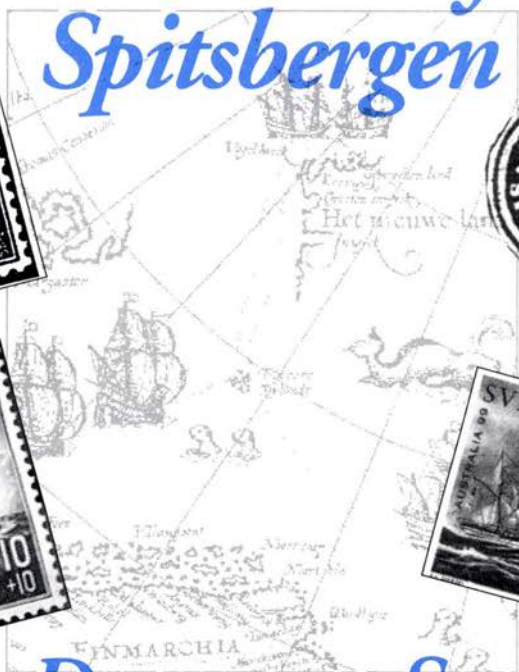


The

POSTHORN

August 2001

Postal History of Spitsbergen



Drama at Sea

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Why Is Custer In The Posthorn?



Find the Answer
on Page 19

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EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF SPITSBERGEN

(Also known as Svalbard)

by Arne J. Bay

It is not known exactly when Spitsbergen was explored for the first time, but we can find indications in Icelandic documents (from 1194) with this text: "Svalbardi fundin" (Svalbard found). The Vikings sailed west to Greenland and North America, east to the White Sea and Novija Semlja (Novaya Zemlya).

Two Dutch sailing ships commanded by Jan Corneliszoon Rijp and Jacob van Heemskerke made a new attempt in 1596 to find a northern route to China. Both of them were experienced captains, accompanied by one man who knew these areas very well, Willem Barents. On their voyage they could observe a mountain landscape, which they called "Het nieuwe land" (the new land). (See Figure 1.) Ice prevented them from sailing further north, but they managed to pass the northwest point of land. However, they found no trace of humans as they laid claim to the land for the Dutch Crown.

The Dutch and British sailors separated, and Heemskerke and Barents landed at Novija Semlja (Novaya Zemlya), where they could stay during the winter. Rijp saved Heemskerke later, but Barents died from scurvy.

The Dutch and British explorers were supported by their governments, and when huge quantities of whale and walrus were hunted, it is obvious that 1,000 Dutch sailors proclaimed most of them as their property. The Dutch remained in Smeerenburg (Spekkbyen) on the Amsterdamøya (Amsterdam Island).

The first big hunting expedition was equipped from Tromsø in the 1790s but had to return because of the ice conditions. In 1795, a new expedition was established and sailed from Hammerfest with four Russian and 11 Norwegian whalers. This expedition hunted in the Spitsbergen region and their activity led to greater attention for the islands.

During the 1800s, there was great activity from Norwegian hunters, not only whalers, but they also hunted walrus, seal, and other fur-bearing animals. In the mid-1800s, scientific expeditions started. In 1870-71, Swedish-Norwegian authorities contacted Belgium, Holland, Great Britain, and Germany to ask for their opinion whether Spitsbergen should become Norwegian territory or under Norwegian sovereignty. However, the Russian reaction made the Norwegians give up this attempt.

Many attempts to reach the North Pole created great curiosity for Spitsbergen in many countries. In 1893, Fridtjof Nansen started his three-year voyage with the ship "Fram." ➤



Figure 1. Barents map.

Andrée's balloon expedition took place in 1896.

In 1895, a man named Richard With launched the idea of a weekly tourist ship from Hammerfest to Advent Bay in Spitsbergen. As noted in the magazine *Spitsbergen Gazette* in 1896:

"This year the popularity of Spitsbergen as a tourist highlight will increase considerably. In addition to weekly voyages between Hammerfest and Advent Bay with the ship "Lofoten" under captain Otto Sverdrup's command, we have noticed that several small tourist ships will visit Isfjorden (Ice Fjord) and other beautiful tourist spots on the west coast during the summer."

"Vesteraalen Dampskibsselskap" established a mail route and issued two private stamps as local postage between Advent Bay and Norway. All these cards and letters are cancelled with a rubber stamp "ADVENT BAY" and the year "1896." But another postmark was

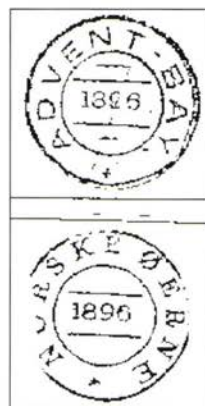


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

also introduced, "NORSKE ØERNE 1896," for the mail cancelled on board when the tourist ship was up north. (See Figure 2.) Vesteraalen Dampskibsselskap also printed envelopes with 20-øre postage.

The crude tourist "lodge" in Advent Bay housed the first unofficial post office in Spitsbergen. In 1896, the new 10- and 20-øre tourist (local) stamps issued by Vesteraalen Dampskibsselskap went on

sale. The stamps were cancelled with a rubber stamp in blue lilac color and fixed year "1896." These stamps are well known from NORSKE ØERNE and ADVENT BAY 1896.

The first letter cancelled from ADVENT BAY 1896 was sent from Spitsbergen to Laurvig (Larvik) with one 20-øre tourist stamp affixed to the envelope. It is postmarked Larvik 11.IX.96. The letter is uncharged. (Figure 4.)

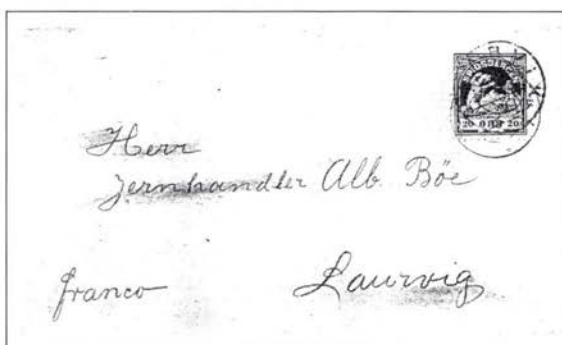


Figure 4.

Another letter (Figure 5) has two separate 20-øre tourist stamps and is cancelled with the rubber stamp, "ADVENT BAY 1896." Additionally, the letter has a 20-øre Norwegian posthorn stamp covering the postage to Germany appropriate for the period from July 1, 1892 to October 1, 1907. The logo in the upper left corner is the Hamburg-Amerika Linie and there is another postmark, Nordlands Postksp.E 29.VII.96. The letter arrived in Speyer August 2, 1896. In principle, mail with these tourist stamps had to be upfranked with current Norwegian stamps when going into the Norwegian mails.

Vesteraalen Dampskibsselskap's private stationery had the same motif as the ➤

20-øre tourist stamp and the text (translated): "The northernmost post office in the world."

When the postal authorities in Norway noticed that private tourist stamps or labels were introduced, it was decided to establish a seasonal post office in Spitsbergen. In a letter March 18, 1897, the Post Office wrote:

"In this year's tourist-season there will be established a sub-office in Advent Bay, Spitsbergen, for the mail transported with 'Vesteraalskes' tourist-ship. The sub-office is named Advent Bay, Spitsbergen and will be managed by Hammerfest Post Office. The sub-postmaster will be the owner of the restaurant, Emil Ellingsen, without any salary from the Post Office. The necessary equipment can be arranged with the postmaster in Hammerfest, with reference to this letter."



Figure 5.

The establishment of the sub-postoffice was confirmed in Circular No. 19/1897. In the summer of 1897, a postmark and a sealing press (by engraver Ivar Thronsen) were provided (Figure 6).



Figure 6.

In the magazine *Posthornet*, no. 14/1897, we can read the following:

"There is to be noticed that this summer there have been circulating so-called Spitsbergen stamps for decorations purposes on the envelopes that have been shipped with the tourist ships from Spitsbergen. The stamps were so-called rarities, but have now been ceased."

In the summer of 1897, a tourist from Christiania (Oslo) visited the sub-office and purchased a post card canceled 20.VIII.97. We can imagine the possible scene:

"When I came all the way from Christiania, I had expected that you had something special, something exciting. Well, we have a sealing press, might have been the response. Okay, let me have a mark on the post card. Maybe I also could get a seal, with ink from the inking pad. The postmaster puts a mark next to the wax seal."

Figure 7 is the only wax seal I have observed with ADVENT BAY and SPITSBERGEN and the postal emblems (posthorn and crown).

ADVENT BAY SPITSBERGEN postmarks were used in 1897, 1898, and 1899, when the sub-office was closed. A new post office was established again in 1906 with the name ADVENT BAY. The earliest known letter sent from Advent Bay Post Office is ➤



Figure 7.

postmarked 30.VII.97. (See Figure 8.)

Figure 9 shows a newspaper cover for the *Spitsbergen Gazette*, which was published weekly in July and August. The cover, prepaid with a 10-øre Norway posthorn, was postmarked in Spitsbergen 6.VIII.97 and addressed to Christiania.

The Balloon Flight by Andrée

The Swedish engineer Salomon August Andrée, together with Nils Strindberg and Knut Frankel, tried in 1896 to reach the North Pole with a balloon from Spitsbergen. A large hangar was raised on Danish Island (Danskøya), but bad weather made it necessary to postpone the flight until 1897.

Of course, there was mail for the polar flight. Figure 10 is a cover sent from



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 8.

Stockholm 11.7.1896 to Tromsø, then to Hammerfest where it is postmarked 24.VII.96, and finally via "S/S Lofoten" to Spitsbergen.

On July 11, the balloon lifted from Spitsbergen. Later, it was determined that the wind took the balloon from one end to another and it had to land on July 14 due to icing. No one had any information from the expedition. In 1930, a Norwegian scientific expedition found the remnants of Andrée's equipment and the three men in the ice. Andrée's diary was found together with some photographic plates, which were in excellent condition.



Figure 11.

In 1973, the Swedish Postal Administration issued a 1 Kr. stamp (Sweden Facit 830) to commemorate Andrée. Engraver Czeslaw Slania used

one of the discovered photos of the downed balloon on the ice as a background (Figure 11.)

In the *Spitsbergen Gazette* of July 6, 1897, we find: ➤

"Professor A. G. Nathorst from the paleontology museum in Stockholm will make a large expedition to Spitsbergen. Exploring King Carls Land and the close parts of East-Spitsbergen, where they hope to find the right answers on some difficult questions, regarding botanical and geological conditions. There will be participants from several earlier Arctic expeditions."

This expedition took part in the search for Andrée and perhaps almost found him. One letter to this expedition is known, with a 10-öre Swedish stamp on it. The letter is sent from Stockholm and postmarked with a railway cancellation 5.7.1898 and sent to Tromsø (Figure 12.) The letter is forwarded to Advent Bay, surcharged with a 20-øre Norwegian postage due, and finally postmarked with Advent Bay, Spitsbergen 17.7.98.

The Post Office Circular No. 23 of July 22, 1898 contained the following:

"We remind you that letters to Spitsbergen (Advent Bay and The Danish Island) are regarded as foreign destinations, that means 20 øre for a single letter and 10 øre for a postcard."

A lot of tourist ships visited Spitsbergen. Figure 13 shows a post

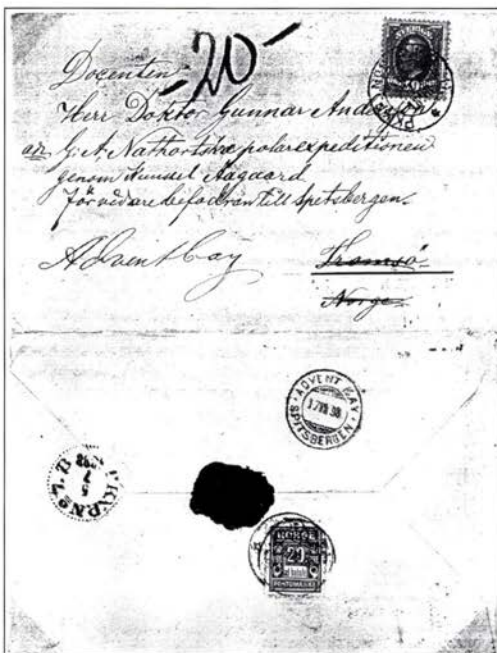


Figure 12.



Figure 13.

card printed with 10 øre Norwegian postage and an additional ship cancel, S/S AUGUSTE VICTORIA - SPITZBERGEN 11JULI.98 and an arrival cancel at Baden-Baden. The postage of 10 øre was the UPU rate from 1877 to 1921.

Printed postcards after 1899 were sold on board the tourist ships. These Spitsbergen cards (Figure 14) have the 10-øre private tourist



Figure 14.



Figure 15.

stamps on them. In addition there is 5 øre Norwegian ordinary stamp prepayment to Norway addresses and 10 øre to foreign countries. All of them were marked with a rubber cancellation, ADVENT BAY.

Figure 15 is a “S/S Laura” handwritten cancellation 12/7-1877. The ship was wrecked off the coast of Bjørnøya 2/10-1917. Figure 16 shows a card postmarked DIGERMULEN in Norway. These were common between 1900 and 1906.

Finally, we see a Norwegian Svalbard essay by Emil Moestue (Figure 17.) ■



The author is an expert on Spitsbergen philately. This article is adapted from his Norwegian language version published in the 1-2001 issue of *Frimerke Forum*.

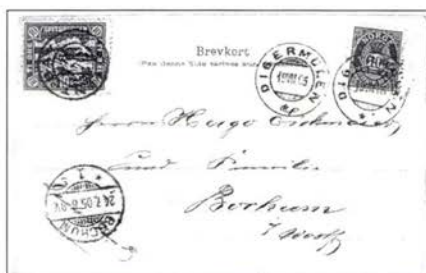


Figure 16.



Figure 17.

Svalbard Stickers First On, Then Off

The addition of VAT to Norway’s postage on July 1 raised a perplexing question concerning the postal rates applied to mail from Svalbard, which has been declared a tax-free area. Norway Post responded by preparing labels that were to be handed out to customers in Longyearbyen for use on their outgoing mail. The intent of the stickers was to avoid mail being stopped on the Norwegian mainland and charged the 24 percent VAT.



Then, on June 29, the Norwegian government decided to raise the postage on mail from Svalbard on July 1 to the same level as in Norway, but still without the VAT. The reason given was the high cost of airmail freight from Svalbard to the mainland. Thus, the rates are the same in Svalbard and the mainland, and the special stickers no longer were necessary.

“However, since the post office in Longyearbyen had prepared all the philatelic mail with labels already, they decided to send them as normal, but with a cancellation the 2nd of July. The labels are now destroyed,” a Norway Post official informed *The Posthorn*. The Svalbard sticker was placed on 3,000 letters, 50 of which were registered mail.

Illustrated is a registered airmail cover canceled July 2 and received in Colorado 14 days later. Philatelic mail received after June 30 was to be returned without any sticker.

Those July 2 philatelic covers—registered and unregistered—are highly unusual because they reflect the only day of use of the Svalbard stickers.

— Paul Albright

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Åland and the Wheat Route to Australia

by Alfred A. Gruber



Figure 1.

Look again. There is a nautical pennant containing the words St. Malo in concentric circles with a bird's head, a track of the "Wheat Route" on a world chart showing a four-masted ship under full canvas, and a number. (See Figures 1 and 2.) The designer and engraver, M. Mörck of Sweden, faced a daunting challenge bringing all these concepts together on a small stamp.

Digging in the Internet turned up the International Association of Cape Horners (that's English for the *Americale Internationale Cap Horners*, or A.I.C.H.).

Think stamp collectors are a dying breed? These people traveled round South America's Cape Horn under sail. The Ship Stamp Society recently reported in its periodical that only about 300 Cape Horners are alive and their average age is 85. Nevertheless, the organization has scheduled annual congresses through 2003. They convened in Mariehamn in 2000 and earlier in 1992, commemorated by Facit 55. ST. MALO on the A.I.C.H. pennant is the headquarters in France where the 2003 Congress is planned.

The Great Grain Races



Figure 3.

Captain Gustave Erikson of Mariehamn, Åland, owned most of the sail fleet in this trade and many Ålanders sailed them. In 1939, Capt. Erikson's flag flew at the mastheads of nine ships carrying wheat. ►

Thumb through *Facit* past Finland to Åland. Occupying a strategic position between Sweden and Finland, Åland is sometimes called the Gibraltar of the Gulf of Bothnia. Browsing along, the 1992 Cape Horn Congress issue (Åland Facit 55) pops up. This stamp, rich in imagery, contains multiple things unknown to me. What is a Cape Horn Congress? (Cape Horn is half a world away from Åland.) What is the A.I.C.H. on the stamp? Moreover, why was a Congress held in Mariehamn, the principal city of Åland?



Figure 2. Åland Facit 55 on World Columbian Expo card, 1992

Sailors by nature are competitors. Hence, the Wheat Route developed into the Great Grain Race. There was no prize, only bragging rights in every maritime drawing room and bar in Europe and Australia.

"Herzogin Cecilie," the barque pictured on Figures 1 and 2 won in 1927 taking 98 days. "Passat," shown on Robert Castor's painting, "Passage of Cape Horn by Grain Ships Pamir and Passat, 50th Anniversary," (Åland, F-155, Figure 4), won in 1933 and 1935 in 110 and 106 days respectively. "Pamir" is shown also on Åland, F-30 and yet another grain ship, "Pommern" appears on F-7. From the number of stamps issued, the importance of the trade to Åland is clear.



Figure 4.

"Passat's" sister ship, "Moshulu," built in 1904, won in 1939 taking 91 days arriving in Queenstown, Ireland June 10. (World War II started September 1 that year.) Eric Newby sailed on that voyage and describes it in *The Last Grain Race*. Newby's account includes lying in Port Lincoln, Australia waiting for price negotiations to conclude. It was 114 degrees F. on a steel hull, bringing to mind Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

*All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody sun at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the Moon.*

In *Farewell Windjammer*, Hoger Thesleff on "Passat" describes leaving Port Lincoln, Australia, four days after "Pamir" in 1949. That was truly the last Great Grain Race. Castor's painting on the stamp in Figure 4 portended a real event. "Passat" sighted "Pamir" while rounding the Horn, winning the race in 110 days to Queenstown, Ireland.



Figure 5.

The Swedish Maritime Heritage set of 1999 shows "Beatrice," another barque in this same service as seen in Sweden Facit H507, Figure 5.



Figure 6.

The bird on the Figure 1 stamp is "...an albatross trapped in a trapping tackle." The albatross, a pelagic bird of the southern oceans, is shown in Figure 6 from Tristan da Cunha. (Coleridge's warning of bad luck to kill an albatross may or may not be true.) Look carefully at the bird's beak in Figure 1. It is caught in some kind of snare.

These sailors were often brutal. Following is Newby's description of what could only be called a sport by men so long at sea. The albatross trap is a "hollow triangle of tin with strips of stockfish lashed to it with thread. The apex of the triangle was attached to a wooden float and was paid out over the stern on a codline. At first, the albatross pretended not to notice. Then one, bolder than the rest, alighted about three feet from it and finally pecked at the bait. Sandell gave a sharp jerk and its beak was firmly wedged inside the triangle." The bird was hauled aboard and the wing span measured at 11 feet. When the exhausted bird was thrown back, it usually was unable to take off for awhile or not at all.

As to the numeral on Figure 1, Scott states those numbers represent the class of mail for which each was intended at time of release. This stamp is intended for priority class mail. ►

Preserved and Still Serving

No longer rounding the Horn, but miraculously still preserved, is Erikson's "Moshulu," once Newby's ship. Further, it is practically in my backyard tied to a pier on the Delaware River at Philadelphia. When the librarian who found Newby's book for me said this was the real "Moshulu," I was skeptical. My reaction at first glimpse from the highway was identical to Newby's first sight of her. He couldn't believe it. The masts **are** yellow. Presently surrounded by noisy construction, I couldn't board her, but she remains an elegant sight (Figure 7.) She has been converted into a restaurant and party ship, but is now idle awaiting a move across the Delaware River to Camden, NJ.

Retired master mariner and SCC member Hans von Strokirch of Frankston, Australia, informed me that the barque, "Viking," like "Moshulu," is in restaurant service in Göteborg, Sweden. "Pommern" (Åland F-7) is part of a museum in Mariehamn. Sadly, Newby last saw "Herzogin Cecilie," (Figure 1) at the bottom of Starehole Bay near Salcombe, England. ■



Figure 7. "Moshulu" berthed at Philadelphia.

The author, who likes to mix his philatelic research with an occasional wheat beer, looks forward to dining aboard a converted Åland grain hauler.

Some specifications:

These barques were designed to handle large cargoes on any ocean. They are the epitome of large sailing ship design in the 20th century but ultimately were displaced by steam and diesel.

Length and weight, 320 feet, beam 47 feet, depth 28 feet to main deck and about 3,200 gross tons; hull, four masts and yards are steel; crew, about 23 plus occasional passengers; officers, four including the captain; no doctor on board and into 1939 no radio; sails numbered 46 with an area of 45,000 square feet when all were raised.

References:

The Last Great Grain Race by Eric Newby. Secker & Warburg, London, 1956; paperback in 1999, Lonely Planet Publications, Melbourne, Oakland, London & Paris.

Farewell Windjammer by Holger Thesleff. Thames & Hudson, London & New York.

With "Pamir" in the Pacific Ocean by Captain Ake Leewendahl. Shiplovers' Society of Victoria. <http://www.caphorniers.org>

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The 1944 Norwegian Ship Wrecks Issue

by Frederick A. Brofos

One of the most dramatic and eye-catching of stamp sets of Norway during World War II was undoubtedly the so-called Ship Wrecks Issue that appeared on May 20, 1944, sponsored by the Quisling government. The three semi-postal stamps were designed by the talented artist, but Nazi sympathizer, Harald Damsleth, who was responsible for much clever propaganda work on stamps, posters, and newspaper cartoons during the war.

The additional surtax on the stamps was supposed to support victims or their surviving families following ship sinkings. As no one was quite sure about that, the stamps were seldom used by the public on ordinary mail. Only an occasional First Day Cover may be seen around today.

The stamps were neatly printed by photo offset by Emil Moertue A/S, Oslo. The sheets of 100 stamps were perforated 13 and on unwatermarked paper from Alvøens Paper Works. The quantities issued and other data were as follows:

“S/S Barøy,” 10 + 10 øre olive green (779,700) (Figure 1.)

“S/S Sanct Svithun,” 15 + 10 øre brown olive (776,100) (Figure 2.)

“S/S Irma,” 20 + 10 øre brown red (781,600) (Figure 3.)

At the war's end, the set was declared invalid for franking from May 15, 1945. When a number of invalidated stamps were surprisingly revalidated again from September 1, 1981, this particular set was not included. It was not stated whether any remainders were destroyed.

Although these three ships were also mail carriers, they did not have on board travelling postal agencies with their attractive “Crown & Posthorn” postmarks. In the period 1940-45, close to 30 mail-carrying vessels, sailing along the Norwegian coast, were sunk with a large loss of life.

Regarding the steam ships chosen for the stamps, the “S/S Barøy,” (10 øre) was sunk on September 12, 1941, at Tranøy in the Vestfjord. It was part of the coastal express route between Trondheim-Tromsø, and all mail to Ofoten and Senja-Troms was lost. Exactly what destroyed her (bomb, torpedo, mine) has not been determined.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Another coastal express steamer, but on the route Trondheim-Bergen, was the “S/S Sanct Svithun” (15 øre). She was sunk by British planes outside Stad the night of September 30/October 1, 1943. Twice, the ship was ordered by radio to stop, to allow passengers and crew to disembark in lifeboats, but to no avail.

The Germans aboard would not permit the ship to stop, but, instead, started firing the anti-aircraft guns. The resultant bombs fell and set the ship ablaze. Two Norwegian deck officers who tried to quell the panic on board and save women and children first, were brutally shot down by the Germans. In all, 43 Norwegians and 18 Germans lost their lives in this tragedy and, of course, all mail was lost, too. The stamp clearly shows a British bomber with the three-colored circle wing-emblem of the Royal Air Force, flying over the doomed vessel. ►

Finally, the 20-øre stamp shows the "S/S Irma," which was torpedoed on February 13, 1944 by a British submarine. This happened at Hesterskjær, Hustadvika, outside Kristiansund N. Again, all mail was lost and no doubt lives, too.

As the old song goes, "I saw three ships come sailing in," but sadly, these ones never reached their destinations. ■



Figure 3.

The "New" Scandinavia

"What a glorious new Scandinavia might not Minnesota become! Here would the Swede find again his clear, romantic lakes, the plains of Scania rich in corn, and the vallies of Norrland."

— Fredrika Bremer, 1853

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Extraordinary Usage of Finland's First Printing of the Well-Known Woodcutter Stamps

by Ed Fraser

A common Finnish stamp design first issued in 1930 can be quite interesting on cover. Figure 1 shows a 1936 cover franked with 184 marks of postage for an insured letter from Finland to Sweden. Additionally, it is always nice for the cover collector to find a very heavily franked, non-philatelic regular sized envelope, rather than a very large envelope or package wrapping. Not only would such a small envelope probably have to be heavily insured, but it also cannot contain very much!

The actual franking of 1930 issues on this cover are a 1mk orange, a 3 mk olive, a 5 mk blue (Castle) and seven 25 mk (Woodcutter) stamps. They are tied by "HELSINKI / HELSINGFORS, 3.6.36" cancels. Also shown is a declared value of 600,000 Fmk, and additionally annotated, apparently, "fr[an]cs 50,000" (50,010?) and "11 g."

The 11-gram weight is interesting. The envelope weight with wax seals and stamps suggests it probably could only contain one sheet of paper or one sheet and a check to total only 11grams. (Estimate that two sheets of typical paper might weigh about nine grams, and the envelope about four grams, so it had to contain less than that.)

Note that the cover has no transit or arrival markings! Is it unusual that the cover has no backstamps, either transit or arrival? (I'm guessing that some smudged cancel ink on the back is just from the cancel desk in Helsinki.)

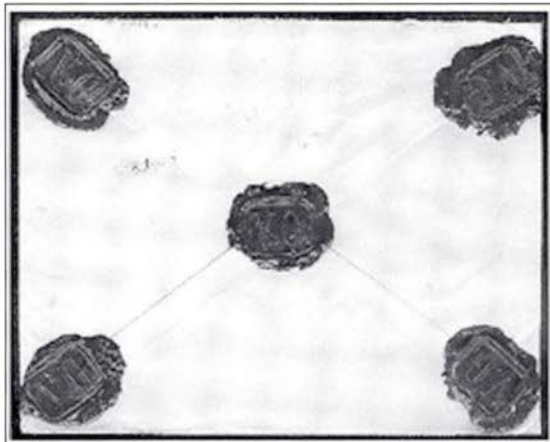


Figure 2: The reverse of Figure 1 showing no markings at all.



Figure 1: A heavily insured cover to Sweden franked with multiple copies of the first printing 25 mark Woodcutter stamp, canceled in Helsinki on June 3, 1936.

I am proposing that this should be normal! I would guess that the procedure would call for the insured mail to be locked in a bag with a tag on it. Such valuable mail should be so handled and transported, with any transit records attached to the bag. It would seem very undesirable to have the cover handled at all in transit if that could be avoided. In this case, perhaps the bag was only opened as it was delivered and signed for by the addressee. ➤

Can our readers confirm that this lack of transit or arrival cancels does happen on other "V" (Insured) covers to Sweden from the same period?

Where have all the 25 mark "First Printing" Woodcutter stamps gone?

In the 1920s and 1930s, 10 mark and especially 25 mark stamps could be expected to be routinely found on "package cards" - address cards, COD cards, etc. - rather than on regular envelopes, which seldom called for services needing so much postage. I have noticed that while the 1930 issue 10 mark Lake Saimaa stamps can be found regularly on package cards, the 25 mark stamps in the same early 1930s period actually seem much scarcer.

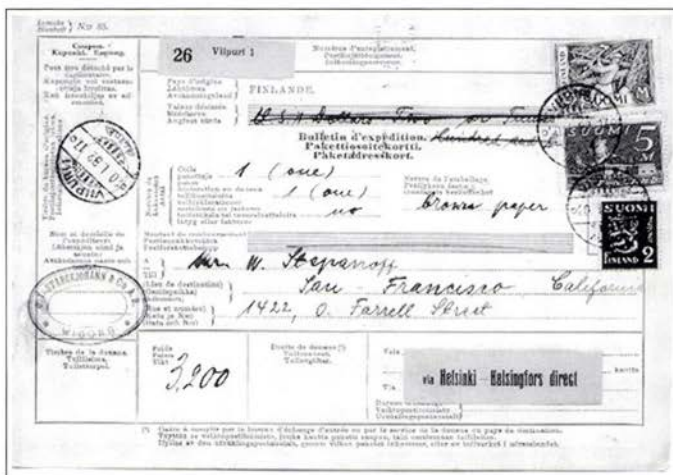


Figure 3: A package address card from Viipuri (Wiborg), canceled Viipuri 20.1.32, addressed to San Francisco, California. The franking totals 32 mk - a 2 mk, a 5 mk, and the 25 mk Woodcutter first printing. The reverse only has pre-printed text, with no other markings.

Looking at the printing figures, 600,000 of the 10 mark stamps were printed initially (Scott #178). For the 25 mark stamps, although a total of 19 1/2 million were printed (Scott #179), only 400,000 were actually printed in December 1929, at the same time all the 10 mark stamps were printed. Checking

further, however, shows that this 25 mark first printing apparently sufficed until a hard-to-distinguish second printing of 400,000 was made some 7 1/2 years later, in July of 1937. In contrast, the 10 mark was not printed again. Instead, 600,000 of a re-engraved 10 mark were printed in April 1932, another 600,000 in November 1935, and another 600,000 in September 1938 (All Scott #205a). This would suggest that 10 mark stamps were used at more than four or five times the rate of the 25 mark stamps, suggesting the real reason these "first printing" 25 mark stamps seem harder to find.

Then there is the big "kiloware factor." Probably a lot of the "stamped mail" of this era that was in government hands was heavily clipped to make up the kiloware



Figure 4: A Zeppelin cover from a flight from Friedrichshafen, Germany to Brazil. A cover sent by Hermann Sieger of Germany, canceled Helsinki 30.V.34; (on back) Berlin 1.6.34; Friedrichshafen 9.6.34; and (on back) Pernambuco (Brazil) 12.VI.34. The franking is canceled in Helsinki and totals 27 mk - a 2 mk violet plus a 25 mk Woodcutter first printing.

sold by the post office department. This would especially include "package cards," which were retained by Finnish post offices. Consequently, many such cards were clipped, and didn't survive. Others were simply destroyed or recycled as waste paper, and it seems that only in recent decades have cover collectors actively saved them.

Add to that the fact that, unlike the 1930 (1929 printing) 10 mark stamps, recognizing the 25 mark first printing from later ones is not easy unless it has an attached plate number (#185), or shows a cancel date before July 1937.

If you look for "first printing" use, Figure 3 and Figure 4 are good examples of what's out there! Figure 3 shows a typical package card for mailing a package out of Finland. Such out-of-country usage to places like the United States can be found. One reason may be that these post offices did not usually retain these typically European package address cards or create kiloware to be sold. Rather, they often were delivered with the package to the addressee, although there is some evidence that in the 1920s some were retained in the New York City post office, later disposed of, and wound up in the philatelic market.

Figure 4 is a typical, much collected, Zeppelin flight cover. This example happens to be one of many originally sent by Hermann Sieger of Germany, who later produced an authoritative catalog of all Zeppelin flight covers.

Actually, the majority of 25 mark usages I have seen are on covers from Zeppelin flights in the 1930s, so technically I should say Zeppelin mail usages are not hard to find. However, unless Volvo¹ in Finland sent such heavily insured envelopes as a routine thing and until some collector comes forward with a bunch of them, I would think the example in Figure 1 is extremely unusual!

Figuring the Correct Postage Rate

Using the rate book by Esa Mattila (see reference) to verify the applicable postage rate was interesting. There is a slight twist to figuring out the right rate. While the domestic letter rate and the letter rate to Sweden happen to be the same in this period, there is a separate table in the rate book for these Scandinavian letter rates on page 62. However, there is no Scandinavian rate table for insured mail listed. The key was in a sentence that stated, on page 71, that the rates within Scandinavia for registered mail and insured mail were identical to the domestic Finnish rates.

The rate is calculated in three steps:

1. The letter rate to Sweden from December 1, 1931 to June 15, 1940 was 2 mks for the first 20 grams (page 62)
2. The cost of insurance for domestic mail from January 1, 1935 to June 30, 1945 was :30 mk (30 penni) for the first 1,000 mks, and :30 mk (30 penni) for each additional 1,000 mks. This would mean 30 mks for 100,000 mks insurance, and 180 mks for the full 600,000 value. The same rate would therefore apply to mail to Sweden. (To have the same rates from 1935 to 1945, one has to wonder what their losses could be during wartime, or if the availability of insurance was suspended then. This would sound like a risky business for the Finnish post office during the war!) (See rate book, page 37)
3. As per the picture on page 38 of the rate book, it is necessary to add the cost of "registration" to insured mail. The extra cost for domestic mail to be registered, from December 1, 1931 to August 31, 1942, was 2 marks. (page 35) Again, these domestic registered mail rates were the same for mail to Sweden.

Totaling the above gives: $2 + 180 + 2 = 184$ mks. This agrees with the Figure 1 franking. ➤

I am not sure if the apparent conversion rate from 600,000 Fmk to 50,000 "francs" was exact, or if 50,000 was the maximum limit of insurance, stated in a fully convertible currency, as soon as the cover left Finland. Some pre-1930 covers I've seen appear to show closer to an "8 to 1" exchange ratio between Finnish marks and Francs. ■

Comments, information, or questions are appreciated. Please contact me at 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, or via e-mail at efraser@msn.com.

Reference:

Esa Mattila, *Suomen Postimaksuja - Finlands Posttaxor - Finnlands Postgebühren, 1881-1985*, 162 pages, published by Mansen Merkki Ja Raha, 1985. (Preface and general headings in Finnish, Swedish, and German; text in Finnish.)

Endnote:

¹ The addressee and the affiliated Finnish sender involve the Volvo Auto Company. Volvo was incorporated in 1915 as a subsidiary of the Swedish ball bearing company AB SKF. After 10 trial cars were built in 1926, Volvo produced their first car in 1927 in Göteborg. Their subsequent success is history!

Self-Description of Sweden Posten from its News Releases

Posten, a corporation owned by the Swedish State, is one of the largest businesses in Sweden. In 2000, Posten's staff averaged 41,522, and had sales of 24.5 billion SEK. The business concept of Posten is to enable the rapid, secure and cost-effective delivery of messages and goods, both by physical and electronic means. We provide service to 4.1 million households and 500,000 businesses. Each weekday, we sell an average of 94 million SEK in services, and process 19 million mailed items. ■

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My Custer Letters

by Ib Eichner-Larsen, ALJP

(Translated by Dan Laursen)

My interest in stamps of the USA was stimulated first by frequent correspondence from relatives who had emigrated from Denmark. Later, faithful and considerate friends "over there" sustained my interest. As I examine my albums today, I find many exciting stamps and recount fine experiences.

My favorite objects are two "Custer letters" from the time before and after the drama at the Little Bighorn. There, George Armstrong Custer and his entire 267-member detachment of 7th Cavalry died some 125 years ago (June 25, 1876) in a bloody battle with the Sioux Indians in present-day Montana.

The first letter in my collection dates from June 18, 1867 written by the wife of Colonel H. G. Ransom at Fort McPherson, Nebraska (near present day North Platte, Nebraska).



Figure 1. Cover from a Colonel's wife to Custer.

The envelope (Figure 1) was addressed to "Gen. G. A. Custer" at Fort Sedgewick, Colorado Territory. (Editor's Note: Custer had reverted from General to Lieutenant Colonel in the regular Army by the time of his death. History books tell us that Custer and his troops had stopped several days at Fort McPherson before moving on to Colorado.)

The modest envelope was canceled Cottonwood Sta., Neb the same day it was written by Mrs. Ransom. Her enclosed letter refers to Custer's visit and appeals to keep in contact in the future.

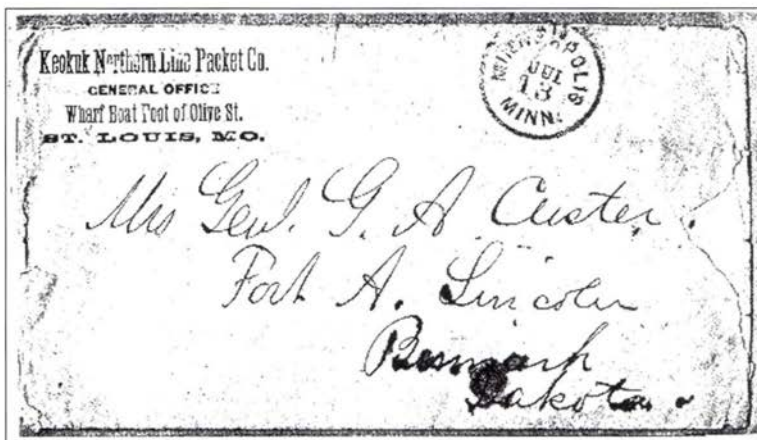


Figure 2. Cover to Custer's widow from a pastor in Minnesota.

The second letter is addressed to Custer's widow, Elizabeth, at Fort Abraham Lincoln on the banks of the Missouri River near Bismarck, North Dakota. The letter was written July 10, 1876, ➤

a few days after news of the battle reached more populated parts of the country. The six-page letter was canceled July 13, 1876 in Minneapolis and appears to have been written aboard the riverboat "Minneapolis," which had departed St. Paul on July 10 (Figure 2.)

The long letter was from the Reverend Edwin Sidney Williams, who identified himself as pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Minneapolis. In six rambling pages, the pastor expressed his condolences to Custer's widow and concluded with what appears to have been the real purpose of the letter. The minister wanted very much to "take over" two large wolfhounds that at times accompanied Custer in the field. (Editor's Note: A cursory check of history texts finds no mention that the dogs were at the Little Bighorn, although Rev. Williams probably was not aware of the dogs' whereabouts when he wrote Mrs. Custer.)

How the Letters Got to Denmark

When visiting Copenhagen, my American friends always are interested in these letters and ask, "How did you get them?"

The answer is simple but interesting. One of the aforementioned relatives who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s was my mother's brother, Lauritz Christian Eichner, known in American art circles under the name of Dan Eichner.

Based on his education in Denmark, he carved out a career as a civil engineer. This developed into his becoming a recognized artisan making objects in pewter, bronze, and brass that were used as gifts by President Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt.

At some point, my uncle connected with Dr. R. Multhauf, an official of the Smithsonian Museum of Science and Technology, and became a conservator of the museum. Eichner spent some of his free time at "Old Harbour House" at the tip of Long Island and this brought him into contact with a local Custer Society.

At the time, he was in the process of creating a business of constructing fine instruments at Clifton, New Jersey. As a present to the Custer Society, he constructed an astronomical telescope and presented it as a gift. In thanks, a member of the society and a distant relative of Custer gave my uncle the two letters. He generously gave them to me after I initiated him in the deeper sense of philately at the international stamp exhibition in Washington, DC (SIPEX 1966). ■

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Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

Finland has produced an unusual "circle within a square" stamp to commemorate the Orienteering World Championships held this summer in Tampere. A circle is perforated inside the 30 x 30-mm square stamp. The user can apply the water-activated stamp as it is or remove the circle and use that as a valid 3.60 FIM stamp. All perforations are 13. Orienteering is a popular sport in Finland with an estimated 80,000 participants ranging from 8 to 80 years of age.



Åland has issued 20,000 postal letters that include an attractive piece of stationery attached to a colorful postage-paid envelope. The postal letters, decorated with meadow wildflowers, costs FIM 6, although the preprinted stamp is not denominated.

Åland's postal letters may be used domestically and internationally without extra postage. The normal first class rate (below 20 grams) is FIM 3.50 to the U.S. or Canada, for example. Normal first class postage to Finland costs less (FIM 2.30) than within Åland (FIM 2.70). A 22 percent VAT is added to postage inside Åland, but no VAT is charged on mail going into Finland, according to Posten of Åland.

Bulletin 1 for NORDIA 2002 contains the application for exhibitors along with the special rules for the exhibition to be held October 10-13, 2002 in Kristiansand, Norway. Applications are due, together with title pages, by November 1, 2001. SCC members may exhibit at the show. A copy of Bulletin 1 is available from SCC President Roger Quinby, Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065-0738.

Nation's Cup

The Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) has established a mini-competition among teams of exhibitors in various countries, with the idea that the winners of these shows will eventually compete for the best entry. The material in the exhibits has to be from the countries that are selected for each competition. The first one took place in Great Britain this spring and the countries participating were France, Great Britain, Belgium, and Portugal.

Six judges from neutral countries evaluate the entries. The exhibits must be a variety from the various disciplines such as traditional, postal history, thematic, youth, etc. Great Britain won the first mini-competition. The second one is scheduled for November 3 in Helsinki, Finland. Participating there will be Finland, Sweden, and Italy.

New Faces on Publication Scene

There are two new editors to report. After 10 years as editor of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*, Sven Bølum steps down and is replaced by Fred Ooster. Ib Krarup Rasmussen replaces Lennart Weber, who was editor of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* for 14 years.

The Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation (SPF) recently elected two new trustees. Kauko I. Aro is a past director of SCC and a Finnish specialist, particularly in the early postal cards of that country. John L. DuBois is SCC's vice president, specializes in Danish West Indies philately, and chairs the DWI Study Group. The SPF translates into English and publishes important philatelic literature of the Nordic countries, including original works. Information about the SPF and its list of available publications can be obtained from its president Alan Warren, Box 39, Exton, PA 19341. ■

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Nordic Stamps Part of Peace Prize Centennial

The Nobel Peace Institute is making elaborate plans to observe the 100th anniversary of the renowned Nobel Peace Prize later this year. The Norway Post will be a major partner in the commemoration as it issues:

- Eight Nobel stamps, showing Alfred Nobel and seven individual winners of the peace prize;
- A miniature sheet with a single NOK 7 stamp showing Nobel but including signatures of the other seven individuals and a microprinted list of all winners.
- A book prepared by historians and including peace prize stamps and photographs from various countries.



The stamps and miniature sheet are shown for the first time publicly in *The Posthorn*.

The stamps, with denominations ranging from NOK 5.50 to 10, will be released September 14 along with the 64-page book. The name of this year's winner of the prize will be released October 12 with conferences and other celebrations continuing into mid-December.



Norway Post cooperated with the Norwegian Nobel Institute to select the seven prizewinners shown on the stamps. "It was no easy task choosing seven winners for the stamps from a total of 107," said Geir Lundestad, director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute. "The stamps will definitely help to give the celebration a worthy setting and increase interest in the Nobel Peace Prize."

Most of those selected are from the past decade but does include the first recipient and a Norwegian winner. The eight depicted are Alfred Nobel, who established the prize (NOK 7); Henry Dunant, Swiss founder of the Red Cross and first winner in 1901 (NOK 7); Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer, scientist, and humanitarian, 1922 winner (NOK 9); Martin Luther King, American civil rights leader and 1964 winner (NOK 10); Mikhail Gorbatsjev (Gorbachev), who helped end the Cold War as president of the former Soviet Union, 1990 winner (NOK 9); Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese opposition leader and human rights advocate, 1991 winner (NOK 5.50); Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala's campaigner for rights of indigenous people and the 1992 winner (NOK 10); and Nelson Mandela, South African political leader and co-winner in 1993 (NOK 5.50).

The stamps and miniature sheet combine intaglio, silk screen and offset processes. Norway Post said the four denominations would be issued in separate sheets containing 50 of each motif. One million of each sheet will be printed.

Sweden will mark the Peace Prize centennial with release on August 16 of a se tenant pair recognizing the work of two international organizations, the Red Cross (honored in 1901, 1917, and 1944) and Doctors Without Borders (recognized in 1999).

— Paul Albright

Member Forum

Study Group Profile: Revenuers Plan on Updated Catalogs

by Paul Nelson

The Scandinavian Revenues Study Group's objective is to bring information about Scandinavian revenues to the SCC membership, as well as to those not yet in the SCC with interest in these objects.

During the past several years, there have been two revenue catalogs published by the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California (SPLSC), otherwise known as SCC Chapter 17. The first one includes the revenues of Norway, Iceland, the Faroes, Greenland, and DWI; the second includes Denmark alone. The first one is long out of print, and there have been significant new discoveries made in several of these areas.

Discussions have started on the need for a new edition of the Norway catalog with good illustrations, the new discoveries, and better readability. Those agreeing to work on this include Paul Jensen, a well-known collector and exhibitor of Norwegian revenues, Geir Sør-Reime, the FIP Revenue representative from Norway, Frederick A. Brofos of the U.S., whose contributions made the first edition of the SPLSC catalog possible, and others.

For Iceland, Þór Þorsteins of Reykjavík is contributing his new Icelandic language handbook on Icelandic revenues. This handbook was printed in a limited run, and will not be reprinted in that form. Þór wants to have a bilingual publication and has pledged the illustrations and the Icelandic text as his contribution toward this goal. We hope to have the translation and English publication within a year. I'm quite sure that other SCC members will have material to offer, and I'd like to solicit input from anyone.

For DWI, we've located some Danish specialist collectors of DWI revenues. The classic set of books, *Danish West Indies Mails*, is in process of being updated with new editions and new formats. The section in the original edition that discussed the DWI revenues was incomplete, and our intent is to provide the editor of the new DWI editions, John DuBois, with the text and illustrations for the new edition of that volume.

For the Faroes, there have been some new discoveries made since the original catalog was published. These new discoveries have, for the most part, been described in various issues of *Luren*, and we're not yet sure whether to put out a small document that will consolidate all of this information.

For Denmark, Claus Rafner, who is the author of the recent excellent handbook and catalog of Danish alcohol and tobacco taxpaid stamps, is working toward a new edition of the SPLSC catalog of Danish revenues. This is a long undertaking, and he's doing much original research on this subject in Denmark. He's a student of taxation history in Denmark, and this follows right along with his professional research task. There have been several new finds made since the publication of the Danish catalog. Alcohol and tobacco taxpays are in daily use in Denmark and there are new varieties almost every month.

There is much information about Swedish revenues that has never been published in the Swedish language, and there is an effort now to get the experts to share their information in writing. Working with the Bältespännarna (Swedish Cinderella) group, we have a long-term goal of a bilingual book/catalog about these fascinating items. Some of the Swedish revenue stamp types that have not been documented in any organized way, ►

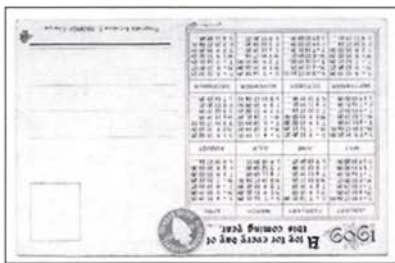
to my knowledge, include the taxpays for tobacco products, the revenues for playing cards, and several types of stamped revenue paper including stock certificates.

For Finland, the subject has been discussed quite thoroughly in Saarinen's recent award-winning book; but even for that country, there have been some new discoveries including an entirely undescribed series of documentary stamps from the 1930s.

The American Revenue Association is being kept informed about this set of projects, and from time to time, there will be articles in *The American Revenuer* to gain their participation. There are some particularly active Scandinavian revenue collectors in each of the Nordic nations, in Canada, and in the UK, and we're becoming better knit together for the common goals I've tried to describe.

The SCC Revenue Study Group seeks participation from any collector of this material in order to make the next editions of publications as complete as possible. Please contact Paul Nelson at PO Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711, or by email at pnel@att.net. This team is not limited to SCC members only. If you know revenuers with a Scandinavian interest who are not SCC folks, please share this information with them. ■

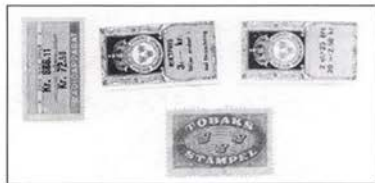
A Sample of Revenue Stamps



The postcard is a 1909 calendar, printed in Italy, and in English. However, it bears a copy of the 1909 Norwegian almanac stamp. These round stamps were on Norwegian almanacs and calendars, in one form or another, for many years. This is one of the earlier ones. The money derived from these stamps went to the University of Oslo.

The "Radioapparat" stamp is Norwegian, for use on the piece of radio gear when it was purchased. This particular stamp was for a sales price of not over 886.11 NKr, of which 72.50 NKr is the stamp tax. There are many values of several different sets of these stamps, and no doubt there are many that have not been described for philately.

The other three stamps are Swedish, for tobacco. The perforated stamp (Tobaks Stempel) is described in the 1998-99 *Facit* as being from 1915. "This stamp was issued on the introduction of the tobacco monopoly when all packages in (the) future had to be provided with a so-called control label. The stamp was intended to be affixed to all packages manufactured earlier but not yet sold."



The two imperforate stamps are examples of some of these "control labels." There are vast numbers of these "control labels" (or tax-paid stamps) that include the price for the package or for individual cigarettes from the package. As the tax rate increased with time, the text on the tax-paid stamps reflected the changes. These last items are, to my knowledge, not documented for philatelists, even in Swedish.

— Paul Nelson

HAFNIA Exhibit Supplemented by Internet

Question: What do the initials HAFNIA stand for?

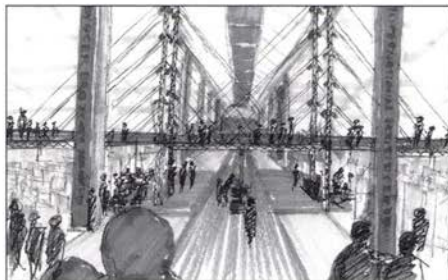
Answer: HAFNIA is not an acronym. It is the Latin name for Copenhagen, Denmark, according to SCC member Toke Nørby, who is general commissioner of HAFNIA 01 being held October 16-21. The name HAFNIA is applied to international shows held in Copenhagen. The last HAFNIA was in 1994.

Some 2,200 frames of material will be shown at HAFNIA 01 with competition in several classifications. Visitors will find at least 150 dealers and 50 foreign postal administrations on hand.

A new initiative is what is called the first interactive stamp exhibition – Hafniade. It can be located now at www.hafniade.dk. The HAFNIA 01 Home Page is at www.hafnia01.dk.

In line with its theme of “Building Bridges,” HAFNIA planners are including a “Club Bridge” hospitality area open to members of the Danish Philatelic Federation and to foreign visitors (see illustration.) Club membership costs \$12 (US).

An area of the Bella Center, largest exhibition hall in Denmark, has been set aside as a “Family Land,” and will include an exhibit of the 6,000-year-old development of correspondence and communication. ■



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Wings for Norway First Day Covers

by Alan Warren

The articles about the Wings for Norway stamp that appeared in the May issue of *The Posthorn* (pages 3-7) sent me to rummaging through my collection of first day covers of this stamp. It was issued March 28, 1946 but as far as I know, it was not cancelled with the typical first day cancel used in Oslo earlier in the 1940s for new issue releases. This follow-up article will document some of the cancels used, as well as the scarcity of cachets.

Cancels



Figure 1.

Double ring Oslo first day cancels that I have for this issue include the Bko (Banko), BD or delivery section, and BR II or letter office. The BD (BUD = Messenger) cancel is on an Express cover to Sweden with a block of four of the 15 øre stamps to meet the Nordic rate of 20 øre plus express

supplement of 40 øre. Figure 1 shows a slogan cancel at Oslo that reads "Frihetsgaven til de falnes etterlatte" (Freedom's Gift to the Fallen One's Families, a collection for the war dead).

In the United States, FDC collectors use the term "unofficial cancels" for those marks applied at other than the normal first day of issue city. This is perhaps a poor term in that any cancel is "official." However, for the Wings for Norway stamp, unofficial or other city cancels abound. The most unusual one I have is that at Mæl (Figure 2), for the cover is actually a predate cancelled March 22.

Normally, this can come about in two ways. Either the post office had the stamps ahead of schedule and a careless clerk sold stamps before the issue date, or the plug canceller had the wrong date inserted by a clerk.

Other unofficial cities for which I have first ➤



Figure 2.

day covers of this issue include Drammen, Horten, Høvi, Kristiansund, Molde, and Strømmen.

Cachets

By the mid-1940s cachets were quite common on FDCs of the United States and even some Nordic countries, such as Denmark. However, they seem rather scarce in Norway. Figure 3 shows a cachet clearly designed for the Wings for Norway stamp. It was published by the journal *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. It is



Figure 3.

actually a post card, and on the reverse is a brief story of the two fliers (Ulf Wormdal and Henry Bernhard Malmøe) depicted on the stamp and their fate during the war in which they lost their lives.

All-purpose cachets were popular in many countries at the time including the U.S., Denmark, and Sweden. One example for this issue is a cover printed by the Valkyrien International Stamp Exchange Club, with their logo and the wording "First Day Cover" in English. Collectors less inventive simply used corner cards. Examples for this issue include Ingeniør H. Bugge of Drammen and Bjarne Hodne of Kristiansund.

An interesting printed name-and-address first day cover is one for S. J. Frøland in Horten, who included in the printing at the upper right of the cover the words "Svak stempling" or weak cancel so as not to obliterate the stamp. Someone working at the Netherlands Ministry of Shipping in Oslo, using that corner card, sent his registered FDC to a friend in Rotterdam. A cover with a pair of stamps to meet the 30-øre surface letter rate to the United States bears a simple handstamp cachet reading "Førstedagsbrev."

The varieties of FDCs of this issue attest to its popularity with collectors. ■

Seeking Denmark in the U.S.A.

Member Arne V. Rasmussen of Denmark would like to gather postmarks from all U.S. towns and cities with Danish names. Examples are Ringsted, Viborg, and Danevang. Is there a Copenhagen in the U.S.? The information will be published in *USA Forum*, the publication of the U.S. collectors' club in Denmark.

Rasmussen will compile a list of U.S. towns with Danish names and then determine if they have a post office with postmark. A Zip code for them will be important in order to be able to write to the postmaster for a postmark.

Contact Rasmussen at Pilevej 9, DK-2740 Skovlunde, Denmark or email arne.rasmussen@private.dk.

Bob Lang



Five Decades Ago in *The Posthorn*

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular series of *Posthorn* reviews from issues most of you have never seen. The intent is to provide a glimpse of important and interesting articles that appeared in older issues of *The Posthorn*. We begin with 1951 – 50 years ago.

The reader is cautioned that information published long ago may have appeared in updated form in one publication or another several times in subsequent years.

January 1951 issue (Vol. 8, #1) features “Swedish Local Posts in the 20th Century” by Roland King-Farlow. The article, which concluded in the April 1951 issue, presents a history and the stamps of the local posts that were resurrected in the 1920s rather than those of the 1880s. This two-part article might be of collateral interest to collectors of local posts.

The January and April 1951 issues present the last two parts of a detailed presentation of “Greenland’s Postal System” by George Stribley. Every conceivable aspect of the Greenland operations is presented. Numerous tables are included.

“Denmark’s First Postage Stamp” is featured in the April 1951 issue (Vol. 8, #2). I’m sure much of this information has been incorporated into more recent Danish postal history handbooks and catalogues. But there are some interesting facts presented, such as the reason why the “RBS” was changed to “KGL” on printings after the first two values.

A note in the January 1951 issue reports usage dates for three British Forces cancellers used in the Faroes during World War II. These dates differ slightly from those shown in the current *Facit*. Which are the correct dates?

“The Postal Markings & Cancellations of Finland” leads the July 1951 issue (Vol. 8, #3). George Wiberg shows and describes 31 different markings (through 1949). Some of the illustrations are illegible, and I know that this information has been published many times in other books and catalogues.

Also in the July issue is a complete list of the “East Karelian Post Offices.” Carl Pelander supplies the Official First Day and the Actual First Day of Operation for the offices. This reviewer knows that this data is not easy to obtain. Somewhere there has to be a map showing the location of all these post offices. Does anyone have a source?

Two notes in the July issue refer to, (1) The first official (commercial) polar flight cancel, Oslo to Fairbanks, Alaska, on 29-5-1951; and (2) that 17-6-51 will be the First Sunday in modern Swedish postal history without regular mail distribution to homes and businesses.

The August *Posthorn* (Vol. 8, #4) contains “Cancellations on Sweden’s Skilling Banco Issues” by Nils Stalhandske. Most, if not all, of this data, can be found in any recent Sweden Specialized *Facit*.

By request of the Editor, I also looked at *Posthorn* articles from 35 years ago. A listing from 1966 (Vol. 23) includes: (1) “Norwegian State Railroads Parcel Stamps in Dragon Design” by Carl Werenskiold (24 pages in Jan, Apr & July issues); (2) “Finnish Stamp Booklets” by Stanley Pollard (3 pages, Apr); (3) “Minor Mysteries from Scandinavian Stamp Designs” by Ernest H. Wise (2 pages, Apr); (4) “The Gridiron Cancellations of Norway” by Earl G. Jacobson (4 pages, July); (5) “Finnish Official ➤

Postal Cards" by Frederick A. Brofos (2 pages, July); (6) "A Return to Viking Names" by F. A. Brofos (2+ pages, Oct); (7) "Danish West Indies (USA Virgin Islands): Why Ignore the Revenue Stamps" by Roger B. Preston (3 pages, Oct); (8) "Norwegian Railroad Post Offices" by Frederick A. Brofos and Stanley H. Hanson (2 pages, Oct).

Please send your suggestions and comments to Paul Albright, *Posthorn* Editor. ■

SCC members may decide they would like copies of some article(s). Requests for specific articles should be sent to SCC Library, c/o Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224, or email SCC Librarian Stuart Silverberg at stustork@aol.com. Please send a minimum of \$1.00 (US) per order to help defray photocopying and postage costs.

Scandinavian Area Awards

At the Royale 2001 show in Dorval, Quebec, Henrik Mouritsen won a gold plus the APS research medal for his "Danish Postal Rates 1875-1906." Gold medals were also won by Viktor Sten for "Denmark 1851-1870" and Oleg Podymow for "Early Finland Under the Russian Yoke 1850-1917."

Mike Falls received a silver-bronze at NAPEX in Virginia for his "Allied Military Mail in Iceland During WW II." In the single frame category at NOJEX in Secaucus, NJ, Leslie Nugent won a bronze for "The Many Types of Norwegian Stamps."

At the SCOPEX show in State College, PA, Nan Butkovich won a gold for "The 1930 Parliamentary Issues: The Hessheimer Set," and also a silver for "A Letter from Iceland: WWII Civilian Mail to the United States."

— Alan Warren

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Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren



In the April 6 and 13 issues of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*, Geir Sør-Reime writes on 150 years of Danish stamps. In the first installment he discusses the early stamp issues of that country. In the second article he gives a thumbnail sketch of the various types of postal items issued by the country over the years including stationery, booklets, newspaper stamps, officials, military stamps, postage due, and the parcel ferry issues among others.

Artist and stamp designer Anne-Birthe Hove discusses in the April issue of *Greenland Collector* the continuing series of cultural heritage stamps being released by Greenland. She has designed stamps for Post Greenland since 1997. In the same issue another stamp designer for Greenland, engraver Martin Mörck, discusses his experiences in that country.

The February issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten* from the German study group of Nordic countries again contains articles on most of these countries. Hekki Kähäri writes about the first slot-machine booklets of Finland. Rolf Dörnbach contributes three articles on Greenland and two on Iceland. Jürgen Tiemer continues his series on the fieldposts of Norway, this time with No. 5 at Ulven, listing the activities of this post from 1898 to 1954. Rolf Dörnbach focuses on the Lemland area of Åland and illustrates some of its cancellations.

35 Years of Cinderellas

The March 2001 issue of the Swedish journal *Bältespännaren* marks 35 years of the organization devoted to collecting back-of-the-book or what is popularly known as Cinderella materials. Such items include labels, seals, locals, revenues and similar items. This issue lists the over 400 members who are interested in these philatelic sidelines. Åke Torkelstam reviews 100 years of activity in Sweden devoted to Barnens Dag or Childrens Day, which has resulted in special stamps, labels, cancellations, covers, and other materials over the years. Information about the organization can be obtained from U.S. representative Paul Nelson, Box 310, Claremont CA 91711 or e-mail pnelns@att.net.

The January-March issue of *Close-Up*, published by the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, reports on activities with the famous engraver at the NORDIA 2001 show and the joint issue of Sweden and the U.S. of the Nobel issues in March.

One of the world's experts on Spitsbergen philately, Arne J. Bay, writes about the history and postal history of this area in the issue 2001/1 of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*. (See this issue of *The Posthorn* for the English version.)

Ian Paton writes about Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim in the May-June issue of *Topical Time*, published by the American Topical Association. The author presents a brief biography of the well-known military and political leader of Finland, illustrated with stamps depicting or related to Mannerheim.

Lief H. Gouiedo describes the first flight of SAS to the United States in 1946 in the May issue of *The Airpost Journal*, published by the American Air Mail Society. Scandinavian Airlines System resulted from a collaboration of several Nordic country airlines. The flight established the route Stockholm-Oslo-Copenhagen-New York via Prestwick, Scotland.

In the May issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Poul Krog discusses the use of Denmark's famous 4 RBS in Augustenborg. The post office opened January 1, 1853. Krog illustrates two covers with this stamp. One is the only known cover from Augustenborg ►

bearing a mute cancel, and the other is the earliest known use of the numeral cancel 97.

Geir Sør-Reime writes about the millennium of the Norse discovery of America in the May 11 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. A number of countries have issued stamps to mark the anniversary including Greenland, Iceland, and Canada, and a special cancellation noting the millennium was used in Trondheim, Norway.

In the April and May issues of *filatelisten* of Sweden, postal history specialist Fredrik Ydell illustrates prestamp letters of Adolf Fredrik and Gustav III. Both issues also carry the latest installments of Erik Sjögren's long-running series on the railway postmarks of Sweden. The May issue has another installment by Karl-Erik Samuelsson on the plate flaws of the 30 öre large official stamp of Sweden.

Sweden's Vacation Stamps

David Straight writes a column for *Stamp Collector* on back-of-the-book materials, and in his July 16 column he discusses the special labels used by tourists while traveling. The labels were used in lieu of postage stamps for Swedes who were on vacation and wanted to send post cards (one label) or letters (two labels) back to family and friends. The stamps could not be bought ahead of time in Sweden, but were made available by tour operators in certain hotels abroad.

The labels are typically inscribed "Port Payé, Post Suede." The mail franked with these labels was left at the hotel desk and then returned to Sweden by air. Normally they were cancelled in Stockholm on arrival. According to Straight, such cards could also be delivered to addresses in Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Later, Germany and England addresses were also allowed. The arrangements for use of the labels were made between tourist agencies in Scandinavia and the Swedish Post.

After a trial period during the 1990s, some other countries were added as points of origin, but the project was cancelled since some countries realized they were losing postal revenue due to use of these "vacation" stamps.

Military Action in the North Atlantic

The May 2000 issue of *238 Journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle* has an article by Brian Hague on the British forces that served in the Faroes during WW II. Dennis Cook provides the ninth part in a series on the ferries that serve the Faroes. This one is about the "Bruarfoss," which served in the North Atlantic waters during the 1930s to the 1950s. The vessel helped rescue survivors of torpedoed ships during WW II.

In the June issue of *filatelisten*, Anders Pleijel illustrates the initials of inspectors that can be found on the ends of Swedish coil stamp rolls. He provides a table of names and the initials they applied using a rubberstamp from 1919 to 1936. In the same issue Karl-Erik Samuelsson presents another installment on his plating studies of the large officials, this time the 1 Kr. Postal history specialist Lennart Ivarsson continues his discussion of the charter or list numbers that appear in the upper right corner of Swedish prestamp mail.

In the June issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* from KPK, Peer Lorentzen discusses another classic issue of Denmark, the 2 RBS. This is the first installment of his in-depth review. Co-authors Kurt Hansen and Gordon Hughmark continue their series on mails between Denmark and USA during the period 1865-1875 in the same issue.

The peace worker stamps and socialist labels are described in the third installment of a series by Knut Glasø in the June issue of *NFF-Varianten* from Norway. Some of ►

these labels declare "Down with Militarism." Another article in this issue, by Per H. Jacobsen, shows a number of Norway's beautifully illustrated advertising covers from the early 20th century.

The folded business post card is the subject of an article by Robert Bell in the June issue of the *Postal History Journal*. Such cards have been issued by over a dozen European countries, beginning with Sweden in 1917 and appearing as recently as 1981 from Norway. The card is configured so that a typist could write the message and the name and address of the recipient without having to remove the card from the typewriter. The address portion was then folded along a perforated line and glued before mailing the piece.

In the May issue of *Het Noorderlicht*, H.C. van Meeningen writes about mail from the Netherlands to Sweden. In the same issue, Lars Engelbrecht discusses varieties of Denmark's postal cards issued 1871-1879.

Harry Snarvold writes about one of his favorite covers in the June issue of *Postal History* published in Great Britain. It is one of three known covers sent from Norway to China before 1875. In this case it was posted from Arendal in 1870. It is actually addressed to a captain on a ship of Christiania called "China" at Shanghai. Snarvold discusses the route and confirms much of his supposition with ship sailing tables as well as knowledge of postal regulations of some of the transit countries involved.

Ole Maintz discusses the Danish-French postal convention of 1868 in the June issue of Denmark's *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*. He includes illustrations of the French manuscript numbers often found on unfranked covers in this period. Past SCC president Paul Nelson has a brief article in this same issue on revenue stamps of Fredericia.

Fakes and Forgeries

Issue No. 4 of *Fakes Forgeries Experts* was published earlier this year and contains two articles of Scandinavian interest. Björn A. Schøyen describes and illustrates some of the now infamous Norway local post covers that were faked by a collector and exhibitor of local posts who had won many major awards. The forger's work went unnoticed for some years until Norwegian experts and local authorities arrested the individual and discovered many tools of his trade including old envelopes, writing and handstamp inks, and devices for postal markings. The accused was found guilty and the collection was confiscated by the Norway Post Museum where students of this material may examine it.

In another article in the same issue of *FFE*, Norwegian airmail expert Egil Thomassen describes doctored covers bearing the forged "Nationen" cachet. The Norwegian newspaper *Nationen* sponsored flown mail between Kristiana and Kristiansand during a conference held June 19-21, 1920. Mail handled by the newspaper for this event bore a red cachet stating that each piece was forwarded by air. Copies of the *FFE Journal* can be obtained for \$45 from the publisher *FFE-Journal*, Box 108, 6976 Castagnola, Switzerland, e-mail hexa@starsofti.com. ■

Norway Adds Scented Stamps to Inventory

Norway joins the list of countries with scented stamps in their inventory. In June, Norway Post released two NOK 5.50 stamps depicting roses and containing a rose scent. Morton Berner, who directs the Post's Philatelic Service, promised a "lovely scent" and added, "The sharpest noses will just catch it, but other people will need to rub their finger quickly over the surface of the stamp a couple of times." The stamps were issued in booklets of eight stamps each. ■

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

Postiljonen, HAFNIA, October 16-21

Highlights include a rare Swedish cover with four 3 Sk. Bco stamps with a starting price of Euro 50,000 (Figure 1). Also expected to attract attention is a cover with mixed franking between the Dominican



Figure 1.

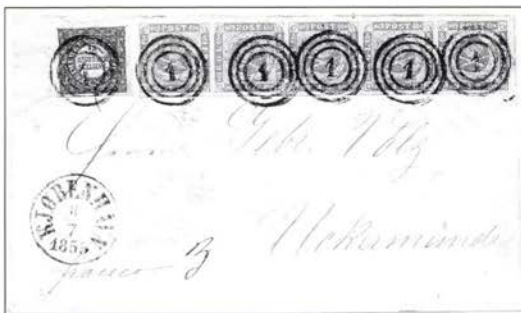


Figure 2.

Siegel

Finland 5 KOP Tête-Bêche in hinged condition. One of the world's most recognizable classic philatelic rarities. The pair sold failed to achieve the starting price of \$50,000 and sold for \$42,500 in May - not a high price for such an important piece (Figure 3).

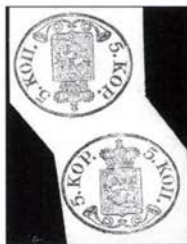


Figure 3.



Figure 4.

Private Treaty

The only recorded letter with Denmark 2 RBS Ferslew printing used from the land "Ordrup," north of Copenhagen, to within the city ramparts has been reported sold for \$60,000. (Figure 4.) ►



Figure 5.

AFINSA (Spain)

In April, a large Puerto Rico collection contained some interesting DWI items. One particular cover (Figure 5) from Puerto Rico with Antilles/DWI/US stamps started with Euro 15,000 and sold for Euro 19,000.

Thomas Høiland Frimærkeauktion

Also in April, the Danish First Day cover of April 1, 1851, sold on the book for DKK 360,000, 10 percent lower than the starting price of DKK 400,000. (See *Posthorn*, May 2001, Page 36, Fig. 3.)

Germeten Auction

An impressive accumulation of the WWII V-stamps with 10,000 sets without watermark, but including some stamps from the watermarked issue, sold for NOK 1,450,000 plus charges in May. The total catalogue value was NOK 10,600,000. A fine cover with a strip of six of Norway 4 sk. 1855 sold for NOK 195,000. (See *Posthorn*, May 2001, Page 36, Fig. 4.)

Northland

The Stuart Silverberg collection of Greenland Parcel-Post stamps attracted serious buyers and overwhelming prices in May. An artist drawing of the 10-ore Pakke Porto (Figure 6), believed to be the closest design existing of the first issue, realized \$12,075, including the buyer's commission. Proofs of the three values of the 1905 issue, imperforate and mounted on card, brought \$9,775. One of the best-known Pakke Porto parcel covers with the three 1905 emissions (Figure 7) reached \$12,075 after hectic floor bidding – a confirmation that this issue is popular. ■

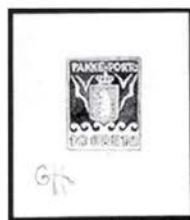


Figure 6.



Figure 7.

New Faroe Discovery

by Jay Smith

One of the rewards of philately is the possibility of finding something new. If you are looking closely, it can happen – and more often than you might think. Recently, I discovered something that had been sitting under my nose (and that of many other people) for 22 years: Paper varieties of the 1979 Faroe Christmas seal. (Maybe you don't collect Christmas seals and maybe you don't even consider them part of philately, but many people enjoy them very much.)

I noticed that some of my 1979 sheets were "silver gray" instead of the usual "greenish gray." Upon examination under long-wave UV light, the "silver gray" sheets react quite brightly. The bulk of my "greenish gray" sheets have a moderate reaction and, interestingly, two of them are "dead" under UV. These are significant differences; thus, we now have at least three varieties.

However, it did not stop there. I recalled that, because of the large quantities needed, U.S. Christmas seals have for some time been produced on multiple presses and in multiple cities. Perhaps the printer of the Faroe seals was using multiple paper sources, presses, etc. This would be a good precaution against problems and delays.



Checking my stock of 1978 Faroe Christmas seal sheets, I found that the vast majority do not react under UV light. However, a couple of sheets fluoresce a brilliant ultramarine. Again, a new and very collectible variety.

I have listed these varieties on my Web site at http://www.jaysmith.com/lists/by/faroe_christmas_seal_list.html

A note about using UV light for examination of Scandinavian stamps and seals: In almost all cases, "long wave" UV light should be used in Scandinavian philately. (For U.S. stamps, short wave is necessary.)

I am interested in hearing reports of these varieties, or others. Check your collection. ■

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Danish West Indies

Do you have any of the bi-colored issues of 1873-1902 for sale?
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KNUD RASMUSSEN

Østerbrogade 54 D. st. DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

President's Letter

Roger Quinby



Earlier this year, we initiated a membership incentive program. This program offers you the opportunity to receive the current 2001 Facit at a 50 percent discount while locking in your dues at the \$15 annual rate for the next three years. It is unlikely that this special membership promotion will be carried into the next calendar year, so I urge you to check the display ad on Page 26 and sign up today. Also, Life Members may order the catalogue at the discount. We encourage all of you to invite friends and fellow Nordic area stamp collectors to join SCC under the one-year trial membership or the three-year incentive program.

George Kuhhorn, our newly appointed Membership Chairman, has done an excellent job soliciting new members. According to the latest information, we have signed up almost 100 new members during the first half of the year. George 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.

NORDIA 2002 will be held in Kristiansand, Norway, October 10-13 next year. This show comes on the heels of the SCC Annual Meeting at PNSE (Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition). For several reasons, including cost, the NORDIA Organizing Committee will not appoint a commissioner from the U.S. Nevertheless, our participation is welcome, and I encourage you to exhibit and/or visit this show. We will make arrangements to deliver exhibits and arrange a SCC dinner for those attending the show.

I have attended a number of NORDIA shows over the past 10 years and each has been a wonderful philatelic and tourist experience. If you are interested, I still have a few bulletins and applications for NORDIA 2002, yours for the asking, or you may contact the General Commissioner directly: Bjorn Gunnar Solaas, Postboks 301, 4663 Kristiansand, Norway.

I have appointed Vice President John DuBois to chair a long-term planning committee to look into a number of issues that are important to the future of the SCC. This is not the time to sit back and enjoy the success of NORDIA 2001. It is time to reach out to our membership for new leadership, new ideas, and new services so that we may retain and build on the recent membership gains.

Our hobby is continuously evolving and we (members and officers) have to understand and accommodate these changes if we are to be a successful club in the years ahead. The committee will look at a number of issues, including membership retention; the long-term budget (spending plan); ways to establish more overseas affiliates; publications; ties with other Nordic area philatelic organizations; awards; exhibitor mentoring program; and other matters. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on this committee. Your participation is the foundation for the future.

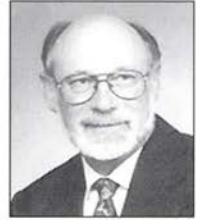
Having said all that, I will step down as club President at the end of the year. John DuBois, as Vice-President, will serve out the remaining term of my presidency. John is eminently qualified to lead the SCC. He has been co-chair of the Posthorn Committee, a thoughtful contributor at board meetings, an excellent exhibitor, and a participant at many national, NORDIA, and FIP shows. John has the experience, knowledge of the hobby, national and international contacts, and commitment to lead the SCC. I know you will give him your support and cooperation in the transition this fall and in the future. A joint letter will be published in the November *Posthorn*.

I hope to see many of you at StampShow 2001 in Chicago. While there, the Board will decide on a regional meeting in the spring of 2002. Now is a good time to give some thought to preparing or upgrading an exhibit for this gathering. Have a great summer. ■

News From the Home Office

Don Brent

Normally at this time of the year, membership moves at a slower pace. This year has been a real exception. We have gained 61 new and 2 reinstated members in the recently completed quarter. This is almost entirely through the efforts of our new Membership Chairman, George Kuhhorn.



He took on the task of getting labels from the American Philatelic Society of their members who had listed an interest in any of the Scandinavian areas. This was followed with an introductory letter and an application. This amounted to over 1,500 mailings. With only a few exceptions, all of this quarter's new members responded to George's letter. Many of the new members have taken advantage of the Facit catalogue offer and joined for three years to include the catalogue at a 50 percent discount. We owe George a big thanks for his efforts. Our membership is moving in a positive direction.

There are some Facit 2001 Special catalogues still available if you would like to participate in the incentive program. You just need to extend your subscription for three years (\$15 x 3 = \$45) and purchase the Facit for \$25. The total will be \$70, which you can mail to SCC, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022. It is a great deal. I have already taken advantage myself and now have the new catalogue. It is quite a change from the 1996 I had been using.

I would like to extend a welcome to all our new members and remind you that we are here to help you with any SCC-related matters. If you have any questions or problems with your membership, be sure to get in contact. We are also open to suggestions for improving the club; they will be passed on to the Board for consideration.

Now, for some bad news. We have dropped 71 members for non-payment of dues. This is quite a bit higher than it was last year and about the same as 1999. I have to mention this every year, and it remains an unpleasant part of the job. This year, it is tempered by the fact we have gained so many new members that we remain on an upward curve. You might check the list to see if there is anyone you know and follow up with them. Perhaps they just missed the notices they were sent. When a member just drops without notice, we are left with a question of what could have been done to keep them.

The SCC will have a regional meeting during StampShow 2001 in Chicago. There will be a chance to meet members of the very active Chicago Chapter along with members of the Board. There are some fine exhibits entered in both the regular and World Series along with plenty of other events to attend. I will not be there because of a long-standing commitment for the middle two weeks of August, but I wish you all a great time. ■

Slide Show Missing!

Does anyone know the whereabouts of a Finland Clipper Mail slide show that Bob Lang, former SCC executive secretary, put together a few years ago? The show, consisting of about 36 slides, went missing after being shown at a Chapter 27 meeting in Denver and at a Chapter 17 meeting in Southern California. It will be difficult to duplicate as there were maps, charts, and combinations of covers in the slides. If anyone has clues as to the whereabouts of the slide presentation, contact Bob Lang at 23 The Horseshoe, Newark, DE 19711, or email him at bopeg5@earthlink.net.

Membership Statistics for the Second Quarter 2001

New Members

- 3839 Valley, Dorothy, P.O. Box 272, Williams Bay, WI 53191
3840 Fordham, David, 2204 Glenbrook Way, Las Vegas, NV 89117
3841 Dallof, Herman K., 820 Rockledge Dr. Saginaw, TX 76179
3842 Dodaro, Paul E., 415 Davis Ave. SW, Leesburg, VA 20175-3431
3843 Vikan, David, P.O. Box 393, Richardton, ND 58652
3844 Daugherty, Paul E., 828 Walnut St., Columbia, PA 17512
3845 Hedlund, Paul, DNP
3846 Hacker, Frank A., 310 Tremont St., Barre, VT 05641
3847 Ellwanger, F. R., 150 NW 29th Place, Pompano Beach, FL 33064
3848 Draper, C. M., 44 Blueberry Cove, Yarmouth, ME 04096
3849 Howard, L.A., 84-770 Kili Dr. #839, Waianae, Hawaii 96792-1519
3850 Hoitmeier, Ronald E., P.O. Box 143, Victoria, MN 55386
3851 Enockson, Karl L., P.O. Box 3572, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-1572
3852 Economos, James J., DNP
3853 Blorstad, Trygve P., DNP
3854 Noet, Jens H., 11616 Northview Dr., Nevada City, CA 95959
3855 Green, Dr. Edward T., DNP
3856 Tuuri, Randy, 29 Cambridge Way, Piedmont, CA 94611
3857 Huss, Leland L., 3223 Hull Ave., Des Moines, IA 50317-3726
3858 Grandahl, Roland L., 3 Grandview Terrace, East Windsor, CT 06088-0137
3859 Hammond, Jerald M., P.O. Box 294, Westmont, IL 60559
3860 Carlsson, Richard I., DNP
3861 Griffiths, Frank, Barclays Bank of Uganda Ltd., St Swithins-House, 11/12 St Swithins Lane, London, UK EC4N 8AS
3863 Valby, George, 5403 Fairway Drive, San Jose, CA 95127
3864 Cohen, Michael P., 1615 Q St. NW Apt T1, Washington, DC 20009-6310
3865 Lukens, Elsie Mae, 309 East Woodrow, Taft, CA 93268
3866 Harding, Kurt, DNP
3867 Mason, Donald, DNP
3868 Hornfeldt, Anders, 4147 Brigadoon Dr., Shoreview, MN 55126
3869 Saari, Ann, P.O. Box 104, Ilwaco, WA 98624
3870 Sihler, William W., DNP
3871 LeBlanc, L.G., DNP
3872 Rankowitz, Paul E., 43 Progress St., Pawtucket, RI 02860
3873 Phair, James J., 230 Oak Ridge Ave., Summit, NJ 07901
3874 Middleton, Dana A., 1013 Laurel Valley Dr., New Bern, NC 28562
3875 Krulla, Jon H., P.O. Box 350430, Brooklyn, NY 11235
3876 Lund, Niels, 444 Harvard St. Rochester, NY 14607-3323
3877 Russell, Norman Jr., 78 Rocktown Rd., Ringoes, NJ 08551-1211
3878 Levitin, Martin A., 219 Hillair Cir., White Plains, NY 10605-4516
3879 Statman, Max, DNP
3880 Powell, Walter H., 2401 Pennsylvania Ave., Apt.9-A-7, Philadelphia, PA 19130
3881 Minton, Steve, 7468 Fruitwood Ave., Westchester, OH 45069-3051
3882 Fritz, Harold W., ON 120 Ennerdale, Winfield, IL 60190
3883 Kuste, Donald, P.O. Box 1692, Independence, MO 64055
3884 Monk, Graham C., 2421 SW Racquet Club Dr., Palm City, FL 34990
3885 Romig, Raymond L., 3 Redstone Ct., Brownwood, TX 76801
3886 Schei, Lawrence A., DNP
3887 Hollingshead, Robert, 3401 Hartwell Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042
3888 Thronson, Edward, 9550 Ashley Dr., Windsor, CA 95492-7504
3889 Abrahamsen, John W., P.O. Box 683, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417
3890 Lawrence, John K., 61 Pine Lake Dr., Whispering Pines, NC 28327
3891 Leslie, George C., 1061 N. Dry Creek Lane, Troy, ID 83871 ▶

New Members, cont.

- 3892 Tanner, Michael E., DNP
3893 Newman, Alan, 624 Wayland Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
3894 Rogers, Brandon M., 77 Moran Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
3895 Stroud, William M., 1434 W. Hood, Chicago, IL 60660
3896 Youngman, Owen, 40 Kenmore Ave., Deerfield, IL 60015-4750
3897 Perdomo Jr., G, PSC 94 - Box 1052, APO AE 09824
3898 McNabb, John C., 402 5th St., Baraboo, WI 53913
3899 Nelson, Richard A., 8952 Darel Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347
3900 Littlefield, Tony, 220 Washington Ave., Chestertown, MD 21620

Reinstated

- 3862 Nugent, Leslie, 396 Terhune Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652
2757 Nordquist, John R., 38076 Bi-State Blvd., Delmar, DE 19940

Change of Address

- 1810 Saukko, Wayne K., 510 Jefferson St., Willows, CA 95988-2315
2270 Montello, Larry, P.O. Box 683, Montrose, CO 81402
2361 Johns, Frederick B., 1044 BandTail, Carson City, NV 89701
2067 Running, Jr., The Rev. Joseph M., 1613 Pine Ave., Alma, MI 48801-1295

Deceased

- 2852 Hecker, Arthur C.

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2127 Adachi, Junichi | 3096 Ferber, Leroy | 3036 Newman, Augustus |
| 999 Antonsen, Mogens | 3785 Fridthorsson, Steinar | 2179 Niemiaho, Arnold |
| 3783 Arne, Patsch | 2921 Friggens, Gary | 3623 Ostergren, James |
| 3758 Banchik, Seymour | 1693 Ganim, George Jr. | 3643 Rand, Hans |
| 2457 Bednar, Leif | 2974 Gertenbach, Wolfgang | 2348 Rehnquist, George |
| 3742 Blake, David | 3388 Grim, Vinal | 2781 Rivers, William |
| 1764 Brandal, Ole | 2632 Hansen, Eric | 2665 Rome, Jeffrey |
| 3712 Butcher, Reginald | 923 Hawkinson, James | 3476 Ruttkay, Suellen |
| 3792 Campbell, John | 3294 Hendrickson, F. Scott | 3683 Savage, Dan |
| 3511 Cardoza, Mark | 3747 Hunter, Michael | 1786 Shive, Robert Jr. |
| 3718 Catjens, Gregor | 680 Kirchman, Frank | 3788 Simon, Kenneth |
| 3625 Christensen, Ann & Robert | 3782 Knudsen, Bendi | 3060 Sorensen, Ralph |
| 3786 Cimiano, Alan | 3782 Kron, Lennart | 3751 Stefanek, John |
| 2706 Cotton, David | 3679 Lane, Dustin | 3652 Stolze, George |
| 2660 Dalum, Wilbert | 3533 Larsen, M. Andrew | 1933 Strandell, Clarence |
| 3418 Daly, Brian | 1756 Ljunghammar, Oskar | 3620 Sussholz, Steven |
| 3137 Daniels, Boyd | 3401 Longstreth, Frank | 2317 Svenson, Robert |
| 1028 Day, John | 2226 Lundh, Sverrer | 2646 Swasey, Charles |
| 3532 Dedrickson, James | 3701 Marcussen, Aage | 2979 Tennent, Alex |
| 2616 Dettmer, Franz | 1917 Mathiesen, Henning | 3714 Wingfield, Joe |
| 3486 Elliott, Ken | 3642 McGuinness, Robert | 2579 Wood, Joseph |
| 3781 Erickson, Mikael | 3513 Merz, Beth Dennis | 3576 Wurdeman, Mark |
| 3778 Fagerquist, Harold | 628 Michaelson, L.H. | 2993 Youart, Bill |
| 2308 Farrington, J.A. | 3749 Mouritsen, Henrik | |

Member Ad

Wanted: Seeking cover(s) showing usages of Denmark's first postage due stamp (AFA Porto 1, Facit L1, Scott J1). Contact Don Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022, or email dbrent47@sprynet.com.

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



With this issue, we introduce another feature to the pages of *The Posthorn*. "A Glance Back" will review SCC's journal from 50 years ago (and occasionally from other years) to recap what was published then and how the passage of time might have updated, corrected, or otherwise changed the information. Much of what was published in *The Posthorn* has stood the test of time, of course, and provides solid research information for the modern Scandinavian collector.

Occasionally, I receive suggestions to reprint the "best of the past."

The predominant view, however, is that we should look ahead rather than using limited SCC funds in turning back the clock. The priority, therefore, is to publish new, original articles in *The Posthorn* with a secondary priority for quality articles translated into English for the first time. Lower priority is to reprint articles that already have been published elsewhere in English. Articles from previous *Posthorns* fall into this last category.

Nevertheless, it serves members to inform them of the useful information available in past issues. So, we asked Robert Lang, former SCC Executive Secretary, to cast an eye on older issues and bring them up do date when possible. You will find his initial semi-annual column in this issue. Reactions sought.

Speaking of reactions, I have received none on the two features introduced in the May *Posthorn* — "Auction Marketplace" and "Commentary." You will find the second installments of these features in this issue. As former Mayor Ed Koch used to ask while walking the streets of New York: "How we doin'?"



Some offbeat items related to philately interest me. Illustrated here is one I spotted in Stockholm in May. It advertises a musical entitled "Kristina Från Duvemåla" with words and music by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of the famous Swedish musical group, "ABBA."

The fantasy stamp shows "Kristina" and appears to have a denomination of "15c." Surrounding the "stamp" on the advertisement are make-believe "cancels" listing the cities, venues, and dates that the musical was presented in June 2001. In some cases, the designer used ghost images of cancel strikes or poor inking as might appear on any piece of mail.



On the other hand, I was less impressed with the execution and the motivation behind a Faroes souvenir sheet issued to commemorate both the 25th anniversary of its independent postal service and the upcoming HAFNIA international exhibition in Copenhagen. ►



The sheet, "Nordic myths and legends about light and darkness," depicts scenes from 22 Norse legends in stamp size images, but only six of the water-activated stamps are "real." Those six are based on Faroes' ballads or riddles. Each of the 6 KR stamps includes Postverk Føroya's Internet address (www.postur.fo). How many postal administrations print their Web sites on their stamps?

The remaining 16 images are based on legends of other Nordic countries, but these images are neither perforated nor are they postage. They are, in effect, throwaway selvage to the postal user. It's apparent the sheet was concocted for sale to collectors rather than for postal use in the Faroes.

Knud Wachter, philatelic manager at Postverk Føroya, indicated as much when he wrote this spring that the "light and darkness" sheets were the Faroes' first attempts at trying to "combine the stamp's role as a 'storyteller' with the Internet." ■

A New Danish Perfin Catalogue

The Danish Perfin Club has now published a long-awaited update of the former perfin catalogue, now 11 years old. The new publication, *Katalog Over Danske Firmaperforeringer 2001*, contains considerable new information collected by club members on almost every Danish perfin.

The standard information is two illustrations of every perfin - front and back - in 1:1 scale so you can place your perfin on the illustration to identify it.

Furthermore, the name of the business that used the perfin and the found period of use are given. When possible, GPO information on permission to use the perfin is mentioned. We have about 1,200 different perfins of Denmark and all known are priced in the catalogue - also for revenue stamps, Christmas seals, and railway stamps. The top price for a perfin on a normal stamp is 2000 DKK (US \$23) but the top price is 6800 DKK (\$770) for one perfin on a revenue stamp.

The price is given for perfins on loose stamps. On letter, the price can be from 2 -10 times higher. Some prices have been lowered from the previous catalogue. I do not collect perfins, but I do have a few. One that can be seen on my Web page, <http://www.norbyhus.dk/drk.html>, had a value of 1000 DKK in the old catalogue, but now is priced 300 DKK! So is life!

The number of perfins has increased, as many new perfins have become known in the past decade. The Danish Perfins Club asks collectors for information on new discoveries and more information on known perfins.

The text is in Danish (no summary in English) but the catalogue is very easy to use no matter your nationality. Orders should be sent to: Dansk Perfin Samlerklub, c/o Kai Mathiesen, Laerkevangen 40, DK-5210, Odense NV, Denmark, or email Mathiesen at bol@post8.tele.dk

The catalogue costs 298 DKK, including "moms" (VAT) and shipping inside Denmark. Ask Mathiesen about shipping to your country and method of payment.

— *Toke Nørby*

Chapter Reports

Compiled by Vice President for Chapters Walt Jellum

CHICAGO Chapter 4

Jerry Grimson edits their colorful monthly newsletters. Recent issues featured articles: "America's Other Rockwell," "Unique Nordic Stamp Catalog," "When Shamrocks Wore Viking Horns," "Denmark Varieties," and "Complex 01 Recap."

NEW ENGLAND Chapter 5

John DuBois reports a surprise visit from former member Tom Bergendahl at the June meeting. The program was to bring an item for another member to describe, having not seen it before, with both funny and educational results. The Wolfeboro Stamp Club hosted the July meeting at WOLFPEX in neighboring New Hampshire. Chapter 5 will continue to work its way through the SCC Library audio/visual programs during the Fall and Winter meetings, exposing members to material they have not seen in a while.

NEW YORK Chapter 7

Carl Probst reports a long-time friend Bob Helm rejoined them at the May meeting, bringing along a fine showing of Iceland numeral cancels. Emphasis was on Nos. 1-12 plus examples of strikes on 1 GILDI and other early issues. Henry Pollak, Art Lind, and Bob Helm led a discussion on a Fournier forgery of Iceland O2 (stamp and cancel). In June, Bob Helm brought in his Fournier forgery book and led a discussion on the Iceland portion plus a bit of Finland for Ed Fraser. Afterward, Bob brought out the first regular and official issues of Iceland and showed proofs and cancel types for each value. We also had the pleasure of seeing long-time friend Norm Seastedt. There are plans for more Iceland numeral show-and-tells coupled with district and other cancel types from Helm's collection. Ed Fraser will show interesting Finland material.

WASHINGTON, DC Chapter 12

Peter Alten reports Chapter 12 meets from time to time at three major stamp shows (SPRINGPEX, NAPEX, BALPEX) and about five times a year at Fairfax County Government Center in McLean, VA. The next meeting will be at BALPEX in September and in McLean on October 1.

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

Ross Olson reports their year concluded with the annual banquet in July. The program consisted of a 10-second speech by the chapter president. Meetings resume in September.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17

Paul Nelson reports the chapter has been on summer hiatus and resumes in August. Visitors always welcome. Call or email for information; see Chapter Contacts list.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

Jerry Moore reports a meeting at WESTPEX in San Francisco in April. Slides on Sweden, Norway, Faroes, Denmark, and DWI were on the agenda.

BOB PAULSON Chapter 23

Robert Lang reports the April meeting featured Canadian stamps and covers with Erni Smedegaard talking about the Iceland postal system in May. Chapter member Walter Parker won "Best of Show" at the Chasco Stamp Show in New Port Richey for his ➤

religious stamps. The June meeting was for members to bring one favorite Scandinavian item for show and tell. We were treated to many aspects of Nordic stories and souvenirs in addition to stamps, covers, miniature sheets, and postcards.

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Robert Zacharias reports chapter meetings will resume in September. Planned are presentations by members, show and tells, slide shows, a trading night, and a meeting where a laptop with monitor will be brought in to view various Scandinavian-related Web sites. The highlight of fall season will be the annual Christmas party and Scandinavian dinner. An auction is held before and after dinner with the proceeds benefiting the club.

TIDEWATER Chapter 26

Michael Falls reports the following scheduled programs: July, "Perfins on Airmail Covers" by Rudy Roy; August 18, "DWI Postal Stationery" by Tony Guida; September 15, "A Norwegian Airmail Pilot in the U.S." by Don Jones; October 20, "Swedish Christmas Stamps" by Jerry Angus; November 17, (meeting at VAPEX) "Icelandic Christmas Seals" by Mike Falls; December 15, "Christmas Show & Tell" with prizes for the two best.

CYBER CHAPTER

Ed Bode continues to send interesting electronic (email) newsletters to members of SCC who join the Cyber Chapter. A recent "e-letter" featured Paul Nelson's report on research materials available through the Internet from Sweden's Postal Museum and Library. See the Chapter Contacts list to contact Ed Bode for information or to sign up. ■

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SCC CHAPTER MEETING & CONTACTS

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Mon. at University Christian Church. CONTACT: Ken Elliott, P.O. Box 22808, Seattle, WA 98122-0808, email: ScandiaW@aol.com.
 4. CHICAGO: 4th Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Hiaggins. CONTACT: Fred Bloedow, 810 Dobson St. #1A, Evanston, IL 60202-3969.
 5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wed. at The Swedish Home, 206 Waltham St., W. Newton, MA at 7:30 in the Board Room. <http://scc5.thlogic.com>. CONTACT: John L. DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp. 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749, email: jld@thlogic.com.
 7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wed. (except Jul. & Aug.) at The Collectors Club, 26 E. 35th St. CONTACT: Carl Probst, 71 Willoughby Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801, email: carl_probst@gardencitygroup.com.
 9. N. NEW JERSEY: 3rd Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156.
 11. REYKJAVÍK: 2nd Mon., 19:00, program 20:00, at Siðúmúli 11, The Center of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation. Junior meeting every Tue., 17:00 in The Seljakirkja in Breiðholt, Reykjavík. CONTACT: Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson, Postbox 26, IS-222, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, email: sholm@tv.is.
 12. WASHINGTON DC: 3rd Thu. at the McLean Community Center, 7:30, unless there is a major show or it is summer. CONTACT: Peter Alten, 9300 Main St., Manassas, VA 22110.
 13. DELAWARE: Last Tue. at members' homes. CONTACT: Ian Wellings, 1407 Ivy Dr., Webster Farms, Wilmington, DE 19803 or Alan Warren, email: alanwar@worldnet.att.net.
 14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Lynnhurst Community Center, 50th St., & West Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN. CONTACT: Rossmer V. Olson, P. O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVole@aol.com.
 15. ROCHESTER: 1st Mon. at Robert Gustafson's home. CONTACT: Robert Gustafson, 877 Helendale Rd., Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
 17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed at members' homes. CONTACT: Paul Nelson, P. O. Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711, email: pnels@worldnet.att.net; phone: (909) 626-1764 (Nelson), or Jerry Winerman, (818) 784-7277.
 21. GOLDEN GATE: Meets at major stamp shows throughout year. CONTACT: Jerry Moore, email: perfin@usa.com.
 22. HOUSTON: Periodically at stamp shop of Mary Jane Menzel, 2015 W. 34th St., Houston, TX (selected Sun. afternoons). CONTACT: Eric Roberts, P. O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056-8201, email: eric.roberts@halliburton.com.
 23. BOB PAULSON: 1st Mon., 1:00 PM, at Cuzzin's Restaurant, 28910 U.S. Rt. 19, Clearwater, FL. CONTACT: Doris Wending, 4673 Devonshire Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685, or email Judy Nelson: island1@gte.net.
 24. MANITOBA: 2nd & 4th Wed. at Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St., Winnipeg, MB. CONTACT: Robert Zacharias, 808 Polson Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1M5, Canada, email: zachar@escape.ca.
 25. TUCSON: 4th Tue. (except Jul. & Aug.) at members' homes. CONTACT: Jack F. Schmidt, phone: (520) 648-0034, or email: schmidt@azstarnet.com.
 26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Sat., 3 PM at Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library System, 6525 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508, (757) 441-5335, fax: (757) 441-1451, email: gwalker@npl.lib.va.us. CONTACT: Michael Falls, 575 Virginian Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505-4242, email: Mfallsice@aol.com.
 27. COLORADO: 1st Sat. from Sep-Jun, 10 AM at the Rocky Mt. Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver. CONTACT: Stuart O. Silverberg, 701 Elm Circle, Golden, CO 80401-5819, email: Stustork@aol.com.
- CYBER CHAPTER: Members connected by email to exchange ideas & scans, plus an electronic Newsletter. CONTACT: Edward L. Bode, email: edbode@juno.com.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

Elected Officers

President: Roger Quinby, PO Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065; rpquinby@aol.com

Vice President: John DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749; jld@thlogic.com

Vice President, Chapters: Walter Jellum, 26854 Tropicana Dr., Sun City, CA 92585; wajel@inland.net

Secretary: Donald Halpern, PO Box 930, New Providence, NJ 07974-0930; halperndon@att.net

Treasurer: Howard Schloss, 261 Congressional Ln. #705, Rockville, MD 20852; cayuga@erols.com

Immediate Past President: Paul Nelson, PO Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711-0310; pnels@att.net

Directors: Greg Frantz, 18314 E. Geddes Pl., Aurora, CO 80016-1608

Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1H9, Canada; rfontain@ilos.net

John Knutsen, 11402 58th Ave. S.W., Tacoma, WA 98499; JAKNUTSEN@att.net

Jerry Moore, 615 Woodbine Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903; perfin@usa.com

Warren Pearse, 350 S. River Landing Rd., Edgewater, MD 21037;

wpearse@aol.com

Viggo Warmboe, 2740 Foxgate Dr., Minnetonka, MN, 55305;

viggo@mn.rr.com

Appointed Officers

Executive Secretary: Donald B. Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022; dbrent47@sprynet.com

Historian: Roberta Palen, PO Box 840, Loop Station, Chicago, IL 60690-0840

Librarian: Stuart Silverberg, 701 Elm Circle, Golden, CO 80401-5819; stustork@aol.com

Stamp Mart Manager: Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056;

eric.roberts@halliburton.com

Canadian Mart Manager: Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1H9, Canada; rfontain@ilos.net

APS Representative: Donald B. Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022; dbrent47@sprynet.com

Publicity Chairman: John Knutsen, 11402 58th Ave. S.W., Tacoma, WA 98499; jknutsen@att.net

Literature Promotion: Alan Warren, PO Box 39, Exton, PA 19341-0039; alanwar@att.net

Webmaster: John R. Tollan, St. Joseph's Parish, 362 Station St., Chelsea, Vic 3196 Australia; tassiel@heypete.com

Membership Chairman: George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com

Exhibition Chairman: James Burgeson, 2266 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107; jburgeson003@earthlink.net

SCC Study Groups

DWI: John L. DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749; jld@thlogic.com

Sweden Ring: George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com

Finnish Study Group: Roger Quinby, PO Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065; rpquinby@aol.com

Danish Wavy Line: Donald B. Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022; dbrent47@sprynet.com

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CLASSIC DENMARK 1999

Many price changes; revised and expanded postal history chapter; extensive chapters on covers to foreign destinations, cancels, pre-philately, etc. For serious Denmark collectors, it's in a handy pocket format. In English and Danish. (204 pages. \$27.50)

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After treating the Pakke-Portos, there's full coverage of postal issues since 1938, including booklets, official year sets (and forerunners), presentation packs, FDCs, maxicards, promotional cards, plate number blocks, set-tenant stamps from booklets and souvenir sheets, special fee stamps, postage due material, Thule locals, flight covers. Profusely illustrated, in Danish and English. (GF5. 192 pages. \$29.50)

GREENLAND CINDERELLA 1999

Spans the range of Cinderella material. There's a detailed chapter on meter marks and specialized treatment of Christmas and charity seals, Greenland Children's Society labels and sheets, Gentofte Greenland Committee issues, promotion labels, commemorative sheets, locals, savings stamps, private stamp booklets, essays. Profusely illustrated; in Danish and English. (GF7. 120 pages. \$24.50)

ICELAND 1999

Many price increases for rare stamps and covers, and a trend toward price increases for

modern issues. New is a chapter on Greidslu and Orlof stamps, and the plate flaws section is expanded. In English and Danish. (GF20. 144 pages. \$24.50)

FAROE ISLANDS PLATE FLAWS 1975-83

Hundreds of varieties of Faroe stamps, many previously undocumented, are described, priced, and illustrated. Opens new specialty opportunities. In English and Danish. (GF11. 72 pages. \$21.50)

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ICELAND, GREENLAND, FAROES

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)

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Arthur C. Hecker: Chemist and Philatelist

SCC member Art Hecker died May 25 of kidney failure at the age of 76. He was a prolific scientist and entrepreneur, having more than 65 patents in plastics' chemistry and technology bearing his name.

He was a founder and research director of Argus Chemical Company. In 1988, the American Society of Plastic Engineers presented him a lifetime achievement award for his pioneering contributions to PVC (polyvinyl chloride) technology.

As an Army engineer in World War II, Hecker took part in a secret program to build and operate an oil pipeline beneath the English Channel and across western Europe to supply Allied forces.

Hecker was active in numerous study groups and was a former president of the War Cover Club. He was an authority on the war and post-war era in Germany, as well as on German colonies. He uncovered "emergency" airmail rates and regulations enforced by the Allied Military Government when they re-established the German postal system. At the time of his death, he was planning a comprehensive article on so-called "undercover post office boxes" used to send mail into and out of occupied Europe.

Survivors include his widow, two sons, three grandchildren, and a brother.

— Information from Alan Warren and Ed Fraser

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