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POSTHORN

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of the
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Collectors Club

A DWI Assortment

St. Thomas, Danish West Indies.



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Table of Contents

A DWI Assortment			
DWI Mail Survives 1878 Shipwreck	Roger G. Schnell		2
Danish West Indies "Junk Mail"	Arnold Sorensen		3
Consignee Letters from the Danish West Indies	Leif Orndorf		8
The Mysterious Printing II of the Danish West Indies 4-Cent Bicolor	Jeremiah A. Farrington		10
6¢ of Message on a 3¢ Card	John DuBois		13
Danish West Indies Study Unit	John DuBois		13
Finland Enters the Era of the Euro	Lauri Poropudas		15
They Have Closed the Post Office in Hell!	Paul Albright		17
Rare Iceland Gutter Pairs Go to Market	Paul Albright		18
Swedish Merchandise Sample Envelopes	James Burgeson		19
A Change of Direction	Frederick A. Brofos		20
A Rare Type of Sweden's Facit 27	Diether Pascher		25
"Royal" Inverts Sold to Help Greenland's Youth	Dan Laursen		40
Member Forum and News			
SCC National Meeting Set for Boxborough in May			31
Seeking Research Funds on Classic Scandinavia?			23
For Scandinavian Revenue Collectors	Paul Nelson		23
Helpers Wanted! Helpers Available!			32
Library News	Jim Kilbane		32
Stamp Mart in Need of Material	Eric Roberts		33
SCC News Notes			34
SCC Web Site News	John DuBois		34
Index to <i>Posthorn</i> , Volume 58 (Subject and Author)			45

DEPARTMENTS

A Glance Back	26	President's Letter	24
Album Closed	34	Scandinavian Area Awards	27
Auction Marketplace	22	Scandinavian Literature Notes	36
Chapter Reports	41	SCC Chapters & Contacts	43
Editor's Notes	29	SCC Officers	44
Membership Statistics	30	Transfers and Re-Entries	39
News from the Home Office	30		

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DWI Mail Survives 1878 Shipwreck



Figure 1.

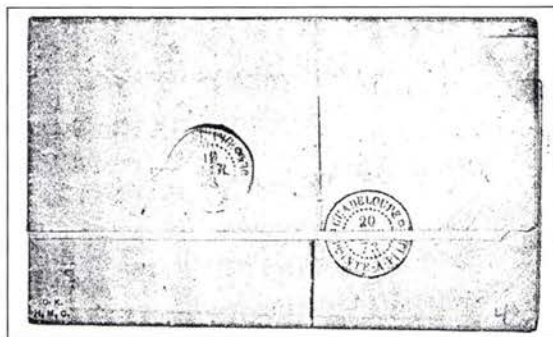
by Roger Schnell, MD

On January 28, 1878, 10 mailbags were placed aboard the "Metropolis" in Philadelphia, a steamer chartered by the Atlantic Coast Lines. Two days later the vessel was struck by a savage winter storm 80 miles off the North Carolina coast. On January 31, the flooding and damaged vessel was beached on Currituck Beach in North Carolina's Outer Banks where it broke up.

The *Metropolis* carried 220 railroad laborers, 14 other passengers, and a crew of 24. Eighty-five people drowned or otherwise died in the wreck. Another ship, the "Huron," had wrecked in the same area two months earlier. These two wrecks spurred action to increase the number of life saving stations on the Outer Banks.

One mailbag survived the wreck of the "Metropolis." The letters were returned to Philadelphia where they were placed in official Post Office Department (POD) envelopes and sent on to their destination (Figure 1). The reason for the delay was printed on a back flap of the POD cover, which was canceled in ►

Danish West Indies "Junk Mail"



by Arnold Sorensen

An initial visual examination of the illustrated cover shows a common stamp, but that disguises history behind its use. Covers and stamps with the British C-51 obliterator cancels are relatively common, but they offer an interesting variety of items to search for. Many different postal rate and destination examples exist. This particular 1d printed matter rate cover illustrates multiple historical aspects when its content is examined.

A 1978 article by Victor E. Engstrom in the *Postal History Journal* (and reprinted in *The Posthorn*) inspired the title "junk mail." In preparing for the "DWI Mails" books, he published a list of C-51 covers known to him together with a breakdown of mailing dates, destinations, and franking. He stated:

Printed matter (what we today call "junk mail") was mailed at a reduced rate and conversely gives present day collectors a premium cover instead of one of reduced value, since the franking is different and so few covers have been saved.

He used the term "junk mail" by relating the low postal rates of the 1870s with the type of mail having the lowest postal rates today.

The recent second edition of the *DWI Mails Volume 1* provides numbers and facts to support his point. Engstrom began a DWI index to catalogue DWI covers, and it now has some 750 known covers. Only 13 are printed matter covers, and they can have either 1d or 2d rates (depending ►

Philadelphia February 12 with a St. Thomas arrival stamp of February 23 – a total transit time of 26 days.

DWI Mails lists three letters recorded from the U.S. to St. Thomas in 1878. ■

Editor's Note: Assistance in gathering information and illustrations for this article came from Paul Nelson and George Kuhhorn of the SCC, and Auke Palmof of New Zealand and Jos Wessels of The Netherlands, who are participants in the Ships-on-Stamps email list. The Web site of the U.S. Life Savings Stations of the Outer Banks has a detailed account of the wreck of the "Metropolis." Go to <http://www.geocities.com/uslss/stations.htm> and click on the Currituck Beach icon.

Reference:

Dubois, John L., *Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917*, Vol. I, 2nd edition, Snow Camp, NC, Jay Smith & Associates, 2000.



Figure 2. This block of four U.S. National Parks Centennial 2-cent stamps from 1972 features the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina. A wrecked ship is depicted in the upper left stamp.

upon the destination distance). Printed matter covers thus represent only 2 percent of the total C-51 covers in philatelic hands today. That is part of the reason for this article.

Details of a "Junk Mail" Letter

The illustrated cover was canceled at St. Thomas February 18, 1873 and was addressed to Guadeloupe. The reverse bears a GUADELOUPE POINTRE-A-NILES February 20 arrival cancel. The cover is not sealed. The mailing is by Numes Fils & Co., a known St. Thomas cargo consignee, and the company cachet is on front with a FEVR 17, 1873 date. It is franked by a single 1d British stamp and has a manuscript "8" indicating 8 decimes postage due. A Danish West Indies stamp could not have been used for this mailing since DWI was not a UPU member in 1873. So, the British Post Office provided the reliable frequent mail delivery system outside the islands.

The "letter" is a printed circular consisting of a single thin sheet of paper measuring 10½ by 16 inches. It was printed by the *Tidende*, the local newspaper, and is dated "17th February 1873." The sheet has been folded several times before being closed (without being sealed) and addressed.

The Guadeloupe arrival cancel is placed on top of the unsealed edges. A question for the reader: Is this location coincidental or to verify the printed matter rate was not abused?

The letter is printed in two sections, and the first "MARINE REGISTER" is a listing of the ships that arrived in St. Thomas Harbor between January 31 and February 15 and those ships that departed between February 1 and 14. The listing includes country of registry, type of sailing vessel or steamer, and points of destination. This list in itself provides a view of St. Thomas in 1873. The 32 arrivals included 25 British and four American vessels. Nine were steamers.

MARINE REGISTER.	
Arrivals.	
JANUARY —1873.	
31—English bark Providential, Wills, Barbados. English bark Akbar, Seaborne, Brazil. English ship Barkak, Armstrong, Newport, coal.	American stmr. Ontario, Slocum, Rio de Janeiro, sundries. German stmr. Teutonia, Mio, Hamburg, sundries. American brig. Annie Backelder, Steelman Guadeloupe. 5—English brig. Annie Collins, Cochran, Guadeloupe.
FEBRUARY.	
2—English brig. Citizen, Peters, Trinidad. 3—English brig. Queen of Beauty, Dunn, Barbados. English bark Robert Boak, Alkema, Barbados. 4—English bark Burnborne, Murphy, Berlice. American schr. Annie Arnsden, Bangs, Baltimore, coal. 5—English bark Capt. Dan, White, Buenos Ayres. English brig. Willow Brae, Mc. Donald, Demerara. English brig. Geo. Wheelright, Mc. Laughlin, Guadeloupe. English brig. Florence May, Cochran, Demerara. 6—American brig. Anna M. Knight, Davis, New York, gen. cargo. English bark Semerville, Smith, Ferdinandine, Imbler, in distress. English brig. James E. Shaffer, Mc. Whinnie, Barbados. 7—English bark Wasatch, Graham, Buenos Ayres. English brig. Humming Bird, Crowell, New York, coal. English brig. Susan, Morine, New York, coal. 8—American bark Sarah A. Staples, Stone, Havre. 9—English brig. G. J. Troop, Bondiot, Cape Breton, coal. 10—English brig. Queen of the Fleet, Weatheridge, Rio Janeiro. Spanish stmr. José Baro, Arriaga, Havanna. 11—French stmr. Panama, Langenieux, St. Nazaire, sundries. 12—English stmr. Mercsey, Macaulay, Pto. Rico, sundries. 13—English stmr. Elbe, Moir, Colon, sundries. English stmr. Corsica, Herbert, Windward, sundries. 14—English stmr. Arno, Dix, Martinique, sundries. English stmr. Rider, West, Havana, sundries.	
Departures.	
FEBRUARY.	
1—English bark Elizabeth L. Birth, Jacmel. English schr. Yeaper, Morrison, Ponce. English bark Venture, Peters, Cienfuegos. 4—English schr. Morford & Trubo, Smith, Inagua. English brig. Quoor of Beauty, Dunn, Inagua. 7—English brig. Aylesford, Seamer, Azua, sundries. 8—English bark Capt. Dan, White, Inagua. English brig. Willow Brae, Mc. Donald, Inagua. English bark Burnborne, Murphy, Ferdinandine or St. Marys. English bark Wasatch, Graham, Sagua. English brig. Geo. Wheelright, Mc. Laughlin, Turks Island. 11—American bark Sarah A. Staples, Stone, Caribbean. English brig. Citizen, Peters, Ponce. Danish Tschtr. Dorothea, Petersen Pto. Plata, sundries. 12—French bark Jacques Elisabeth, Arnoix, Marseille, Impt. cargo. French stmr. Panama, Langenieux, Havana. English stmr. Australian, Kiddle, Colon, sundries. French stmr. Caravelle, Iainé, Cape Haiti, &c. 13—English brig. Florence May, Cochran, Ponce, P. R. German bark Kromp. v. Prussen, Musack, Haiti, Sundries. 14—English bark Robert Bank, Alkema, Cuba. English brig. Jas. E. Shaffer, Mc. Whinnie, Turks Islands. English schr. Mary May, Deven, Port Acadia. American schr. Annie Arnsden, Bangs, Cuba. English brig. Queen of the Fleet, Whiteridge, Haiti.	
☞ The Health of the Island is good.	
ST. THOMAS.—Printed at the "Tidende" Office by Wm. Murts.	

St. Thomas has a wonderful natural harbor and had for a long time been a very important stopping point for sailing ships. For decades, ships had converged, were re-supplied, and loaded or unloaded before continuing on. However, the advent of steam ships diminished St. Thomas's importance, and by the 1870s fewer and fewer ships passed through St. Thomas. The Marine Register demonstrates the overwhelming British influence in the region, with virtually no Danish commerce.

The mailing also contained a section labeled "THE MARKET" describing freights and extensive cargo listings available, including loading ports, destinations, plus the flag and ship names. This, I believe, must have been the important message and reason for the mailing. Finally, it included a listing of monetary exchange rates at the two local banks. ➤

Nunes Fils & Co.'s Market Report & Shipping List.

St. Thomas, Monday, 17th February, 1873.

THE MARKET.

Unless specially stated to the contrary, the Prices here given must be considered as those of lots from Store.

SINCE our last issue we have had arrivals with Breadstuffs and Provisions on dealers' account which has fully supplied the market; the advance in Breadstuffs in the United States has not as yet affected our market. Flour still selling \$10 @ \$10½, Meal \$5, Rye Flour \$6½ @ \$7, Mess Pork \$16 @ \$17, Tobacco, no late sales, Lard 13c.

FREIGHTS.

We have to report no alteration in the position of our Freight market. Tonnage continues in good demand, and rather scarce. Vessels of the French, German and other flags which are free from surtaxe in France are particularly so, while the English flag is represented in our harbour by quite a number of disengaged craft.

RATE.	CARGO.	LOADING PORT.	DESTINATION.	FLAG AND NAME.	TONS.
40c. gold	Sugar	Ponce	North of Hatteras	British schr. Vesper	107
33½ gold	Molasses	Hence	Hamburg—river Elbe	British bark Providential	214
£675 lump sum	{ Phosphate 340 tons ex French brig Felix in distress from Little Curaçao				
2 10/	Coffee	Cape Hayti	Channel f.o.	Norwegian barque Elizabeth	279
2 5/	Logwood	Hence	Boston	British brig Oak Point	230
46c. gold	Old Iron	Ponce	{ New York or Boston	British brig. Thos. Campbell	193
43½ gold	Sugar	Inagua	Baltimore	British schr. Morford & Truebee	214
16c. cy.	Molasses	Inagua	New York	British brig. Queen of Beauty	176
13c. cy.	Salt	Rio Hacha	Channel f.o.	German brig. Tilde & Lili	210
23 10/	Dividivi	Turks Islands	New Port, R. I.	British brig. Geo. Wheelwright	229
1 15/	Fustic	{ Fernandina or St. Mary's	River Plate	British barque Burnbrae	320
12½ c. cy.	Salt	Inagua	Boston	British barque Capt. Dan	465
£25 & 3 p.ct.	Lumber	Inagua	New York	British brig. Willow Brae	293
12c. cy.	Salt	{ Pto. Plata, Monte Christo and Mauzanillo	Hamburg	Danish bark Dorothea	172
12c. cy.	Salt	Jacmel	Channel f.o.	North German bark't Lucie	236
£2 7/6	Mahogany	Ponce and one other port	Channel f.o.	British barque Catherine Scott	308
2 15/	Fustic and crotches Mahogany				
2 10/	Mahogany				
2 15/	Tobacco 20 tons				
2 10/	Coffee if 4000 bags				
2 10/	Coffee if full cargo				
2 5/ if to United Kingdom	Sugar				
2 7/6 if to Continent between Havre and Hamburg					
2 10/ if to Copenhagen					
40c. gold	Sugar	Ponce	New York	British brig. Citizen	202
33½ gold	Molasses	Azaa	{ New York or Boston	British brig. Aylesford	173
36c. gold	{ under \$5 gold ... } deck.	Ponce	Baltimore	British brig. Florence May	213
40c.	Sugars	Arecibo	Boston	British brig. Susan	202
33½ gold	Molasses	Turks Islands	New York	British brig. Jas. E. Shafter	340
12c. cy.	Salt				

MONETARY :—

	BANK OF ST. THOMAS.		COLONIAL BANK.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
London at 90 d. s.	\$4.87½	\$4.92½	\$4.85	\$4.92½
Paris 90 do.	f. 517½-520	f. 5.15	5.15	5.25
Hamburg 90 do.	418-19	R.M. 45	R.M. 44	44
United States 3d.s.	Par.	3 p.ct. P.	Par.	3 p.ct. P.
Do. do. 60 d.s.	2 p.ct. D.	1 p.ct. P.	1½ p. ct. D.	
American Gold.	1½ p. ct. P.	2½ p.ct. P.	1½ p. ct. P.	2½ p.ct. P.
French Gold per 5f.	98c.		95	97
Col. and Mexican Doubloons 16	16		16	16
Spanish do.	2½ p.ct.	3 p.ct.	2 p. ct. P.	3 p.ct. P.
American Silver.	¼ p. ct. D.	par.	2½ p.ct. D.	2 p.ct. D.
British do.	\$4.80		\$4.80	\$4.85
Bank discount for Bills p. an. 6 p.ct.		6 p.ct.		6 p.ct.
Do. do. for Cash do. 12 p. ct.		12 p.ct.		12 p.ct.

Several things may be extracted (not falsely, I hope) from this mailing. First, the printing with the letterhead "Nunes Fils & Co.'s Market Report & Shipping List" was likely a routine mass mailing. The shipping list covers a 15-day period suggesting such mailings were prepared twice monthly. One can only speculate how large the mailing list was.

Second, there were many St. Thomas companies in this business, and they must all have ➤

advertised or promoted in a like manner, and all likely used the British mail unless private delivery methods were competitively available.

Third, this sheet was a special printing by the *Tidende* for additional business. The "MARINE REGISTER" was a routine newspaper feature lifted verbatim from its pages. A printing like this was available to any St. Thomas company, and would be run with the company name added as a header. The "DWI Record" contains several such examples, and interestingly some remained sealed (by the stamp) and were never opened nor read.

A False Label in this Instance

Junk mail may be an eye-catching title, but it is a false label for this letter. We may today relegate junk mail to the scrap heap, but such mailings must have been a very important and perhaps the only means for promoting and conducting business over long distances. It must have been used for many years, with an enormous number of covers mailed in its time. One has to wonder why so few have survived.

I suggest a partial reason: This cover has a prominently dated and displayed Numes Fils & Co. cachet. The date may have been an indication of how long the information was valid, and if the mailing was indeed twice monthly, the date could be used to determine when it could be replaced by information that is more current. It would be interesting to know if the addressee would have received duplicate mailings from more than one St. Thomas consignee, of if unique mailing lists were the nature of doing business in the West Indies.

In conclusion, this type of cover illustrates many facets of DWI history. The British Post Office provided the means for conducting inter-island commerce, and the letter's content illustrates a principal business nature of St. Thomas. It also shows that while this may have been a Danish colony, it existed in a sphere where the British were the principal business interests.

I would appreciate hearing from collectors having similar covers, including destinations and mailing dates. ■

My special thanks to John DuBois for helpful information and encouragement. Also, the "DWI Record" is an invaluable source of philatelic history allowing a single philatelic item to be fully evaluated.

References:

DuBois, John L., *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917*, Vol. I, 2nd edition, Snow Camp, NC, Jay Smith & Associates, 2000.
Engstrom, Victor E., Editor, *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917* (Three Volumes), Washington, DC, Scandinavian Printing and Publishing Co., 1979-82.

Note: The *DWI Record* is an illustrated census of DWI material maintained by the Danish West Indies Study Group of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. Inquiries may be made by email to jld@thlogic.com.

Engstrom, Victor E., "The St. Thomas D.W.I. Obliterator C-51," *Postal History Journal*, June 1978, Vol. 22, No. 49, pages 13-19 (reprinted in *The Posthorn*, August 1978, Vol. 35, No. 3, pages 62-68.).

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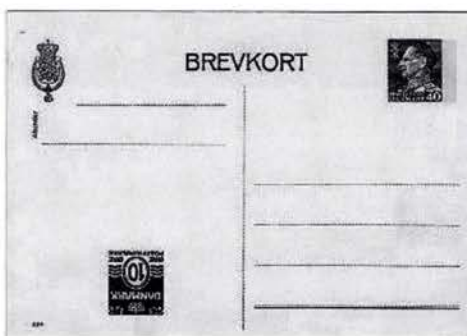
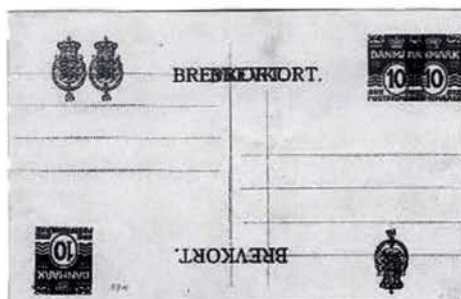
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Consignee Letters from the Danish West Indies

by Leif Orndorf

(Translated by Nelly Kristensen, edited by John DuBois)

Since consignee letters to the DWI often are explained incorrectly — causing some to doubt their authenticity — it seems appropriate to clarify the facts about this type of mail. Many of the surviving covers with “Bit” type postage due stamps are consignee letters, but this should not detract from their interest.

I have never seen or heard of consignee letters with the “Cents” type postage due stamps and I have, likewise, never heard of consignee letters that were not handled by the postal services. There are no consignee letters recorded at St. Thomas. The earliest consignee letter I know from the DWI is dated January 1907.

A consignee letter was simply a letter

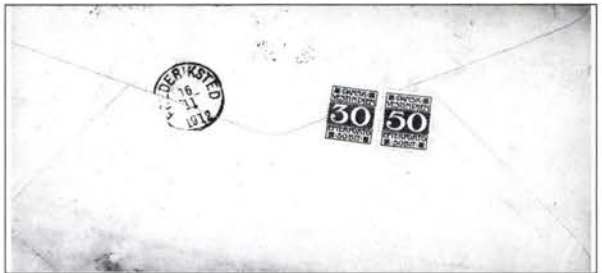
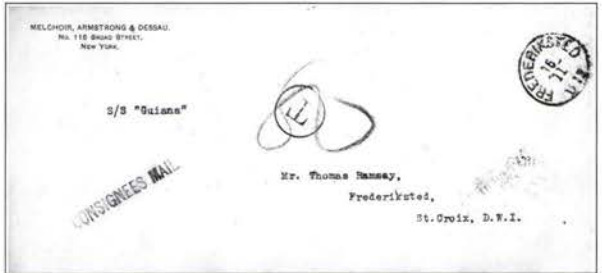


Figure 1. Typical consignee letter from the U.S. to the DWI. It was not franked by the sender, and was assessed postage due in DWI. It is quadruple weight (46 – 60 gm.) and was charged 80 Bit, double the amount of missing postage.

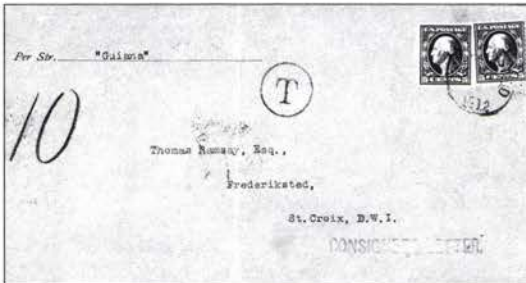


Figure 2. Example of partially paid consignee letter. Most likely a quadruple weight letter, franked in the following way: local letter of sixth weight class weight, 60 Bit, partly franked with 10¢ in the U.S. (50 Bit), therefore charged the 10 Bit difference. Only the difference between the correct rate and the partial franking was collected, not the double rate surcharge.

containing shipping documents. It was sent with the cargo on the ship on which it traveled, and the recipient of the cargo also was the recipient of the letter. As will be explained later, consignee letters normally were given to the ship's master immediately before departure. Because these “letters” were shipping documents, they were usually rather heavy.

These letters can be classified in three groups:

1. Letters franked by the sender.
2. Unpaid letters, which therefore had postage due on arrival. (See Figure 1.)
3. Letters franked with insufficient postage. The postage due on these was only the difference between the correct rate and the partial franking. (See Figure 2.)

The arriving letters were to be given to the harbor master. The harbor regulation was that on a ship's arrival, they were to be treated as local letters. Local letter postage was as follows: From April 1, 1905 ➤

until March 31, 1912: 10 Bit per 15 grams;
from April 1, 1912 until March 31, 1917:
10 Bit per 20 grams.

Postage Due Assessed, Refunds Denied

An interesting correspondence from September 1907 concerning consignee letters can be found in the public records. In the correspondence, the superintendent for the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. Ltd's department in St. Thomas applies to the government in an attempt to obtain a refund for 6.5 francs. The money was paid in postage due on a consignee letter addressed to the captain of the company's cable ship. The superintendent explained that the letter contained only shipping documents concerning a cargo of freight received on the "S/S St.Croix" (East Asian Company).

The government, in a subsequent letter to the Treasury (under which the Colonial Office belonged), recommended "... [w]e do not refund the company the postage due paid, since these are closed letters, and it is not possible for the postal service to determine if the contents are only shipping documents."

It appears, moreover, from the letter that consignee letters arrived in large numbers, especially from the Hamburg America Line and the Quebec Line, and that they were constantly delivered to the mail service, which assessed postage due as normal letters, unless they had been properly franked.

The government simultaneously requested a statement from the Treasury Ministry and from the directorate for the mail service (or possibly from the central bureau in Bern) about the correct treatment of these consignee letters.

Since the vast majority of the consignee letters we know today are dated later than this information, we can assume that it explains their postal handling. Provided the letters were closed, they were charged postage due unless adequately franked beforehand.

It appears that consignee letters were taken on board immediately before the ship's departure, and therefore could not undergo normal handling at a post office. This explains why the stamps on franked and partly franked covers were never canceled in the sending country, but only upon arrival in the DWI.

Finally, a little about the consignee letters surviving today. Most came from the correspondence of Fredericksted grocer Thomas Ramsay. They are characterized by the fact that the due stamps are never seen canceled, which was the practice in Fredericksted. Even so, the public could not reuse them.

On the Christiansted consignee letter shown (Figure 3) the due stamps are not canceled, but as this was not a permanent practice in Christiansted, it should be possible to find consignee letters from there with canceled due stamps.

I hope to have clarified the subject a little with this article. Additional information from readers will be received with thanks. ■

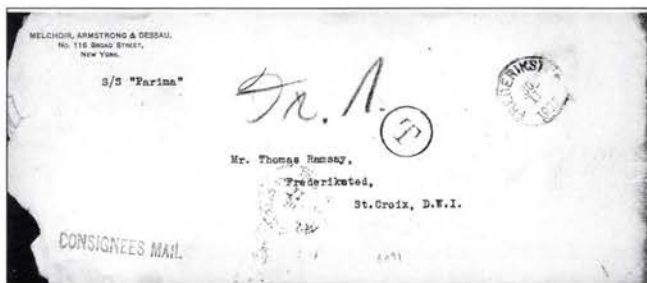


Figure 3. 1912 consignee letter from the U.S. to Christiansted. The letter is noted "Fr.1." It is certainly a quintuple weight letter. Postage due was double the missing rate: 1 Fr. or 100 Bit.

Author's Note: I would like to thank Svend K. Seitzberg, Hjørring, for his review and comments.

The Mysterious Printing II of the Danish West Indies 4-Cent Bicolor

by Jeremiah A. Farrington
(Addendum by John DuBois)

The AFA, Facit, and DAKA catalogs say there are only two printings of the 4-cent DWI bicolor perf 14x131/2. Some authorities agree with Sweden's G. A. Hagemann (quoted in *The Posthorn*, July 1951): "...although several dealers and collectors show five printings of the DWI four cents bi-colored stamps, this is absolutely wrong as only four printings were made...This mistake may be due to the fact that Print II really shows two very different shades, blue and pale blue."



Are the catalogs correct? Is Hagemann right, despite what our eyes tell us? Well, the catalogs and Hagemann are correct if the usual Danish definition of a printing is taken, i.e., a print order, or requisition. In the case of DWI bicolors, the great majority of print orders or requisitions were run off within a brief time span using uniform inks, papers, and printing materials (clichés and cliché arrangement within the printing plate). This resulted in discrete parcels of up to 200,000 stamps that were essentially alike and more or less distinctly different from the same denomination from a different printing.

For example, DWI collectors can say with considerable confidence, "This is a 10 cent from Print I while this copy is from Print IV." They will be correct: all Print I 10-cent are quite different from 10-cent Print IV in color, paper, and cliché type. A multiple from Print I containing a given cliché flaw will plate differently from a multiple from Print IV showing the same flaw, e.g., Oval Flaw C, Position 18 in Print I, Position 64 in Print IV.

Thus, in the majority of instances, a "print order" and a "production printing" were identical in that they produced stamps uniform in characteristics of color, paper, cliché type, and cliché arrangement in the plate. But not always. From time to time, H. H. Thiele and his workmen filled a "print order" with stamps that in other nomenclatures would be separated as different printings, and, often enough, be recognized in the standard catalogs by the assignment of separate numbers.

Examples of Multiple Printings

Let me cite two examples from Thiele's workshop. During the course of producing Printing VI of the DWI 3-cent bicolor, the oval plate was taken apart, the clichés cleaned, and the plate reassembled with the clichés in a different arrangement. From an accounting or administrative point of view, this can easily be accepted as a single printing. From the production point of view, clearly two printings occurred.

The third printing of Denmark's FIRE RBS (Thiele II) produced two classes of stamps of sharply differing character: AFA and Facit Thiele IIa, coarse prints in black-brown, and Thiele IIb, fine prints in red brown. A clean plate and a dirty plate. Different batches of ink. Two printings.

A third example, this time non-Thiele and non-Scandinavian, is the last printing of the New York Postmaster's Provisional, 100 sheets in February 1847. The majority of the stamps were on the usual bluish paper (Scott 9X1). However, a very few sheets of blue paper and of gray paper were also used in the printing, producing stamps distinctly different to the philatelist, if not to Robert Morris, the New York postmaster. The rarity and desirability of the blue paper and gray paper stamps is recognized by the catalog value assigned to Scott 9X2 and 9X3. In this case, not two different printings, but three very different stamps!

The relevance of this to the 4-cent DWI Print II is that Hagemann is correct in stating that it is one of four printings, i.e. print orders. But following his statement, "This mistake may be due to ➤

the fact that Print II really shows two very different shades, blue and pale blue,” he goes on to say:

“This is due to differences in climate - hot and moist in the Danish West Indies and cold and dry in the vaults of the Postal Department in Copenhagen. Print II was used from 1878 to long into 1900. The stamps that were stocked in the Danish West Indies became pale in color while those that were kept in Denmark retained their strong color. Small quantities of stamps were withdrawn from the supplies in Denmark from time to time. It is well known that moisture and heat works chemical changes in paper, gum and ink.”

Heat, Moisture, and a Different Scenario

It is here that I suggest Hagemann is a bit off the track.

It is certainly true that moisture and heat can, and often do, work chemical changes in paper, gum, and ink. We have all seen lamentable toning of the paper of DWI stamps used to Caribbean Island destinations, but the essential color of the stamp imprints is little changed. And a hot and moist climate may tone the paper, but it can not, did not, change a thin translucent paper into a medium to thick opaque paper, or vice versa.

The 4-cent Print II stamps come in a clear, clean blue, approaching ultramarine in tone but not reaching the true ultramarine of Print I. These stamps are on the same thin, somewhat translucent paper used for Print I stamps. They can be found in immaculately fresh, “non-tropicalized” examples. A second, much more common, and very consistent shade is a lighter, somewhat milky blue, always on a thicker (“medium”), more opaque paper.

For Print II, the authorities ordered 150,000 stamps, and Thiele delivered 150,000 stamps. However, Thiele clearly printed these stamps in two batches, which may be distinguished as noted above.

How did this occur? A reasonable scenario is that the press operator printing the 4c stamps, starting the job late in the day, finished his day’s work by doing the “make ready” with the 4c plate, drawing the perhaps 200 sheets of paper left in the open paper stock, and printing the 4c stamps in clear, clean blue on thin paper. The next morning, he checked his ink supply, noted that it was insufficient for 1,300 sheets, and asked the colorman to add inks to bring it up to the required amount. The colorman did so, adding a bit more white to the indigo than he had in his initial mix a day or two before. And when our press operator went to draw his 1,300 sheets of paper, they came from the new shipment, somewhat thicker than that used on the press run of the previous day.

If this is what happened (and something very much like this surely did) we have 4-cent “Print II” stamps in clean blue on thin paper printed in one operation and stamps in a milky blue on medium paper from a second operation.

I believe that specialist collectors might logically follow the Facit listing of the Thiele II FIRE RBS and recognize Print IIA and Print IIB of the DWI 4 cent, the IIA being much the scarcer.

Addendum from John DuBois

This carefully written and entertaining article presents an entirely plausible explanation of the 4-cent bicolor Printing II color problem. Although there is a range of subtle color differences to be seen on the Print II stamps, they do fall into two families. Farrington’s characterization of clean blue and “milky” blue is a good guide to separating them on color alone.

A remaining difficulty is the paper thickness. There has long been an association of the two varieties of this printing with “thick” and “thin” paper, at least relative to each other. The author advises that the greater translucency of the “thin” variety is his principal indicator.

Several years ago, I undertook to carefully measure a number of Print II stamps to try and confirm two populations with a significant difference in mean thickness. This is a difficult exercise to do properly because the variations we are looking for are only slightly larger than the sources of measurement error. Gum thickness, in particular, is greater and more variable than the likely difference in paper thickness, so it is best to measure only samples without gum. Another significant error source is thickness variation over the area of a single stamp, which has to be controlled by averaging ➤

several point measurements.

For the test, 25 stamps from Print II were measured, all without gum. There was an obvious division of colors, 12 of shade "a" and 13 of shade "b," these shades corresponding more or less to Farrington's description.

The resulting distribution function is shown in Figure 1. The mean is 0.0027 inches, and the distribution is rather flat; there is no clear bimodality. Although it might be suspected that the left region is "thin" and the right region "thick," this is not borne out by considering the "a" and "b" color groups individually.

If we calculate these means separately, the results are – within measurement precision – the same. This is not a problem of resolution. Similar measurements on Printing I yield a mean thickness of 0.0023 inches, and on Printing IV, 0.0038 inches.

So, from these measurements it cannot be concluded that there are two different thickness populations to Printing II. It may be that the difference, although slight, would show up in a larger sample. Or, more likely, it may be that the main difference in the paper of the two shades is only one of translucency. ■

(This article was adapted from *SCC Danish West Indies Study Group Newsletter*, #25, November 1997.)

Reference:

Engstrom, Victor E., Editor, *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917*, Vol. II, Washington, DC, Scandinavian Printing and Publishing Co., 1979-82.

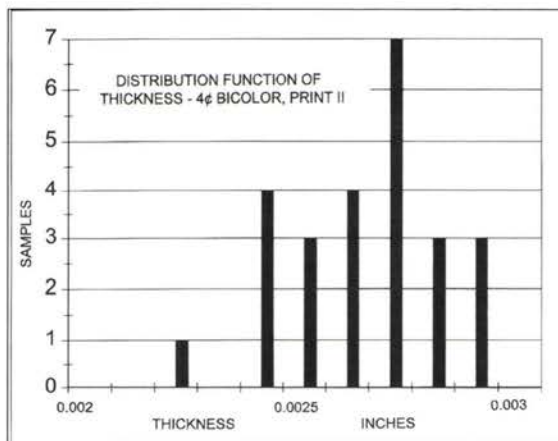


Figure 1. Distribution function of thickness measurements on the 4c bicolor, Printing II. Vertical axis is number of samples.

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6¢ of Message on a 3¢ Card



A parsimonious resident with a very steady hand most likely wrote the Danish West Indies postal card shown above. After filling the message side of the card from left to right, the author turned it and filled again from top to bottom. The result, although confusing at first, is surprisingly easy to read as the brain adapts to ignore the other writing almost exactly at 90 degrees.

The card was sent from St. Thomas January 27, 1884 to Copenhagen by French packet line "B" via the port of Saint-Nazaire. The 3¢ postal card is a four-line type PC-3, first printed in 1878 for the foreign card rate.

—John DuBois



Danish West Indies Study Unit

The Danish West Indies Study Unit is a specialized organization within the Scandinavian Collectors Club dedicated to study and promotion of philately of the stamps, postal history, and post offices of the Danish Caribbean islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John from the 18th century to 1917 when they were sold to the United States.

As these islands were an international shipping hub in the 19th century involving postal activity of several countries, our study area encompasses philatelic material from not only the Danish West Indies but North America, Scandinavia, England, Spain, France, South America, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, all of the Greater and Lesser Antilles, as well as other countries whose mail passed through St. Thomas and St. Croix.

The Study Unit was formed in the mid-1970s during preparation of the three-volume publication, *DWI Mails*, edited by Victor Engstrom. Since then, the principal activity has been publication of the DWI Study Unit Newsletter containing news, announcements, articles, and research results on philately of the area. The newsletter is published on an irregular schedule, two to three times a year. Another resource maintained by the Study Unit is the DWI Record, a comprehensive illustrated and annotated census of DWI philatelic material. There have been occasional meetings of the Study Unit, as well as special publications.

The Study Unit maintains a World Wide Web Page at <http://dwi.thlogic.com> to make our activities visible to a wide audience and, particularly, to publish the DWI Study Unit Newsletter electronically. The content is nearly identical in format to the printed version. Viewers are encouraged to contact the editor with news, ideas, suggestions, and contributions.

Membership in the Study Unit is informal. All collectors with an interest in the region are welcome and encouraged to participate in its correspondence and activity. At present, there are no dues. To join the study unit and subscribe to the newsletter, write or email John DuBois c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Drive, Hudson, MA 01749, or jld@thlogic.com.

—John DuBois

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Finland Enters the Era of the Euro

by Lauri Poropudas, Editor, Filatelisti



The Editor of *The Posthorn* expressed interest in the European Union's (EU) monetary conversion to the Euro at the start of 2002 and what that might mean for collectors of Finland's stamps and postal history. He reports there has been some published speculation in the U.S. that Finland's postal authorities might have been "reluctant" to make the conversion since it did not issue any Euro-denominated stamps until January and its Markka (FIM) stamps remain valid for another decade.

Let me put that question to rest early. There was no reluctance. It was only that the Finnish Post Office had a different strategy in not issuing dual values of Euros and FIM before the official conversion. Instead, it issued nondenominated first and second class stamps that are valid forever.

Of the 44 stamps issued in 2001, there were 26 different stamps for first or second class mail issued in minisheets and rolls.

Initially, the plan was for FIM values to become invalid at the end of June (as is the case in many of the 12 EU countries). However, consumer protection authorities in the government



Mixed franking canceled January 30 in Hämeenlinna and used on cover to the U.S.A. A FIM 0.10 and a Christmas stamp serve as bookends for two new Euro stamps (0.05 and 0.10). Eleven Euro-denominated stamps ranging in value from 0.05 to 5.00 were released by Finland on January 1.

rejected this last autumn and extended the validity of FIM stamps until the end of 2011. For the post office, this means extra work to check franking and observe the use of mixed values (Euro and FIM).



Some tests have shown it will be possible to trick the optical checking systems, but I do not believe there will be widespread misuse. How many will bother to count in two monetary values to cheat the system of a few pennies? Anyway, what is the loss if some few cents are missing while other mail is overfranked? (Editor's Note: The conversion rate for Finland was 5.94573 markka = €1.00).

In contrast, Åland began issuing dual values as early as 1999 and continued throughout 2000 and 2001. Its stamps with FIM values went off sale in December 2001 and are valid through June 2002. Åland's stamps with both FIM and Euro values remain valid along with its nondenominated first and second class stamps.

One U.S. writer noted that Finland's 2001 Christmas stamps were issued in FIM only. It is traditional for Finland's Christmas stamps to be of a lesser value (FIM 2.50 in 2001 when the actual rate for a postal card is FIM 3.60). This is how the post office encourages people to mail their Christmas cards early to ease the heavy Christmas mail volume. Finland sends about 53 million cards at Christmas, an average of more than 10 cards per inhabitant. ➤



The FIM 2.50 rate was valid until December 14 on Christmas cards or unsealed envelopes and then increased to FIM 3.60 for the rest of the holiday season. And the FIM 2.50 stamps remain valid until the end of 2011, although there is no such rate. They can be used as extra values in combination with Euro or other FIM stamps.

There was eagerness – not reluctance – when 11 Euro stamps went on sale January 1, 2002. It was a busy day at the two post offices that were open: the Helsinki General Post Office and the Santa Claus Post Office at Rovaniemi on the Arctic Circle. In Helsinki, people waited up to two hours to get Euro stamps and first day cancels. Doors shut at 5 p.m., but cancellations continued until 9 p.m. First day covers were sold until January 4. Usually, FDCs are sold only on the date of issue.

At Rovaniemi, Russian tourists joined collectors seeking the new Euro stamps and the three first-day postmarks.

Efforts were not successful to keep other post offices open on January 1. In some towns, local collector clubs had made a deal with local post offices to remain open but headquarters said no to everyone.

I think collectors are waiting for new mixed frankings, mistakes, strange frankings, and all that happens when a new system is put into use. For some Finnish Euro stamps, there have been two sizes and two perforations since they were printed in two sessions. That provides varieties for collectors to hunt.

Some business firms and institutions, including universities from the U.S. and Great Britain, are experimenting with using mail facilities in Europe because of favorable postage rates under the EU. There are reports of this occurring in Portugal, Belgium, and Spain. This is not likely to occur in Finland because our Euro postage rate is the highest among the 12 EU countries. First-class rates are €0.60 in Finland and range down to a low of €0.38 in Ireland.

The reason is that Finland applied a VAT (valued added tax) to its postage about two years ago in anticipation of the monetary conversion. It may be that Finland was the only “good pupil” in the EU class, but it comes at an extra cost to us. ■



As Finland's replaces its 141-year-old Markka with the new Euro here are a few European Union postal notes excerpted from *The Financial Times* (December 12, 2001).

- ❖ The conversion of franking machines to Euros is a large undertaking. There are about 300,000 franking machines in the larger countries, such as France and Germany, and 11,000-12,000 in smaller countries, such as Finland and Ireland.
- ❖ Adjusting franking machines makes up the largest part of postal operators' changeover costs. France's Le Poste, for example, estimated preparations for the Euro cost €180 million in 2001, including training 300,000 employees about the Euro, setting up information centers in 17,000 post offices, and adjusting 280,000 franking machines.
- ❖ The changeover should create additional business for post offices, including education and publicity campaigns by mail. For the first two months of 2002 (when both Euros and the national currency are valid), post offices will help banks to withdraw the old currency from circulation.
- ❖ Mail order business is expected to increase, as foreign exchange costs will no longer be a deterrent to export sales in the EU.
- ❖ The use of stamps, however, is in decline. Because of the widespread use of franking machines, only 18 percent of EU mail now carries a stamp. Most stamps are used for personal letters and fewer are sold in countries with low literacy rates.
- ❖ Some observers see a turn-around in the use of postage stamps to make letters stand out from the undifferentiated franked mail used in mass marketing.



They Have Closed the Post Office in Hell!

by Paul Albright

One of the more popular Scandinavian cancels is that of Hell, Norway. Collectors and tourists are known for “traveling to Hell and back” to obtain cancels and souvenirs in the small town 20 miles east of Trondheim on the banks of the Stjørdal River. The Norwegian philatelic magazine, *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift (NFT)*, receives its mail at a postal box in Hell.

Thus, it was a surprise to learn that the Hell Post Office was one of several hundred small post offices being closed and postal services shifted to contract shops. In this case, the contract station is located 100 yards away inside a Hydro-Texaco gasoline station.

Postal services provided at the gasoline station include accepting outgoing letters and parcels, distributing incoming mail in 100 lock boxes (including *NFT's* box), selling stamps, handling giro accounts, and accepting pension savings.



Figure 2.

Per Morten Thyholt (Figure 2) opened the contract station on January 15 by using Hell's circular hand cancel on more mail, including signing a cover that states, “These are the first stamps sold from the Hell gasoline station.” (Figure 3.)



Figure 4.

All but a handful of contract stations lost their local cancels. Norway Post, however, acknowledged the popularity of Hell's cancel by allowing its continued use on outgoing mail that is brought to the gasoline station or placed in a drop box at the Hell railroad station (Figure 4). Hell's first post office opened July 1, 1889 in a small railway station on what was then the world's northernmost railway, the Trondheim-to-Sundsvall line, which had opened four years earlier.

Another contract station allowed to keep its cancel is Geiranger, a popular stopping point for sightseers to Norway's western fjords. ■

Contributing information and illustrations for this article were Steinar Furunes, Editor of *NFT*; Arvid Løhre at the Norway Post Museum; and Kjell O. Aarstad of Stjørdal, Norway.

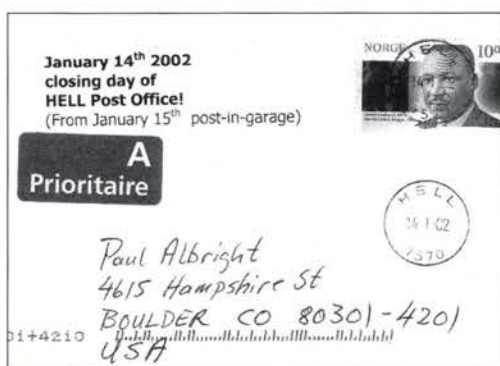


Figure 1.



Figure 3.

Rare Iceland Gutter Pairs Go to Market

Rare gutter pairs of three Iceland stamps from the 1950s are moving into the philatelic marketplace.

Frank Banke, Scandinavia dealer and auction agent who operates from Belgium, announced in January that he had acquired three uncut sheets of the 35 aur and 70 aur denominations from the 1957 issue promoting forestry (Iceland Facit 354-355) and the 5 aur value issued in 1954 as part of a set depicting various Icelandic occupations and scenes (Facit 330).

The stamps were engraved and printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd. in England in double sheets of 100 with an empty space the size of a normal stamp separating the sheets. After printing and perforating, the double sheets were cut down the middle, making two sheets of 50 with plate numbers 1A or 1B printed in the lower margins. Each sheet of 50 contained five stamps horizontally and 10 vertically. Some 11 million of these otherwise common Icelandic stamps were produced in this way.



One uncut double sheet of each of the three stamps was in the de la Rue archives when they were sold some years ago, Banke said. In breaking the sheets, 10 gutter pairs of each stamp will be created.

Banke provided computer scans of the gutter pairs for their first public showing through *The Posthorn*.

No catalog value has been established on this new find since the sheets were not recorded previously, Banke said. The single stamps have a minimum catalog value.

The two 1957 "Propaganda for Forestry" stamps had one notable champion – the renowned novelist Ayn Rand. Ms. Rand, a stamp collector, praised the two stamps as her favorites for beauty and design. The stamps were issued to publicize a reforestation program in Iceland. The 1954 stamp shows the harbor at Vestmannaeyjum.

Further information is available from Banke at fbanke@pandora.be, or by snail mail at Mezenlaan 3, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium.



— Paul Albright

Reference:

The Posthorn, November 1999, pages 14 and 21.

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Swedish Merchandise Sample Envelopes

If you find a strange looking envelope like the one shown here franked with 8 Öre Swedish postage, used domestically, made of oilcloth or heavy, brown, Kraft paper, cancelled between 1885 and 1919 you have probably found a Merchandise Sample or Varuproven envelope.



I know of nothing comprehensive written about these and nothing in English. There is a little information in *50 Års Svensk Postal Dokumentation* by Laursen & Stavenow on pages 33-35.

These were used, as the name implies, to send samples of merchandise to prospective buyers or distributors. The weight could be quite high, up to 300 grams in some periods, and still be sent for 8 Öre.

This one has a pair of Sweden Facit 42b, gray on a stitched oil cloth envelope cancelled October 5, 1886 at Göteborg and addressed to Gnosjö. It contained an iron or steel fabric, possibly like what we call "hardware cloth" today.

—James Burgeson

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A Change of Direction

by Frederick A. Brofos

This is a remarkable story of World War II concerning a rocket fired off from Germany and unexpectedly crashing in Sweden.

During the Nazi era, the Germans established a giant rocket research center in a closely guarded secret city located at Peenemünde in Pomerania on the coast of the Baltic Sea.

On June 13, 1944, just a week after the Normandy invasion started, a special type of V-2 rocket was launched from this base. It carried a new kind of steering system so that the flight direction could be controlled from the ground. However, half a minute after the launch, clouds came between the rocket and its operator. To avoid a possible crash on the German mainland, the engineer turned the rocket a bit too far northward. Soon, it was flying in the direction of neutral Sweden. Getting out of control, the rocket finally blew up and pieces rained down near the Swedish city of Kalmar.



The German legation at Stockholm was promptly notified of the mistake. They demanded that the Swedish Government immediately turn over to them all pieces of the secret rocket. Instead, Sweden protested directly to Hitler. At first he had a fit, but later commented: "It is quite good that the Swedes realize that we can shoot from Germany into their country. Then they will be more ready for negotiations!"

Agents of the British Secret Service in Sweden, having heard of the German rocket crash, naturally made inquiries and requests. The Swedish Government eventually decided to let the British have the rocket remains. A transport plane flown by the well-known Polar explorer, the Norwegian-American Col. Bernt Balchen, brought them to England. These broken parts were later supplemented by a complete rocket, spirited out of Poland. Thus, the Allies got to closely study a V-2 rocket which, unlike the V-1, had been too fast to shoot down.

It is interesting to recall that long ago, in the 17th Century, the whole territory from Stralsund to Peenemünde had been conquered and annexed by the war-like Swedish King Gustav Adolf. After a number of years, the Swedes were eventually chased out again. The land was rather wild and useless anyway. It was deserted except for fishermen until another Adolf, in the 20th Century, found a new use for it.

The Allies accidentally discovered the site of the German rocket base from aerial photographs. A pilot using up the end of a film roll had taken these by chance over the area. Thereafter, Peenemünde became a prime target and was destroyed by bombs several times over, until the exasperated Germans were forced to move their rocket manufacture elsewhere and underground.

Adolf Hitler has appeared many times on postage stamps but, oddly enough, never on coins. King Gustav Adolf has appeared on both. He ruled the same Pomerania three centuries before. He is shown with a laurel wreath on his head, like a Roman emperor, on three Swedish stamps. They were issued in 1920 to mark the tercentenary of the Swedish Post running between Stockholm and Hamburg. The House of Vasa emblem is in the upper-left corner of the stamps. In 1932, a set of three stamps pictured the equestrian death scene of the king at the Battle of Lützen in 1632.

Illustrated are some of these stamps, providing just the necessary philatelic ingredient permitting this little-known tale to be told here. ■



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Frank Banke

Northland (U.S.A.)

Northland will offer the DWI Grand Prix collection of Roger Schnell in late May as part of NOJEX. The material encompasses the early Danish West Indies Company, the colonial period, the foreign occupations and administrations, and private postal services. It contains items that have not been on the auction market for at least 30 years. Shown are two rare covers to Germany estimated by Northland to bring \$50,000 to \$75,000 each. One is franked with the 3- and 4-cent classic perforated issues and is the only intact cover known. The other is the spectacular 14-cent bicolor on cover. Both covers rank in the indisputable top of Danish West Indies philately.



Corinphila (Switzerland)

In December, Corinphila sold an extensive collection of German States. Among the items was one 1866 Hamburg cover with interest for the DWI collector. The cover (one of three or four known) was addressed to St. Thomas (DWI) and re-addressed to Maracaibo (Venezuela). The franking included two rare, 9-schilling perforated stamps (Scott Hamburg 21). Total price \$16,000.



Lars-Tore Eriksson (Sweden)

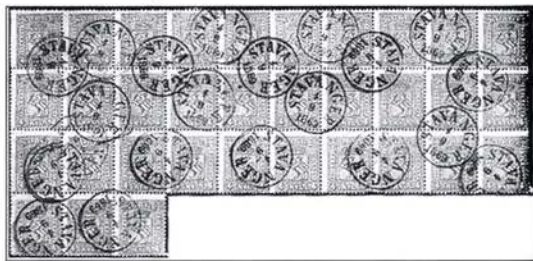
The trend that quality material is in high demand proved right at LTE's November auction. The catalog's front page illustrated two stamps: A 24 sk. banco with socked on the nose cancel brought \$7,000, almost 2½ times the catalog; the second, a 20-öre imperforate ring type (Facit 33dv3) brought \$12,000. Fewer than five copies are known. ➤



Kjell Germeten (Norway)



This December auction offered much Norwegian material but also some other good Scandinavia. A beautiful and rare stamp, the 3 øre 20mm issue, IV printing 1892, perf $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ (Facit 51Bv2) brought almost \$6,000, almost six times greater



than its catalog value. A 33-block used of 4 sk. 1867 coat-of-arms type (Facit 14), the largest recorded, realized \$13,000. Germeten's upcoming April 20 auction will include a 27-volume collection of Scandinavia with an estimated starting price of NOK 1,000,000 or \$110,000.

Moldenhauer (Norway)



An extensive range of quality material was offered by Moldenhauer in November. Featured was the collection of øre stamps formed by Wiegand Hansen. Again, the Norwegian market showed its strength. A



beautiful 2 sk. 1863 coat-of-arms type (Facit 6) with a superb strike started at \$250 and sold for

\$3,200. An unfranked letter with the 1854 steamship Viken cancel and manuscript notation "pr. Damps Wiken 18/11" (per steamship Wiken November 18) started at \$1,800 and sold for more than \$5,000. ■

Seeking Research Funds on Classic Scandinavia?

The British Library Philatelic Collections has announced establishment of a fund to assist research and scholarship in classic philately (defined as before 1900). The Chand A and Z Research Fund for Classic Philately will pay research costs in any country in the disciplines of traditional philately, revenue philately, and postal history. The research should lead to publication in any form.

Inquiries should go to the British Library Philatelic Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW 1 2DB; telephone 02074127635/6, fax 02074127780, or email philatelic@bl.uk. ■

For Scandinavian Revenue Collectors

Claus Rafner of Copenhagen is developing an interesting website at <http://www.rafner.dk/>. Rafner is a philatelist and a student of the history of Danish taxation. His book detailing alcohol and tobacco taxpays of Denmark won Large Vermeil awards at HAFNIA 2001 and at NORDIA 1998. He is working on a detailed handbook of Danish revenue stamps and stamped revenue paper. I expect there will be more English on this site soon, as well as additional information.

— Paul Nelson

President's Letter

John DuBois

As of January, we welcomed a new face, James Clark, in the position of SCC Treasurer, and extend a grateful thank you to Howard Schloss, who has served in this position since 1995. Among many valuable accomplishments, Howard was instrumental in obtaining 501(c)3 tax status for the SCC. We have some challenging projects for our new Treasurer, as well as day-to-day oversight of finances. I am confident that James will be an excellent match for the job.



Our club has been fortunate to retain a level membership over the last several years – it has fluctuated up and down a bit around 975. This has definitely not been the experience of many philatelic organizations and publications that have seen a clear trend downward, even so far, in a few cases, as to cause shut down. We can attribute our good fortune to a number of different reasons. Holding NORDIA 2001 in the United States, for example, brought us publicity and more than a few new members. But there is no guarantee that, going forward, we will retain or add to our membership unless *The Posthorn* and other club activities continue to be attractive in relation to our dues.

At this time, the financial condition of the SCC is good, and we have reserves of about four times the annual budget. Our major activity is publishing *The Posthorn*, which consumes about 75 percent of the budget. Our largest income category is member dues. Because of the ample reserves, we have allowed the budget to operate at a slight loss for the last few years, but this is not a wise policy to continue indefinitely. We must face the matter in setting 2003's budget, because *Posthorn* outlay, our major expense, will rise due to postage increases and production costs associated with ongoing upgrades of design and printing. Some, but not all, of the extra cost will be offset by higher advertising rates and, we hope, by additional advertising. One of the possibilities for responsible management of our budget is to raise club dues, starting next year, and the board of directors will be discussing this and other measures.

Our annual members' meeting this year will be held five months earlier than originally planned. The change became necessary when the committee of our intended show, the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE), was not able to secure their traditional site for the scheduled dates. The problem was not their fault and as much an inconvenience to PNSE as to us. When it began to look like their likely alternate dates and location would cause the show to overlap with NORDIA 2002, we were forced to move our own meeting. The SCC substitute site, at the Boxborough Philatelic Show '02, preserves our policy of rotating the annual meeting in east-, mid-, and west-U.S. locations each year. Full show details appear elsewhere in this *Posthorn* and on the SCC Web site: <http://www.scc-online.org/>.

The Mart book system, a cornerstone of our services to members, badly needs your help. For each of the last two years, the net inventory of stamps has decreased by 17 percent. That is, the amount of material purchased from the circuits has exceeded the books submitted. If this trend were to continue unabated, our Mart would have nothing left to circulate in about five years! We welcome this material at reasonable cost, but it is vitally important that we keep the supply side going. Please consider making it a project in your Chapter to get some blank books and assemble submissions to the Mart. It is important. (You can read more about the Mart elsewhere in this issue of *The Posthorn*.)

I am puzzled by a kind of mystery. We currently have 19 active chapters (20 counting the Cyber Chapter). By informal count, there are about 200 members participating in these Chapter activities. Not everyone goes to every meeting, but at least they are on local rolls and active from time to time. We also know there are about 975 members paying dues every year, with perhaps 150 residing outside the U.S. This leaves approximately 550 U.S. members not actively affiliated with a local chapter. ►

The meaning of this figure is a mystery to me and raises a number of questions. Is the number correct? Are these members too distant from chapter meeting places? Are meeting times inconvenient? Should chapters do more to include them? Are chapter activities uninteresting? Can we serve them better through the Cyber Chapter? How many collectors are participating in local chapters but are not members of SCC? And so on.

I would very much like to hear from SCC members in this “mystery” category and learn more about how we can better serve our members. Comments are always welcome: jld@thlogic.com. ■

A Rare Type of Sweden's Facit 27

© by Diether Pascher

A circular from the Swedish Royal Post counsel on June 21, 1872 announced that two new values were to be issued in July. One was a 6-öre value for printed matter and the other 1 Riksdaler for packages (Figure 1).

The original form (matrix) for the 1 Riksdaler stamp (Figure 2) was designed for one color. Since there was a desire for two colors, the middle portions of two, 50-stamp plates (clichés) were drilled out. A new printing plate was made for the middle parts by using four, 25-stamp blocks fastened to a wooden board (Figure 3).

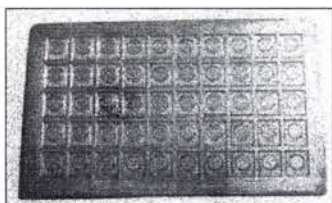


Figure 2.

As the first sheets of the 1 Riksdaler (Sweden Facit 27) were printed and observed, it was noted that the three crowns were quite dark (Figure 4). The middle printing plate was lifted from the press and three white lines were hand-engraved on the right sides of each crown on the plate (Figure 5).

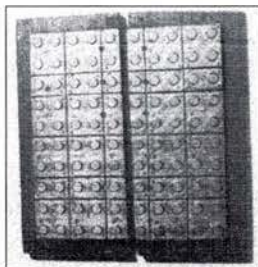


Figure 3.

The 1 Riksdaler without the white lines was present on the first delivery of 182 sheets. It has another color shade from the 1 Riksdaler with the white lines. The 1 Riksdaler (type 1) without the white lines is a light brown/bright blue, while the 1 Riksdaler (type 2) with white lines is a light brown/grayish blue.

The difference was not great so it was determined that the sheets with and without the white lines should be delivered to the central stamp store of the Post.

I know only two cancelled and one unused stamp without the white lines (Figure 4) belongs among the most rare stamps of Sweden.



Figure 1.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

— This article is translated and adapted by the author from his Swedish language version in *filatelisten*, June 2001, page 240.

Reference:

Blomberg, Erik, *Ring Type Stamps 1872-1892*, trans. from the Swedish Philatelic Federation's Handbook Part II, 1962 by Sven Åhman, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, Thousand Oaks, CA, 1985.

A Glance Back

Bob Lang

This entry of “A Glance Back” looks at the *Posthorns* from 1967 – 25 years ago – rather than turning the pages back a half-century.

The reader is cautioned that information published long ago may have appeared in updated form more than once in ensuing years. While these recaps can open doors to increasing your philatelic knowledge, they are no substitute for further research.

January 1967, Vol. 24, #1 - “Manuscript Cancels of Iceland,” by Robert A. Helm.

Until this article, only eight of these pen-type cancels had been identified. This article lists 33 following the author’s research trip to Iceland. These markings (mostly town names, abbreviations, signatures, or initials) are the result of mail that was cancelled by the carrier because it did not pass through either a Provincial Post Office or a Mail Collection Station en route to its destination. The earliest manuscript cancel is thought to be “ESKI” used only 60 days in late 1872. Nine numeral manuscript cancels were also known and authenticated.

In the same issue, Svend Yort shows some newly found and previously uncataloged varieties of the 1883-85 and 1886-93 Norway posthorn issues.

April 1967 Vol. 24, #2 - “The Smithsonian’s Swedish Mail Box,” by Reidar Norby.

This article presents an interesting historical perspective on the introduction of fixed and portable mail boxes in Sweden. While they were first introduced in 1835, predating stamps by 20 years, the boxes were often strapped on the back of a roving mail collector. A photo of a Swedish portable mailbox, c. 1893, is shown (Figure 1).

The same issue included a scholarly presentation by Carl Werenskiöld on the “The Replica (Matrix) Types of the Norway 10 Ore, Plate VI, Stamp.”

Frederick A. Brofos presented an interesting article on “Norwegian Post Office Paper Letter Seals.” They were used on folded letters and envelopes that had no gum or defective gum and were applied by individuals and at the Post Office when letters were found open while in transit.

July 1967 Vol. 24, #3 - The issue is almost entirely devoted to an 11-page article by Reidar Norby about the “Norwegian ‘Local’ Stamps - On Madagascar!”



Figure 2.

Many of us, including your reviewer, were unaware of these “outpost” stamps issued for use by the Norwegian Missionary Society on the island of Madagascar during the 1890s. The two stamps printed by the mission society were in the Madagascar currency of “vari” and “era,” 10 vari to one era. The lower denominated stamp for letters was 5v (Figure 2), equal to one-third of a British penny. The higher denomination was 1e.5v (Figure 3), equal to one British penny and the prepayment for parcels. ➤

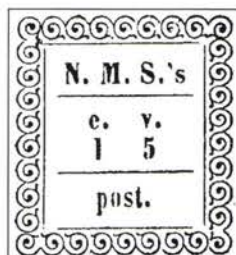


Figure 3.



Figure 1. The instruction on the mail box prohibits the deposit of letters with valuable contents.

In this issue Frederick Brofos continued his treatise on the "Postal Paper Letter Seals of the Other Scandinavian Countries," showing examples from Finland, Denmark, DWI, Iceland, and Sweden.

September 1967 Vol. 24, #4 - Ernst Cohn discusses the 1870-71 Paris Siege balloon letters addressed to Sweden and other Scandinavian destinations. He shows three of the six then known folded letters flown out of Paris that made their way to Sweden. Sixty-six balloons made successful flights from Paris during the 4^{1/2}-month siege. At this writing, three known letters were sent to Denmark and one to Finland.

Posthorn Editor Reidar Norby gives a one-page history lesson on the "Finnish Colonists in Sweden."

Frederick Brofos shows and discusses an intriguing group of Norwegian "Fra Tog" postal markings. These boxed crown and posthorn markings were used to cancel mail deposited in boxes on the various electric trains running between Oslo and its suburbs.

December 1967 Vol. 24, #5 - In a sequel to his balloon mail article in the previous issue, Ernst Cohn revisits an area near Lifjell Mountain in Telemark, Norway to find out more about the balloon flight that terminated there on November 25, 1870. His article, "Sentimental Journey," recounts the 15-hour, 800-mile flight of the balloon flown by two volunteers during the Siege of Paris and a return visit by one of the pilots a year later.

The rest of this issue is devoted to a study by Carl Werenskiold of the "1880 Norwegian 5 and 10 Ore Postal Cards." ■

SCC members may obtain photocopies of specific articles in *The Posthorn* by writing to SCC Library, c/o Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224, or email SCC Librarian Stuart Silverberg at stustork@aol.com. Please send a minimum of \$1.00 to cover photocopying and postage costs.

Scandinavian Area Awards

The FIP has been conducting an evaluation of philatelic web sites for the past two years. Webmasters enter their sites through an application procedure and fee similar to philatelic or literature exhibits. The results of the FIP web site evaluation for 2001 were announced at the HAFNIA 01 exhibition in Copenhagen last October. No Nordic area sites finished in the top 5 percent, but several placed in the three-star category, including the sites for HAFNIA 01, NORDIA 2001, and the Postal Stationery of Denmark 1871-1879.

At the CHICAGOPEX show in November, Stephen P. Kaplan received a vermeil for his "The Ring Stationery of Finland 1891-1911." He was also first runner-up for the Marcus White medal of the United Postal Stationery Society. In the literature section at the same show, *The Posthorn* received a vermeil.

Three Nordic exhibits from U.S. entrants won awards at the BELGICA show last June in Brussels. Roger Schnell won a gold for his "Iceland 1778/1902." A large vermeil went to Harold Peter for "Fieldpost Schleswig-Holstein/Denmark Wars 1846/51 and 1864." Roger Quinby received a vermeil for "The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland 1917/1930."

Two Nordic exhibits were at the VAPEX show in Virginia Beach in November. Jeffrey Crown won a vermeil for "Faroe Island Post 1839-1952," and Alan Warren received a silver for "Denmark: The Frederik IX Issues 1948-1960 on First Day Covers." At the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in October, Edward Tucker received a silver-bronze for "Finland's Three Major Wars 1939-1945."

—Alan Warren

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From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



Do you notice anything different about this issue of *The Posthorn*? I hope so. The big difference is its size — from the 6x9-inch page that has been used since the first issue in 1943 to this 7x10-inch size at the start of a new volume 59 years later.

Why this change? Primarily, two reasons: (1) readability of the text, which is now set in a larger font, and (2) the ability to print larger graphics for greater ease in examining stamps, covers, and other illustrations.

The discussion on making this change was underway when I was appointed Editor in May 1999, and it probably predated that. A larger page size requires more paper and therefore costs more to print. While the Board and its Posthorn Committee weighed the budget implications, we improved *The Posthorn's* paper quality, added several new features, and started a discussion about possibly publishing illustrations in color as do some philatelic publications in Scandinavia and the U.S.A.

It was decided a year ago to move ahead with the larger format and to use color occasionally when the additional printing cost justified it. Collectors and librarians who retain (and may bind) these journals pleaded that we not change the size until the start of a new volume. This first issue of 2002, therefore, became the target.

In addition to page layout changes, Production Editor Lisa Beytien-Carlson redesigned the cover and tweaked some other typographic elements. Advertisers cooperated with the need to adjust the size of their display ads. I am not shy about urging SCC members to patronize our advertisers who help defray the cost of this publication.

We did not subject *The Posthorn* to a complete redesign as you often see with mass circulation magazines. I am an advocate of incremental change, rather than revolutionary. I prefer that the members become comfortable with this larger format before we move on to other improvements. Your suggestions can help us on that road of change.

The next objective will be effective use of multi-color presentations. Stay tuned.

* * *

You can drop the "DK" from your mail to Greenland. Post Greenland says that placing "DK" (Denmark) in front of Greenland addresses "has led to too many mail sorting errors from one country to another." Mail to Greenland now should give the address without any kind of national identification (e.g., DK) and with "GREENLAND" printed in full across the bottom in the address, preferably in upper case letters.

* * *

The interesting article by Lauri Poropudas in this issue updates the Scandinavia collector on the conversion to "Euro-era" postage in Finland. Åland also made the switch on January 1 with the difference being that its nondenominated and FIM stamps will become invalid for postage on July 1.

An example of mixed franking from Finland is shown with Poropudas's article, but such usage is not likely to be common except perhaps as contrivances among collectors. As Finland specialist Roger Quinby commented to me, "Only common combinations would be used with lower value FIM stamps in combination with lower value Euro stamps to meet a rate."

Åland's philatelic authorities are encouraging the creation of mixed frankings by June 30. "It is not every day you can use two currencies or...different types of denomination on one and the same letter," noted Anita Häggblom, the philatelic manager at Åland's Posten. ■

News From the Home Office

Don Brent

2001 was quite a year for the SCC. It started with the great NORDIA 2001 show in Tucson, followed by a successful membership drive under the direction of George Kuhhorn, and capped off with HAFNIA 01 in Copenhagen. Membership is up for the first time in many years. *The Posthorn* continues to improve under the direction of Paul Albright. SCC has made a number of positive moves under the leadership of former President Roger Quinby; and now we can look forward to continued advances with John DuBois as President.



The last couple of months have seen the postal box filled with dues renewal envelopes. Most of you have taken care of your SCC dues, but there remain a few (you know who you are) still to arrive. If you have not mailed in that renewal, please take a moment to send it today. This is the last *Posthorn* you will receive if we do not get your dues for 2002.

John DuBois has a full weekend planned for us at the SCC annual meeting in Boxborough, MA in May. Included will be all our annual awards. Plan on making this show if possible.

There are a few Facit 2001 Special catalogs still available if you would like to participate in the incentive program. You just need to extend your membership for three years (\$15x3=\$45) and purchase the Facit for a discounted \$25. The total will be \$70, which you can mail to SCC, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022. We still have some of the SCC lapel pins at \$6 each, including shipping.

We have gained seven new and six reinstated members this quarter. Our membership is moving in a positive direction. I welcome our new members and remind you that we are here to help you with any SCC-related matters. If you have any questions or problems with your membership be sure to get in contact. We are open to suggestions for improving the club, and they will be passed on to the Board for consideration. ■

Membership Statistics for the Fourth Quarter 2001

New Members

3913 Nagy, Frank A., 13221 N. 94th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85260-4360
3914 Olson, William E., 2280 Hoyt St., Dubuque, IA 52001-3132
3915 Paar, Kalju, 2809 W. Newman Pkwy. Peoria, IL 61604
3916 Jacobsen, Ole Steen, Kildebakkegårds alle 30, 2860 Søborg, Denmark
3917 Reinoehl, Jerry B., DNP
3918 Ristrom, R. H., 9120 Meadowview Rd., Bloomington, MN 55425
3919 Grider, Roger L., 4345 Heidelberg, St. Louis, MO 63123

Change of Address

3819 Bustad, Eric K., 1015 - 122nd Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98005-3834
L64/3124 Muggerud, Bjørn, Oscarsg 88, N+0256 Oslo, Norway
2453 Pearse, Warren H., 10450 Lottsford Road #5005, Mitchelville, MD 20721
3755 Medeiros, David, PO Box 1905, Venice, FL 34284-190
1810 Saukko, Wayne K., 4803 St. Charles Dr., Redding, CA 96002-3706
2863 Samuelsen, Donna M., 628 S. Larch Pl., E. Wenatchee, WA 98802

Reinstated

1786 Shive, Robert
3486 Elliott, Ken
1764 Brandal, Ole
2317 Svenson, Robert H.
3768 Ruttkay, Suellen
628 Michealson, L.H. Mike

Resigned

3058 Hilberg, Torben
3452 Stone, Michael J.
2061 Rhoades, Daniel L.
3736 Tjarks, Edward A.
2932 Fisher, Robert E.
3548 Melberg, Florence
3708 Durham, Kirsten J.
3431 Duska, Ruth
L-02/0039 Christensen, B.I.

Deceased

3194 Ricklefs, Gayland D.
1450 Erickson, Harold H. J.

Donations

1405 Prestrud, S.
1545 Sickels, C.
1714 Smith, W.
3764 Stewart, R.
3294 Svensson, E.
3766 Matson, G.
3067 Wolfel, W.
973 Littlewood, W.
2869 Mawhiney, M.
4956 Schloss, H.
3345 Cichorz, R.
2252 Carlson, C.
2276 Engblom, D.
1921 Bell, J.
1697 Haber, F.
3732 Smith, M.
1615 Hedley, M.
1611 Ostergaard, P.
3687 Angus, J.
2403 Bjorklund, H.
3053 Klaus, K.
3009 Sholder, S.
3466 Tuchman, A.
1995 Clark, T.
1462 Deisz, G.
2803 Lorentzon, L.
3221 Roberts, R.
3314 Jonsson, M.

Member Forum

SCC National Meeting Set for Boxborough in May

The SCC National Meeting for 2002 will be held May 3-4 during Philatelic Show '02 in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Originally scheduled for the fall of 2002 at the PNSE show, the meeting had to be moved when the Pennsylvania show was unable to finalize a date and location in time to be sure the SCC meeting would not overlap with NORDIA 02 in Norway.

Philatelic Show '02 is sponsored by the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs and will run from May 3 to May 5 at the Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough MA 01719. It is reached from Interstate 495, exit 28 (State Route 111, east) in Boxborough, MA. There is free admission and free parking. Show hours are May 3, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; May 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and May 5, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Philatelic Show '02 is an APS "WSP" show with more than 300 frames and all exhibit divisions. There will be a 60-dealer bourse, USPS station, show cachet and cancel, youth exhibits and activities. Society meetings will include: The Scandinavian Collectors Club, Mobile Post Office Society, Metropolitan Airpost Society, and COPAPHIL, as well as local clubs.

The SCC schedule will kick off with member sign-in in the Grand Ballroom starting at 11 a.m. on May 3. The Posthorn Committee will meet at 1 p.m. in the Ivy Room. At 3 p.m., Sweden specialist Jim Burgeson will present a postal history seminar on the "Single Weight Inland Rate of Sweden" from 1872-1972 (using a PowerPoint video display).

Chapter 5 will host the annual members' dinner, starting with a reception and cash bar at the Spellman Museum May 3 beginning at 6 p.m. Dinner (Dutch treat) will be catered at the Spellman. Material from the Spellman's Scandinavian holdings will be open for viewing during the reception. Transportation, leaving at 5:30 p.m. sharp, from the Holiday Inn to the Spellman Museum will be available for those registering by April 1.

In order to plan for transportation and dinner reservations, it is necessary to sign-up by April 1 for the members' dinner. Please contact John DuBois by email: jld@thlogic.com, or postal mail to John DuBois, Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Drive, Hudson MA 01749, with the number attending and the number needing transportation. Dinner will be approximately \$20 per person, with a cash bar.

The Annual Members' Meeting will be held on May 4 at 1 p.m. in the Deck Room, and there will be a speaker for this meeting. This will be preceded by a Board of Directors meeting at 11 a.m., also in the Deck Room, with any SCC member welcome to attend. The banquet and palmars will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. May 4 in the Colonial Room. Banquet tickets should be purchased by advance reservation from Guy Dillaway, PO Box 181, Weston, MA 02493 or email: barbtax@aol.com

There will be room space and times available through mid-April for additional seminars if anyone wishes to volunteer. Please contact John DuBois at jld@thlogic.com to inquire or sign up. Exhibit frame availability may be determined from Guy Dillaway, PO Box 181, Weston, MA 02493 or email: barbtax@aol.com.

Further information and registration information is available on SCC's Web site, www.scc-online.org and at the show's Web site, <http://nefed.org/>.

Holiday Inn rates for the show are \$93 per night single or double. Reservation cut-off is April 11. Telephone (978) 263-8701, fax (978) 263-0518, or email prescott@fine-hotels.com.

There are five airports usable for access to Boxborough: (1) Logan International, Boston MA. This has the most flights, but is about a 45-minute ride to Boxborough. Cabs are available, or a good limo service is Littleton Limo (800) 222-5477. (2) Worcester Airport. The closest airport, but limited flights. Check out if coming through Newark. Least expensive taxi ride. (3) Green Airport, ➤

Providence RI. Easy access to I-495. Plenty of flights and easiest drive in rental car, about one hour. (4) Hanscom Field, Bedford MA. Second closest, but very limited flights. (5) Manchester International, Manchester NH. Good flight schedules and easy access to highway, but most distant from the show, about 90-minute drive.

– John DuBois

Helpers Wanted! Helpers Available!

Membership Chairman George Kuhhorn has launched a program to provide expert assistance to SCC members from the ranks of Scandinavian collectors. Initial returns indicate the effort is paying off.

Kuhhorn is compiling a list of those willing to lend a hand in their specialties. Helpers are intended to be someone who can answer philatelic questions for SCC members working with unfamiliar material, starting to collect in a new area, or just puzzled about something. There is a strong need for translators of Scandinavian languages.

Kuhhorn started the program after receiving a request from a Finnish collector seeking help on Norwegian local posts. In exchange for the assistance, the collector volunteered to translate Finnish into English.

"With so many new members, I feel there should be a need for this list," says Kuhhorn. When he began to pass the word in November, he rather quickly compiled a list of 16 people who agreed to be philatelic helpers. And, Kuhhorn has more members to contact. The list will be for members only and will not be placed on the SCC Web site for security reasons.

Those interested in being SCC helpers and those members needing philatelic assistance should contact Kuhhorn at P.O. Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594 or email geokuhh@starfishnet.com.

Library News

This will become a regular article in *The Posthorn*. I will select an area of the SCC national library and show examples of what can be found in that area. I will also mention some of the new additions to the library as I am made aware of them. If there are any suggestions to what you would like to know about the library, email me at aurora_80017@yahoo.com.

The library has collections of articles pertaining to each Scandinavian country. I will highlight some of the articles from Norway this time. We have more than 250 articles from many sources dating back to around 1900. Most of the articles are in English. They range from one page to complete journals.

Now, the examples. From the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, August 1925, there is a five-page article describing the watermarks of the Norwegian stamps from 1872 through 1925. Another article from 1971 describes perfins, their use, the equipment used to make them, and the company making them. An article about the Krag canceling machine shows pictures of the machine and describes how it works. A 1967 article explains the history and use of Norwegian local stamps of Madagascar. A 30-page article from 1938 focuses on the local stamps (private bypost) of Norway. It explains the use, varieties, and shows pictures of the stamps by locality. Another example is a newspaper article from 1979 showing the 1944 stamp being used on the first flight over the North Sea.

Hopefully these whet your appetite for more knowledge concerning these and the many more articles in your SCC national library. The library index is online at <http://www.scc-online.org>. ►



SCC President John DuBois received a gift of six books from Ole Steen Jacobsen during the Palmares dinner at HAFNIA 01. The books, which have been sent to the SCC library and will be available for member checkout, are: *Bogen om danske skillingsbreve 1851-1874*, Ole Steen Jacobsen, 1995; *Bogen om julemærkets posthistorie*, Ole Steen Jacobsen, 2001; *Fra Jærnbane-postexpedition til Postcenter*, Ole Bækgaard, 1994; *Bibliotek Øst, Fortegnelse, Danmarks Filatelist Forbund*, 1994; *Lynghy-Taarbæks Posthistorie*, Ole Steen Jacobsen, 1991; *Det Kjøbenhavnske Postvæsen 1624-1912*, Fr. Olsen, 1912.

– Jim Kilbane

Stamp Mart in Need of Material

SCC's active Stamp Mart has an immediate need for all types of Scandinavian material. The success of our Mart system depends crucially on a steady flow of material into the Mart books. The Mart is an excellent way to dispose of your duplicates and extra items.

The Mart provides a selection of Scandinavian stamps and covers to SCC Chapters and directly to members. The Stamp Mart requires over 350 new Mart books a year to effectively satisfy our chapters and individual participants in the circuits.

Members residing in the United States may receive selections through the Stamp Mart circuits. A circuit consists of 10-18 Mart books with a total sales value of around \$3,000 circulating to a series of five to nine SCC members with similar collecting interests. Frequency of shipments is limited by the availability of Mart books.

We charge a commission of \$3.00, or 20 percent of all sales, whichever is greater. There is no insurance fee to sellers and no postage charge to sellers for returning retired sales books.

All material to be sold through the Mart must be mounted in special sales books, which are available for 75 cents each with a minimum of \$3.00. Currently there are two types of books available: Type F, 16 pages, 192 spaces; and Type H, 16 pages with pockets suitable for small covers, booklets, and sets.

Estate Services

Another service of the Mart is an estate assistance program started a few years ago. The Mart will accept estate collections and accumulations of Scandinavian stamps and covers, which it will break up and mount into Mart books. There is no charge for this service other than the normal 20 percent commission on sales.

The heir(s) benefit by maximizing monies from the collection. SCC members benefit by having access to new materials that are very competitively priced, and SCC benefits with income to the club treasury. The Mart does not do appraisals or estimates for probate or any other purpose.

There have been six collections handled by the Mart so far, including one from an incapacitated member. Four are still ongoing with two successfully completed.

The Mart will only handle Scandinavian materials and the collections must be shipped to the Mart. In the past, local members have assisted in shipping collections to the Mart. Materials in the collection that are not suitable for the Mart and the empty albums and stock books are donated to a local stamp club for their youth program.

Contact: Eric Roberts, SCC Mart Manager, P.O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056; Telephone (713) 963-0485, or email eric.roberts@halliburton.com.

– Eric Roberts

SCC News Notes

Introducing SCC's new Treasurer — James Clark. The former U.S. Marine is 37 years old and holds degrees from Penn State and the University of Pittsburgh. He is employed by Mellon Bank.

Clark's philatelic interests mainly are in Norway and the Ryukyus, but he also collects Greenland, Finland, DWI, and specific areas of ships, APOs, censors, and China.

"My two favorite things about stamp collecting are going through dealer cover boxes — can do it all day long — and reading the hobby literature. I truly believe that stamp collectors are some of the most interesting people alive." Clark's email is marbnk@aol.com.

Clark succeeds Howard Schloss, who resigned after seven years as Treasurer.

In other realignments on the Board of Directors:

- Board member Roger Fontaine of Canada was appointed Vice President to fill the slot vacated by John DuBois when he became SCC President in December.
- The Board of Directors elected SCC Librarian Stuart Silverberg of Colorado to fill a vacancy on the Board.
- Roger Quinby of New York remains on the Board as Immediate Past President, replacing Paul Nelson of California.

SCC Web Site News

The SCC has a new Webmaster — actually two. Toke Nørby and John DuBois will work together keeping our Web site fresh and up to date. John Tollan, who served in this position for the last year, has resigned for health reasons. John deserves a great deal of thanks for his excellent page designs, which we are keeping largely intact.

Our new Webmasters have been especially busy over the last couple of months. Check out our pages at: <http://www.scc-online.org/>.

The library index has been updated with several dozen additions catalogued through the end of November. The archive of on-line *Posthorn* articles is up to date. Our policy on this section is to post the lead or cover article (only) from each *Posthorn* issue shortly after publication.

There is a new box section on the home page, "Recent Additions," which will change frequently and alert members to the latest new material of significant interest. Also, note the little information line just under the page title that shows the latest date of any changes to pages on the site.

Especially interesting is a new "online publication" by Al Gruber on "Iceland Post Offices — Photos and Postmarks," http://www.scc-online.org/iceland_pos.htm (You will also find this link on the home page). We are experimenting with online publishing as an occasional alternative to publishing articles in *Posthorn*. Comments are welcome to Webmaster DuBois, jld@thlogic.com, or Posthorn Editor, palbright@wiche.edu.

Full information and details with maps, forms, etc. on our 2002 national meeting at Philatelic Show '02 in May are posted from a link, also on the home page.

Finally, please check out your entry on the Member Directory page for accuracy. Corrections should be emailed to the Webmaster and will be entered as soon as they are received.

— John DuBois

Helmer Nielsen, California Member

Word recently was received by SCC Golden Gate Chapter 21 of the death of Helmer L. Nielsen of Los Altos, CA, who was a SCC member for 20 years. Nielsen, a native of Denmark who became a mechanical engineering professor in California, died in 1999 at the age of 77. He had a special interest in plate varieties of the earlier Danish stamps.

— Jerry Moore

Fantastic prices in our last sales!



Estimate: USD 100
Realized: USD 1.050

Buying and selling Norwegian stamps has been our specialty for more than 30 years. We have two auctions every year and several of the "gems" in Norwegian philately have been sold through our firm.

The Norwegian market has for many years been one of the worlds strongest.

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do not hesitate to contact us.

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Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren

In the August 2001 issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten* published in Germany, Rolf Dörnbach gives an overview of Karelia in 1922, and also profiles the Greenland post office of Qaarsut, showing examples of some of its postmarks. In the same issue, Jürgen Tiemer presents a history of Norway Field Post Office No. 7.

Rene Chavez discusses the foreign volunteers in the Finnish forces that came from other Scandinavian countries in the November issue of the *American Philatelist*. They helped the Finns in the Winter War and then the Continuation War that followed. In the 4/2001 issue of *News from the Faroes*, Vilhelm Johannesen writes about the postal history of Sandavágur beginning with its opening as a sub-office in 1918.

The issue 3/2001 of *Ålandsposten filateli* features an article about the SEPAC meeting held there last June. The Small European Postal Administrations' Conference was attended by representatives from the postal services of Iceland, Greenland, Faroes, Åland, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Jersey, and the United Nations. The agencies exchanged information and experiences and heard a talk by a stamp-printing firm.

Arthur Delaney, writing in the October issue of *Global Stamp News*, told how he returned to Hafnarfjörður to revisit the Iceland postal museum there that he had seen in 1987. He learned that part of the collection was moved to a new museum of telecommunications in Reykjavík but when he went there, nothing philatelic was to be found. That postal collection was removed to a small postal museum now located at Askalind 5 in Kópavogur. But even this is a temporary site and plans are to eventually move the collection to the National Museum of Iceland in Reykjavík.

In the October issue of the journal of back-of-the-book philately, *Bältespännaren*, Leif Bergman presents the second part of his series on the radio and TV license stamps of Sweden. In the same issue Åke Torkelstam illustrates the special cancels used in Sweden to mark the various anniversaries of the postal service beginning with the 300th anniversary mark of 1936.

Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift

This journal, known affectionately as *NFT*, is the prestigious quarterly of the Copenhagen Philatelic Club (KPK). More articles are appearing in both Danish and English, and those that are not bilingual often have an English summary. The October issue has a short article by Henrik Mouritsen on franking of reply post cards bearing stamps of two countries in the period 1875-1906. ➤



Figure 1.

There is also an interview with FIP president Knud Mohr, and the second installment of a series on the handling of mail between Denmark and the USA during the 1865-1875 period by Kurt Hansen and Gordon Hughmark. In the same issue Roger Schnell describes the DWI 4-cent classic stamp as a rarity in view of its use for only 10 months in 1873-74. Peer Lorentzen concludes this issue with usages of the 2 RBS of Denmark.

In the October issue of Sweden's *filatelisten*, Gunnar Dahlvig writes about the Vikings in America, using a number of stamps to illustrate his story. Meanwhile, Scandinavian countries continue to depict their Viking heritage on stamps. The Faroes issued a miniature sheet February 11 with three DKK 6.50 stamps on the theme of Viking voyages in the Atlantic (Figure 1).

HAFNIA 01 Catalog

The catalog of this international exhibition contained several noteworthy articles. Jørgen Jørgensen gave a nice profile of King Christian IV of Denmark using stamps and covers to illustrate his points. Ole Maintz and Kurt Hansen describe the postal service act of 1851, which introduced postage stamps to Denmark, and how it affected letter mail. Other articles presented a short history of the Danish Philatelic Federation, and explained the origin of the word HAFNIA.

The November issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* contains part 2 of Bruno Nørdam's article on the design essays of Danish stamps during 1959-1963.

Sven Andersen continues his series on the handling of Norwegian parcel mail in issue 4/2001 of *Info*, published by the Oslo Filatelistklubb. He shows a number of parcel cards with various frankings. In the same issue, Helge Fritsen discusses the Kristiania-Grefsen postmark that was in use from 1920 to 1923.

Writing in the November issue of the *Airpost Journal*, published by the American Air Mail Society, Ian McQueen of England illustrates several Copenhagen markings in the 1939-1941 period found on mail to and from Greenland. The boxed markings denote routing via Lisbon, New York, Siberia, Moscow, etc. (See Figure 2.)



Figure 2.



Figure 3.

Geir Sør-Reime presents a brief history of Greenland and its postage stamps in the December 14 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. Ib Eichner-Larsen also writes about Greenland in the December issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. His topic is the carrying of mail by kayak (Figure 3). In the same issue, Bruno Nørdam provides the third part in his series on the essays and designs of Danish stamps during 1959-1963.

In the issue 2001/4 of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*, Ivar Sundsbø provides the third installment of his series on a homeland collection with "Excursions Through Romsdal," using cancellations, view cards, and other documents to tell his story.

Schleswig

Frank D. Correl gives a comprehensive overview of the Schleswig Plebiscite of 1920, expanding on his earlier writing in this area, in the September-October issue of *German Postal Specialist*, published by the Germany Philatelic Society. He begins with historic background to set the stage and proceeds with the establishment of the plebiscite territory and its postal policies. He then shows some of the stamps on and off cover (Figure 4) and describes their printing and the quantities issued. Other aspects covered in this extended article include the overprints, official stamps, postmarks, and perfins, and he concludes with some of his personal experiences in collecting this material.



Figure 4.

In issue No. 6 of the Norwegian philatelic federation journal *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Ivar Pedersen continues his series on development of the Frama machine stamps, including paper, type, machine design, and a listing of the first days of use for machines at various towns from 1978 to ►

1989. In issue No. 7, Einar Måseidvåg describes the two printings of the first issue of the local stamps of Aalesund. In Issue No. 8 of this Norwegian journal, Peer-Christian Ånensen gives a history of the well-known block of 39 copies of Norway No. 1 that was sold by Skanfil last October. (See *The Posthorn*, November 2001, page 36.) In the same issue, John Torstad presents the first part in a series on undercover addresses for exiled Norwegian military personnel in Great Britain and Canada during World War II.

3 Skilling Yellow Again

Almost 80 years after it first appeared in the British journal *Stamp Lover*, the editor reprinted in December 2001 an article by Baron Erik Leijonhufvud concerning the discovery of Sweden's great rarity, the 3 Skilling Yellow, and its whereabouts up until 1923. The baron was fortunate to have purchased the stamp at one of the Ferrary sales in 1922.

The October-December issue of the Slania Study Group's journal *Close-Up* features an article about the joint issues of Sweden and Australia commemorating the visit down under in 1770 by the Swedish botanist David Solander. Lars Sjöobloom engraved the Swedish stamp because Czeslaw Slania fell ill at the time. However, Slania recovered in time to engrave the Australian stamp.

Faroese expert Carl Aage Møller illustrates a cover with a forged "Franco-Betal" marking in the November issue of the German publication *Philatelistische Nachrichten*. In the same issue Møller also attests to another "created" cover, namely a parcel card from Greenland that originally had one 10-øre polar bear stamp. Then he shows the same card with that stamp and cancel removed and replaced with four polar bear stamps all tied with the crown marking that reads "Syrelsen AF Kolonierne I Grønland."

The FRAMA machine frankings first appeared in Norway in 1978. As a part of a series on these labels, Helmuth Lavicka writes about the Norwegian varieties in the December issue of the Swedish journal *filatelisten*. He illustrates the three major types and discusses color, paper, usage dates, and where they were used. (See Figure 5.)

In issue No. 5 of the Icelandic journal *Frmerkjablaðið*, Þór Þorsteins discusses the trial printings of the Zeppelin overprints of 1931. Some of the test overprints were done in different typefaces and both black and brown ink, using stamps from the 1920 Christian X issue. These trial prints were discovered in 1950. ■



Figure 5.

Member Ad

SCC member seeks all Sweden 2001 issues used. Will trade other Scandinavian issues, Spain, France, Germany, Australia, Canada, Britain, and USA. Contact Ed Menninger, Box 457, Lillington, NC 27546 (USA).

Danish West Indies

Do you have any of the bi-colored issues of 1873-1902 for sale?
I am interested in used and mint single stamps, strips, blocks and sheets,
as well as covers with stamps and stationery on them.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

KNUD RASMUSSEN

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

Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

Scandinavian Postal News

Sweden introduced new international postal rates on January 2 for Europe and the remainder of the world. For example, a 20-gram letter within Europe now costs 8 SEK and 10 SEK anywhere else outside of Europe.

The decision to increase rates derailed plans for a 7-kroner coil stamp depicting a 1901-03 Swedish scientific expedition to the South Pole. The coil stamp was replaced by a booklet containing two 10-kroner stamps to pay the new "outside Europe" rate (See Figure 1).

A set of four Swedish stamps (Figure 2) featuring forests has been awarded the Asiago (Italy) international award for stamp design in the field of environment. The Sweden set released March 17, 2000 was honored as an "invitation to the intelligent and nature-friendly exploitation of our natural heritage."



Figure 2.

enable bills, pay-slips, forms, and information to be forwarded electronically to individuals from corporations and government agencies

ePostbox subscribers will be able to subscribe to ePostkurir (secure e-mail), and every transmission through the free system is protected by an electronic post-mark (known as ePostsigill) that guarantees that the message will not be opened during transmission. As with regular mail, payment will be made by the sender.

As of January, Iceland Post began issuing first day covers. The first cachet is illustrated with a mushroom design to match two mushroom stamps that were released January 17.



Figure 1. One of two 10-kroner South Pole Expedition stamps issued to pay Sweden's new international rate. The pair was released January 24, 2002. This stamp, however, was mistakenly used three days earlier on a letter to the U.S.A. from Sweden Post Stamps in Kista (not at post office).

In January, Denmark also initiated a variety of price increases ranging from 50 øre to 3 DKK, depending on destination and weight. To help postal users pay the new rates, Post Denmark issued a new 150-øre stamp in the wavy line series, two new definitives with a portrait of Queen Margrethe II, and a new stamp in the "Small National Coats of Arms" series (See Figures 3, 4, 5).

Sweden Post is constructing a system to distribute mail electronically to the public and businesses. Recipients will be able to choose delivery to their regular letterbox, or to an electronic post box. The ePostbox system will



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

People News

Jutta Fullrich, editor of the newsletters and journal of the FG Nordische Staaten of Germany, died last July 23 at the age of 52. She joined the Nordic States Study Group in 1980 and was a ►

very active author, translator, and editor. She was also active in the FIP literature commission and served as president of the Philatelic Library of Hamburg.

The Norwegian Philatelic Federation has bestowed its highest honor, the Golden Lion, on Tore Gjelsvik, for his many years of service to Norwegian philately. Recent writings of Gjelsvik include two editions of his study of Norway No. 1. Another honor, this time in Sweden, was bestowed on the well-known expert Helen Obermüller Wilén, namely a grant from the Karl-Erik Stenberg memorial fund. She has demonstrated great knowledge and expertise in her writings, opinions, and as a consultant at exhibitions in the area of forged and counterfeit philatelic items.

After a number of years, Sigurður Pétursson stepped down from the board of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation. The new officers are Gunnar Rafn Einarsson, chairman; Rúnar Thór Stefansson, vice chairman, Hrafn Hallgrímsson, secretary; Bolli Davíðsson, treasurer; and directors Þór Þorsteins and Eidur Árnason.

After serving nearly six years as president of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA), Ingold Kapelrud of Norway was made honorary president in September. The new president is Pedro Vaz Pereira of Portugal. ■

“Royal” Inverts Sold to Help Greenland’s Youth

by Dan Laursen

Some 300 stamps with a strong connection to Danish royalty have been pulled from the vaults to help Greenland’s young people.

The Rotary service club entered a collaboration with the Save the Children organization to collect funds for a community center for children and young adults in the village of Qaanaaq in Greenland.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark spent a lot of time in Qaanaaq when he participated in the Sirius patrol’s dog sledge trip in northern Greenland last year. He witnessed conditions for children and young adults in a society influenced by high joblessness, misuse of alcohol, and violence.

When the Crown Prince returned to Denmark, he contacted Save the Children to see what might be done to help the youth at Qaanaaq. That is the background for the fund raising.

When Per Svendsen, chief of Post Greenland, heard about the collection, he got, in the opinion of some, a stroke of genius. Post Greenland had in its possession 10 sheets of the reversed overprint of the 0.25 Queen Margrethe stamp from 1996. The sheets were withdrawn when it was found that the surcharge was inverted. Post Greenland donated six sheets totaling 300 stamps to the youth charity effort. The remaining stamps will be kept in postal museums.

The first 10 stamps were sold at the Thomas Høiland auction during HAFNIA 01 last October. The stamps were hammered down to prices between DKK 4,500 and DKK 10,000 (for the first stamp with the sheet margin number).

The remaining 290 stamps were sold through written bids through mid-February. It is estimated that the remaining stamps will bring about DKK 3,400 and 4,000 each. There is no commission or other expenses connected with the sale. This is Thomas Høiland’s contribution to the fund-raising effort.

Høiland guaranteed an auction value of DKK 1 million, and that amount should be surpassed. ■

Frank Banke contributed information for this article.



Chapter Reports

Compiled by vice president for Chapters, Walt Jellum

CHICAGO Chapter 4

Jerry Grimson edits their colorful monthly newsletters. Recent issues featured articles: "Interviewing John Dasher," by Harv Gudmundson; "Paquebot Letters;" "A Monster and a Game of Chance," by J. H. Grimson; and "Old Post Offices in Iceland," by Alfred A. Gruber.

NEW ENGLAND Chapter 5

John DuBois reports Ch. 5 is busy making arrangements to host the 2002 annual meeting at Philatelic Show '02 to be held May 3-5 in Boxborough, MA. The chapter will host a reception and dinner for SCC members. Details are in this issue of *The Posthorn* and on the SCC Web site <http://www.scc-online.org/>.

NEW YORK Chapter 7

Carl Probst reports Norm Seastedt and Bengt Fast have rejoined the chapter. Seastedt has been showing proofs and essays. Carl Probst has been bringing in Scandinavian license plates, not as light or easy to store as stamps.

DELAWARE Chapter 13

The chapter met in January at a computer lab at the University of Delaware to surf stamp sites on the Internet. December was the holiday luncheon, and November was show-and-tell that included Nordic joint issues, Åland Christmas seals, and a variety of Danish and Norwegian covers. The February meeting will be an update on the rune stones controversy by Whitey Bro.

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

Ross Olson reports they have tended to burst the walls of their meeting room at the Lynnhurst Community Center, ranging between 15 and 20 members. Most meetings consist of SCC circuit books and a rotating show and tell by Scandinavian country. Proceeds of the annual donation auction went to Lynnhurst Community Center in lieu of rent.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17

Paul Nelson reports meetings are being held in a member's home on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact a chapter member or use the *Posthorn* contact list for directions to the meeting place.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

Jerry Moore reports Herb Volin is their new secretary and treasurer. The chapter will meet April 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at WESTPEX, Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. Alfred Hansen recently provided a slide presentation on the necessity for issuing the 1919 Faroe bisects. Another meeting centered on Greenland pakke-porto polar bears. Chapter members are requested to remit their dues, including updated information of name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

BOB PAULSON Chapter 23

Recently Dick Hinds spoke on a cruise that included Estonia, Finland, Sweden, the Faores, Iceland, and Greenland. He also described visits to the postal museums in Oslo and Stockholm and to Iceland Philatelic Bureau. The show and tell program included an old travel brochure in Danish extolling the virtues of a visit to Greenland. ►

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Roger Fontaine reports that at the October meeting Kurt Frederiksen became interim president. The October auction brought in a profit of \$85. A "kids stamp club" is up and running. Some highlights from recent presentations include Knud Markmann showing a new book from Denmark on Danish covers, postcards, and stationery; a slide show by Robert Zacharias on provisional stamps of the Faroes; and another slide presentation from Ben Cohen of the Winnipeg Philatelic Club, an expert on the large Queens of Canada.

TIDEWATER Chapter 26

At a recent chapter meeting, Michael Falls made a presentation on Icelandic Christmas Seals. A number of members attended the recent VAPEX show.

CYBER Chapter 28

Ed Bode continues to send interesting electronic (email) newsletters to those SCC members who join the Cyber Chapter. To sign up, contact Bode at edbode@juno.com.

COPENHAGEN Chapter 29

Plans for the new Copenhagen chapter were announced at NORDIA 01 with the chapter being welcomed during HAFNIA 01 last October. John DuBois said the nucleus of the new chapter is made up of FIP President Knud Mohr, Kurt Jensen, Torben Mehl Jorgensen, Willy Lauth, and Toke Nørby. Anyone interested in this chapter should contact Nørby at toke.norby@norbyhus.dk. ■

SCC WEB PAGE

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

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SCC CHAPTER MEETING & CONTACTS

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

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Mon. at University Christian Church. CONTACT: Ken Elliott, P.O. Box 22808, Seattle, WA 98122-0808, email: ScandiaW@aol.com.
4. CHICAGO: 4th Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Golden Flame, 6417 W. Higgins. CONTACT: Fred Bloedow, 810 Dobson St. #1A, Evanston, IL 60202-3969 or valhalla1945@excite.com.
5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wed. at The Swedish Home, 206 Waltham St., W. Newton, MA at 7:30 in the new library. <http://scc5.thlogic.com>. CONTACT: John L. DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp. 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749, email: jld@thlogic.com.
7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wed. (except Jul. & Aug.) at The Collectors Club, 26 E. 35th St. CONTACT: Carl Probst, 71 Willoughby Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801, email: carl_probst@gardencitygroup.com.
9. N. NEW JERSEY: 3rd Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156.
11. REYKJAVÍK: 2nd Mon., 19:00, program 20:00, at Siðúmúli 11, The Center of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation. Junior meeting every Tue., 17:00 in The Seljakirkja in Breiðholt, Reykjavík. CONTACT: Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson, Postbox 26, IS-222, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, email: sholm@tv.is.
12. WASHINGTON DC: 3rd Thu. at the McLean Community Center, 7:30, unless there is a major show or it is summer. CONTACT: Peter Alten, 9300 Main St., Manassas, VA 22110.
13. DELAWARE: Last Tue. at members' homes. CONTACT: Mark Manno, 123 Casho Mill Rd., Newark DE 19711, or Alan Warren, email: alanwar@att.net.
14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Lynnhurst Community Center, 50th St., & West Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN. CONTACT: Rossmer V. Olson, P. O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVole@aol.com.
15. ROCHESTER: 1st Mon. at Robert Gustafson's home. CONTACT: Robert Gustafson, 877 Helendale Rd., Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or Paul Nelson, P. O. Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711, (909) 626-1764, email: pnels@att.net.
21. GOLDEN GATE: Meets at major stamp shows throughout year. CONTACT: Jerry Moore, email: perfinhole@yahoo.com.
22. HOUSTON: Periodically at stamp shop of Mary Jane Menzel, 2015 W. 34th St., Houston, TX (selected Sun. afternoons). CONTACT: Eric Roberts, P. O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056-8201, email: eric.roberts@halliburton.com.
23. BOB PAULSON: 1st Mon., 1:00 PM, at Cuzzin's Restaurant, 28910 U.S. Rt. 19, Clearwater, FL. CONTACT: Doris Wending, 4673 Devonshire Blvd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685, or email Judy Nelson: island1@gte.net.
24. MANITOBA: 2nd & 4th Wed. at Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St. Winnipeg, MB CONTACT: Robert Zacharias, 808 Polson Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1M5, Canada, email: zachar@escape.ca.
25. TUCSON: 4th Tue. (except Jul. & Aug.) at members' homes. CONTACT: Jack F. Schmidt, phone: (520) 648-0034, or email: schmidt@azstarnet.com.
26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Sat., 3 PM at Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library System, 6525 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508, (757) 441-5335, fax: (757) 441-1451, email: gwalker@npl.lib.va.us. CONTACT: Michael Falls, 575 Virgiansian Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505-4242, email: Mfallsice@aol.com.
27. COLORADO: 1st Sat. from Sep-Jun, 10 AM at the Rocky Mt. Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver. CONTACT: Stuart O. Silverberg, 701 Elm Circle, Golden, CO 80401-5819, email: Stustork@aol.com.
28. CYBER: Members connected by email to exchange ideas & scans, plus an electronic Newsletter. CONTACT: Edward L. Bode, email: edbode@juno.com.
29. COPENHAGEN: New Danish chapter. CONTACT: Toke Nørby: toke.norby@norbyhus.dk.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

Elected Officers

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Index to the *Posthorn*, Volume 58, 2001

Subject Index	Issue/Page
Åland	
Russian Stamps used in	2/11
Wheat Route to Australia	3/10
Anderson, Russell (obituary)	1/48
Auction Marketplace	2/36, 3/34, 4/36
Book Reviews	
<i>Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917</i>	2/23
<i>Danish Star Cancels</i>	2/40
<i>Danish Tobacco and Alcohol Revenue Stamps</i>	4/48
<i>Faroe Islands 2000</i>	1/42
<i>Katalog over Danske Firmaperforeringer</i>	3/42
<i>Norgeskatalogen 2001</i>	1/40
Brahe, Tycho	2/2
Carl XIV Johan	1/8
Custer, George Armstrong (covers)	3/19
Danish West Indies	
St. Thomas Rebutts Commission	2/18
Denmark	
Wine Revenues	4/21
DuBois, John, new SCC president	4/29
Faroes	
Postverk Føroya 25th Anniversary	2/38
New Discovery	3/36
Ferber, LeRoy W. (obituary)	4/47
Fink, Ernesto (obituary)	1/48
Finland	
Steamship Post Offices	2/8
Undercover Addresses	4/3
Woodcutter Stamps	3/15
HAFNIA 01	1/40, 2/45, 3/26, 4/44
Hecker, Arthur C. (obituary)	3/48
Iceland	
Town cancel sleuthing	2/20
Jacobsen, Ole Steen	4/28
Jensen, Paul H.	1/22
Laursen, Dan	1/22
<i>Luren</i>	4/29
Melberg, W. E. (obituary)	4/47
Merikallio, Reino (obituary)	4/48
Mohr, Knud	1/22, 4/28
Mooney, Frank C. (obituary)	2/48
NORDIA 2001	1/17, 1/23
Norway	
Nobel Peace Prize Stamps	3/23
NORGE or NØREG?	4/15
Postmarks for Tourists	4/23
Ship Wrecks Issue	3/13, 4/24
Spitsbergen	3/3

Subject Index, continued	Issue/Page
Norway, continued	
Svalbard labels	3/8
Wings for Norway	2/3,2/5, 3/27
Postal Flags on Iceland and Norwegian Ships	4/26
<i>Posthorn</i> Index, Vol. 57, 2000	1/45
Scandinavian Collectors Club	
Chapter Reports	1/44, 2/39, 3/43, 4/45
Financial Report 2000	2/41
From the Editor's Stamp Den	1/29, 2/33, 3/41, 4/37
Glance Back	3/29
Library News	1/35, 2/41
Member Forum	2/25, 3/24, 4/27
News from the Home Office	1/27, 2/34, 3/38, 4/34
President's Letter	1/25, 2/27, 3/37, 4/32
Scandinavian Area Awards	1/34, 2/32, 3/30, 4/44
Scandinavian Literature Notes	1/30, 2/28, 3/31, 4/39
Transfer and Re-Entries	1/33, 2/30, 3/21, 4/42
Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation	2/43, 4/43
Sigismund	1/3
<i>Skilling</i>	1/36
Slania, Czeslaw	1/15
Sweden	
3 Skilling Yellow	1/20
Interrupted Mail, WW II	2/16
Postal Card No. 4	2/21
Ring Stamps	2/44
Turned cover	4/22
Wartime Undercover Addresses	4/3
WW II Humanitarian Aid	4/13
Taylor, Scott H. (obituary)	1/48
Tordenskiold	1/6, 2/37
Author Index	Issue/Page
Albright, Paul (see also Thorsteinsson)	
From the Editor's Stamp Den	1/29, 2/33, 3/41, 4/37
<i>Luren</i> Ends Distinguished Run	4/29
Nordic Stamps Part of Peace Prize Centennial	3/23
Slania: Past, Present, and Future	1/15
Svalbard Stickers First On, Then Off	3/8
Banke, Frank	
Auction Marketplace	2/36, 3/34, 4/36
Bay, Arne J.	
Early Postal History of Spitsbergen	3/3
Bendix, Jan	
HAFNIA 01 Offers a Lifetime Experience	2/45
Bergendahl, Tom	
More on Ship Wrecks	4/25
Brandt, Don	
Sherlock Holmes: Sleuthing in Iceland	2/20

Author Index, continued	Issue/Page
Brent, Don	
News from the Home Office	1/27, 2/34, 3/38, 4/34
Brofos, Frederick A.	
A Card from a Crackpot King	1/10
A French King in Scandinavia	1/8
Imitation Norwegian Postmarks for Tourists	4/23
More Concerning the Wings for Norway Stamp	2/5
The 1944 Norwegian Ship Wrecks Issue	3/13
Burgeson, James	
Destinations of Sweden Postal Card Number 4	2/21
Philately Loses Ernesto Fink	1/48
Sweden Cover Turned Stationery	4/22
Danielski, Stefan	
WW2 Swedish Humanitarian Aid	4/13
DuBois, John L.	
President's Letter	4/32
The St. Thomas Rebutts Commission	2/18
Eichner-Larsen, Ib	
My Custer Letters	3/19
Fraser, Ed	
Chapter Champion Reino Merikallio (with Carl Probst)	4/48
Extraordinary Usage of Finland's First Printing of the Well-Known Woodcutter Stamp	2/15
Gruber, Alfred A.	
Åland and the Wheat Route to Australia	3/11
Sigismund III Vasa	1/3
Hague, Brian	
Postverk Føroya 25th Anniversary	2/38
Halpern, Don	
HAFNIA 01 Gears Up	1/40
Jellum, Walt	
Chapter Reports	2/39, 3/43, 4/45
Knudsen, Gerald	
The Fate of a Duelist	2/37
Kuhhorn, George	
Russell Anderson Remembers SCC Library	1/48
The Backsides Can Be Interesting Too	2/45
Lang, Bob	
A Glance Back	3/29
Laursen, Dan	
Postal Rules Sink <i>Skilling</i>	1/36
Morison, Gordon C.	
3 Skilling Yellow: Star of the Show	1/20
Nelson, Paul (see also Rafner)	
Revenuers Plan on Updated Catalogs	3/24
Nørby, Toke	
A New Danish Perfin Catalogue	3/42
Østlund, Tor	
Wings for Norway - Almost Canadian	2/3
Probst, Carl (see Fraser)	

Author Index, continued	Issue/Page
Quinby, Roger P.	
Doc Melberg - Friend of Collectors	4/47
Landmark Set on Danish Bicolors Published	1/42
President's Letter	1/25, 2/27, 3/37, 4/32
The Finnish Study Group	4/27
Rafner, Claus and Paul Nelson	
Denmark Cancels Revenues on Wine	4/21
Ross, William and Leonard Tann	
Russian Stamps Used in the Åland Islands	2/11
Schloss, Howard	
SCC Financial Report for 2000	2/41
Schnell, Roger G.	
Swedish Wartime Undercover Addresses	4/3
Tale from the Tagas: Interrupted War Mail to Sweden	2/16
Silverberg, Stuart O.	
Library News	1/35, 2/41
Smith, Jay	
New Faroe Discovery	4/36
Söderholm, Bo	
Finnish Steamship Post Offices Between Åbo and Stockholm	2/9
Sør-Reime, Geir	
NORGE or NOREG?	4/15
Tann, Leonard (see Ross)	
Thorsteinsson, Sigurdur H.	
Frank C. Mooney Closes Album at 80	2/48
Postal Flags on Iceland and Norwegian Ships (with Paul Albright)	4/26
What We Don't Find in the Catalogues	1/11
Warren, Alan	
Awards at HAFNIA	4/44
Book Reviews	
<i>Danish Star Cancels</i>	2/40
<i>Danish Tobacco and Alcohol Revenue Stamps</i>	4/48
<i>Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917</i>	2/23
<i>Færøerne: Frimerker og Stempler</i>	1/42
<i>Norgeskatalogen 2001</i>	1/41
LeRoy Ferber, Postal Stationery Society Leader	4/47
NORDIA/ARIPEX/APS Awards	1/23
Norwegian Ship Wrecks First Day Covers	4/24
Scandinavian Area Awards	1/34, 2/32, 3/30
Scandinavian Literature Notes	1/30, 2/28, 3/31, 4/39
Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation Update	2/43, 4/43
SCC Honors Three with Awards	1/22
Transfers and Re-Entries	1/33, 2/30, 3/21, 4/42
Wings for Norway First Day Covers	3/27

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