

The

POSTHORN

November 2001

Undercover Mail



During Wartime



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Swedish Wartime Undercover Addresses

A conduit for WWII airmail communications between USA and Finland

by Roger G. Schnell, MD

Undercover addresses or “drop addresses” were a scheme used to circumvent restrictions on mail between belligerent countries during wartime. Although undercover addresses were used in World War I, their increased usage during World War II was secondary to faster service due to the advent of airmail.

Mail from one warring nation to another was routed through a neutral state. Here, the address was crossed out and redirected to the true destination, or the letter was re-mailed to the second destination. The most famous of these was P.O. Box 506 in Lisbon, used by Thomas Cook and Sons, which was authorized by the British government in August 1940 to act as an intermediary for the transmission of private letters to and from enemy territories.

The procedure was a multiple re-enveloping operation and a post office box in Portugal, which became the facility for the forwarding and receipt of such correspondence. This service lasted until the summer of 1944 when some airmail was re-established.

Perhaps the most frequent means of sending mail was by private individuals, who would re-address the letters and send them on to a second country. Examples of this type have not been well documented in the past.

Mail to and from Finland

Transatlantic airmail service to Europe, and thus Finland, began in May 1939, when PanAm FAM 18 originated transatlantic airmail service. The original eastern terminus was Marseilles, France, but as war enveloped Europe the terminus was moved to Lisbon, Portugal, October 7, 1940 where it remained until the end of WWII.

USA mail to Finland was carried by PanAm to Lisbon where it was transferred to Deutsche Lufthansa via either Frankfurt or Munich to Berlin and from there was carried by DLH, or ABA (the Swedish airline) via Stockholm-Turku to Helsinki, or by the Finnish airline Aero O/y to Helsinki. The airmail rate USA to Finland was 30 cents per one-half ounce. Finnish censorship began October 20, 1939 on all incoming and outgoing mail (Fig.1).

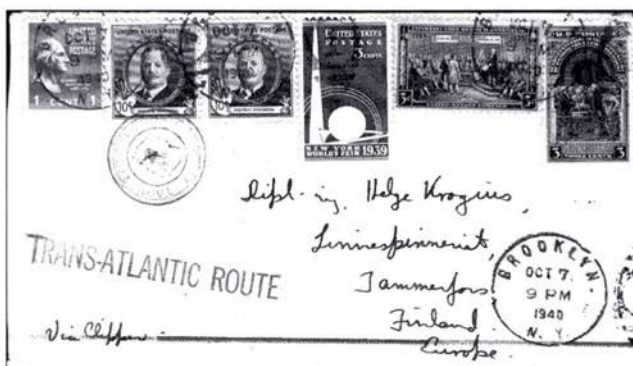


Figure 1. Brooklyn, NY Oct. 7, 1940 to Tampere, Finland Oct. 18, 1940 via Stockholm at 30¢/1/2 oz. rate. Finnish double circle censor mark in Finnish and Swedish.

With the onset of hostilities in Europe, the British began censorship of eastbound transatlantic mail of Pan Am FAM 18 on January 18, 1940, and westbound mail January 29, 1940. An example of this censorship is seen in Fig. 2 with the British Bermuda ➤

resealing tape. With the December 11, 1941 declaration of war on Germany, mail to Finland was suspended December 12, 1941 (Fig. 3). However, the USA did not break off diplomatic relations with Finland until June 16, 1942. Thus, some USA citizens continued to send mail to Finland, unaware that mail service had been suspended. (Fig. 4 has a March 23, 1942 Massachusetts cancel.)

Finnish mail to the USA was carried in the reverse order — Helsinki-Turku-Stockholm-Berlin-Lisbon-Bermuda-USA. The letter rates were 3.50 Fmk/20 gms surface charge and 8 Fmk/5 gms airmail surcharge (Fig. 5).

Although mail to Finland from the USA had been suspended in December 1941, some airmail from Finland to the USA continued through early 1942 and occasionally later. Since direct mail service to Finland was suspended, undercover addresses were developed as a means to communicate.

Clandestine addresses in neutral Sweden

With the suspension of USA airmail service to Finland, communications between the two countries became difficult and clandestine addresses developed. Since Sweden was a non-belligerent, and because it was located adjacent to Finland, it was a natural conduit for this type of mail to and from Finland, and other countries. ➤



Figure 2. Superior, Wis. Feb. 12, 1941 to Helsingfors, Finland with Bermuda resealing censor tape. 30¢ single weight rate.



Figure 3. New York Dec. 4, 1941 to Finland at 30¢ rate. Letter held at Bermuda by censor as service had been suspended. Returned to New York July 26, 1942.



Figure 4. Maynard, Mass. March 23, 1942 to Finland. 30¢ winged globe adhesive on letter censored in New York and "RETURNED TO SENDER" Sept. 14, 1942.

Airmail service to and from Sweden, via Lisbon and England, continued throughout the war. The Leuchars, Scotland to Stockholm portion was operated primarily by BOAC and was dangerous because of German fighters. The primary cargo on this route was ball bearings, which were vital to the Allies' war machine. Mail was a secondary cargo. Because of German fighters and anti-aircraft artillery, a fast, lightweight airplane, the DeHavilland "Mosquito," was used.

There are three well-known undercover addresses in Stockholm. They are the Swedish Red Cross, Centralgatan 71, and P.O. Box 1036 used by Thomas Cook and Sons. A recent accumulation of correspondence from a Finnish diplomat in the USA to Finland via Sweden provides an interesting perspective into other undercover addresses and their usage.

The letters are from Jorma Sihvola in Washington, D.C. and all except one are addressed to a Mr. J.G. Sihvola. Although this is the addressee, the contents of one letter states, "Dear family." This suggests the mail was to the Sihvola family in Finland.

Prewar mail from Finland to Jorma Sihvola at the Finnish legation in Washington, D.C. is shown in Figs. 7 and 8. They establish the individual's credentials as a Finnish diplomat and probably are ➤



Figure 5. Helsinki, May 1941 to Chicago with Bermuda "2010" censor resealing tape and Finnish circular censor marking "30." Rate 3.50 Fmk/20 gms surface charge, 8 Fmk airmail surcharge/5 gms = 11.50 Fmk.



Figure 6. Jamsa, Finland, Feb. 10, 1942 to NYC. Finnish censor mark and resealing tape, Bermuda resealing tape. Directional marking "PAR SERVICE AERIEN TRANS-ATLANTIQUE EUROPE-ETAT-UNIS," Lisbon back stamp Feb. 16, 1942. Rate 3.50 Fmk surface, 32 Fmk airmail surcharge 20 gm letter = 35.50 Fmk.



Figure 7. Lahti, Finland Sept. 24, 1940 censored letter via Stockholm to the Finnish legation, Washington, D.C. at 11.50 Fmk rate.

from a relative, Aino Sihvola, in Finland. Of interest is the fact that both were sent to "Legation of Finland" from Lathi, Finland with the Nov. 13, 1940 letter uncensored (Fig. 8) and the earlier Sept. 24 letter with Finnish resealing tape and circular censor (Fig.7). Why was one censored and not the other?

Correspondents in Finland have told me that J.G. Sihvola was a businessman in Lahti and Aino Sihvola was his wife. Jorma Sihvola was their son who reportedly had worked at the Finnish legation in Washington from the 1930s. ➤



Figure 8. Letter Lahti, Finland Nov. 13, 1940 uncensored via "Yankee Clipper" to Finnish legation, Washington, D.C. Rated 3.50 Fmk surface, 8.00 Fmk air surcharge = total 11.50 Fmk.



Figure 9. Washington, D.C. Jan. 29, 1942 to Finnish Legation, Stockholm. US censor NYC. Sent at 30¢ per 1/2 oz., airmail, 15¢ registration fee. Sweden did not censor incoming or outgoing mail.



Figure 10. Double rate 30¢ X2 airmail registered letter to Sweden April 9, 1942. Letter arrived June 19, 1942 in Stockholm and re-addressed to Storängen. Storängen arrival mark June 29, 1942. NYC censor.

The first letter of the wartime Sihvola correspondence was sent to the “Legation of Finland” Stockholm, January 29, 1942 (Fig. 9). A second letter went to Mrs. Aino Sihvola, Storängar, Sweden, and was re-addressed to Storangen, Sweden. (Fig. 10). The third letter, now addressed to “Engelstam” Nybergsgatan 8, Stockholm, was interrupted and held by censor until November 1946, when it was released and sent on to Stockholm, and re-addressed to Lahti, Finland arriving there November 8, 1946 (Fig. 11). The letter had contained a money order for 180 Fmk (Fig. 11a). The letter was marked “CONDEMNED” by the British authorities because it contained funds. Mail of this type was kept in Bermuda until March 24, 1944, when censorship operations in Bermuda stopped. The items were then transferred to England.



Figure 11. April 9, 1942 Washington D.C. registered. Censored by British in Bermuda, held and marked “CONDEMNED.” Wavy lines over condemned and “RELEASED” applied in England, 1946. Letter sent to Stockholm, with Feb. 4, 1946 receiving mark. Forwarded to Lahti, Finland with Feb. 8, 1946 receiving mark. Finnish censor seal over area where some stamps had been lost or removed.

Resolving a mystery address

The “Engelstam,” Nybergsgatan 8 address is of interest because it was used on a considerable amount of Sihvola correspondence. In May 2001, Paul Nelson of California and Paul Albright of Colorado, during their visits to Stockholm, visited the address independently and photographed the building (Fig. 12). The building in the Ostermalm section of Stockholm appears today to contain some offices and some apartments.

With the help of Staffan Karlsson of Jarfalla, Sweden, it was learned that from 1940 to 1945 a Knut Engelstam lived at this address. He was not attached to the Finnish embassy but appears to be a friend or relative who re-addressed the letters from the USA and sent them on to Finland as well as sending mail from Finland to the USA via Sweden. ➤



Figure 11a. Money order enclosed in Figure 11 correspondence.

Thus, the mystery of “Engelstam” has been solved.

A May 12, 1942 letter from Washington D.C. has Bermuda and USA censor resealing tapes. It was forwarded to Lahti, Finland (Fig. 13). The next is a letter dated May 4, 1943 and on arrival in Stockholm, again re-addressed to Lahti arriving June 24 (Fig. 14). An unregistered letter was sent from Washington, D.C. June 19, 1944 (Fig. 15). The final example was sent July 24, 1944 to the same undercover address, but was held by the USA Office of Censorship and not released until September 1945 (Fig. 16). The contents of this letter (translated from Finnish by Carita Parker) detailed the diplomat’s planning trip home to Finland. ►



Figure 12. Present day building at Nybergsgaten 8, Stockholm. (Photo by Paul Nelson.)



Figure 13. Washington, D.C. May 12, 1942 to “Engelstam” (the undercover address) re-addressed to Lahti, Finland. 30¢ airmail, 15¢ registration. NYC and Finnish censor resealing tape and Finnish censor seal “93.”



Figure 14. Double rate, 60¢ airmail letter Washington, D.C. May 4, 1943 to “ENGELSTAM,” re-addressed to Lahti, Finland. Finnish censor seal “75.” Lahti arrival backstamp June 24, 1943.



Figure 15. Single rate airmail letter June 19, 1944 Washington, D.C. via Lisbon-Stockholm to "ENGELSTAM." Re-addressed to Lahti, Finland where it arrived Aug. 5, 1944 from Stockholm.

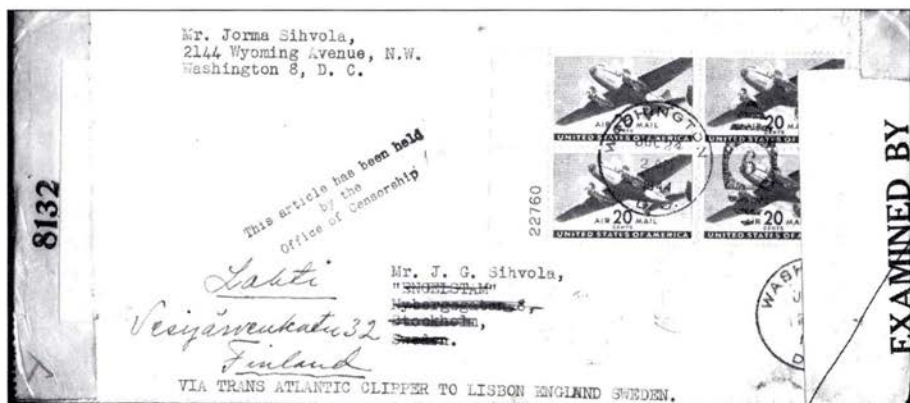


Figure 16. Double weight over franked letter to "ENGELSTAM" July 24, 1944, held by USA censors, and released September 1945. There are Stockholm Sept. 18 and Lahti Sept. 21, 1945 backstamps.

Dear family:

Haven't been able to write to you for a long time because I've been very busy packing. Lots of stuff has accumulated during more than 10 years. Although I've gotten some travel trunks along the way, still lots has to be packed in boxes. More than half of my belongings must be left behind, because Swedes are very particular about the space on their ship and refuse to accept all my things. Couldn't even bring my radio with me. I certainly have packed everything well in order for it to be sent off at the earliest opportunity. The departure date is still unknown, but most likely we'll depart around August 7. Right now looks like I'll fly to Lisbon and from there I'll try to get home. The travel plans, however, may change quite a bit.

I spoke with Olga and Lauri on the telephone the other day. They sent many greetings and were sorry that I couldn't come to spend my summer vacation with them. Couldn't even accept gifts from them because only 25 kg. of luggage is allowed on the plane. My belongings by boat consist mostly of my old clothes, shoes, underwear, that I have accumulated during 11 years. Among these are even clothes that I brought with me from ►

Finland 11 years ago. It would be great to see you both ashore or at the Stockholm airport. Surely, you'll still recognize me. If my journey takes place by way of Southern Europe, I'll get a great chance to brush up on my Portuguese and Spanish.

You may write to me at the embassy in Lisbon if you receive this letter on time. Most likely the next stop will be the Madrid embassy. It certainly would be good to receive a letter from you somewhere along the route. There's been nothing else to do now but to help arrange the office. Sweden will be in charge of our affairs here during the war. It's best to stop and say: "See you Soon." Say Hello to the neighbors that soon we'll meet.

July 23, 1944

J.G. Sihvola

Jorma Sihvola did eventually arrive home in Finland, as documented by a Christmas card sent from Washington, D.C. Dec. 16, 1945 to "Mr. Jorma Sihvola, Vesijarvenk 32, Lahti, Finland" (Fig. 17).

Wartime Mail to the USA

Wartime mail could be sent in the other direction — from Finland to the USA. One conduit was via the Finnish consulate in Stockholm. The mail was sent in a large envelope to Sweden, where a smaller envelope was removed and stamped with Swedish adhesives. There, it entered the mail for a second time and was sent on to the USA (Fig. 18). Two examples from the Sihvola correspondence from Finland to the USA during the wartime period are noted. One letter was sent from "J.G. Sihvola" dated October 22, 1943 directly from Lahti, Finland via Lisbon and Bermuda to Washington, D.C. It is the latest example of direct Finnish–USA airmail route not using a drop address (Fig. 19). The second letter from Lahti, Finland was sent to Stockholm, where it was re-mailed and sent on via England to the USA (Fig. 20).

Direct Mail service to the USA was re-established on March 15, 1945 through Stockholm. This mail was ➤



Figure 17. Single weight letter from Washington, D.C. at 30¢ rate to Jorma Sihvola, Lahti, Finland, in December 1945. Mail was no longer censored at this time, and direct mail route existed between Stockholm and the USA.



Figure 18. Letter from "WALD. TEFKE, Helsinki," re-addressed by Finnish consulate in Sweden to the USA with Swedish adhesives. Rate 30 öre/20 gms surface, 65 öre airmail surcharge/5 gms. = 95 öre to USA via England. USA censor resealing tape NYC.

still censored by the USA (Fig. 21, on page 12). By June 1945 Finnish mail could connect through Sweden for direct transatlantic flights (Fig. 22), but it was another two years before there was a direct flight from Helsinki to New York (Fig. 23).

This article chronicles several ingenious methods used to circumvent wartime postal restrictions, and it records several "undercover or drop addresses." Perhaps most significant, the article demonstrates the use of private individuals and their addresses as a conduit for communication during those difficult times. The author would be interested in any other examples of this type of correspondence during the 1942-1945 period. ■



Roger Schnell, a neurosurgeon, is former president of SCC and the American Philatelic

Congress and currently a vice president of the American Philatelic Society. He is an international judge in postal history, traditional philately, and postal stationery with a number of award-winning exhibits of Scandinavian material and other areas of the world. In 1997, he received the Pelander award for outstanding work in furthering the aims of the SCC.

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Figure 19. Lahti, Finland October 22, 1943 to Washington, D.C. with Lisbon Nov. 3, 1943 transit marking. Finnish "202," Bermuda "4226," and New York "6623" censor markings. Rate surface 4.50 Fmk /20 gms, airmail surcharge 4 Fmk /5 gms = 18.50 Fmk.



Figure 20. Letter from Lahti, Finland sent to Stockholm, where a third party re-enveloped the letter and sent it on to the USA via England. NYC censor. Postmarked Feb. 25, 1944 in Stockholm. Rate 30 öre/20 gms surface, 75 öre/5 gms airmail surcharge = 1 Kr. 5 öre.



Figure 21. Helsinki May 29, 1945 to Chicago, Illinois with USA censor resealing tape. Finnish censor no longer necessary. Rate surface 4.50 Fmk/20 gms, airmail surcharge 9 Fmk/5 gms = 13.50 Fmk.

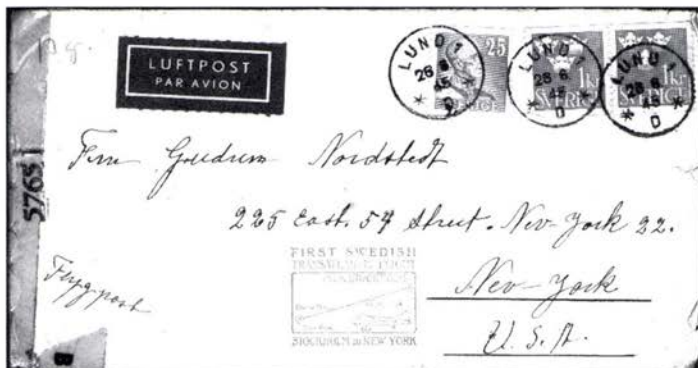


Figure 22. First postwar Swedish transatlantic flight, Stockholm to New York, June 26, 1945. U.S. censor tape.



Figure 23. Registered "First Flight From Helsinki to New York," cover, June 21, 1947. Arrival stamped in Akron, Ohio on June 28, 1947.

WW2 Swedish Humanitarian Aid

by Stefan Danielski

The first time I heard about the Swedish World War II humanitarian efforts – bringing the Nazi's concentration camp prisoners into Sweden – was from my aunt in Lund, Sweden. As a Swedish Red Cross volunteer, she had worked as a translator. For years I had been looking for mail from the prisoners who were brought to Sweden, and some time ago I stumbled on an item related to this unusual and now forgotten aid.

Near the end of the war, in March 1945, the Swedish diplomat Folke Bernadotte arranged with Heinrich Himmler of the SS and Joachim Ribbentrop, the German foreign affairs minister, for a release of Scandinavian prisoners held in the Nazi concentration camps. The Germans were willing to co-operate hoping that Sweden would help them to contact Allied command to start talks about a separate cease-fire negotiation.

The first prisoners, mostly Scandinavian citizens, were brought out at the end of March, initially from concentration camps in Revensbrück, Mannhoff, Oranienburg, Neugamme, Brandenburg, Grüneberg, Stutthof, Kiel, Osnabrück, Dora, and Hamburg. They were transported in Swedish Red Cross buses, which were painted white. Quick advances of Allied forces and further Swedish successful negotiations with the Nazis extended help to prisoners of other nationalities.

Rail and sea transports were used to bring in a number of freed prisoners. Many women prisoners arrived in Malmö by train via Copenhagen. Swedish Red Cross chartered two Swedish ships "Lillie Matthiessen" and "Magdalena" to bring prisoners to Trelleborg or Malmö directly from Lubeck. In addition, the German ship, "Holmberg," was used to bring prisoners to the Swedish ports.

The Bernadotte arrangement overshadowed an earlier agreement signed between Himmler and Norbert Masur, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, to evacuate Polish Jews from Germany. In addition, the Swedish government agreed to an earlier request by the Polish government-in-exile, operating from London, to bring 25,000 Polish children with their mothers from German concentration camps to Sweden.

Before the war ended, 20,000 concentration camp prisoners, mostly women and children, were evacuated from Germany. After the war, the evacuation was continued with prisoners transported to Sweden by the United Nations' Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). (Editor's Note: By 1947, UN officials were reporting that 40,800 refugees or displaced persons in Sweden were entitled to protection and assistance.)

The newly arrived refugees were held for two weeks in 17 quarantine camps or in hospitals if necessary. They were relocated to a number of refugee camps in southern and central Sweden, recuperating and waiting for repatriation to a country of origin. By August 1945, there were 50 refugee camps in Sweden.

Nationality of rescued prisoners:					
Swedish	168	German	1,131	Hungarian	unknown
Danish	2,629	French	760	Czechs	unknown
Norwegian	2,262	Polish	13,800	Romanian	unknown

The Polish citizens were the largest group among the liberated prisoners. Within this group, an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 were Polish Jews. Some 7,200 prisoners, mostly women and children, arrived in transports arranged by Count Bernadotte. Another ►

5,300 Polish prisoners, mostly from Belsen-Bergen concentration camp, arrived in UNRRA transports shortly after the end of war, and 1,300 were allowed to enter Sweden after the war on humanitarian grounds to join members of the family already living in Sweden. The Poles were held in more than 30 Polish-only refugee camps. The biggest Polish camp for women was located in Doverstorp, Östergötland province, where 1,500 were held. The biggest Polish camp for men was in Öreryd in Småland province.



The postcard was sent by a woman, a former Nazi concentration camp prisoner, from the Polish Refugee Camp (Polska Flyktlingsläger) in Sunkhults brunn, Jönköpings province. This small camp could host only about 120 refugees. From the content, it is obvious that refugees were allowed to send mail with full postage probably paid by Swedish authorities or the Polish Welfare Organization, a social organization active in Sweden during WWII. The sad tone of the message reflects the horror of the war, the lack of information about her family left in Poland, and a long wait for repatriation. The message to the woman's sister in Poland reflects the pain and anguish of a newly liberated prisoner with a strong desire to be reunited with her family. The card was cancelled August 15, 1945 and checked by Polish Military censor #1949.

Repatriation of Poles began in October 1945 with two Swedish ships, "Kastelholm" and "Kronprinsessan Ingrid," taking refugees to Gdynia in Poland. By May 1946, when the trips ended, some 5,200 Polish refugees had returned to Poland. The remainder decided to stay due to deteriorating political conditions in Poland. ■

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NORGE or NOREG?

by Geir Sør-Reime

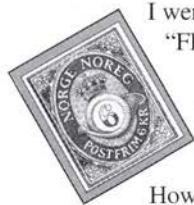
Norwegian stamps, with the exception of the first stamp and the official issues, have been inscribed “NORGE” or “NOREG.” The official stamps never featured any country name, only the national arms (or the party emblem of the Quisling party during World War II). Norway’s first stamp, issued in 1855, displayed the national arms and was simply inscribed “FRIMÆRKE,” meaning “POSTAGE STAMP,” and the value (4 skillings).



By the following year, four stamps featuring a portrait of the King, Oscar I were issued showing the country’s name as “NORGE” and the “FRIMÆRKE” inscription repeated twice.

All subsequent Norwegian stamps until 1951 bore “NORGE” as the country’s name. Then, in January 1951, there appeared a set of three stamps showing the country’s name as “NOREG.” The stamps were issued to commemorate the birth centenary of author Arne Garborg.

How these stamps came about and subsequent events is an interesting story.



Background

Norway had been united to Denmark for almost 500 years, but it was united with Sweden in 1814. During the centuries of Danish rule, the written Old Norwegian language had fallen into disuse, and Danish had become the language of the officials, the town dwellers, and of the church. When united with Sweden, Danish was retained as the Norwegian language, and Norwegian authors, writing in Danish, published their books in Copenhagen. This includes such well-known authors as Henrik Ibsen and Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson.



Linked with efforts to create a separate Norwegian identity during the Swedish period, attempts were made to create a distinct, modern Norwegian language. These attempts had two directions. One faction advocated a moderate “Norwegianization” of the Danish language; the other faction favored a more radical approach, basing its language on the dialects spoken by farmers and others in the rural areas. In these areas, the legacy of the Old Norse was still very much alive. Ivar Aasen was the prime advocate for the latter faction, and he is considered the father of this “New Norwegian” (Nynorsk) language.



The more moderate approach favored by the authorities was to use Danish as a base and to add Norwegian words and to reform the writing of several words based on Norwegian pronunciation. It was this “National Language” (Bokmål) that was adopted as the official one. In this version of Norwegian, the country’s name is written as “NORGE.”

In New Norwegian, the official spelling now is “NOREG,” although originally “NORGE” and “NORRIG” were the preferred versions. The “NOREG” spelling probably was selected partly to be distinctive from “NORGE” and thereby signal a language difference.

After a long struggle, New Norwegian was acknowledged as a second official Norwegian language in 1885. Between 1910 and 1940, a large number of schools shifted to New Norwegian as the primary language. Today, all schoolchildren must learn both versions. Currently, ➤





about 16 percent of the population use New Norwegian as their first language.

An organization called “Norsk Måldyrkingslag,” which advocated more conservative New Norwegian than the official version, issued a number of stamp-like labels in the 1950s and 1960s to promote more stamps with the “NOREG” designation.

Arne Garborg was one of the first Norwegian authors to use the New Norwegian, and, therefore, it is no surprise that stamps honoring him were the first to be inscribed “NOREG” in 1951 (Scott Norway #318-20).



Further NOREG stamps

It was not until August 1963 that further stamps were issued with the “NOREG” inscription (#439-40). These honored Ivar Aasen, a philologist and the founder of the New Norwegian language, on the 150th anniversary of his birth. Aasen himself, however, preferred “NORGE” or “NORRIG.”



The following year, two further stamps inscribed “NOREG” were issued, this time marking the centenary of the Norwegian adult colleges, so-called Folk High Schools (#459-60). Interestingly, these were originally designed with a “NORGE” inscription, as can be seen from essays by designer Knut Løkke-Sørensen, published in the *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* some years ago.

In 1968, two stamps for the 150th birth anniversary of another author using New Norwegian, Aasmund Olavsson Vinje, was celebrated with two stamps inscribed “NOREG” (#515-16). His portrait also appears on the first-ever Norwegian banknote with New Norwegian inscription. In fact, the same portrait is used on the stamps and the banknote, but the stamp features a mirror image of the correct version on the banknote.



The first “NOREG” stamp issue with no apparent direct connection to the New Norwegian language movement was a set of three stamps issued in 1977 featuring Norwegian trees (#695-97). The same year, a pair of stamps featuring Norwegian fisheries also had the “NOREG” inscription (#702-03).

In 1978, the New Norwegian Language Movement succeeded in its efforts to have ordinary stamps also available with “NOREG” inscriptions. In October 1978, a set of four stamps featuring Norwegian folk instruments was issued as an alternative definitive series (#734-37).



The Post promised further commemoratives inscribed “NOREG.” In 1981, two stamps dedicated to Norwegian milk producing farmers (#779-80) and the Europa stamps of that year (#781-82) were inscribed “NOREG.”

In 1982, the stamp pair supporting the fight against tuberculosis (#802-03) and two stamps of the sixth set of the Norwegian paintings series (#807-08) were inscribed “NOREG.” An additional value of the New Norwegian definitive series on musical instruments was added (#804). Also in 1982, a single stamp honoring Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize winner Fridtjof Nansen was inscribed “NOREG” (#814).

In 1983, three stamps featuring dogs (#816-18) and two stamps featuring traditional boats (#829-30) displayed “NOREG.” Two organizations, for beekeepers and poultry farmers, were honored in 1984 with “NOREG” stamps (#845-46).

It is strange that the two stamps issued in 1985 showing mountains in Queen Maud Land in Antarctica (#855-56) had the ➤

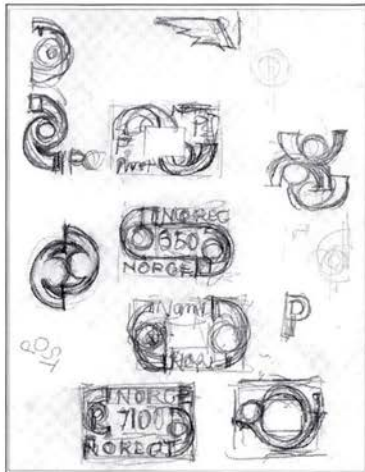


“NORGE” inscription, as it is official Norwegian policy that all place names in the Norwegian claim sector of Antarctica shall be in New Norwegian. The same year, a pair of stamps for the International Year of Youth carried the “NOREG” designation (#863-64).

Dual Inscription Stamps

A policy change occurred in 1983, when the first stamps with dual inscriptions “NORGE/NOREG” were issued. Instead of having separate definitive issues for the two languages, the post office decided to inscribe the last two of the 1977-83 buildings definitives (#721, 724) in both languages. Two definitives with ornamental designs and dual inscriptions appeared 1986 (#875, 883), with two further stamps being added in 1987 (#876, 878).

In 1988, a new definitive series featuring Norwegian animals was launched with two stamps inscribed “NORGE NOREG” (#879, 882). Three further values were added in 1989 (#877, 880, 883A), and two further values in 1990 (#881, 883B). In 1991, two more values were added. Two 1987 stamps featuring large numeral designs also featured a dual inscription (#903-04).



Definitive stamps issued in booklets with this dual inscription first appeared 1990 with the first two orchids stamps (#970-71). These were followed by booklets of Christmas stamps, more orchids, butterfly pairs, and booklets of berries. The most recent booklets with the “NORGE NOREG” designation were two sets of insect stamps issued in 1997 and 1998.

In 1991, a new bicolor set of posthorn stamps was issued. Original plans were for a dual inscription, and dies with “NORGE NOREG” were engraved. Proofs of these exist. But for some unexplained reason, the post office decided to issue them with the “NORGE” inscription only.

Commemoratives with NOREG

Commemorative stamps inscribed “NOREG” continued to be issued. In 1986, the two Nordic cooperation stamps (#894-95) and two stamps of the set of four personalities stamps (#896, 898) were so inscribed.

In 1987, the two stamps honoring composer Fartein Valen on his birth centenary were inscribed “NOREG” (#913-14), as were three stamps featuring traditional Norwegian horse breeds (#917-19). “NOREG” also appeared on the 1988, 1989, 1991, and 1992 Europa stamps, one of the two 1989 stamps featuring Norwegian manors (Rosendal Barony, #931), the 1991 and 1992 Europa stamps, the four stamps of the 1991 Stamp Day souvenir sheet, the 1992 Stamp Day souvenir sheet, the 1993 sports pair, the 1993 set for the workers’ protection acts, the four stamps of the 1993 Stamp Day souvenir sheet, and the 1994 Stamp Day souvenir sheet. In 1995, two stamps celebrating the millennium of the Norwegian Church were inscribed “NOREG,” as were two stamps for the 200th anniversary of the Conciliation Boards. Two stamps featuring children’s paintings and issued for the centennial of the Olympic Games and two stamps depicting railways were issued in 1996 with the inscription “NOREG.” ►

The three 1997 tourist stamps, issued in booklets, were inscribed "NOREG," as was a single stamp issued the same year for the birth centenary of Tarjei Vesaas, one of the most prominent modern Norwegian authors writing in New Norwegian. Later in 1997, two stamps for the 350th birth anniversary of poet Petter Dass also bore this inscription, although Dass of course never used New Norwegian.

In 1998, the Nordic co-operation pair and the two stamps featuring Norwegian minerals were "NOREG" issues. In 1999, new self-adhesive definitives issued in booklets and featuring Norwegian fishes were issued with "NOREG." Two similar stamps, issued in 2000, were also inscribed "NOREG."

In 1999, the Valentine's Day single was a "NOREG" issue, as was the pair showing children's games, and the 2000 Christmas stamps. In 2001, a pair honoring Norwegian architecture is the only issue with the "NOREG" designation.

Postal Stationery and Permits

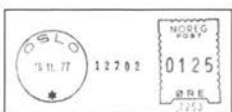
Until 1983, all postal stationery items were inscribed "NORGE," but in 1983, lettercards, postal cards, and aerogrammes with dual "NORGE NOREG" inscriptions were issued. Today, only domestic postal cards are on sale, and they still feature the stamp imprint first introduced in 1983. Postal stationery printed to private order could, in principle, be imprinted with any current stamp, and therefore, there are several such items with stamps inscribed either "NOREG" or "NORGE NOREG."



The third (1986) version of the Norwegian PMC stamps, so-called FRAMA stamps, were issued with the bilingual "NORGE/NOREG" inscription, whereas the first two issues bore the inscription "NORGE" only. The FRAMA stamps went into disuse in 1997, but a new type, GENIMATE was introduced in 1999. The current design is, however, inscribed with the company name, "POSTEN NORGE" instead of a country name.

In this connection, it is noted that the Postogram pre-stamped envelope first issued 1982 had the country name in French (NORVÈGE) only.

Curiously, the New Norwegian Language Movement (until I inquired with them in the early 1980s) used a postage meter with the stamp inscribed "NORGE." They then replaced it with one inscribed "NOREG." Any postage meter licensee may request the stamp die to be inscribed in either language.



The language dualism is also evident in postage permit imprints. Here, there are two different types: one used for First Class mail and one for Third Class mail. The first type displays the postal logo in the center of a rectangular frame and with an inscription denoting postage paid. Initially, these were inscribed "NORGE" beneath the logo; later a few came with a "NOREG" inscription, but currently, the design is the bilingual NORGE/NOREG."

For Third Class mail, the design for a long time featured a postal logo and the country name only. Except for a very few instances, almost all of these are inscribed "NORGE." Currently, mailers can have their own designed mail imprint on Third Class mail.

Dual Language on Coins and Notes

The struggle by the New Norwegian Language Movement for equality is reflected on Norwegian banknotes. The Norwegian Bank's official name is "NORGES BANK" (National Language) or "NOREGS BANK" (New Norwegian). After years of struggle, the first banknote, a 50 Kroner note, was issued in 1984 with "NOREGS BANK" instead of "NORGES BANK." ➤





Many people were furious about this and refused to accept 50 Kroner notes!
As noted above, the notes featured a portrait of author and journalist Aasmund Olavson Vinje, a keen advocate of New Norwegian



Today, all notes are inscribed with both versions, on alternate sides. On some notes, the "NORGES BANK" is on the front, on others the reverse, and vice versa for "NOREGS BANK." The first such issue was the current 200 Kroner note, first issued 1994, followed by the current 100 Kroner note in 1995, a new 50 Kroner note in 1996, and new 500 Kroner and 1,000 Kroner notes with dual inscription.

The struggle for New Norwegian inscriptions on coins was over in 1996 when the current 50 øre coin was released with a NOREG inscription. It was followed in 1998 by the current 5 Kroner coin, which is inscribed KONGERIKET NOREG (Kingdom of Norway). The other current coins are all inscribed NORGE (1 Krone, 10 Kroner and 20 Kroner). ■



Geir Sør-Reime of Stavanger, Norway has been a philatelic writer for 20 years. He is a regular contributor to U.S., English, and German philatelic publications. He edits publications on Norwegian revenues and parcel stamps. He is a former curator of Stavanger's archaeology

museum, serves on the Rogaland County Council, and is a senior advisory officer on international culture cooperation. The photo shows Sør-Reime on a recent Belgian "picture stamp."

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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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Denmark Cancels Revenues on Wine

by Claus Rafner and Paul Nelson

Denmark is phasing out the use of taxpaid stamps for wines, meaning one less collectible for philatelists to chase.

Effective October 1, 2001 the use of "banderoles" for wine products was ended at the request of the Danish Trade Association of Wine and Spirits (Vin og Spiritus Organisationen i Danmark) in order to ease the administrative burdens of the wine companies and wine traders. Duties on wine will continue and wine containers already having the revenue stamps before October will remain on the market. The use of banderoles for the more heavily taxed alcoholic spirits will continue as usual.

Most of the wine stamps are small, circular paper discs that sit atop the wine bottle seal over the cork. For spirits, the banderoles often are longer, and go over the bottle top as U.S. taxpaid did some years ago.

Figure 1 shows a wine banderole introduced in January 1999. It is for a three-fourths liter bottle of tax class 2, with sulfites as a preservative. The eight-digit number identifies the importer or wholesaler of the wine. These yellow taxpaid stamps were designed to be more forgery-proof, with microprinting, watermarked paper, and other security features.

Round wafers of the earlier type (Figure 2) were valid until January 1, 2000 when the new banderoles were to be used exclusively. Nevertheless, stocks of wines with the old wafers were seen in the shops for some time during 2000.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

There are three tax classes for wine under the present regulations. Class 1 is wine with more than 1.2% alcohol but not more than 6% alcohol; Class 2 is with more than 6% but not more than 15% alcohol; and Class 3 is with more than 15% but not more than 22% alcohol. Class 2 includes the more popular table wines.

In addition to spirits, Danish tax stamps are applied to many tobacco products including cigarettes and smoking tobacco. Cigars and smokeless tobacco are not included in these regulations.

An article (in Danish) by Claus Rafner in *Zise* (Vol. 23, No. 1, 2000), a journal on Danish customs and tax history, reviews Danish taxpaid stamps for tobacco, wine, spirits, playing cards, phonograph records, environmentally hazardous chemicals for home use, and price control stamps for perfume cosmetics. A bibliography includes some of the various laws and regulations that caused some of these stamps to be issued and to be withdrawn. ■

(Editor's Note: See a review of Rafner's 1998 *Handbook and Catalog of Danish Tobacco and Alcohol Tax Stamps* on Page 48.)

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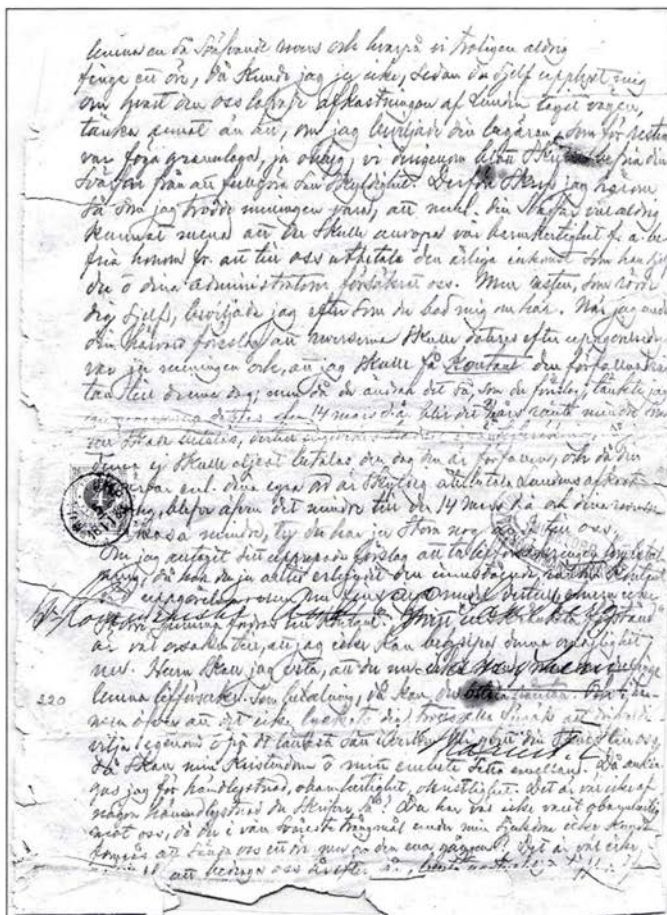
by James Burgeson

Here is an item that illustrates the bizarre stuff that stamp collectors run across. This originally was a cover envelope for printed matter. It was sent originally with a Sweden 4 Öre perf 13 ring stamp (Facit 29), which is still in place. It was cancelled November 5, 1883 in Munktorp and addressed to Sandhem, both in Sweden.

After doing its job as a cover for printed matter and in poor condition, someone decided to use it again as stationery for a letter. I assume that on the second use, it was enclosed in an envelope, but I do not have the envelope. The writing of the letter goes right over the original address and stamp without hesitation. I have seen "turned covers" before, but never this!

Was the writer poverty-stricken? Was he or she in a remote area where writing paper was unavailable? Perhaps in a combat zone?

My next step is to obtain a translation of the message to see if it sheds some light on how and why such a thing occurred. ■



Member Ad:

WANTED: Seeking covers from the Danish towns of Aalborg, Odense, and Aarhus up to and including 1900. Please contact with items you have to offer and pricing. Michael T. Smith (SCC #3732), 3059 Edgewood Park Court, Commerce MI 48382 (USA).

Imitation Norwegian Postmarks for Tourists

by Frederick A. Brofos

Collectors of old postcards showing scenes from Norway may have run across some with a Norwegian 1-øre stamp affixed to the view side and cancelled with an imitation postmark of the town or region pictured.

This innovation, which was probably frowned upon by the postal authorities and perhaps ordered to cease, was obviously done to

please and accommodate tourists who wanted a postmarked souvenir card immediately. It is conceivable that they didn't want to waste valuable time going to some distant post office and pay full postage on a bunch of picture cards that were not being mailed anyway.

I have myself noted the following cards, but I imagine others exist also. I have included the dates seen: Odde (Hardanger) 9-I-04 (Fig. 1), Sandefjord 4-II-04 (Fig.2), and Ulleberg 1904 (not pictured).



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

The curious bogus postmarks all have an open cross at the bottom (instead of the usual star) and are from rubber stamps usually applied in gray, black, or dull violet. All cards seen were unaddressed. Whether they were on sale at hotels or in kiosks at various popular tourist places or maybe available only from one distributor has not yet been determined. ■

DWI Bibliography Now Available

A *Bibliography of the Danish West Indies* containing more than 700 entries is now available. Paul Wijnants of Belgium compiled the bibliography during the past 20 years. The 88-page hardcover book contains references to more than 700 articles, books, and important auction catalogues all relating to DWI/HAPAG/La Guaira. The bibliography is organized by author and cross-indexed by subject.

The limited edition printing is available for \$37, including shipping. Contact the author at Saffraanberg 11, B-3130 Begijnendijk, Belgium; email pin23275@planetinternet.be; telephone 0032 496 02 61 50. ■

Commentary

Norwegian Ship Wrecks First Day Covers

by Alan Warren

In the August 2001 issue of *The Posthorn* (pp. 13-14), Frederick A. Brofos describes the three semipostals issued by Norway on May 20, 1944 to help support survivors of steamships that were casualties of World War II. As Brofos points out, the issue had a political undertone as well.

The author also comments, "Only an occasional First Day

Cover may be seen today." As one who has sought Scandinavian FDCs of this period for a number of years, I have located half a dozen or so covers for this issue that hold particular interest. Since most FDCs were cancelled in Oslo on the day of issue, covers that were cancelled in other towns are always of interest.

Among cancels located beyond Oslo that I have found on FDCs of the ship wrecks issue are Nordstrand, Molde, Fredrikstad, and Mæl. The covers all seem to be sent by individual collectors with a complete set of stamps and are thus overfranked. A couple of them are registered but even at the inland rate of 20-øre plus the registry fee of 20-øre, the 45-øre franking of the entire set exceeds the correct rate.

None of the covers has a cachet. Figure 1 is one of the more interesting FDCs that was sent to Denmark. It bears the corner card of stamp dealer Gunnar M. Nielsen of Oslo with the caption that he buys and sells choice items and new issues. Since it was registered, it was posted from the Banko office of Oslo, and since it went out of the country it received a cursory censor examination. This is revealed with the circled Ao handstamp in purple applied by the censor office in Oslo (Auslandsbriefprüfstelle Oslo).

Despite the fact that the cover was sealed and contained a letter, there is no evidence of its having been opened for inspection and resealed with the paper tape in use at the time. The simple Ao handstamp was normally applied to outbound FDCs to other Scandinavian countries with the appearance of innocence, although such treatment was often reserved for unsealed FDCs that obviously had no suspicious content.

The enclosed letter, which is backstamped Esbjerg May 24, is not from Nielsen the stamp dealer, but rather is typewritten on the letterhead of Gunnar M. Grönvold, a shipbroker in Oslo. It is a friendly and newsy letter to the addressee in which the sender promises to get him some cigarettes - a difficult task for a desirable commodity at the time. The recipient, a "prokurist" (authorized agent), may also have been in the shipping industry.

(Editor's Note: Tom Bergendahl of Delaware submitted a similar registered FDC from Oslo to Aarhus, Denmark.) ➤



Figure 1.

More on Ship Wrecks

by Tom Bergendahl

Here is some more information to enlighten readers of Frederick Brofos' article.

According to some exhibit material that I obtained in an auction in England some years ago, there were 806 Norwegian merchant ships during the war. Of those, 432 ships and 3,196 seamen were lost.

The "Barøy," shown in Figure 2 and on the 10+10-øre stamp, was owned by the Ofotens Steamship Co. Ninety passengers and 18 crew members were lost when it went down.

The Bergen S.S. Co. operated the "Irma," which is shown on the 20+10-øre stamp. Twenty-five passengers and crew were lost on the "Irma."

The "Sanct Svithum," shown on the 15+10-øre stamp, was owned by the Stavanger S. S. Co. ■



Figure 2.

Greenland Pakke-Porto Wanted

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Postal Flags on Iceland and Norwegian Ships

The privatization of Iceland's postal service at the beginning of 1998 meant that the official Icelandic flag, or "split flag" as it is known, was not to be flown on ferry ships. When the State Steamship Company was sold and privatized, it handed in all official flags with their Post logos - with one exception.

The "S/S Baldur" retained its flag because it was still carrying mail over the Breiðafjörður. The "Baldur" became the last ship to fly the flag. Sigurður Thorsteinsson photographed the ship with the flag flying (Fig. 1) during one of his trips as an official of Lions International in Iceland.



Figure 1.

"This flag was given to us to use when the State Steamship Company ceased to exist," the captain told Thorsteinsson. "We have flown it proudly ever since and will until the next New Year. Then the official Post will also cease to exist."

In May 2001, Posthorn Editor Paul Albright photographed a flag with a "Post" insignia flying from the stern of the Norwegian coastal ship "M/S Midnatsol" between Trondheim and Bergen (Fig. 2). When questioned, a ship's purser said the Hurtigruten coastal ships continued to fly the Post insignia flags although there are no postal operations on board.



Figure 2.

There are mail drop boxes on Hurtigruten ships with souvenir hand cancels available upon request (Fig. 3), but the mail is off-loaded at various ports of call for official cancellation and transportation by Norway Post.



Figure 3.

– Sigurður Thorsteinsson and Paul Albright

SCC Calendar			
	Annual	Regional*	Nordic
2002	Philatelic Show May 3-5 Boxborough MA		NORDIA 2002* Oct 10-13 Kristiansand, Norway
2003	Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20 Minneapolis MN		NORDIA 2003* Iceland
* SCC Regional meetings will be planned in conjunction with NORDIA 2002 and 2003.			

The Finnish Study Group

by Roger Quinby

The specialist study groups are one of the many unsurpassed benefits of SCC membership. The study groups bring together focused collectors who often engage in exchanges of esoteric details or speculations that may not be of interest to our general collectors. Nevertheless, general collectors will find the specialty study groups repositories of information that will enhance collecting any area of Nordic philately.



The Finnish Philatelist



Bob Lang, our former Executive Secretary who exhibits Clipper Mail to and from Finland, suggested that the SCC Finland area collectors form a study group to exchange information, research, and translations.

Bob followed up by arranging the first meeting of the Finnish Study Group (FSG) at the 1995 annual convention held at ROMPEX in Denver. About 25 members assembled for the first meeting and the group was organized.

Today, the FSG members stay in touch with each other through *The Finnish Philatelist*, a quarterly newsletter edited and published by Roger Quinby. The newsletter has offered translations of a number of important articles not previously available in English. This has been our primary objective - to open the world of Finnish philately to those who find the language a significant barrier.

Some of the subjects covered included: The first in-depth treatment of Aunus, North Ingermanland, and Karelia; Juhani Olamo's World War I postal censorship, 1901-1917; postal cards from the *Finnish Handbook*; Juhani Pietliä's classic postal card series; the m/1930 lion definitive issues; Finnish-Americas Mail: 1939-1945; and Heikki Reinikainen's carefully researched series on the m/75 issues.

Jorma Keturi of Finland, Dirk Vorwerck of Germany, and Morten Naarstad of Norway have written about important new discovery items. In the current issue (November 2001), John MacDonnell of Australia has contributed a major article on collecting Finnish railway mail. The second part of Heikki Pahlman's exhibit of pre-philatelic Finland is also presented. These articles are based on his NORDIA 2001 Grand Prix collection.

Today, there are about 100 subscribers to *The Finnish Philatelist*, about 60 percent of them residing abroad. Members represent a cross-section of countries from around the globe including Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Germany, Finland, France, Israel, and Pakistan.

If you would like a trial copy, please send \$1 to cover postage. Subscriptions are free to members of the SCC, but a \$5 contribution is requested to cover printing and mailing costs. Send to Roger Quinby, P. O. Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065-0738.

Collecting Finland has never been more fun. ➤

A Jacobsen Wins the Jacobsen

SCC's Earl Grant Jacobsen Award for 2001 was presented to author Ole Steen Jacobsen at HAFNIA 01 in Copenhagen. He was honored for his 1999 book, *Bogen om danske breve 1800-1851*, (Handbook of Danish Covers, 1800-1851). The award included a plaque and a piece of artistic glass.

This is the third in a series of important postal history books on Danish mails by Jacobsen. His 1999 book deals with prestamp mail, including postal rates, the handling of mail during this period, definitions of terms, and the postal service's rules that affected the mail. The book is lavishly illustrated with many examples of covers in color.

The committee that recommended this year's winner consisted of John L. DuBois, SCC vice president; Charles J. Peterson, international philatelic literature judge and former chairman of the FIP literature commission; and Alan Warren, SCC literature promotion chairman.

"It is a total coincidence that the name of the award and the name of the recipient are the same," said DuBois.

The Jacobsen award was created in 1975 as a memorial to Earl Grant Jacobsen, a past president of SCC and a noted student of Norwegian and Scandinavian philately. The award is given in recognition of outstanding philatelic research that further advances Scandinavian philately. The award was last presented in 1996.

— Alan Warren and John DuBois

SCC Honors Denmark's Knud Mohr

SCC's leading award for service to the club was presented to FIP President Knud Mohr during ceremonies at HAFNIA 01 in Copenhagen.

The award was created in 1968 in memory of Carl E. Pelander, one of SCC's founding members. The award is presented for outstanding work in furthering the aims of the club. Mohr is the second Scandinavian to win the award recently. Paul H. Jensen of Norway was honored earlier this year during NORDIA 2001. The other 14 winners have been Americans.



The award was presented because Mohr was instrumental in helping to connect SCC to the Nordic Federation of collecting organizations and in SCC's participation in the European NORDIA shows. He was a prime mover in bringing NORDIA 2001 to Arizona in January.

Mohr announced at NORDIA that a Danish chapter of SCC would be established. In the ensuing months, he enlisted enough members to form a chapter with joint membership in the Copenhagen Philatelist Club (KPK). Formation of the new Denmark SCC Chapter in Denmark was announced at HAFNIA 01.

Mohr has presided over FIP (International Federation of Philately) since 1998 following six years as vice president. He held leading assignments in the HAFNIA international exhibitions in 1976, 1987, and 1994, and has been active in the Nordic Federation of collecting organizations. He was given an honorary life membership in SCC in January.

— John DuBois and Roger Quinby

DuBois Is SCC's New President

Leadership change is coming to SCC. **Roger Quinby**, SCC's President since 1997, announced he would step down in November. In an email vote, the Board of Directors selected Vice President **John DuBois** to complete Quinby's term. **Howard Schloss** is resigning after almost seven years as SCC's Treasurer. Schloss said he would remain as treasurer until his successor is selected. DuBois said interviews are being conducted for a new treasurer.



John DuBois

DuBois, who operates a technology company in Massachusetts, joined SCC's Board in 1998 and became Vice President last year. He has been active in local and regional clubs, including being president and webmaster for the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs and president of SCC's Chapter 5 in New England.

He collects and exhibits DWI stamps and postal history and now leads the DWI study group and edits the DWI newsletter. He has published various papers and articles on DWI philately and organized the postal history symposium at NORDIA 2001. DuBois also oversees the development of SCC's Website.

Because of a schedule overlap with NORDIA 2002, the Board decided to shift SCC's National Meeting from Fall to Spring next year. DuBois announced that Philatelic Show 2002 (Boxborough) will host the SCC meeting May 3-5 at the Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough MA 01719. The sponsor is the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs. Philatelic Show is reserving 100 frames for SCC exhibitors, DuBois said. The prospectus is available from Guy R. Dillaway, P.O. Box 181, Weston, MA 02493 or on the Web: <http://nefed.org/Show02/prospectus02.html>. There will be Directors' and Annual Membership meetings on May 4. Chapter 5 will host a dinner on May 3 for SCC members and friends

In other recent SCC news:

- The Board of Directors acknowledged the outstanding efforts of **George Kuhhorn** of North Carolina who conducted a membership drive that netted almost 100 new members during 2001.
- **James Burgeson** of California has been appointed as SCC's new Exhibition Chairman.
- Secretary **Don Halpern** of New Jersey has been appointed temporary business manager for *The Posthorn*.

Luren Ends Distinguished Run

Scandinavian collectors are losing another philatelic periodical as *Luren* ends its 32-year run. There have been no issues published in 2001. The last issue is Whole Number 372, which bears the date of October, November, and December 2000.

Editor Paul Nelson of California, a former president of SCC, decided that the final issue of 2000 would be *Luren's* last for a number of reasons. There has been a shortage of articles from outside authors, and Nelson has been fully occupied as a consultant for an information management firm headquartered in Sweden.

In addition, poor mail service helped to defeat *Luren*. "Throughout 2000, there were several issues that took as long as two months to reach the addressees from here (California), and the USPS attitude is not very helpful," he said.

Nelson plans to devote his philatelic energies in his Scandinavian specialty areas of postal stationery and revenue collecting. He leads SCC's Scandinavian Revenues Study ►

Group. He will write for various journals in the U.S. and abroad, including *The Posthorn*. He expressed gratitude for the long and dedicated support from all the collectors who have found *Luren* useful over the years.

Luren was founded in 1969 by the Southern California Chapter 17 of SCC, which has since incorporated as the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California, Inc. Only the third editor of *Luren*, Nelson said chapter members are considering moving the contents of the Southern California library to Denver where it can be consolidated with the national SCC Library.

Back copies of most of the *Luren* issues are available from Nelson at the address in the Officers page for \$1 per copy payable to SPLSC.

– Paul Albright

Get Your NORDIA 2002 Applications Now

John DuBois has been appointed the SCC Commissioner for NORDIA 2002 to be held in Kristiansand, Norway in October 2002.

Applications for exhibiting are due January 1 and should be submitted to DuBois. Applications are available from any of the following:

- John DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749; jld@thlogic.com.
- Roger Quinby, PO Box 738, Clifton Park, NY 12065; rpquinby@aol.com.
- James Burgeson, SCC Exhibition Chairman, 2266 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107; jburgeson003@earthlink.net.

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Presidents' Letter

From Roger Quinby:

I returned from HAFNIA 01 recently with SCC President-elect John DuBois and Commissioner Don Halpern. Copenhagen was a delightful experience. Generally, the American and SCC exhibitors did very well. At HAFNIA we officially established the SCC-KPK Chapter with FIP President Knud Mohr taking the reigns in the initial period.



The establishment of this Chapter adds to our continuing outreach to collectors in the Nordic countries. "Building Bridges" was the theme of HAFNIA and it might well serve as the theme of the SCC and stamp collectors everywhere who ask questions, share information, communicate, and enjoy friendships of a hobby that seeks only to enrich the human spirit.

During these troubling times, we are fortunate to have philately as an anchor, a refuge, and a platform for building bridges of understanding and hope.

Following the terrorist attacks on the U.S., I was deeply touched by the number of messages of support and sympathy received from SCC members in Canada, England, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Liberty will triumph, as there is no alternative for us.

At HAFNIA, we met many SCC members and heard a number of compliments for NORDIA 01. We arranged for John DuBois to serve as the SCC Commissioner to NORDIA 02.

In the August *Posthorn*, I wrote that I was stepping down as SCC President effective December 1. My letter of resignation has been sent to the Club Secretary, and I am informed that the Board has elected John DuBois as President.

SCC is fortunate that John has agreed to take this post. He has the philatelic experience, international contacts, competence, vision, and enthusiasm to lead the SCC in the years ahead.

The Club has done well in the past few years, thanks in large measure to the Board's vision, grit to make some tough decisions, and the super efforts of volunteers Alan Warren and John DuBois (Publications), George Kuhhorn (Membership), Stu Silverberg (Library), Don Brent (Executive Secretary), Eric Roberts (Mart), Paul Albright (*Posthorn* Editor), Gordon Morison (NORDIA 01), and many others who have given their time and energy to this wonderful Club. I thank you one and all.

Finally, I have special thanks for the Winnipeg Chapter that hosted the Annual Convention in 2000. Their friendship and hospitality is what makes philately a hobby for life. Thanks for the fond memories.

From John DuBois:

The SCC is fortunate to have had Roger Quinby as president for the past five years. Roger has worked especially hard to expand and enhance international ties with philatelic groups, especially those in the Nordic countries. The success of this effort has been evident in many places, one of the most visible being our hosting of NORDIA 2001 in Tucson. Another is the formation of two international SCC Chapters, one in Iceland and another most recently in Denmark.

In these difficult times, any activity, such as philately, which ➤



can promote understanding and friendship between peoples across international borders, is not only welcome, but also essential. Indeed, this was the actual theme of HAFNIA 01: "Building Bridges." I plan to continue the SCC outreach to our colleagues in Scandinavia, Europe, and other regions where Nordic philatelists are active.

The SCC faces substantial challenges in the years ahead. Philatelic organizations worldwide have seen steady declines in membership and increases in costs. We have not been immune to these trends, but it is encouraging that, in our case, they have been modest. We have every reason to expect a steady membership in the near future as well as exciting developments for the benefit of our members.

The priorities for our society in the near term include: continued improvements to *The Posthorn*, including a larger format and the introduction of some color pages; development of closer relations with our international chapters; expansion and improvements to our World Wide Web pages; and introduction of an email list server for timely philatelic announcements, questions, and discussion.

I welcome the opportunity to serve the membership of the SCC and to contribute to our work advancing the cause of Nordic philately. Above all, this is your organization, and I solicit and encourage your suggestions and feedback on how we can make it even better. ■

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News From the Home Office

Don Brent

By now, many of you have received your dues renewal notices. Have you mailed in your 2002 dues? If not, please take a moment to handle it now. By promptly mailing in the dues, you save SCC the expense of a follow-up reminder. Of course, some members have paid in advance to take advantage of the *Facit* promotion or to save the hassle of an annual notice. Whatever your choice, I want to thank you for your continued support of the Scandinavian Collectors Club.



There are a few *Facit* 2001 Special catalogs still available if you would like to participate in the incentive program. To take advantage of the incentive offer, 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.

Speaking of deals, we recently came across a stash of the SCC lapel pins. I had thought that we ran out of these last year but several boxes showed up in some awards that arrived from Chicago. They are \$6 each, including shipping. If you would like one of these special pins let me know and I will put it in the mail.

I would like to extend a welcome to 12 new and 5 reinstated members. This has been a positive year for the SCC as we are already ahead of last year's membership (by a good margin) and still another quarter of the year to go.

Remember 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 with me. We are always open to suggestions for improving the club and your ideas will be passed to the Board for consideration.

I hope that you all have a great holiday season and that we have an opportunity to meet in the coming year at one of our shows. ■

Membership Statistics for the Third Quarter 2001

New Members

- 3901 Garside, Barbara DNP
- 3902 Will, Grace DNP
- 3903 Finstrom, Carl, 107 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA 23188-1655
- 3904 Parkin, Robert S. Jr., 18 Coolidge Ave., Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
- 3905 Ziegrowsky Baker, Debby J., 975 290th St., Atalissa, IA 52720-9638
- 3906 Piscione, Joseph L., P.O. Box 669, Hobart, IN 46342
- 3907 Huebsch, Ian, P.O. Box 1137, El Cerrito, CA 94530-1137
- 3908 McHenry, J. Roger, DNP
- 3909 Jarvisto, Vesa, 9560 Sunnehanna Blvd., Apt. C-103, Pensacola, FL 32514
- 3910 Skarsten, Trygve R., DNP
- 3911 Eirksson, Petur, Apartado 1537, La Coruña, Spain
- 3912 Perlman, Michael, 10414 SW 26th St., Davie, FL 33324

Reinstated

- 3530 Flack, Brian
- 2136 Sjoberg, Ralph K.
- 2308 Farrington, J.A.
- 1917 Mathiesen, Henning
- 3060 Sorensen, Ralph J.

Deceased

- 3096 Ferber, LeRoy
- 1678 Melberg, W.E.
- 1736 Merikallio, Reino

Donations

- 3826 Hague, Brian H.
- 3647 Tann, Leonard L.

Change of Address

- 3106 Lacy, Dorothy, 116 Fourth Ave #3, West Cape May, NJ 08204-1021
- 768 Anderson, Donald, P.O. Box 13118, Minneapolis, MN 55414-5118
- 2067 Running, Joseph M. Jr., 1010 Wellesley St., Alma, MI 48801-1424
- 2080 Warrington, Alan, 2 Hickory Head Place, Savannah, GA 31411
- 2926 Sutherland, John M., 88 Briarwood Circle, Worcester, MA 01606-1200
- 3537 Abel, Richard W., 197 Abel Heath Lane, Franklin, PA 16323

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Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

Skanfil

After 20 years of ownership, Pieter Ahl, a Swede now residing in Belgium, has decided to let a new generation of collectors have the chance to acquire the famous 39-

stamp block of Norway No. 1 (Figure 1). Ahl bought the block of Norway's 4-skillig 1854 issue in 1981 for NOK 1,200,000. It sold for NOK 3,800,000 (plus 18 percent commission) at Skanfil's auction October 13 in Oslo.

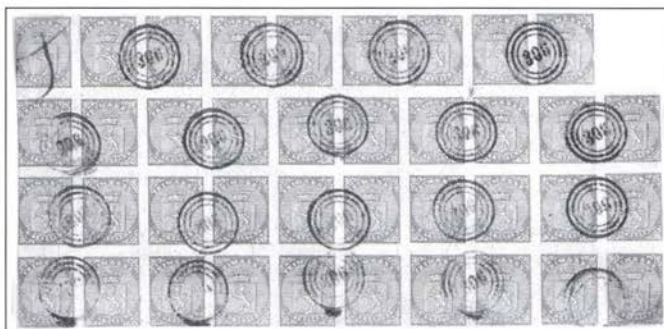


Figure 1.

The buyer is said to be an investor from Jutland, Denmark.

Ahl decided to sell his last items of Norway No. 1 after he won a Grand Prix award at the FIP show in Brussels in June. There are many stories and extensive speculation concerning the origination and ownership of the block, including that a Romanian king once owned it. Recent articles in English can be found in *Linn's Stamp News* (September 3 and 24 issues) and *Frimærkeposten* (No. 5/01 from Norway Posten).

Skanfil also sold an enormous dealer's stock from Aarhus Frimærkehandel. It is the largest Danish dealer stock to be sold for decades, and surely the last old-time stock that existed in Denmark.

Thomas Høiland Auktioner

During HAFNIA 01 in Copenhagen, Thomas Høiland auctioned an extensive range of Scandinavian material described in three impressive catalogues. Part Three of the Vienna Collection includes Swedish stamps and covers beginning with skillig issues to the ring type issue and many covers with destinations in Europe. A separate catalogue contains collections and large accumulations only, nothing less than 1,500 large lots for the hunter. Finally, there is a large catalogue with general philately of Scandinavian and foreign material with more than 3,500 lots.

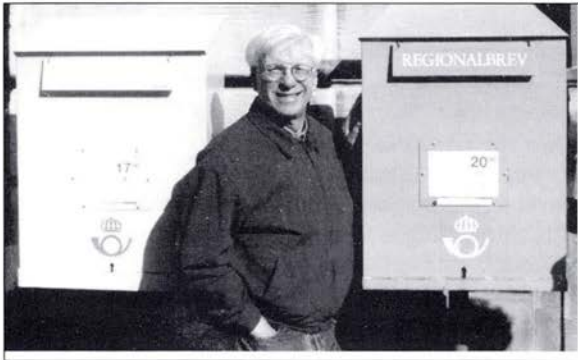
Worth mention is a large collection of Danish Post Færge stamps and an exhibit collection of Danish West Indies.

Postiljonen

Postiljonen of Sweden offered some interesting Scandinavian material immediately after HAFNIA 01. The items noted in the August *Posthorn* (Page 34) were unsold in the auction, but the Swedish cover with four 3 Sk. Bco stamps sold immediately after the auction for the starting price of Euro 50,000, Postiljonen reported. ■

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



The Editor gets acquainted with Sweden Post

A Royal Wedding without a Stamp

Norway surprised me this summer by staging a royal wedding without celebrating it on a stamp. Come to find out, however, there is precedent for that in the land of the Norse.

Crown Prince Haakon, 28, the heir to the Norwegian throne, exchanged vows on August 25 with Mette-Marit

Tjessem Høiby, a 28-year-old former waitress with a 4-year-old son from a previous relationship. Support for the monarchy slumped briefly after the crown prince and unwed mother shared an apartment for six months before the wedding and she admitted to a history of partying in Oslo's drug culture.

I was suspicious that these factors had derailed any plans for a commemorative wedding stamp, but a Norway Post official assured me there had been no request from the royal household for a stamp. Just days before the wedding, a spokesman told me:

"The stamp program for 2001 was decided long before the Castle announced the wedding. And the Royal Castle never put in any application for stamps. Besides that, we have not had any tradition for issuing a stamp for such an occasion. When King Harald married Sonja Haraldsen (August 1968), the Post never issued anything."

Norway Post, however, did design and print "in record time" four franked postcards requested by the palace to sell in its souvenir shop. One of the cards shows the prince and his betrothed (Figure 1.) Summer tours of the palace ended two weeks before the wedding, and Norway Post sent the set to its postcard subscribers in mid-September.

In my conversations, there were hints that Norway Post might consider some "royal stamps" in the near future. In the meantime, you may wish to add a "Norwegian Royal Wedding" sheetlet to your collection from the stamp-issuing agency for St. Vincent.



Figure 1.

Commemorating a Trip that Never Was

There has been some discussion in the philatelic media recently as to whether war-ravaged Liberia has had an operating postal service for the past two years. While that discussion is beyond the scope of our collecting interests, it did remind me of a Swedish stamp link to Liberia from almost a half-century ago.

In January 1958, Liberia issued a series of seven regular and airmail stamps commemorating a European visit by its president, William V.S. Tubman, that occurred in 1956. One of the stamps (Figure 2) was for his visit to Sweden. The design showed ►

Sweden's flag and traditional three crowns set above the royal palace in Stockholm along with the words, "President Tubman's Visit Sweden 1956." The depiction of the palace appears to be copied from Sweden's 5 KR stamp that was issued in various colors and formats between 1941 and 1958 (Facit 332).

Only Tubman's visit never took place in 1956. Nevertheless, the stamp was issued more than a year later.

According to Reuters, Tubman (shown in Figure 3) began a visit to seven European countries on September 9, 1956 after assurances from Liberian politicians that they would "not stab him in the back" while he was out of the country. The *New York Times* reported the trip largely was to strengthen economic ties between the West African country and Europe.

The *Times of London* recorded Tubman's visits to Italy (where he had an audience with the Pope), West Germany, France, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, but he did not visit Sweden or one other European country. It's not known why he skipped Sweden before returning to Liberia on November 16, 1956 after a trip of more than two months. If he hastened home because of internal political troubles, Tubman surmounted them. He served as Liberia's president for 28 years until his death in 1971. ■



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

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Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren



The feature article in the April-June issue of *Close-Up*, published by the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, reviews the Nobel Prize joint issues of Sweden and the United States. The author details some aspects of the printing of the stamps and shows a copy of the first day ceremony program with autographs of many of the participants, including Slania. The July-September issue focuses on the joint issues of Sweden and Australia to honor the Swedish

botanist Daniel Solander who traveled around the world, obtaining specimens, including some from Australia and New Zealand. The Australian stamps were engraved by Slania but the corresponding Swedish stamps were engraved by Lars Sjööblom. The study group has over 200 members. Information can be obtained from Czeslaw Slania Study Group, Box 1382, Milwaukee WI 53201.



Slania at work.

The May-June issue of *Seaposter*, published by the Maritime Postmark Society, illustrates a number of covers bearing handstamp markings of the vessel "R.S. Cyclops," often with Paquebot markings. The covers, which bear British postage stamps, are marked "Denmark Strait," which is between Iceland and Greenland. The "Cyclops" was said to be conducting Arctic research. Little is known about such covers, since British records show no such ship with that name after 1966, and these covers were cancelled in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Maritime Postmark Society is devoted to postal markings at sea including Paquebot marks. Membership information is available from president Tom Hirschinger, Box 497, Wadsworth OH 44282.

Charles Leonard writes about Finnish nationalism in the July-August issue of *The Canadian Philatelist*. He mentions the restricted use of the country's Coat of Arms issues around the turn of the century that resulted in the issuance of the so-called mourning stamp as a protest, along with several "In Memoriam" cards.

Stamps and Culture Internet Site

Issue 3/2001 of *News from the Faroes*, published by Postverk Føroya, describes a new web site called Tjatsi that will provide cultural and historical information of interest to collectors. The information presented at www.tjatsi.fo can be used by anyone preparing an exhibit, especially one in the new open class. Stamps of the Faroes, as well as other countries, will be discussed there.

In the issue 2/2001 of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*, Ivar Sundsbø writes about homeplace collecting. This popular subject in many European countries focuses on collecting postal history related to the place where one lived or grew up. He shows some exhibit pages with covers, picture post cards, and cancels pertaining to the theme. His article will continue in the next issue.

The Faroe Islands Study Circle *Newsletter* for August features an article by Brian Hague on the "SS Sauternes," also known as the Christmas Ship. This cargo vessel battled a violent storm between the islands of Svínoy and Fugloy but foundered, taking with it personnel and supplies intended for the British forces stationed in the Faroes. There were no survivors. ➤

The nickname for the ship relates to the fact that it also carried whiskey and Christmas puddings intended for the troops. Another unusual piece of freight was a steel case containing 22,500 DKr in coins, as supplies could no longer be obtained from the Copenhagen mint because of the German occupation. The fateful date of the sinking was December 7, 1941. In 1999 the wreck was located and over the next two years, divers recovered a number of artifacts including the ship's bell. However, the case of Danish coins remains on the ocean floor.

The diving expedition has a website at www.divingexpedition2000.fo. Information on the Faroe Island Study Circle can be obtained from the Secretary Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 8BY, United Kingdom, or jntropics@hotmail.com.

First Stamps of Norway and Denmark

Articles in the September 5 and September 24 issues *Linn's Stamp News* describe the famous block of 39 stamps of Norway #1. This rare multiple found in the 1920s went up for auction in October. (See Auction Marketplace section on Page 36.)

James Mackay writes about Denmark's famous 4 RBS and 2 RBS issues in the October issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. He illustrates the official circular of March 27, 1851, also known as the birth certificate of Denmark's first issue.

In the July/August issue of Sweden's *filatelisten*, thematic collector and author Gunnar Dahlvig writes about Iceland and the Vikings, using several of that country's stamps to illustrate his story. In the same issue, Swedish postal historian Lennart Ivarsson discusses the use of the "Retour" marking on Sweden's prestamp mail for letters that were returned to the sender.

Uwe Raster, chairman of the Faroes study group of the FG Nordische Staaten in Germany, continues his series on Faroes post offices with an article on Klaksvík in the May issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten*. In the same issue, Rolf Dörnbach reports that the postal station of Daneborg reopened last year in Greenland with the postal code DK-3992.

An extensive review by J. M. Vroom of the six-volume work on the bicolor issues of Denmark will be found in the September issue of *Het Noorderlicht* from the Scandinavian group in Holland. In the same issue Ton Steenbakkers discusses the Norwegian language and the battle over Noreg vs Norge, and J.A. Vinkenberg furnishes the first part of a series of articles about the "SS Clara Rothe," which carried mail, cargo, and passengers to Caribbean destinations including DWI.

Bill Ross provides the 16th installment of his long series of articles on Åland postal history in the June issue of England's *Scandinavian Contact* with focus on the Continuation War of 1941. In the same issue, Max Meedom continues his series on the posting of letters out of hours in Denmark, showing the varieties of "Gebyr" handstamps used.

In the September issue of the same journal, the late Mike Edwards' third installment of his series on pioneer flights of Iceland appears, and Colin Maycock illustrates some of the registration labels used by Sweden that are imprinted "från utlandet." Eric Keefe begins a new series on Finnish postmarks, describing the railway station numbers of the St. Petersburg to Helsinki line.

Per Rønberg tells about the north polar expedition of Isaac Hayes in 1860-1861 in the September issue of Denmark's *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*. In the same issue, Gordon Hughmark discusses mail from Hamburg to Denmark in 1848 when the Danish office in Hamburg was closed. ►

Iceland's Graf Zeppelin Flight

In addition to the monthly *Air Post Journal*, the American Air Mail Society publishes a quarterly journal of study group articles called the *Jack Knight Air Log*. The October-December issue has an article by Jim Hill on the 1931 Zeppelin flight over Iceland. He illustrates a new discovery showing an on-board postmark of July 2. Until now, most cancels were dated July 1 when the airship arrived over Reykjavík, although a few items are also marked July 3, the last day of the flight. The new discovery is on cardboard fashioned from a piece of menu card. Hill also shows the three Reykjavík cancels on Iceland dispatches for this flight, and an example of the Zeppelin overprint on the 1 Kr showing the "fishhook" variety.

Plate flaws of the 25-øre Frederik IX issue (AFA #321) are the subject of A. Quist Christensen's article in the August issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, and plate flaws of the 35-øre Christian X issue of 1918-1933 are dealt with by Ib Krarup Rasmussen.

In the October issue of *DFT*, Flemming Petersen writes about the American issue of Greenland, and Jan Bendix presents a profile of Kennet Helmer-Jensen, the general secretary for HAFNIA 01. In the same issue, Bruno Nørdam continues his series of articles on the proofs and essays of Danish stamps that began in the discontinued journal *Skilling*. In this part, he illustrates design work for Danish stamps from 1959 to 1963. ■

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Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

Honors and Awards

Toke Nørby received the Bechsgaard Memorial Cup at a special ceremony during HAFNIA 01. The prize recognizes distinguished service to Danish philately and is sponsored by the Danske Filatelisters Fællesfond.

Norway's well-known airmail collector **Egil H. Thomassen** has been elected to the American Air Mail Society's Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame. The achievement is, "To honor men and women who have contributed to the accumulation of aerophilatelic knowledge, have worked for a significant number of years to increase interest in the field, and have served successfully for a significant period in aerophilatelic organizations at the national or international level."

Thomassen was recognized for his presiding over the FIP Aerophilatelic Commission, his recent award-winning book on Norwegian airmail, and his articles in the American Air Mail Society's magazine *The Airpost Journal*. His exhibits have won international large gold medals and are also seen in the Courts of Honor. He is an international judge.

Sigurður Thorsteinnsson, the first recipient of the **Frederick A. Brofos** award for his 1999 article in *The Posthorn*, has added another feather to his cap. Thorsteinnsson has been elected to the prestigious Académie Européenne de Philatélie (AEP). This is a group of European postal historians and membership is by invitation only.

Scandinavian News Notes

- Post Greenland's own airmail was introduced within Greenland on July 2, 2001, according to a report in the September issue of the postal service's *Greenland Collector*. Previously the postal service relied on Greenlandair to provide domestic delivery. Post Greenland obtained its own plane, named "Paartoq," or the Kayak Mailman. The route goes Ilulissat-Aasiaat-Kangerlussuaq-Sisimiut-Nuuk and then back to Kangerlussuaq and Ilulissat.
- Finland has issued its last FIM-denominated stamps. The annual Christmas stamps issued October 26 show an elf girl reading a book (FIM 2.50) and an elf boy riding a sled (FIM 3.60). All future stamps will be issued in Euro denominations or non-denominated, said Finland Post. Stamps denominated in Finnish mark will be withdrawn from sale on December 31, but they will remain valid through 2011.



- Iceland has overprinted one of its 1999 stamps because of rate changes. The stamp, which shows an orca whale, was issued in March 1999 for ISK 35. It was overprinted and reissued July 10 when the rates for domestic letters increased to ISK 53 for letters weighing between 21 and 50 grams. The overprints in red struck out the 35.00 amount and added "Bref 50g" (Letter 50g) to the image. *Scandinavian Contact* reported that 500,000 stamps were overprinted.
- The International Post Corporation has awarded a certificate of excellence to Sweden's international letter office at Stockholm's Arlanda airport. Previous recipients include ➤

Copenhagen, Toronto, Frankfurt, and Zurich. The IPC consists of 21 national post offices in Europe and North America, and their goal is to improve delivery of international mails. These countries account for nearly two-thirds of the international mail of the world. Their recommendations have improved western Europe mail deliveries within three days from 64 percent in 1994 to 92 percent in 2000.

- There is a Scandinavian collectors group in Czechoslovakia. **Roger Quinby**, SCC president, has been in contact with them and received a sample copy of their journal. It is entirely in Czech but has a title like *Philatelic News of the Nordic Countries*. The group is part of the Society of Territorial Philately and includes among its interests the philately of the Baltic countries – Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Issue No. 64/2001 of their journal illustrates new issues from the previous year for a number of Nordic countries. It also carries an article on varieties of the Saarinen design Lion issue of Finland.
- The Nation's Cup competition proceeds with the next site being the Helsinki Fair Centre November 3, 2001. Participating countries are Italy, Sweden, and Finland. Exhibitor-teams of six members from each of the three countries will explain the exhibits to the public. The exhibits are limited to certain philatelic disciplines that are mandatory plus one or two optional classes. The criteria for public presentation include aspects of simplicity, popularity, informative, objective, and entertaining. A major goal is to help publicize philately to the public. Judges include **Hasse Brockenhuus von Löwenhielm** of Sweden and **Juhani Pietilä** of Finland. ■

Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation Update

George Koplowitz is stepping down as secretary-treasurer of the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation (SPF) after many years of service. He has been named Emeritus Trustee of SPF. The inventory of books published by SPF has been shipped to Jay Smith's warehouse in North Carolina. Thanks to Paul Nelson and Gerry Weinerman of SCC Chapter 17 for their help in completing these arrangements.

SPF is currently working on English language publications devoted to the advertising panes of Denmark, the Oscar issues of Sweden, Danish maritime markings, and censored mail of Norway during World War II. Membership details and a list of currently available publications can be obtained from Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, P.O. Box 39, Exton PA 19341.

—Alan Warren

Facit 2001 Specialized for \$25

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

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

To take advantage of this limited-time offer, contact:
**Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary, PO Box 13196,
El Cajon, CA 92022; email dbrent47@sprynet.com**

Awards at HAFNIA

As one might expect, Nordic exhibitors and exhibits did splendidly at the HAFNIA 01 exhibition in Copenhagen in October. The Grand Prix International went to Bernt J. Fossum of Norway for "Norway: The First Two Issues." The Grand Prix National was awarded to Peer Lorentzen of Denmark for "Denmark: The Classic 1851-1863 Issues." The Grand Prix Open Class was won by Ove Frisch of Denmark for "A Man's Career in the Danish Navy."

The Scandinavian area exhibits and awards are too numerous to report here but can be found at the HAFNIA Internet site, www.hafnia01.dk/english/resultatuk.html. Large golds with special prizes were presented to Indriði Pálsson for "Classic Iceland," and to Jacobus Sundman for "Finnish Private Post 1866-1933." Among SCC members, Jussi Tuori won a gold for "Denmark Skilling Issues," as did Paul Jensen for "Cook Islands and Niue 1845-1918."

Among winners of a large vermeil were Roger Quinby for "Finland's 1918 Vaasa Issue," Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson for "Denmark 1870-1905: The Bicolored Stamps," William Benfield for "Denmark: Essays and Proofs - The First 75 Years," and John DuBois with "Danish West Indies Postage Due Stamps." Vermeil awards went to Sigurður Pétursson for "Two Kings," Ross Olson for "Sweden, 1920," and Don Brent for "Denmark's Wavy Line Design." Dan Laursen received a large silver for "The Danish Typographed Wavy Line Issues 1905-1933."

Some highlights in the literature class include a large gold to Lasse Nielsen for *Denmark's Bi-Colored Stamps 1870-1905*, a gold to Egil Thomassen for *Norwegian Airmail*, a large vermeil to John DuBois for *Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917: Vol. 1 Postal History*, and a silver for *The Posthorn*.

Earlier Scandinavian Awards

At the Minnesota Stamp Expo, silver awards went to Ron Collin for "Iceland Postal Stationery 1879-1941," and to Armand E. Johanson for "Scandinavian Zeppelin Flight Covers." In the single frame section, Robert Frigstad received a bronze for "Denmark Encased Postage." Charles Shoemaker had two exhibits in the Wiscopex show in May. He received a silver in the multiframe category for "Greenland: Cinderella Material," and another silver in the single frame section for "Greenland to Canada 1930-1940."

At the AMERICOVER show in August, Alan Warren received a vermeil, the best foreign FDC award, and the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence for his "Denmark: The Frederik IX Issue on First Day Covers."

At the APS Stampshow in Chicago in August, two Nordic area exhibits were in the Champion of Champions and thus received a *prix d'honneur*. They were Henrik Mouritsen's "Danish Postal Rates 1875-1906" and Roger Schnell's "Iceland 1788 to 1902." In the open competition at this show, Ross Olson received a gold for "Sweden, 1920: Four New Series of Postage Stamps," and in the single frame category, James Gaudet won a gold for his "The Alfred Benzon Booklet of Denmark." In the literature section, *The Posthorn* received a vermeil.

At BALPEX in September, Harold Peter received a gold along with a Germany Philatelic Society gold for "Fieldpost Schleswig-Holstein/Denmark Wars: 1848-1851 and 1864." At the same show, Jerome Kasper received a silver and an American Air Mail Society silver for "The Aerogrammes of Iceland."

At SESCAL in Los Angeles, *The Posthorn* received a vermeil in the literature competition.

– Alan Warren

Chapter Reports

Compiled by Vice President for Chapters Walt Jellum

CHICAGO Chapter 4

Recent issues of the colorful monthly newsletter featured articles: "Remembering Doc" by Editor Jerry Grimson about W. E. Melberg (see Closed Album section) and "Ultima Thule."

NEW ENGLAND Chapter 5

We are continuing our exploration through the audio-visual materials in the SCC library and will shortly send in our own contribution, a slide program on early Stockholm cancels. During the November meeting, we will have the bi-annual election of officers and will look at slides taken by John DuBois at HAFNIA 01. Our December meeting will be a Christmas season dinner.

NEW YORK Chapter 7

Carl Probst reports they "did not meet in September because it was the day after the WTC disaster. Most bridges, tunnels, and primary roads were closed to all but essential vehicles. We were able to meet in October, however, and had time to reflect on the past month's activities. Filling the empty space in our album pales in comparison to filling an empty chair at the dinner table. Due to the high death toll, practically everyone has a relative, neighbor, friend, or friend of a friend amongst the lost. Besides the obvious volunteers digging at ground zero there were and still are a great many more volunteers working behind the scenes to support them. Large numbers of people have been helping at churches, temples, community centers, etc. to help the stricken families and the many others overcome by the tragic events. Patriotism abounds!"

The chapter was saddened by the death of long-time member and friend, Reino Merikallio (see Closed Album section).

REYKJAVÍK Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Secretary Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson submitted this heartening report:

The Scandinavian Collector's Club in Iceland celebrates its 35th anniversary this fall. It was founded in 1966 as SCC Chapter 11 and is active again in SCC after a brief absence. One of the first international guest speakers was Ib Eichner-Larsen, editor of *Berlingske Tidende* in Copenhagen, followed by Robert A. Helm, then editor of *The Posthorn*. A large number of both international and Icelandic guest speakers followed these men.

In 1969, the first NORDIA exhibition was held at the Nordic House. Another NORDIA was held in the same place in 1973. It was here that the joint Nordic issue showing the Nordic House, with its Iceland postal museum, was available from all postal authorities on the first day of issue. The Nordic postal authorities presented their frames to the club following the exhibition, which were then presented to the Nordic House for preservation. In addition to NORDIA (scheduled again for Reykjavík in 2003), the youth club has hosted its own exhibition, "UNGFRIM 1992," and smaller shows at various occasions, both in conjunction with the Icelandpost and the *Æskan* youth magazine

When a new youth joins the club, The Lindner Co. gives each one a beginner's box forwarded to them via the Frímerkjahúsið store, as well as directions and counseling on how to work the stamps and to establish a collection. Each year, the youth division observes special occasions, such as holidays, and holds an end-of- ➤

the-year celebration meeting. They invite special guests to these meetings, such as individuals who work for Icelandpost, and personalities from both the national television and radio.

Through the years, the club and its members, both young and old, have participated successfully in many Icelandic and international exhibitions. Well over 900 members have been active, off and on, in the youth division. And there have been about 30 counselors participating during these active years.

DELAWARE Chapter 13

Alan Warren reports he exhibited first day covers of the 1948-1960 issues of Frederik IX of Denmark, including cachet varieties, foreign destinations, and auxiliary markings.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17

Paul Nelson reports meetings are being held in a member's home on the first Wednesday of each month (except for this December because of a schedule conflict). Contact a chapter member for directions to the meeting place.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

Jerry Moore reports a summer meeting with a slide show, a talk by Ralph Sorenson, and a show and tell.

BOB PAULSON Chapter 23

As reported in "The Viking Beat" chapter newsletter, here are some of the items at show and tell: A cover from Sweden postmarked Arctic Circle, a Sweden No. 2 "flawed gem" stamp, the Faroe's recent souvenir sheet of Nordic Myths and Legends, a book on the Swedish ship Wasa, Swedish post cards, and Åland's 2000 year set. A summer talk was scheduled on Iceland's postal history. The Chapter reports the death of treasurer and long-time member Clarence Strandell on July 2.

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Robert Zacharias reports that the Fall schedule includes election of officers, guest speakers, annual auction, a slide show on the Faroes (Nov. 14) produced by W. J. Banks of Toronto, a talk by Robert Zacharias on Canadian and U.S. Christmas seals (Nov. 28), and the Christmas party and auction (Dec. 12).

TIDEWATER Chapter 26

Michael Falls reports the November meeting will be held at VAPEX where he will present a program on "Icelandic Christmas Seals, 1904 to Modern." A Christmas show and tell (with prizes) is set for December 15. On January 19, Rudy Roy will present "Perfins on Airmail Covers;" February 16, Tony Guida will present "DWI Postal Stationery;" March 16, Don Jones will present "A Norwegian Airmail Pilot in the U.S.;" and April 20, Mike Falls will present "Finland's Parcel Post Bus Stamps."

CYBER CHAPTER

Ed Bode continues to collate and to transmit interesting electronic (email) newsletters to those SCC members who join the Cyber Chapter. Contact Ed at edbode@juno.com for information and to sign up. ■

SCC WEB PAGE

<http://www.scc-online.org>

Doc Melberg – Friend of Collectors



The album has closed on one of the most popular and supportive members of our club. W. E. Melberg (“Doc,” or “Willy” as he was affectionately known) passed away September 8 after a long and heroic battle with cancer at the age of 78. He not only was our club librarian for 12 years but he also was helpful to anyone who asked him for information and was a mentor to many collectors.

Melberg, who joined SCC in 1972, was born in Connecticut on July 21, 1923 to immigrant Danish parents. His life defined the American Dream. After high school he joined the Navy and did three tours in the Pacific as a machinist on the submarine “Whale.” After World War II he entered Michigan State University and graduated from Cornell University Veterinary School. He and his wife, Florence, settled in Allenton, WI where he practiced veterinary medicine for 40 years.

After the SCC Library was flooded, a new librarian was sought and Doc Melberg volunteered. At his home in Allenton, damaged material was painstakingly restored, organized, and in 1989 the library contents were indexed (updated in 1993). His interesting library articles in *The Posthorn* encouraged members to use this valuable resource. He sought and received many contributions so that the SCC Library today is one of the finest specialist society libraries in the United States.

Melberg made considerable contributions to Danish philately. Some of his major collections were the Danish star, three-ring, and modern cancels. He wrote articles and created slide shows. He exhibited star cancels, number cancels, Sunday letters, railway cancels, and Danish varieties and errors. He was a frequent visitor and exhibitor at our national conventions. He also served as president of Chapter 4.

The basis for his collection came from a hoard of covers and postcards found in a house that he and his brother inherited from two aunts in Denmark.

One of his last efforts was to spearhead plans for a special Memorial Day cancel for his hometown. Allenton has the Zip of 53002, which is equivalent to Memorial Day (5-30) in 2002 (02). He was pleased with the design of the special cancel, which his family and friends are carrying forward for USPS approval.

Melberg was awarded the Pelander Award in 1993 for his many contributions to the SCC. In 1999, the board of directors honored him for his years of service to the library and for successfully implementing its move to Denver, CO.

His wife of 50 years, Florence, five sons, two daughters and 12 grandchildren survive Melberg. Two of his sons and his brother are members of SCC.

– Roger Quinby from many sources

LeRoy Ferber, Postal Stationery Society Leader

LeRoy W. Ferber, 77, passed away August 5 after a long illness. He was an active member of SCC Chapter 13 of Delaware. He was president of the United Postal Stationery Society from 1999 until January 2001 when forced to resign because of illness.

His collecting interests were wide ranging and included revenues of many countries, as well as Scandinavia in general. He had exhibited the Charta Sigillata (stamped revenue paper) of Sweden and had been invited to present a talk on that subject next year at the Collectors Club of New York. ➤

Ferber served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was an electrical engineer and worked for RCA and General Electric. He was active in the Boys Scouts of America. His wife of 51 years, Helen, a sister, four sons, and 11 grandchildren survive him.

— Alan Warren

Chapter Champion Reino Merikallio

Reino (Ray) Merikallio of New Canaan, CT, known as a good friend and a good worker within SCC's New York Chapter 7, died July 2. A Chapter activist for three decades, Merikallio attended almost every meeting whether in New York City, Connecticut, or Long Island. He worked on expanding SCC's Stamp Mart and helped to push publicity activities to promote SCC Chapters. He also worked behind the scenes in editing within the Chapter and for *The Posthorn*.

Merikallio was interested in Finnish postal history and over the years had given talks about the Russian repression of Finland in the late 19th early 20th centuries. He worked for many years with IBM, but subsequently ran a consulting business in Connecticut.

— Ed Fraser and Carl Probst

Danish Tobacco and Alcohol Revenue Stamps: A Review

Handbook and Catalog of Danish Tobacco and Alcohol Tax Stamps by Claus Rafner, 152 + xiv pages, 8 1/2 by 11 1/2 inches, hardbound, in English, Press for Philately, Snow Camp NC 1998, ISBN 0-9656592-1-6. \$39.50 postpaid to U.S. addresses from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349; email jay@jaysmith.com.

In Denmark, these stamps are known as "banderoles" and this handbook presents a detailed listing of the tobacco product issues from 1912 to 1998 and a similar treatment of the alcohol product stamps from 1928 to 1998. In the first section of the handbook, on tobacco stamps, one category not covered by this book is the tax stamp that was placed on the invoice as opposed to the tobacco product pack. The invoice tax stamps were used only for cigars. All other products including cigarettes, cigarette and pipe tobacco, snuff, and chewing tobacco received the pack stamps that are presented in this book.

There are four general categories of the pack tax stamps—the classic band label, the Royal Danish Crown stamp, the "TOLD" (Customs) type, and the "Told*Skat" (National Customs and Tax Authorities) type. A catalog numbering system was devised for this handbook, with the flexibility built in to expand it as future discoveries are made. The stamps are listed in tables along with denomination, type of product they were applied to and contents of the package, and color of the stamp.

For the alcohol tax stamps there are also four broad categories based on their designs. These stamps are discussed in separate wine and spirits sections. Again, the detailed descriptions of the varieties appear in tables. Although this is not a priced catalog in the usual sense, there are tables to indicate relative scarcity and value of the different issues. For both the tobacco and alcohol product tax stamps the author provides a rarity factor table. Since most stamps were damaged upon opening the product package, examples in very fine condition will demand a premium.

Bibliographies for both subjects are provided to lead the reader to a variety of sources including references to the laws that pertain to the revenue policies. Editor and publisher Jay Smith furnishes an appendix with a table that assigns code prefix letters to the many types of revenue stamps issued by the Nordic countries. Examples of the code letters include A for alcohol stamps, AD for airport departure, CL for consular/legation, DM for documentary, MT for matches, T for tobacco, and VM for vending machines. This system lends itself to future use in monographs and articles on Nordic fiscal philately. The illustrations, printing, and binding are all excellent.

— Alan Warren



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