the bicolored issues of Denmark that were released in 1879-1880. In the same issue, Lars Engelbrecht presents the second part of his series on the 1871-1879 bicolored postal cards.

The March issue of the British journal *Scandinavian Contact* carries a newly translated article by Paul Jensen on the overprinted Norwegian stamps of Bouvet Øya, and the late Max Meedom's article on the use of the Gebyr stamps on letters posted out of hours in Copenhagen. Mike Edwards continues his series on Iceland airmail with another

Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

Titanic Display at Swedish Museum

One of the current exhibits at the Swedish Post Museum, until September 2, is entitled "Letters from the *Titanic*." The showing includes letters, post cards, photos, documents and other memorabilia connected with the legendary ship. One unusual object is the wedding ring of Gerda Lindell. She and her husband, who were emigrating from Sweden, reached a lifeboat but she was too exhausted to climb aboard. Although someone tried holding on to her, she slipped from his grip and drowned. Her ring came off at the same time and ended up in the bottom of the lifeboat where it was eventually recovered and later returned to relatives. Her husband froze to death during the tragedy.

Collectors interested in following the work of engraver Czeslaw Slania should look at the website, <http://w1.1323.telia.com/~u132301426>, maintained in English by Ann Mette Heindorff of Denmark. All of Slania's engravings are recorded here in color. Stamps and banknotes are shown by country. There are also private engravings he has done for actors, athletes, and politicians as well as short profiles of Slania and his family.

The Euro is Coming

Many European countries will be phasing out stamps denominated in their long-standing currencies, to be replaced by the euro. In Åland Post's *filateli* 1/2001, readers are advised that stamps without a currency code cannot be used there after June 30, 2002. Stamps with the euro will be introduced and others may be marked for first or second class. During the transition period from January 1 to June 30, 2002, mixed frankings will be accepted—with stamps in marks, euros, or marked first or second class. Stamps without a currency code will be available for sale to collectors only from June 30 until December 31, 2002.

Finland Marks Christmas in April

It is Christmas in April for Finland Post. Sheets of 10 non-denominated first class stamps were issued April 2 showing Santa Claus and his team of reindeer flying across the night sky with the Northern Lights in the background.

An increase in postage rates on April 1 prompted the new Christmas stamp because the previous Christmas stamps no longer will be adequate for first class letter postage. The non-denominated Santa Claus issue will continue to pay the first class letter rate after the introduction of the Euro currency in Finland next year. ➤



Sweden's Posten Beats Competition

A recent notice seen on the website of Sweden's Posten calls attention to the fact that the Swedish post delivers letters more rapidly to foreign destinations than couriers TNT and DHL. The results were found by an independent consulting firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The company codes letter mail sent by the three carriers during its test period in such a way that the carriers couldn't know that they are transporting test pieces. The results showed that 77 percent of Posten's first class letters reached their international destinations on time compared to 23 percent for TNT and 6 percent for DHL.

When the statistics for European destinations were examined, it was found that 80-97 percent of Posten's mail was delivered on time, depending on the country. Swedish Post employs a variety of quality improvement techniques to increase efficiency. One of the methods involves use of transponders within pieces of mail that are located by antennas during various stages of the transportation process. The procedure identifies where delays occur so that corrective action can be taken.

Finnish Postal Cards

SCC president Roger Quinby spoke at the Collectors Club of New York in March on Finnish postal cards. He began with the 1901 penni cards and carried through to about 1930, describing the new Eagle type and the Wasa and Saarinen cards. He reviewed the rates, the circumstances where certain cards could not be used going outside Finland, upfranking to meet new rates, and unusual usages. Roger then recognized two other SCC members in the audience—Kauko Aro, an expert on the early postal cards of Finland, and Ed Fraser, who is an authority on Finnish forgeries. Roger pointed out that America's three major exponents of Finnish philately were in the room together.

NORDIA 2002

Now that NORDIA 2001 is history, plans are underway for NORDIA 2002 to be held October 10-13, 2002 in Kristiansand, Norway. The show will be held in the Gimlehallen, site of NORDIA 92. The 1,200-frame exhibition is presided over by Johan Gulbrandsen. General Commissioner is Bjørn Gunnar Solaas. Commissioners are Gunnar Dahlvig of Sweden, Per Fabricius Jensen of Denmark, Eero Hellsten of Finland, and Ólafur Elíasson of Iceland. The event also marks the 70th anniversary of the Kristiansand Filatelistklubb.



Briefly Noted

- Norway Post released still another variety of its workhorse Posthorn definitive series this spring. The new 50-øre value was reprinted with perforations of 13 3/4 x 13 1/4 vs. the 12 3/4 x 13 1/4 of the previous reprinting in 1997.
- Michael Baadke, a senior editor at *Linn's Stamp News*, recently was named editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly* after Peter Martin resigned to take a development position with the American Philatelic Society.
- The Danish Philatelic Federation is seeking a new editor for its journal, *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, as editor Lennart Weber ends a 14-year run.
- Åland Post is offering a detailed register of all of its stamps and philatelic products on CD-ROM. Features include searching by year of issue, denomination, theme, or motif. ➤

Collectors can keep a record of their costs and current values and a "want list." A zoom feature allows the user to focus on small details of all products. Further information is available at www.posten.aland.fi.

• Our sister society in Great Britain, the Scandinavia Philatelic Society, has its own website, www.pherber.com/sps/sps.html, maintained by Paul Herber. There is membership information as well as links to their auctions and journal, and the schedule of meeting times and locations. ■

Scandinavian Area Awards

At the St. Louis Stamp Expo, Ross Olson received a vermeil and an AAPE award of honor for his "The First Definitives of King Gustav V of Sweden 1910-1919." At the same show, Charles Shoemaker won a silver for "Greenland: Military and Civilian Censorship World War II." In the literature competition at COLOPEX, *The Posthorn* received a vermeil and the grand award in the periodicals section.

At FRESPEX, Alan Warren received a silver for "Censored First Day Covers of the Nordic Countries," and another silver went to Frederick L. Dunn for "Danish Caravel Issues: Usages in the Faroe Islands." Mike Falls won a silver-bronze for his single frame of "Iceland Pioneer Flights 1928-1931," and a gold along with the SCC bronze for his "Allied Military Mail in Iceland During WWII" at the SPRINGPEX show.

— Alan Warren



2001 Facit

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From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



Change – and we believe improvement – continues in *The Posthorn*.

This issue includes our first column on significant and interesting Scandinavian items headed for the auction block. “**Auction Marketplace**” will be prepared by Danish stamp dealer Frank Banke, who specializes in classic and rare Scandinavian and Belgian stamps and covers. Timing of the auctions, our publication schedules, and the availability of information will determine whether we report before or after a particular auction. In any case, Banke will provide information on a few of the important and intriguing Scandinavian philatelic items being auctioned.

Also debuting this issue is “**Commentary**,” which is defined in my out-of-date dictionary as, “A thing serving for exposition or illustration; comment.” That is what I desire “Commentary” to be – a mechanism (“thing”) by which SCC members may comment through exposition (“a discourse designed to convey information or explain something difficult”) and illustration (textual or pictorial) on matters of interest to SCC members.

“Commentary” is launched with an engaging exposition that expands on a feature article in the February issue. While relevance to Scandinavian collecting will be stressed in deciding what to publish in each “Commentary,” I found the historical information in this first offering too compelling to ignore.

In short, I invite thoughtful, informative “Letters to the Editor” on Nordic philately as possible future “commentaries.” Brevity, as always, is a virtue!



Although we do not know if Norwegian Helge Ingstad was a collector, it is fitting to note in these pages his passing after a remarkable life of 101 years. Ingstad, who died March 29 in Oslo, was the adventurer who turned Viking legends into historical fact.



Beginning in the 1950s, Ingstad used geographical information from Viking sagas and an ancient Icelandic map in his explorations of the coasts of Greenland and Canada. He and his wife, an archaeologist, led a seven-year excavation at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland and determined it was the ruins of a 1,000-year-old Viking settlement – the first Europeans to reach the New World.

Ingstad's quest extended the world's understanding of the Viking era.



You now can send a personal post card from Greenland without going there! Greenland Guide, the Website for the national tourist board in Greenland, allows Internet users to select from a set of Greenland photographs, compose a message, and electronically send the card to anyone with email. “P.S., no stamp required,” informs Greenland Guide, “Please don't lick the screen!” To send an electronic post card from Greenland, go to <http://www.greenland.guide.gl/> and click on the “Send a Postcard” icon.

Incidentally, Greenland Post has a new Website (<http://www.stamps.gl/>) and email address (stamps@tele.gl). ■

News From the Home Office

Don Brent



The first quarter of 2001 showed a dramatic gain in membership with about one-half of the increase directly from contacts at the NORDIA 2001 show. The membership incentive program has kicked in with some members joining or renewing for the extra years to take advantage of the \$25 price on the 2001 *Facit Specialized* catalogue. The \$12 new member trial membership has brought in additional members.

A big credit should also go to George Kuhhorn for taking the time to send out a mailing to APS members who have an interest in Scandinavian areas but are not members of SCC.

Taken together we have several different programs working to gain new members. Don't forget, however, that the best way to get a new member is to personally contact a prospect and ask them to join. Everyone can help keep our society strong. Scandinavian collectors have become one of the dominant forces in U.S. and international philately. Our strength helps all members get more out of the hobby.

One example of the strength of Scandinavian collecting is the new literature that is available, or will be soon. These include the six-volume set *The Bicoloured Stamps of Denmark and Service Stamps of Denmark 1871-1923*. FIP President Knud Mohr reports that the KPK plans to issue their books in both Danish and English. This is a great help as it saves a lot of time struggling with translating the Danish texts.

Other areas of Scandinavia have also had important new releases, including John DuBois' work on DWI and Don Halpern's and Gordon Hughmark's work on the pre-philately of Scandinavia. I am sure that I am missing other important works, but these give an idea of the new research that is coming out. (Editor's Note: See article on Page 43 on forthcoming titles in English from the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation.)

Another area of strength is the outstanding Scandinavian exhibits at major U.S. and international shows. At NORDIA 2001, we were treated to some of the finest material and research. As interest grows, more material comes into view. Dealers now bring more Nordic material, as they know the good stuff will sell. It is a great time to be a Nordic collector.

In closing, let me remind you again about missing *The Posthorn*. If you put a hold on your mail or change your address, you will NOT receive your copy. The USPS will not forward periodicals but will return it to the home office with postage due. Keep me informed and we can get this under control.

I hope that you have a great summer. ■

Visit our website!

www.scc-online.org

Membership Statistics for the First Quarter 2001

New Members

- 3812 Bilodeau Ph. D., Robert, 32 Atlantic Hwy., Northport, ME 04849
3813 Jensen, Kurt, Kobmagergade 61, Copenhagen K, DK-1150 Denmark
3814 Lauth, Willy, Musvaagevej 12, Lemvig, DK-7620 Denmark
3815 Hansen, Kurt, Lathyrusvet 2, Allerød, DK-3450 Denmark
3816 Batty, Malcolm, 84 Charnwood Ave., Thurmaston, Leicester, UK
3817 Banke, Frank, Mezenlaan 3, Tervuren, Belgium 3080
3818 Rasmussen, Arne, Pilevej 9, Skovlunde, D2740 Denmark
3819 Bustad, Eric K., 100B Prospect Ave., Red Bank, NJ 07701-2437
3820 Hansen, Henry, 671 Highland Ave., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
3821 Johnson, Earle, 405 Perdew, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
3822 Ross, Bruce S., 430 Coutin Ln., Glendale, CA 91208
3823 Møller, Carl Aage, Parkaas 2, Greve Strand, DK-2670 Denmark
3824 Olafsen, Astrid, 2086 E. 10th St., Tempe, AZ 85281
3825 Watson, Angela, P.O. Box 3262, San Diego, CA 92163
3826 Schermerhorn, Robert R., Calhoun Towers #806, 3430 List Pl., Minneapolis, MN 55416
3827 Patchett, John, 2615 N 49th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85008-1605
3828 Ozmun, Mike, P.O. Box 318, Glenpool, OK 74033
3829 Hague, Brian H., DNP
3830 Brink, Eugene S., 390 Quail Rd., Branson, MO 65616-9221
3831 Barnum, H. Gardiner, DNP
3832 Bendix, Richard M. Jr., 849 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093
3833 Moffatt, John E., P.O. Box 791, Seminole, TX 79360
3834 Birdsong, Lawrence E., N5781 Lakeview Ct., Onalaska, WI 54650
3835 Lawrence, Ray W., 2536 Trares Rd., Mogadore, Ohio 44260-9410
3836 Chron, Col. Gustav N., 7110 N. McAlpine Ave., Chicago-Edgebrook, IL 60646
3837 Johnson, Leo, 171 Canora St., Winnipeg, MB R3G 1T1 Canada
3838 Leason, Herbert A., DNP

Resigned

- 1591 Davey, Willard
1899 Snarvold, Harry

Donations

- 973 Littlewood, William H.

Deceased

- L70/1870 Frank C. Mooney
3087 Russell H. Anderson
2653 Scott H. Taylor
0144GL Ernesto Fink

Change of Address

- L02/0039 Christensen, B.I., 214 Harriman Dr., Apt. 2030, Goshen, NY 10924-2425
2996 Harrison, Rhys, 407, 3555 Outrigger Rd., Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9K1 Canada
2863 Samuelsen, Donna M., 601 Westknoll Ave., Wenatchee, WA 98801-2441
3771 Röing, Mats O., 14 Bremer Circle Rd., Hingham, MA 02043
3801 Lemmo, Peter S., P.O. Box 557, Whippany, NJ 07981-0577
3575 Day, Richard E., 42758 Badger Circle Dr., Coarse Gold, CA 93614
2892 Jones, Richard W., 866 Carrick Bend Cir. #101, Naples, FL 34110

Postiljonen, March 23-24

The Swedish three-color franking to Rome franked with 3, 4, and 24 Sk. bco in a striking good condition (Figure 1) did not find buyers at the starting price of Euro 75,000. A bid from the room for Euro 65,000 was not accepted by the auctioneer.



Figure 2.

A letter from Swedish King Johan III dated 1579 sold for Euro 3,700 after a starting price of Euro 3,000. Another royal letter (Figure 2) from King Karl XII in 1699 sold for Euro 2,600 with the starting price of 1,000. More information on the two letters is found in the February *Posthorn* (Page 5). Competition at the auction was, as always, very strong.

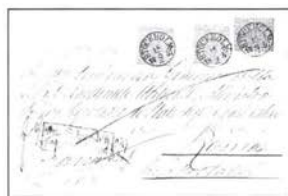


Figure 1.

Thomas Høiland Frimærkeauktion, April 23-25

A Danish First Day Cover is to be auctioned beginning with the starting price of DKK 400,000. This cover (Figure 3) is franked with the beautiful first Danish stamp, the Four Rigsbankskillings Ferslew printing, and cancelled with a blue mute cancellation and a Copenhagen cds. This particular cover is from the legendary Schmidt-Andersen collection and has not been available for at least 25 years.



Figure 3.

It will be interesting to see the actual auction price. At a Postiljonen auction last year, another FDC sold for a fraction of this price, in the area of DKK 85,000. In 1998, Høiland sold another FDC for DKK 675,000.

Germeten Auction, May 5

Kjell Germeten in Norway will auction a fine Norwegian cover (Figure 4) with a horizontal strip of six of the 4 skilling 1855 addressed to "Neapel" (Naples, Italy). Starting price is NOK 80,000.



Figure 4.

Northland, May 26-27

Northland will offer an extensive collection of the popular Greenland Pakke-Porto stamps formed by Stuart Silverberg. Here you will have a chance to obtain a unique drawing very similar to the accepted design made by the designer Gerhard Heilman. Another important item is the unique imperforate set of color proofs in 1, 5, and 10 øre of the 1905 issue mounted on card. Both items originally acquired from the McGregor collection.

AFINSA (Spain), April 24

AFINSA will offer some rare DWI mixed frankings that are not seen often. Results of the Barcelona auction will follow in the next *Posthorn*. ■

The Fate of a Duelist

This letter is commentary on the article, "Tordenskiold's Soldiers," by Dan Laursen in *The Posthorn* #226 (Vol. 58, No. 1)

Peter Wessel (Tordenskiold) has been the subject of at least one book in English that I know of. The Chilton Co. of Philadelphia published *Admiral Thunderbolt* by Hans Christian Adamson in 1959. Unfortunately, the book does not contain a bibliography; however, in a prologue, he does list those who were of assistance to him as well as a two-volume work by Commodore Olav Bergerson of the Royal Norwegian Navy.

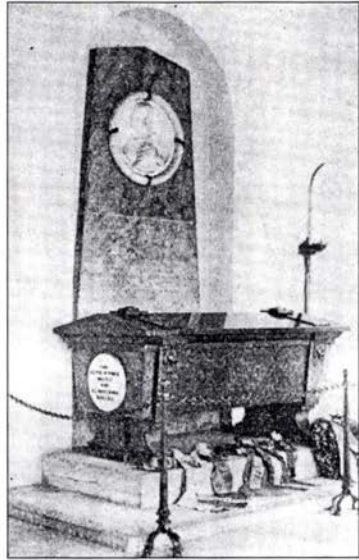
Mr. Laursen's final comment in his article ("The Danes did not forget Tordenskiold in a hurry, and we are still reminded of him and his soldiers every now and then.") is not exactly correct: Danes who mattered did forget Wessel in a hurry. Their actions immediately after his death were shameful and dishonorable. Even Frederick IV abandoned him in a most cowardly fashion. Their actions were taken, in part, because they feared the great esteem Wessel had among ordinary Danes at the time.

Instead of the great homage he was entitled to, Wessel was put into a rough-hewn plain coffin; instead of the frigate "Raa" that waited in Lübeck harbor to bring him home in state; his coffin was put into the rat-infested hold of a small Travemunde cargo vessel; instead of a solemn honor guard procession through the streets of Kobenhavn, his body was spirited through town in the early morning hours before the city awoke; instead of half-masted flags, naval salutes, muffled drums, or draped barges, Wessel was brought to the side door of a church by a few petty officers and six schoolboys who were paid four shillings to carry torches to light the way; instead of lying in state in the nave of the church, Wessel was carried to a dungeon-like vault beneath the altar and shunted into a dark storage crypt to lie forgotten for nearly 100 years.

Not until 1817, did Frederick VI, great-great-grandson of Frederick IV, begin the work that would enshrine Wessel in a chapel where other sea heroes rested in honor.

None of Wessel's friends at court could persuade the easily led king (Frederick IV) to change his mind. The King's morganatic wife, Anne Sophie, in league with the intensely bigoted royal chaplain, led the fight to have Wessel dishonored and forgotten as quickly as possible.

Dueling in Denmark-Norway was illegal and even though Wessel was the challenged party and dueling was legal in Hanover, it did not matter. Having fought a duel, Wessel could not be buried in consecrated ground.



Tordenskiold's sarcophagus in The Naval Church in Copenhagen.

— Gerald Knudsen, #840

Dan Laursen responds:

Mr. Knudsen has obviously and unfortunately not understood the deeper meaning of the article. It is correct that the circumstances around Tordenskiold's death were as ➤

Mr. Knudsen so dramatically describes. Every Danish pupil knows that and that this was because dueling was prohibited in the Kingdom of Denmark. Danish law prohibited a Christian burial for a fallen duelist.

Therefore, Tordenskiold's interment in Holmens Kirke [The Naval Church] in Copenhagen had to be carried out in the deepest concealment. That this was done at all shows that Tordenskiold was admired and honored by his contemporaries. Otherwise, it could not have been done at all.

I do not know Adamson's book, but the fact that no references are given make the contents quite suspicious in my scientific opinion. In addition, this has nothing to do with philately or the background for the article.

In the spirit of Tordenskiold, I will close with a shot across the bows - in all friendliness, of course. ■

And More Commentary

Postverk Føroya - 25th Anniversary

On April 1, 1976, Faroese authorities took over the responsibility for postal services in the Faroe Islands from Denmark. A new organization, Postverk Føroya, came into existence. The 25th anniversary of this important date in the development of autonomy for the Faroes was celebrated in some style with a small exhibition in Tórshavn March 31 and April 1, 2001.

The exhibition included postal artifacts and memorabilia from the latter part of the 19th century through to beginning of the Postverk Føroya era. One of the oldest items on display was a sealskin backpack that was used to carry the mail on the Tórshavn-Sandur route between 1878 and 1890. The first small mailbox in the Faroes also was on display.

For a collector of Faroese postal history (such as myself), one of the real treats was the display of canceller dies. Those ranged from the Thorshavn and Klaksvig lapidar dies, the two surviving star cancellers-for Strænder and Vaag-and a selection of starless cancels from various villages. A selection of Bridge and the special Klipfisk cancellers was displayed, as was a complete set of the Franco Betalt handstamp dies from World War II. Another exhibit showed various vessels that provided the essential links between the islands.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary, Postverk Føroya released a miniature sheet (Figure 1) showing a post boat being rowed to Sandoy, the first purposely built post office opened in Tórshavn in 1906, and an early postman, Simon Pauli Poulsen. Also released was a sheetlet of six stamps and 16 labels depicting Nordic myths.

I left in admiration of the organizers of this small exhibition. It is too much to expect that such a small postal authority might have a permanent, dedicated postal museum in the foreseeable future. Perhaps, however, a small rotating display of some of the material might be featured in the foyer of the philatelic agency. It would provide yet another reason for philatelists to visit these fascinating islands. ■

— Brian Hague

See Page 33 for More on the New Commentary Section



Figure 1.

Chapter Reports

Compiled by Walt Jellum, Vice President for Chapters

CHICAGO Chapter 4

Jerry Grimson edits a fine monthly newsletter (in color). Recent issues featured presentations by Doc Melberg on Danish Town Cancels and Norm Andrews on Scandinavian Military Mail.

NEW ENGLAND Chapter 5

John DuBois reports a fine January program with Paul Carlton describing the Stockholm sub-post offices, illustrated by his covers. The February meeting was the start of a long-term effort to view SCC slide programs pertinent to local member interests. The March meeting was virtually wiped out by 24+ inches of snow.

NEW YORK Chapter 7

Carl Probst reports Ed Fraser brought an excellent showing of early Finnish forgeries, reprints, and specimens to the March meeting. They are also in the process of getting the library books out of storage and setting up the library.

DELAWARE Chapter 13

Mark Manno was elected chapter president replacing Ian Wellings, who stepped down the first of this year. The January meeting highlight was Roy Ferber's showing revenue issues for the Nordic countries, emphasizing the Charta Sigillata revenue paper of Sweden. February meeting devoted to the topic, "I Also Collect..." Whitey Bro gave some historical information related to the Dybbøl Mill issue of Denmark. Tom Bergendahl showed some picture post cards sent from Norway. Ian Wellings displayed some early German stamps cancelled Danzig, and Roy Ferber passed around some fascinating revenue stamped paper of France with examples dating back to the early 18th century and printed on parchment. In March, the subject was a show-and-tell relating to the letter "G." Mark Manno circulated a number of publications and announcements from the Greenland post office. Alan Warren showed a pre-stamp cover sent from Göteborg to London with Altona and Hamburg transit markings. Tom Bergendahl discussed the Norwegian town of Gjøvik showing cancellations. In April, Alan Warren will discuss censored first day covers of Iceland. In May, Tom Bergendahl will talk about some aspect of Norway philately, and the June meeting will be devoted to determining the results of the chapter auction.

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

Ross Olson reports their chapter grew by five new members last year. Attendance is "bursting the walls" and the mart books are popular, especially with the newer members. Some members gather for dinner before the meetings. The meetings feature show-and-tell sessions on one of the Nordic countries, each meeting a different country. The March meeting featured NORDIA 2001 with reports from some members who attended. Bob Frigstad covered the dealer bourse, Ross Olson the NORDIA exhibits, Viggo Warmboe the SCC board meeting, and John Grabowski, one of the judges in the AmeriStamp single frame section of exhibits, spoke on that aspect. The July meeting traditionally consists of a banquet.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17

Paul Nelson reports they have been exchanging experiences by those members who attended NORDIA in Tucson. They are also encouraging members with email addresses to ►

join the Cyber Chapter.

HOUSTON Chapter 22

Eric Roberts reports their chapter meets 4-5 times a year at Mary Jane's Stamp Shop. If interested or in the area, email Eric at eric.roberts@halliburton.com.

BOB PAULSON Chapter 23

At the last meeting, Bob Lang described his experiences at NORDIA and then treated us to his exhibit of "Early Finland Commemoratives, 1927-1946." Our next meeting will feature the Icelandic Postal System.

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Robert Zacharias reports Don Fraser and Roger Fontaine presented photos and stories of their experiences at NORDIA 2001 in Tucson. Presentations in April will include Bob Campbell followed by Knud Markmann (on Danish perfins). Upcoming meetings will feature a slide show on Danish locals and Robert Zacharias will bring a computer to show some stamp-related Web sites. On May 23, Don Fraser will give the second part of his talk on the Falkland Islands.

TUCSON Chapter 25

Both Jack Schmidt and Dan Laursen encourage new membership from area collectors of Scandinavian philately to keep the Tucson chapter active.

TIDEWATER Chapter 26

Michael Falls reports two members exhibited at the regional show, SPRINGPEX, in March. Don Jones exhibited "United States Air Mail, 1911-1936," which won a show gold and the Grand Award. Mike Falls showed one frame of "Iceland Pioneer Flights, 1928-1931" and won a show silver-bronze and two frames of "Allied Military Mail in Iceland During WWII," receiving a show gold and a SCC Bronze. Recent meetings included general discussion and some show-and-tell items.

CYBER CHAPTER

Ed Bode continues to send interesting electronic newsletters to exchange ideas and scans with SCC members who provide him their email address, SCC membership number, and brief description of their philatelic interests. ■

Danish Star Cancels: A Review

Stjernestempler ("Star Cancels"), eds. Jerry Kern and Jan Bendix, 6 x 8 1/4 inches, 224 pages, perfect bound, Forlaget Skilling, Skibby, Denmark, 1998, ISBN 87-87832-59-3. \$47 from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349.

This is a priced catalog of the letter collection office postmarks of Denmark, known as star cancels, and includes their forerunners and replacement marks. The four major categories of these markings, which are popular with collectors, are described.

The town names are listed alphabetically and many of the cancels are illustrated. Each entry indicates the earliest and latest known usage of the cancel. Values are given for use on a full cover, whether a letter envelope or postal stationery, and on the stamp by itself or on piece. An appendix lists the towns by county, and a bibliography concludes this well printed catalog.

Library News

The past quarter has been largely occupied with cataloging and shelving the large lot of material donated from the Stone library. The books, journals, and notes are being added to the latest revision of the Library Index, which will appear on our Web pages soon.

Another ongoing project, which was started last year and probably will take another year or so to complete, is the refurbishing of all our audio-visual programs. Over the years, the notes, boxes and folders for many of these materials have deteriorated to the point that they are very hard (or in some cases impossible) to use. We are going through the programs and retyping or re-copying notes and scripts as well as mounting slides in more accessible folders and checking contents against the catalog.

Over the past year, there has been a decline in contributions to the library, of both books themselves and cash donations toward new book purchases. While operating expenses come from the main SCC budget, there is ordinarily nothing allotted for new material. You can make a big difference by contributing toward additions to our shelves.

An exception to donated material, however, came from the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California. Paul Nelson took duplicate material from the California collection to NORDIA 2001 in Tucson, AZ and turned it over to Chapter 27 members who carried the material to the SCC Library in Denver. ■

SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Results of 2000 Operations

Submitted by SCC Treasurer Howard Schloss

Income		Expenses	
Dues	11,565.19	Net Posthorn Cost	10,809.64
Donations	264.00	Administrative Expense	5,026.69
Interest	4,302.35	Foreign Guests	600.00
TOTAL INCOME	16,131.54	Nordia Advance	5,000.00
		TOTAL EXPENSE	21,436.33
		NET LOSS	5,304.79

BALANCE SHEET 2000

Bank Balance (Treasury)	71,189.70
Other Banks	1,115.59
Accounts Receivable	2,680.00
Prepaid Nordia	2,500.00
Stamp Mart	5,494.48
TOTAL ASSETS	82,979.77
Loss in 2000	5,304.79
TOTAL	88,284.56

RECONCILIATION

Net Worth 1999	88,460.81
Loss in 2000	5,304.79
Net Worth 2000	82,979.77

(Note: \$176.25 was transferred to the Richter LibraryFund in error.)

RICHTER LIBRARY FUND

Certificate of Deposit	7,000.00
Cash on Hand	280.58
Total Assets	7,280.58

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The auctions also include top quality objects from many other countries. The market for stamps in Norway is one of the strongest in the world, and this is reflected in the prices realized not only for Scandinavian items. Our computer systems includes some 18,000 customers worldwide and we believe our selling potential would be most interesting also for vendors abroad.



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Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation Update

SPF is working on several new publications. It has been quite some time since the last book was published, but we hope to have at least one of the following ready this year.

Author Jim Gaudet has prepared an extensive monograph on the Danish advertising panes. His exhibit of this material has won several gold medals as well as recognition for his groundbreaking research. One of the time-consuming aspects is the scanning of the many flaws and varieties.

In 1985, SFF published the *Oscarperiodens Frimärken 1885-1911* by Falk and Mattson. The work was translated and then kept on the back burner, as there was a rumor that new information would be published in Sweden. This turns out not to be the case and so we hope to issue the work with good quality illustrations.

Canadian maritime collector Stefan Danielski has been working on a manuscript on Danish ship cancels. The work has been peer-reviewed and the author is winding up the book.

Pricing and availability of these publications will be announced as soon as the works are off the press. A complete pricelist of the more than 20 publications in English on various aspects of Nordic philately that the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation has published is available from SPF Secretary/Treasurer George B. Koplowitz, Box 6716, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. He will enclose membership information since the prices to foundation members are considerably less than list.

SPF was started by a grant from the late Jed Richter. Its purpose is to translate and publish in English works on Scandinavian philately. Income comes from interest, membership dues, and book sales.

— Alan Warren

Facit 2001 Specialized for \$25

Extend your SCC membership for four years (2001 counts as one and if you have renewed for longer you may count one of those years). Then buy the *Facit 2001 Specialized* for only \$25.

That is about one-half of the lowest price listed for this important Scandinavian catalogue! A limited number of *Facits* is available through this special incentive program.

To take advantage of this limited-time offer, contact:

**Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary, PO Box 13196,
El Cajon, CA 92022; email dbrent47@sprynet.com**

The Backsides Can Be Interesting, Too!

You might find some interesting items by examining the backs of your stamps. To illustrate, here are some examples supplied by SCC member Diether Pascher of Sweden from his collection of Sweden Ring stamps.

Figure A shows an offset of the 12-öre (Facit 32) on two stamps. The stamp on the right has parts of four stamps mirrored on the back of a sheet to form what I call a street intersection.

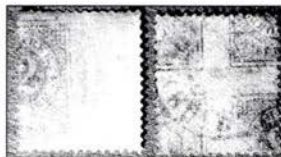


Figure A.



Figure B.

I wonder how many collectors have seen such an item. This one has almost perfect centering. The stamp on the left in Figure A shows approximately one-half of a Facit 32 offset onto the back of another 12-öre stamp.

In Figure B, an offset of Facit 43 is printed upside down on a ring stamp with a posthorn properly printed on the back.

Thanks to Diether Pascher for making these outstanding ring varieties known to SCC members.

— George Kuhhorn

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HAFNIA 01 Offers A Lifetime Experience

The world philatelic exhibition HAFNIA 01 takes place in Denmark this autumn. As previously, the exhibition will be held at the Bella Center close to Copenhagen airport and downtown Copenhagen.

The October 16-21 exhibition will be held during the autumn vacation of schools. This undoubtedly will mean many school children will visit HAFNIA 01. The winner of Post Denmark's "Draw a Stamp" competition will be announced at the show.

HAFNIA 01 will occupy 18,000 square metres in the Bella Center. More than 150 dealers and postal administrations will be represented at the exhibition.

Royal Visits

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II is the patron for HAFNIA 01. The Danish queen will declare the exhibition open at a grand opening ceremony. Also the Queen will view the many fine collections and articles exhibited at HAFNIA 01.

A special area is designated to Hong Kong – a theme very popular among collectors – and the princess Alexandra from Hong Kong, who is married to Prince Joachim, will also visit our show.

The Entertainment Scene

A non-stop movie theater will show Danish films and cartoons in relation to stamps. Cartoons are the motif of some of the stamps for 2002. Also a mini-sheet has been issued showing popular and famous Danish actors.

A stage in the main hall will be the scene for music, shows, and performances for children and adults.

HAFNIA 01 promises to be a different and exciting philatelic experience. More information is available at HAFNIA's Web site, <http://www.hafnia01.dk>.



Purchasers of this Greenland stamp help to financially support HAFNIA01. The "Drum Dancer" stamp was issued August 18, 2000 in sheets of 20 and mini-sheets of four stamps. The 4.50 DKK stamps have an extra 1 DKK for HAFNIA01. Denmark also issued stamps last August with some of the proceeds going to HAFNIA.

– Jan Bendix

Scandinavia for sale.

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Album Closed

Frank C. Mooney Closes Album at 80

Icelandic collector Frank C. Mooney passed away on February 2. He was born in the U.S. on June 27, 1920 but lived most of his life in Iceland.

It was through his service in the Armed Forces that Mooney moved to Iceland in 1942. This is where he met his future wife, Kristjana Benediktsdottir. He served in Britain at the end of the WWII and then returned to the U.S. where he studied to become a flight mechanic. When the family returned to Iceland in 1947, he worked as a mechanic for Icelandic Airlines. When the Icelandic Defense Forces came to Keflavik, he was employed as a civilian until 1971. Hodgkin's Disease forced him to eventually change careers. He worked as an insurance agent among other things.

His son began collecting stamps in the 1950s, and Frank caught the bug. He collected blocks of four. Later this developed into his best-known collection, Icelandic numeral cancels, which won several medals up to gold. His main collections were, thus, Icelandic stamps and postal history.

He was the first collector that I knew who managed to acquire not only a complete collection but also a great variety of letters of good quality.

Mooney was active in SCC Chapter 11, and his many philatelic friends will miss him. We send the Mooney family our deepest sympathy.

– Sigurður H. Thorsteinsson, Secretary, Chapter 11

SCC Calendar				
	Annual	Regional*	Nordic	International
2001	NORDIA 2001 (Concluded)	APS Stamp Show Aug. 23-26 Chicago, IL	NORDIA 2001 (Concluded)	HAFNIA2001* Oct 16-21 Copenhagen, Denmark
2002	PNSE Sept 27-29 Philadelphia PA		NORDIA 2002* Oct 10-13 Kristiansand, Norway	
2003	Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20 Minneapolis, MN		NORDIA 2003* Iceland	
* SCC Regional meetings will be planned in conjunction with NORDIA 2002 and 2003 and with HAFNIA 2001.				

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