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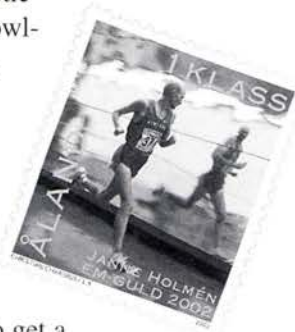
# Åland Rushes Long-Distance Runner onto Stamp

There have been few successes for tiny Åland in international athletic competition. When there was one, Åland Posten moved quickly to acknowledge it. In August, Janne Holmén, 25, from the village of Ingby, Jomala, Åland captured the gold medal in the men's marathon in the European Athletics Championships in only his second marathon.

Åland Posten dashed to issue 400,000 first class stamps by November 1 to mark his victory, the only gold medal for Finland in the 2002 European competition. Filateliservicen, the philatelic service, reported, "It is the first time an Åland stamp has been produced in such short notice, but Janne's achievement in Munich is so remarkable that it is well worthy of a special issue." Filateliservicen also managed to get a finish-line photo of Holmén on the cover of its customer publication and reported that "Åland Post is nowadays one of Janne's sponsors."

The four-color offset stamps have "EM-guld" on them, meaning "European Championship Gold." The stamps arrived from the printing house four days before their release date.

Filateliservicen said Åland has had only two participants in the Olympic Games. "Frej Liewendahl competed in athletics in 1,500 and 3,000 meters (seventh and twelfth place) at the Olympics in Paris 1924, while boxer Johnny Hellström won one fight at the Games in Amsterdam 1928." ■



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# Finland's Semi-Postal Issues Reach the End of the Road

By Lauri Poropudas

Finland's Post ended a 78-year tradition of issuing semi-postal stamps in 2000 with the two-stamp Red Cross issue featuring farm animals. The reasons given for suspending these issues related to changes in the general stamp market and changes in the management and operation of the Post Office itself.

Over the years, Finland issued semi-postals to raise money for the Red Cross; the anti-tuberculosis program; Pro Filatelia for international philatelic exhibitions; major sporting events; and aid for war casualties, reconstruction, the National Relief Fund, Brothers-in-Arms Federation, and hospitals for war invalids.

From 1922 to 2000, the Post issued 275 semi-postal stamps in 99 issues. More than one-half of these stamps (53 percent) were issued for the Red Cross, 29 percent for the anti-tuberculosis campaign, 8 percent for philately, 5 percent for sports events, and 4 percent for various war relief and reconstruction programs.

In addition to having both the first and the last semi-postals, Red Cross stamps were issued each year from 1930-1946 and thereafter almost every year until the 1960s. Then, the Finnish Red Cross (SPR) and Anti-Tuberculosis (TUB) alternated issues every other year. The first anti-tuberculosis stamps were released in 1946 and the last in 1983.



The first Pro Filatelia stamp in 1931 comes from the first Finnish stationery cover from 1845, the so-called Porto Stempel. The early Pro Filatelia semi-postals were good as admission tickets for exhibitions.

the Post started to close the smallest or the most non-profitable offices. There are now only about 300 offices in the largest towns and cities. ➤



Finland's first semi-postal from 1922.

The first Pro-Filatelia stamp was issued in 1931 to raise money for the Post Museum to purchase an important postal stationery collection. It was another 60 years before there was another semi-postal benefiting philately, but then they appeared every other year through the 1990s. Semi-postals for philately served as tickets to the exhibitions with the extra fee assisting those exhibitions. (The Post supported other exhibitions through the sale of regular issues, such as the high value stamps for registered letters issued in conjunction with FINLANDIA 95).

Before 1922, Finnish stamps were definitive issues dominated by designs of lion and double-headed eagle coats-of arms. Semi-postals served to introduce new designs of important religious, political, and cultural figures in national history, as well as historic buildings, ships, sporting events, and illustrations portraying the Finnish culture, character, and landscape.

## Change Impacts Semi-Postals

During the past 12 years, the Finnish Post has undergone dramatic organizational changes, first in 1990 when it became a commercial governmental organization and later when it was transformed to operate more as a private company. Nonetheless, the Post was charged with maintaining the same basic services as though it were a tax-subsidized government agency.

At one time, the Post operated 3,900 post offices, one in almost every town, village, and hamlet. These offices offered the same assortment of stamps and service. This was expensive, but the expenses could be shared. However, with the demand that each post office operate as a profit center,

Smaller post offices did not want to order products that might remain unsold for some time (the return system was difficult when every unit inside the Post tried to be profitable). Semi-postals were viewed as “slow sellers.”

By the 1990s, collectors complained they could not buy semi-postals, especially Pro Filatelia stamps, from their own post office. They had to order them from Helsinki if the local post office was not willing to order them. When the Post closed local post offices, it transferred the retail sale of stamps to kiosks and other outlets



The first anti-tuberculosis stamp from 1946. Later stamps in the series showed flora and fauna.

(now some 3,800) and hired local merchants to keep a post office as a sub-unit in their shops, bookstores, or gasoline station, etc. (now some 1,100). The semi-postals were not popular enough and the shopkeepers were not willing to order them.

The format was another problem for semi-postals. Normally, semi-postals are printed and sold from a sheet. Now, all stamps were to be packed in booklets or miniature sheets. This type of packaging proved unsuitable for semi-postals. The last two Pro Filatelia semi-postals were sold in booklets of two and three stamps, raising production expenses. So, it was decided to end the sale of semi-postals, at least for awhile.

## Some Aspects of Finnish Semi-Postals

The first semi-postal in Finland, the 1922 Red Cross stamp, was the first Finnish stamp showing something beyond the familiar lion in the national coat of arms. Actually, the lion is there but the red cross overlies it. This first semi-postal departed from the normal stamp manufacturing process. The Finnish Red Cross bought the paper itself (it has been identified as Canadian paper, which is exceptional as the printing house usually bought Finnish paper). This first Red Cross was also the first large-sized stamp in Finland; it measured 24.5 x 34.5 mm while the definitive issues were 18.5 x 24.5 mm.

The first Red Cross stamps did not sell very well. Only 355,650 were sold in the post offices, 300,000 were given to Finnish Red Cross organization, and 1,344,350 were burned. This stamp was valid only on domestic mail until December 31, 1930. Its FDC is rare.

Regular issues of semi-postals began in 1930. The Red Cross semi-postal issues dominated the 1930s; in some years they were issued with a



This semi-postal showing a World War I soldier was issued in 1938 to raise funds to help war veterans. Other issues were used to collect funds for veterans involved in the war against the Soviet Union.



The 1931 series of Red Cross stamps showed a flag standard, sword and cloak, and a Viking ship. Later Red Cross stamps were quite wide in their themes, using history, buildings, war, flora and fauna, and personalities.

new value in the model of the 1930 stamp. The first philatelic semi-postal appeared in 1931 in order to acquire a stationery collection for the Post Museum. In 1938, there was a three-stamp issue for the first World Ski Championships at Lahti and another stamp for the victims of the 1918 War of Liberation.

In the 1940s, semi-postals were issued for the reconstruction and for the victims of the wars (Winter War 1939-40, Continuation War 1941-44), one for sports, one for philately, and the first anti-tuberculosis stamps in 1946. There was no Red Cross stamp in 1947.

In the 1950s there was almost an annual Red ➤



Three-stamp series from 1938 to support the World Ski Championships. The stamp showing the slalom was an unusual event for Finland at the time.

Cross or anti-tuberculosis semi-postal. There were two stamps issued in 1951 and 1952 for the Helsinki Olympic Games. Philately received semi-postal stamps in 1955 and 1956.

In the 1960s, SPR and TUB each received five issues of three or four stamps each. Philately was allowed two stamps. The anti-tuberculosis stamps ended in 1983 while the Red Cross and philately continued to receive aid from the sale of semi-postal stamps through the 1990s.

### Semi-Postal Motifs

The themes in the semi-postal stamps have represented Finnish history, culture, art, flora, and fauna. In the beginning, Red Cross stamps were devoted to national history. Many political, cultural,



The final Red Cross stamps in 2000 showed farm animals.

stamps pictured Finnish nature and familiar aspects of every day life: mammals, fish, birds, mushrooms, berries, flowers, and insects plus that national icon, the sauna. Red Cross stamps also show the work of that organization in disaster-relief, community work, and emergency health care, but the last three issues represented farm animals. The TUB stamps initially used pictures from its work, such as caring for children, but later showed more flora, fauna, and art in its stamps. The Pro Filatelia series in the 1990s was devoted to art from Finland's golden era.

Stamp artist Signe Hammarsten-Jansson, whose first stamp design was in 1929, was the primary stamp designer for the Finnish Post for nearly 30 years. Among her 133 stamps (46 stamp sets) were about two-thirds of all the semi-postal stamps.



Normal and double-printing of the cross on the 1 1/4 markka value from the 1938 Red Cross series.



The Pro Filatelia series in the 1990s used Finnish art as the motif. The 1999 series had two paintings by Hugo Simberg: Garden of Death and Wounded Angel.

military, and science leaders from the past were pictured on the stamps. But there were also historical buildings, ships, and different coats of arms. It was time when a new nation was building its identity. During and just after World War II, the Red Cross stamps showed the reconstruction and the laborers, brick carriers, farmers, fisherman, and mother at home.

By the end of 1940s and continuing until the discontinuance of these issues, the Red Cross and the anti-tuberculosis

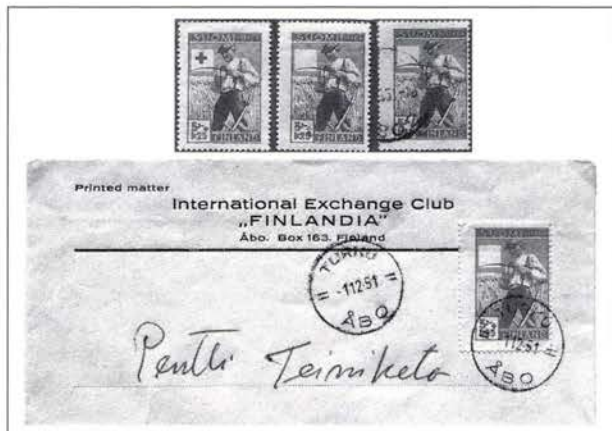


The final anti-tuberculosis stamp in 1983 showed local flowers.

### Semi-Postals in Philately

The Red Cross stamps are popular among general collectors and exhibitors. The other semi-postals have been collected mainly as part of a Finland collection or a thematic collection. Reasons for the Red Cross popularity come from the organization's long history, its various thematic possibilities, attractive design and because they were the original semi-postal issues. But perhaps the most important reason is the fact that there are a good number of errors in the Red Cross stamps.

From 1922 to 1964 the stamps were printed by copperplate recess or steel engraving recess in one color with the cross printed later by letterpress. That explains why there are missing crosses, double printings of the cross, and misplaced crosses. Later, almost ➤



Another Red Cross error stamp. The hayman is sharpening the scythe in the 1946 series. At left top is the correct stamp followed by mint and used copies without the cross and a cover with an error stamp. Missing crosses, wrong positions and double-printings are the most common errors because the cross was printed separately.

he is not certain if they exist at all. Bidders have been paid more than €1,000 for some FDCs from the 1930s, making them some of the most prized items of modern Finnish philately. ■

(Editor's Note: Roger Quinby assisted in editing this article. Author Lauri Poropudas, a professional journalist, is the editor of *Filatelisti* in Finland. As a result of his research for this article, the author has compiled an eight-page catalog of Finland's semi-postal stamps. SCC members interested in receiving a copy may contact the author at Lauri Poropudas, Salomaankatu 23, FIN-1330 Hämeenlinna, Finland, or email lauri.poropudas@mail.htk.fi.

all stamps were printed by offset and there are not as many errors although double printing can be found. There also are perforation errors, paper folds, and other oddities that appeal to the collector. The Red Cross issues include some imperforate proofs and color proofs that enhance the pre-production elements of an exhibit. The anti-tuberculosis stamps were found to have missing colors, perforation errors, and paper folds mostly from the 1940s.

It should not be too difficult to build a collection of anti-tuberculosis stamps in excellent condition. The Red Cross stamps are a more difficult challenge because of the errors and the scarcity of many of the FDCs from the 1930's. The early Red Cross issues present a special challenge. Kaj Hellman, who has the foremost auction house in Finland, says that he has never seen or had the possibility to offer all first day covers of Finnish Red Cross semi-postals. He maintains that he has never seen the 1931 and 1932 FDCs, and

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# Icelandic Emigration to Canada's "New Iceland"

By Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson

"Where is that country?" I have often been asked that question on my travels amongst stamp collectors. They are not asking about my homeland of Iceland. Rather, they are referring to the "Republic of New Iceland." The answer is that the Republic of New Iceland never existed except in the minds of the people who moved there, their relatives and their descendants, as well as in reports published in Ottawa, Canada in 1875.

These people, however, ran their own "New Iceland" in Canada for more than 50 years, with newspapers, churches etc. and where Icelandic was written and spoken. Some descendants even read and speak Icelandic today. From 1875 to 1887, "New Iceland" was registered as a colony under the British crown. This verification is to be

found in a report of landmarks, boundaries, and quality of the land that had been marked out by the Canadian government for the settlement of immigrants from Iceland. All this is described in the booklet *Nýja Ísland í Kanada* published in Icelandic in Ottawa, Canada in 1875 and signed and ratified by John Taylor for the Canadian government and W. C. Krieger and Sigtryggur Jónasson on behalf of the Icelandic settlers.

But why did at least 13,000 people move from their homeland more than a century ago?

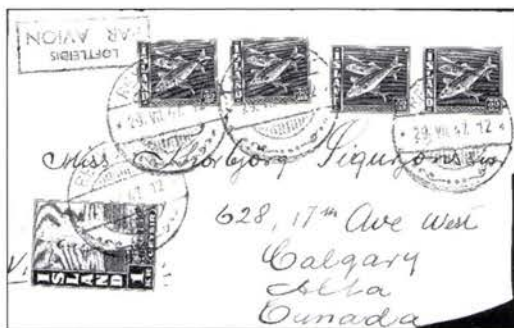


Figure 2. The front of an airmail cover to one of the author's relatives in Calgary, Alberta in 1947. It is franked with four, 35-aurar red and a 1-krona geyser. The rubber cancel of Loftleidis is used.

There had been a dramatic increase in Iceland's population during the 19th Century. There was, however, neither concurrent blossoming in the national economy nor in farming, fishing, or employment. Although there had been some progress in fishing, the boats were small and weather conditions unstable. The breaking of new land for farming took a long time. Therefore, young people had few choices but to move somewhere else.

Population increase was only one of several factors that contributed to the westward migration from Iceland to what became named "New Iceland" on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in Canada's Manitoba Province.

The migration started with missionaries from Utah promising a better life for those who converted to the Mormon faith. There also was a group called "The American Agents," which included Canadians, Americans, and Icelanders. This group campaigned for an improved life in "The West." They talked of plentiful work ➤



Figure 1. Íslandspóstur, the privatized post organization in Iceland, published this engraved souvenir sheet in 2000 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the emigration to Canada. The stamp is taken from a painting by Árni Sigurðsson showing Icelanders landing on the shores of Lake Winnipeg on October 21, 1875.



Figure 3. A block of four, 35-aurar brownish red variety on a 1948 letter clipping with a transit cancel, MAR..ALTA.



Figure 4. A map showing "Nýja Island" on the western shores of Lake Winnipeg near Gimli, Manitoba.

and a shortage of labor in The New World with plenty of inexpensive land available. All of this increased the appeal of emigration to North America.

Mail was constantly being sent between these two countries. While many of the letters have survived, there are very few, if any, from the Skilling period of the early 1870s. Also, few envelopes from Iceland to Canada have found the way back to Iceland. The content was the main thing for the recipients, not the envelopes. Certainly, there were only a few collectors of stamps and envelopes at that time.

In addition, the climate conditions in Iceland were adverse from the 1860s to the 1880s. The volcano Askja had a major eruption in 1875 with large deposits of ash and pumice destroying land and vegetation.

All printed things were collected and treasured, reminding the emigrants of The Old Land. Commemorative or funeral poems, church and theater programs, feast songs, etc., are all recorded in *Vesturheimsprent*, a comprehensive bibliography on publications in Icelandic from North America.

The main transporting ships until about 1906 came from the Allan Line, Anchor Line, SS Copeland (as late as 1911), and the Beaver Line.

Three of Iceland's best-known poets are Western Icelanders, who visited the home country despite the difficult travel.

The two weekly newspapers published in Icelandic were a binder between Canada and Iceland. *The Heimskringla* was first published in Winnipeg September 9, 1886. *The Lögberg* was first published on January 14, 1888. The two newspapers united in 1959 under the name *Heimskringla*, which is still being published. ➤



Figure 5. A label tied to a bundle of air-mail letters from Calgary to Reykjavik dated December 20, 1966. Probably Christmas mail to the homeland.



Figure 6. A letter mailed August 14, 1888 from Selkirk, Manitoba to Reykjavik. As there was no postage paid, it was marked with a circled T for postage due. Penciled on the cover is 2/25 with a red notice 40, which indicated 40-aurar postage due. The letter's trip was well recorded. The back cancels show Winnipeg, August 15, London, August 30, Leith, August 31, and arrival in Reykjavik on September 27.

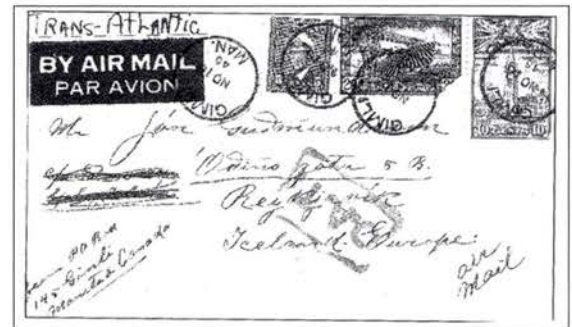


Figure 7. A letter from Gimli, Canada to Iceland in 1945. It was sent by airmail via London where it received an O.A.T. (Onward Air Transit) Type VIII cancel used between 1945 and 1946. According to Murray Heifetz, there are only 37 covers known with that type O.A.T. cancel. (See Murray Heifetz, *OAT and AV2 Markings: A Work in Progress*, American Air Mail Society, 1997.)

## Number of Icelandic citizens who emigrated to New Iceland, 1870-1903

1870: 6.	1871: 12.	1872: 22.	1873: 323.	1874: 391.	1875: 59.
1876: 1190.	1877: 59.	1878: 473.	1879: 322.	1880: 94.	1881: 144.
1882: 374.	1883: 1215.	1884: 121.	1885: 141.	1886: 506.	1887: 1947.
1888: 1109.	1889: 702.	1890: 217.	1891: 216.	1892: 290.	1893: 725.
1894: 113.	1895: 9.	1896: 10.	1897: 55.	1898: 87.	1899: 157.
1900: 725.	1901: 358.	1902: 313.	1903: 677.	<b>TOTAL = 13,162</b>	

Source: Icelandic State Census

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# ICELAND'S GUARDIAN SPIRITS

By Don Brandt

Seven stamps of Iceland issued in 1930 introduce four of the *Landvættir*, or guardian spirits, that were dwelling in the country even before the first settlers arrived in AD874. How long they had been waiting for someone to protect is not recorded in the sagas, but the newly-arrived were aware that the spirits must not be offended. Appeasement was accomplished most often by a ritual of fire. Ornamental dragon figureheads on ships' prows were "politically incorrect" and had to be removed before approaching land. Belief in guardian spirits persisted for an unspecified time after heathenism lost out to Christianity in Iceland c. AD1000.

Four of these guardian spirits emerged from the pack and are still fondly remembered today, especially by stamp collectors. Their status is due to Snorri Sturluson's vivid description in *Heimskringla* (History of the Kings of Norway) concerning the time when Harald Gormsson, then king of Denmark, entertained serious intentions of invading Iceland. Harald enlisted a wizard who transformed himself into a whale and swam to Iceland to reconnoiter.

The first attempted landfall was at *Vopnafjörður* in the northeast, where the dragon associated with chieftain Brodd-Helgi charged down from the hills, accompanied by assorted serpents and lizards, to repulse the intruder.

One's imagination does not have to be unduly stretched to understand why Icelanders of long ago imbued giants, raging bulls and gigantic birds of prey with special attributes. The *Vopnafjörður* dragon is unique, probably borrowed from a mythology of foreign origin. This dragon is also unique in being the only guardian spirit to warrant a single stamp issue: the 500-krónur stamp of 1989 (Figure 1).

The incomparable Stan Freberg released a comedy record about a fire-eating dragon in the 1950s, on which a character says, "If you've seen one dragon, you've seen them all." Þröstur Magnússon's dragon, however, is definitely a work of art which overshadows the dragons on earlier stamps. He scoured existing dragon literature before picking up his design pen, and his initial sketch is basically what you see on the stamp.

Next stop for the wizard was *Eyjafjörður* in the north where a huge bird with a fjord-width wingspan, accompanied by other flying attackers, prevented any intrusion in chieftain Eyjólfur Valgerðarson's domain. In *Heimskringla*, this guardian spirit is described simply as a big bird (Figure 2).

Both *Facit* and Sigurður Þorsteinsson stamp catalogues incorrectly name this bird as a vulture, a bird not found in Iceland. The standard Icelandic-English dictionary, in defining *Landvættir* (the guardian spirits), lists dragon, bull, giant, and falcon. Correspondence in 1930 between Stanley Gibbons Ltd. and Magnús Kjaran, managing director of the millennial celebration committee, refers only to a bird of prey, which is closer to Snorri's term.

Harald's scouting wizard ventured on to *Breiðafjörður* in the west to encounter a snorting, raging bull and assorted minor spirits associated with a chieftain named Þórðr, and then to Reykjanes in the southwest where a giant associated with chieftain Þóroddr finally convinced the hapless wizard to swim back to Denmark and advise Harald Gormsson to pick on someone else. (See Figures 3 and 4.)

Three of Snorri's guardian spirits (dragon, bull, and giant) have come down unchanged through the centuries. The large bird, however, has undergone some linguistic modifications. In 1903, the white Icelandic falcon ➤



Figure 1. Only guardian spirit to warrant a special stamp issue (*Facit* 740)



Figure 2. *Facit* 723



Figure 3. *Facit* 759



Figure 4. *Facit* 756



Figure 5. Spirits seen on 1919 coat-of-arms



Figure 6. First appearance (1930) of the guardian spirits on Iceland stamps.



Figure 7. Spirits seen on 1930 airmail set

and the printing was done in Sweden. The 500-krónur dragon stamp, however, was printed in sheets of 25 each, one-half million in all.

As beautiful as þröstur's designs are, usage of booklet stamps for regular mail in Iceland is not popular. Postally-used covers do not abound and catalogue prices for used single stamps fail to reflect their scarcity. A nicely-cancelled 500-krónur dragon belongs in the endangered species category, along with its *Vopnafjörður* ancestor! ■

graduated to the official coat-of-arms, replacing the cod which dated to the 16th century.

Ríkharður Jónsson designed a new coat-of-arms, which appeared in February 1919 (Figure 5). Four guardian spirits were illustrated and named in the official text; somehow, the vulture (*gammur*) supplanted the falcon. The carrion-eating vulture, with few devotees worldwide except among the Parsees (Zoroastrians) of India, is not found in Iceland nor probably on anybody's coat-of-arms. Eventually the respected falcon made a comeback, although it may not be official.

The 3-aurar stamp in the 1930 millenary set and its official counterpart were the first two stamps illustrating the four guardian spirits (Figure 6). Brothers Ríkharður and Finnur Jónsson designed everything on the 3-aurar except the frames (credited to Hessheimer in Austria, where the stamps were printed). Stamps in this set of 16 were issued on January 1, 1930 and valid for postage until the end of July in the same year.

The so-called airmail festival stamps, issued on June 1, 1930 and also valid until July 31 (two months), show the four guardian spirits in the corners (Figure 7.) Tryggvi Magnússon, who is credited with designing four stamps in the millenary set, designed the five airmail stamps. They were printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co in London, the first of many stamps printed by that company for Iceland. Quantity was 40,000 for each of the two lowest denominations and 25,000 for each of the three highest.

Some sources state that 300 additional stamps of each denomination were overprinted SPECIMEN, but the 1930 invoice from de la Rue, which gives the quantities, shipping instructions (by "SS Botnia" to Reykjavík) and total cost, clearly states that 10 sheets of each (500 each) were overprinted. This writer has only a registered first-day cover to New York and is still looking for a postally-used cover with either the 10- or 20-aurar stamp. A few exist!

Later issues bearing the guardian spirits were the 1937 and 1938 souvenir sheets, a 25-krónur coat-of-arms stamp issued June 17, 1964, three booklet issues of 1987, 1988, and 1990 (with two denominations), and the dragon by itself in 1989.

The 1937 souvenir sheet is of Danish design, engraving, and printing, with the guardian spirits copied from Iceland's official coat-of-arms of 1919. Árni Sveinbjörnsson designed the 1938 souvenir sheet (printed in Austria), with virtually no change to the 1919 coat-of-arms. The 1964 stamp, photogravure by Courvoisier in Switzerland, utilizes the same coat-of-arms but an unknown designer improved considerably the guardian spirits. Þröstur Magnússon designed the guardian spirits for the booklets and solo dragon; Martin Mörck accomplished the engraving,

# Possible New Varieties in Iceland's Parliamentary Millenary Issue

By Nancy J. Butkovich

The 5-aurar value of Iceland's 1930 Parliamentary Millenary issue (regular issue *Facit* 174/AFA 126 and official overprint *Facit* Tj60/AFA Tj45) has two reported varieties. One is a line plate flaw (position 45), and the other is due to the omission of a tone plate.<sup>1,2</sup> I believe that I have identified two additional varieties, based on an examination of one sheet each of *Facit* 174 and *Facit* Tj60. Subsequent examination of another Tj60 sheet by Jay Smith confirmed the presence of both varieties on that sheet as well.<sup>3</sup> I have not seen these mentioned in the literature, so I am providing descriptions below.

## Position 9—Broken 9 in 1930

Instead of having a closed oval in the upper half of the 9, the loop is broken at the connection with the number's tail. Figures 1a and 1b show the regular and official issues respectively. (The white hooked line is lint; the official overprint was filtered out during photography.) I suspect that the damage occurred during plate production rather than during printing, since the shape of the damaged area does not appear to change. Figure 1c is the normal stamp.



Figure 1a.



Figure 1b.

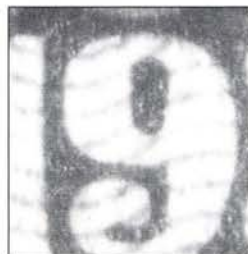


Figure 1c.

## Position 21—Unaccented Í in Ísland

This variety is caused by a flaw in the tone plate. As a result, the accent mark over the Í in Ísland is solid green instead of having wavy lines running through it. It can be seen in Figures 2a (regular issue) and 2b (official issue with overprint filtered out). Figure 2c shows the normal Í. This seems to be a similar flaw to



Figure 2a.

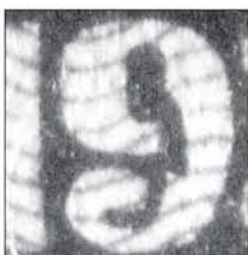


Figure 2b.

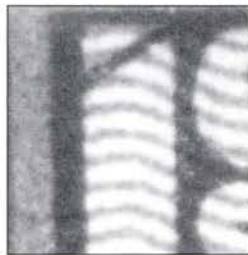


Figure 2c.

the white-dot variety of the 25-aurar value, although the result has the opposite effect. ■

### References:

1 *AFA Iceland Specialized Catalog 1997*, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation: Thousand Oaks, CA, 1997.

2 *Facit 2001 Special*, Facit Förlags AB, Västerås, Sweden, 2000.

3 Jay Smith. Personal communication. (After publication of this announcement, color illustrations of these varieties will be posted on Jay Smith's website at [http://www.JaySmith.com/resource/articles/iceland\\_1930\\_parliament\\_05\\_aur\\_varieties.html](http://www.JaySmith.com/resource/articles/iceland_1930_parliament_05_aur_varieties.html))

### Acknowledgements:

I thank Mercer Bristow (American Philatelic Society) for his suggestions and for taking the illustrations using the APS's Crimescope camera. I also thank Jay Smith of Jay Smith & Associates for his comments, suggestions, and assistance.



# An Iceland Official "Aur" Wrapper

By Roger G. Schnell



Classic Iceland official stamps have been a stepchild of Iceland philately for some time. A Large Gold exhibit of classic Iceland stamps shown at HAFNIA 2001 did not have a single Iceland official adhesive, or postal history item. However, a recent article, entitled "Iceland's Unrecognized Rarities,"<sup>1</sup> clearly outlined the rarity of the postal history of Iceland's official mail during the aur period, as well as the non-official use of wrapper bands.

In 1872, official stamps were issued for use by State and Provincial employees. These officials bought the stamps at the post office and would obtain a receipt. Every six months they would send an accounting to the Governor. Most official business was domestic, except for a rare occasion when mail was sent to Denmark.

The postal rates for official and non-official mail were the same. The rate for printed matter from November 4, 1881 to October 25, 1917 was 3 aur/50 gms. This official newspaper wrapper (illustrated) is the only example recorded to date. It was sent from Reykjavík (cancel March 17, 1897) to Snafellsness (name changed later to Stykkisholmur) franked with three first printing 3-aur official stamps. The rate was 3 aur/50 gms X 3 = 9 aur. This wrapper is one of two recorded examples of official mail franked with the 3-aur stamp, adding to its rarity.

Hopefully, Iceland official stamps and their postal history will take their rightful place with the non-official adhesives, and thus complete the full spectrum of Iceland philately during this interesting and classic period. ■

<sup>1</sup> "Iceland's Unrecognized Rarities: Aur Official Letters, Wrappers, Bands, and Book Rate Parcels," *London Philatelist*, December 2000.

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# SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK

— *Shakespeare's Hamlet, Act I, Scene 4*

*Flawed* By Elizabeth Melberg

(Editor's Note: W. E. Melberg, former SCC Librarian, was putting the final touches on an exhibit with the above title at the time of his death on September 8, 2001. His widow, Elizabeth, completed the exhibit, which was shown at COMPEX 2002. This article is a brief excerpt from the extensive exhibit.)

The exhibit depicts 80 years of flaws, errors, and unintentional varieties on Danish stamps issued from 1885 to 1965. More than 260 different types, including all major varieties, have been assembled. The majority of defects resulted from flaws in the original design, the matrix, in its fabrication, in errors in the plates, and cliché replications. These errors can be sheet position and printing specific.

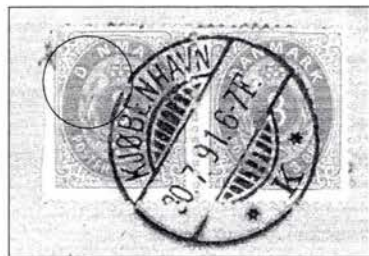


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

Several errors occurred in the printing process itself, such as in the wearing down of the materials used, the choice of bars, the application of the inks, the way the cylinders struck, foreign objects on the plates, and errors in the press itself. Occasional flaws resulted from paper placement, paper folds and creases, and on the overprints of surcharged stamps.

On printed stamps, the ink is applied on the highest parts of the printing block. White spots on stamps result from faults in the cliché; colored spots result from foreign particles filling in. On steel engraved stamps, the ink is applied into the engraved recesses; white spots result from foreign objects on the plates. A colored flaw results from damage, such as holes or scratches on the surface.

The first example shows the missing "A" in D NMARK, which is an obvious omission – the result of a filling in (Figure 1). Most defects are not as evident.

The defective numeral "5" on AFA 34x (Figure 2) is a cliché fault and occurs in various printings at specific places as in the 5th printing #99, 6th #61, 7th



Figure 3.

#17, 8th #78, 9th #46, 10th #35, 11th #70.

Sometimes a cliché was taken from one plate and substituted into another plate. In the 1884 Våbentype 10-øre red, the large number clichés were replaced by small number clichés from postal card printings (Figure 3). This difference was not noticed until 1928.

Some varieties occurred by the wearing out of the materials, such as the heart patterns in Figure 4, the 1905-06 Bølgelinietype 2-øre red. Overprinting for surcharges, as on the provincials, also caused a variety of problems. Figure 5 shows an upswing on the tab of the right "5" on the 1901-02 Våbentype 15-øre on 24 øre. This defect is found only on the 1904 provisional at plate



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

position #87 on some sheets.

Double printing or double impressions and smearing resulted from the ways in which the cylinders struck. The print cylinder rolls back and forth – right, left, and finally straight over the field. The smallest displacement shifts the patterns and hence the double strike. The dolphin in Figure 6 is a double impression.

The most celebrated of Danish flaws, the “Bomb Against the Tower,” is a scratch flaw. Ironically, this defect (Figure 7) occurred in the early 1940s during the occupation by Germany of Denmark in World War II.

Occasional flaws resulted from paper folds or paper placement. Figure 8 is a paper fold error.

### Author’s Afterword

It is with great trepidation and at the same time with a satisfying pleasure that I present this article and Willy’s collection of flaws, varieties, and errors on Danish stamps. The exhibit resulted from years of collecting and detailed research. The title, “Something Is Rotten in the State of Denmark” shows his humor, which enabled him to successfully steer through life. He always searched for the flaws and errors and tried to determine the cause. As defects were found over the years, he set them aside for a special exhibit, which he was preparing for the COMPEX 2002 show.

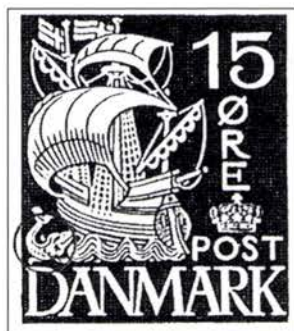


Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.

### NORDIA Overprints Sell Out Quickly



was sold out. This was, he said, “a great success during the exhibition in Kristiansand and also very good for the Norwegian stamp market in general.” Individual orders that arrived after NORDIA 2002 went unfilled, he said.

Specially printed stamps for NORDIA 2002 became scare items almost as soon as they were issued in mid-October. Norway Post overprinted 250,000 sets of stamps for the exhibition at Kristiansand and set aside a quantity for its subscribers of mint, cancelled, FDCs, presentation folders, collector sets, year sets, and yearbook. The other stamps were sold at NORDIA 2002.

Within a week of the exhibition, Tor Østlund, marketing manager for Norway Post, announced the “remarkable” news that the NORDIA 2002 issue

The special overprints were the first time in 30 years that Norway Post had overprinted previously issued stamps. “NORDIA 2002” was overprinted on two stamps issued in June 2002 commemorating the 200th birth of mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (see *Posthorn*, May 2002, page 42).

— Paul Albright

# Hand Written Plate Numbers of the Christian IX and Frederik VIII Stamps: 1904 to 1907

By John R. Sabin

There is some uncertainty concerning the earliest marginal numbers appearing on Danish sheets of stamps. When were the first marginal numbers used? First, there are several incarnations of the marginal numbers: Plates with no numbers (the earliest), plates with handwritten numbers (the subject of this query), plates with small numbers,<sup>1</sup> plates with large numbers combined with letters (production number combined with a control letter), and the numbering system used presently.

Hagemann,<sup>2</sup> in 1951, attributes the beginning of the use of marginal numbers to production number 387 (AFA 42, 43, and 46). Later scholarship (1987) by Knud Juul<sup>1</sup> reports that the earliest use was production number 383 on the 2-øre red wavy line stamp (AFA43). In any case, it is clear that the first printed marginal numbers occurred no earlier than 1910.

Previous to the printed plate numbers, however, precursors to plate numbers, in terms of handwritten marginal numbers, were to be found on certain plates. These handwritten numbers were apparently in use as early as 1906. Several of the Christian IX and Frederik VIII stamps printed between 1904 and 1907 have the precursors to plate numbers scratched by hand on the plates, presumably with a steel stylus of some sort. The markings then appear engraved in selvage of the printed sheets.



Apparently, the markings are purely for the use of the printer and were of no significance to the postal service. All of the markings are in the selvage of the sheet, approximately opposite to position 51 in the left selvage, or approximately opposite to position 60 in the right selvage.

The numbers come in various forms: Arabic numerals, Roman numerals, tics, and extraneous marks. It should be noted that there are, on all sheets, dots in both the left and right selvage, on a line separating the first 50 positions from the second, presumably used for the registration of the sheet during printing. I include with this article two examples of marginal blocks of AFA 52 and 54 (positions 59-60, 69-70) as examples.

There seems to be remarkably little mention of the handwritten plate numbers in the literature. Knud Juul, in his excellent book,<sup>1</sup> mentions the handwritten plate numbers, but otherwise little has been written about them. If there is anyone in *The Posthorn's* readership who knows anything about this interesting area of Danish philately, I would be very interested in hearing from you. ■

**(Editor's Note:** Contact the author at John R. Sabin, Quantum Theory Project, PO Box 118435, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-8435, or email [sabin@qtp.ufl.edu](mailto:sabin@qtp.ufl.edu)).

## References:

- 1 – Juul, Knud, *De Klassiske Marginalnumre - Danmarks Frimærker 1910-1933*, Brabrand Bogtryk, Brabrand, 1987 (the handwritten pladenummer are mentioned on p.17).
- 2 – Hagemann, G.A., *Danmarks og Dansk Vestindiens Frimærker (Bind 4)*, Københavns Philatelist Klub, København, 1951. See p.11.

# Keep Looking. They're Out There

By Charles R. Carlson

Cancel collectors occasionally have good cause to rejoice, but sometimes they need to work long hours looking at approvals and circuit books to find a few kernels among the chaff. For instance, the stamp shown is an almost perfect, socked-on-the-nose Gamleby cancellation with a July 1, 1858 first-day postmark on Sweden's 1858 12-öre (*Facit* 9av17). It came from a circuit book at 40 cents, and turned out to be worth considerably more (SEK 15,000).

Amazingly, the book had passed through three complete circuits, and I was the fourth to see it on the fourth round. Diligence and knowledge pays! ■



## Reference:

Sjöman, Per, Erik Helmers, and Einer Wockatz, *SWEDEN: Coat of Arms Öre Values, 1858-1872*, trans. by Sven Åhman, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, Thousand Oaks, CA, 1984.

# An Unusual Parcel Card

By Otto Kjærgaard

Member, Dansk Posthistorisk Selskab



This unusual card attracted attention when it was put up for sale on eBay in December. Its attraction is due to the fact that it went from Sweden to Greenland, but by way of Denmark. Postage was paid in Sweden, additional postage affixed in Denmark, and paid for in Greenland. Here is the story:

The cash-on-delivery package was mailed in the winter of 1983 at Borås to be delivered by surface mail to Greenland's postal satellite in Ålborg, Denmark. (Ålborg is the port of embarkation for ship mail traveling to Greenland.) Postage for normal surface mail to Greenland was paid at

Borås (port payé) and the package was sent in a normal manner via Ålborg for surface transmittal. (Air mail might have gone to Greenland's other postal satellite in Copenhagen.)

At Ålborg, the Greenland postal officials normally contacted good customers by radio telegraph to tell them about parcels awaiting ships. The customers might then agree to pay the airmail rate to get the parcel quicker because, in the case of December ship mail, parcels would not arrive until late spring.

The Danish airmail rate shown on the illustrated parcel card from December,

1983, was 13 kroner per 500 grams (12 gm x 13 kr/gm = 156 kr). Therefore, the package was correctly labeled "airmail" and upfranked for air transport. The stamps were canceled "Grønlands Postkontor/Ålborg" and the package was sent off. Upon receipt, the person paid the DKK 156 on arrival, and he also had to pay the COD charge to the sender's postgiro account in Copenhagen.

(Information concerning this card came from Herb Volin, Kaj Ullerup, Toke Nørby, and Sören Andersson, for which many thanks.)

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# Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

## Bonhams (London)

The philatelic season began with a surprise announcement of a block of 20 of Norway's 8 sk. King Oscar 1856 (Figure 1.) The stamps were found in a small family collection brought to Bonhams auction house for valuation. The stamps had been folded to the size of a block of four and tucked into a British booklet. According to the description, "After unfolding it was discovered that there was a block of four and a block of sixteen. Subsequently they have carefully been strengthened along some of the perforations and reconstructed as a block of twenty." The block was estimated at £5,000-10,000 and was auctioned in September for £44,000 plus commission, something like \$80,000.



Figure 1.

## Postiljonen (Sweden)

At Postiljonen, the main attraction in its September auction was the offering of an extensive selection of early Finland issues with some fine examples of classics. A tête-bêche pair of the 5-kopek large pearls used with a prominent owner (Rothschild) went for €39,800 (\$38,000 all-inclusive) (Figure 2). A tête-bêche pair of the 5-penni plus two singles on piece (one of seven known, *Facit* 5v1C3v4) started at €17,500 and went for €23,000 (\$27,000) (Figure 3). Finally, a beautiful copy of the famous 5-penni black color error *Facit* 7v6C3, sold for €7,500 (\$8,700) (Figure 4). ➤

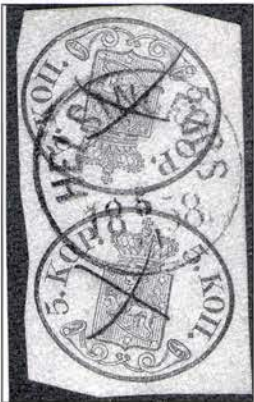


Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.

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Figure 5.

of six of the Denmark 4 RBS Thiele printing on cover (Figure 5). It started at DKK 200,000 and was hammered down for DKK 280,000 (\$45,000).

### **Crafoord, Nellmann & Thomsen (Denmark)**

This old auction house went into bankruptcy in August. While well known for stamp auctions, their main business was in antiques and estates at several branches across Denmark. The company was bought some years ago by a Swedish investor who in turn invested heavily in buying companies and using Internet auctions. It all went down with a loss of more than DKK 100 million (\$15 million). The company was sold to the auctioneer Lauritzen, which no longer will conduct stamp auctions.

### **Magnus Gartrup (Sweden)**

Quality attracts, and it is a trend that has strengthened over the years. One of the finest examples of Sweden 8 sk. yellow went on the sale in May. With a listing in Facit of SEK 4,500 for an ordinary used stamp, this one sold for SEK 72,500 plus commission for SEK 87,000 total (\$10,000) (Figure 6). That is 20 times more than the value for this stamp in normal condition. ■



Figure 6.

## **Danish Liquor Stamps Add Round Format**

Danish taxpays for Spiritus (alcoholic beverages above a certain percentage of alcohol) have a new configuration. In addition to banderole strips of three sizes, which were introduced in February 2000, there now is a round wafer type in use. This style of taxpaid stamp is placed on top of the cap of the bottled product.

According to Claus Rafner of Copenhagen, this round wafer came into use on July 1, 2002. Apparently, the long banderoles are still in use on the miniature bottles of 1/32 liter and on whatever other bottle sizes are appropriate for their configuration.

Rafner's Web site at [www.rafner.dk](http://www.rafner.dk) contains more information on banderoles and other liquor tax stamps.

— Paul Nelson

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## Commentary

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### **“Caveat Emptor” Applies to Auction Billings**

*By Ed Mildenhall*

SCC members would be well advised to read the fine print and to familiarize themselves with billing charges when bidding in European auctions, especially since the debut of the new Euro currency.

Some auction houses are offering choices for paying for lots while others have only one option. A winning bidder may be unaware of these payment options and their consequent fees until the bill arrives.

In at least one case, bidding and payments are in Euro although the auction house is located in Sweden, a country that did not adopt the Euro currency.

There also can be service charges (up to 4 percent) added to payments made by credit card. North American bidders usually cannot use the Postgiro option that is available to Europeans. Options such as a “bank draft” or a “bank transfer” carry minimum bank charges (e.g. €5) that are added to the bill. However, if a North American bidder wishes to use one of these banking options in Sweden, a further charge (perhaps another €5) is added because bank drafts and transfers to Sweden can only be drawn on a Swedish bank in SEK. Finally, the bidder’s personal bank may levy additional charges.

When these charges are added to buyer commissions of 10, 15 (or more) percent and seemingly arbitrary postage and insurance charges are added, a bidder should be prepared to pay at least 22 percent extra on a billing of €500 (approximately \$500 U.S.). The percentage could be even greater on a billing of a lesser amount.

The issue is not so much the amount of money involved as it is that the auction houses do not initially reveal the extent and method of computing their charges.

The old truism “*caveat emptor*” really does apply when dealing with auction houses in this period of currency reform.

### **Forgeries of Sweden’s Tretio Error Still Popping Up**

*By George Kuhhorn*

One of the more notable – and notorious – errors is Sweden’s famous 20/30 ring-type stamp of 1879.

The error occurred at the plant of stamp manufacturer Jacob Bagge & Co. where the 20-öre, perf. 13 ring-type stamps were being printed. One cliché was found to be severely damaged. In order to meet the delivery deadline, it was decided to replace this one cliché rather than take the time to remake the entire sheet. A 30-öre “ring” cliché was chosen, the center portion (numeral part only) was drilled out, and a numeral “20” was inserted. What they overlooked was the fact that the circle surrounding the numeral contained in script, “TRETIO” (Thirty) instead of “TJUGO” (Twenty), as did the other 20-öre stamps in the sheet. The 20/30 stamp was born!

The printing consisted of 6,000 sheets of which 182 were destroyed. On December 19, 1879, these 5,818 sheets, each with a single Tretio error stamp, were delivered to the Royal Postal Administration. Before the discovery of the error, 1,583 sheets were delivered to various post offices. Six hundred and thirteen faulty stamps were recalled from the post office before their sale. Therefore, 970 stamps (one per sheet) were available to be collected.

As you can imagine, these 20/30 error stamps (Facit Sweden 33, v1) have become costly. The *Facit 2002* prices them mint at SEK 80,000 (\$8,600) and used at SEK 50,000 (\$5,400).

Numerous forgeries of these stamps have appeared. My interest was stirred when several ➤

forgeries came to my attention in the past two years. At least three of these have appeared on the eBay auction Internet site, all of them properly described as forgeries. I have seen another forgery that was purchased by a North Carolina collector from an Argentine dealer. In addition, what appeared to be a forged 20/30 stamp was seen in a dealer's stock at the Boxborough, MA show in May 2002.

In 1978, in conjunction with the sale of the catalog *Swedish Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery 1978-79*, the Sveriges Filatelist Förbund (SFF) printed a miniature sheet containing a facsimile of the 20/30 stamp. This facsimile (see illustration) was given to purchasers of each catalog. On the reverse side of the stamp is printed "SFF 1978." The decision proved controversial and further facsimiles of rare stamps were abandoned by SFF.

Collectors considering purchase of this stamp would be wise to educate themselves regarding the Tretio error and require a certificate of authenticity. SCC's new "helper" service could be of some assistance if members wish to contact me at the addresses listed on Page 43. ■



### SCC Calendar

	National	Regional*	Nordic & International
2003	Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20 Crystal, MN	Sandical February 7-9 San Diego, CA	NORDIA 2003* October 16-19 Reykjavik, Iceland
2004	Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition mid-October King of Prussia PA	To Be Announced	NORDIA 2004*
2005	Rocky Mountain Stamp Show May Denver, CO	To Be Announced	NORDIA 2005*
2006	Sandical San Diego, CA	Washington 2006 May 27-June 3 Washington DC	NORDIA 2006*

\* SCC Regional meetings will be planned in conjunction with NORDIA.

**Visit SCC on the Web: [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org)**

## Cover Corner

### Special Marks for Swedish Train Mail

By Sören Andersson

These two 19th century covers were post-marked in one Swedish community whose postmaster was proactive in responding to complaints of slow mail delivery.

The marks were used in Eslöv to designate which train (Tåg) during the day carried a piece of mail. This came about, apparently, because the Eslöv post office had been accused of delaying the transit of mail. The postmaster wanted to show by these markings that the delays had not occurred in Eslöv, a city about 40 kilometers northeast of Malmö with direct trains to Landskrona some 30 km to the west

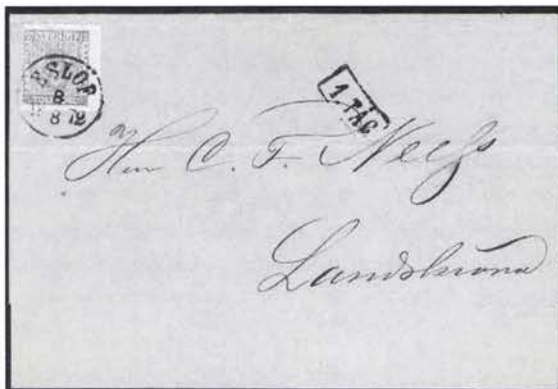
The intention was that a letter sent by the first train in the morning (1 Tåg) from Eslöv should be delivered the same day in Landskrona. These marks made it easier to determine where the mail might have been delayed.

There are two handstamps known with a removable digit. The first had three digits (1-3) and the second had four digits (1-4). These two covers were canceled at Eslöv (now spelled Eslöv) on September 14, 1868 and August 8, 1872, with both addressed to C. F. Ness in Landskrona.

Eslöv is the only office known to use markings of this type. Originally, the postmaster wanted the train number placed inside the normal date stamp, but the central authorities rejected this.

#### References:

Ivarsson, Lennart, "Eslöfs TÅG-stämplor," *SFF-Filatelisten* Vol. 103, No. 1, p. 14-15, Skara, 2002.  
Larsson, Bertil I., "Eslöfs tågstämplor och deras tillkomst," *Posttrytaren* Vol. 51, p. 173-181, Stockholm, 2001.



## South Carolina to Sweden: Another Interpretation

By Gordon Hughmark

An interpretation of the route and the rates on an 1858 letter from South Carolina to Gothenburg was published in the May 2002 issue of *The Posthorn* (Page 23). Richard F. Winter presented a paper on mails between the United States and Sweden before 1873 at the Postal History Symposium, NORDIA 2001, including an interpretation of this letter. There are many differences between the *Posthorn* article and the interpretation presented at the symposium. An interpretation in accordance with the symposium presentation follows.

This letter was posted at Charleston, South Carolina on April 16, 1858. It was prepaid the correct 42-cent rate to Sweden and marked "PAID" at Charleston. The letter was sent to Boston for the April 21 sailing of the Cunard steamer, "America." The sailing and arrival dates are found in the book *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* by Walter Hubbard and Richard F. Winter (published ➤

by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1988). The letter was postmarked with a "BOSTON/date/BR.PKT." stamp and a "19" stamp in red ink to show a 19-cent credit to Prussia. "America" arrived at Liverpool on May 4 and the letter reached the Aachen office the next day. It was sent as closed mail from Boston to Aachen in accordance with the 1852 United States-Prussian postal convention. Backstamps show arrival at the Hamburg Stadtpost and the Royal Danish post office on May 6. The Stadtpost added the "franco" stamp. The letter was sent by closed mail via Denmark to Helsingborg, Sweden where it was postmarked on May 9.

The Prussian Closed Mail (PCM) convention provided a 30-cent per one-half ounce postal rate between Boston/New York and Hamburg. This rate represented:

- U.S. postal share = 5 cents
- Sea post and U.K. transit = 18 cents
- Belgian transit = 2 cents
- German transit = 5 cents
- Total = 30 cents

This 30 cents was marked at Hamburg on unpaid letters as 13 silver groschen (sgr.), the Prussian currency. Thus, the German transit postage of 5 cents was equivalent to 2.16 sgr. and did not represent the German Austrian Postal Union (GAPU) postal rate for "open" mail as suggested in the May 2002 article.

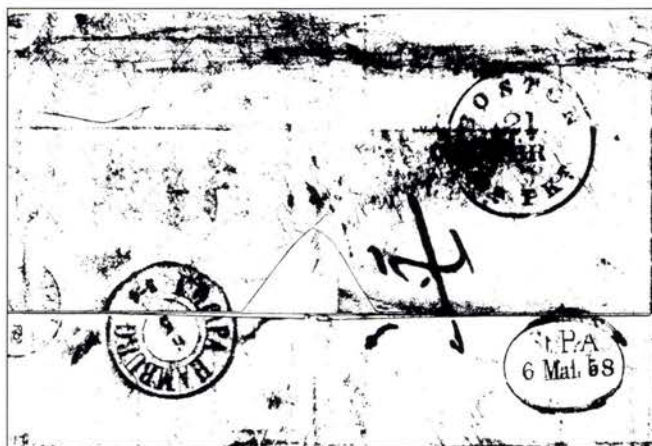
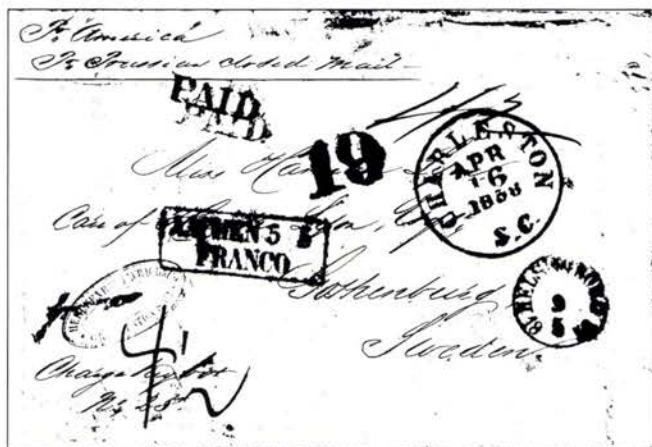
Postal rates between the U.S. and Sweden, Denmark, or Norway by Prussian Closed Mail were then 30 cents per one-half ounce, plus postage from Hamburg to the destination. This was 12 cents for Sweden and thus representing 42 cents total postage between the U.S. and Sweden. The "4 1/2" marked on the letter was marked as the credit to Denmark for the Danish and Swedish postage. A convention between Prussia and Denmark in 1853 specified that Prussia had to pay Denmark 2 sgr. for letters transiting Denmark to Sweden and Norway. As the Swedish portion was 2 1/2 sgr., the total credit for "foreign" transit became 4 1/2 sgr. for PCM mail. The letter was conveyed by the Prussian post to Hamburg but the Stadtpost transferred the letter to the Danish post because a condition on which the Stadtpost joined the GAPU in January 1852 was that the Stadtpost would be responsible at Hamburg for transatlantic mail.

The receiving country paid the Belgian transit fee of 2 cents, which was included in the total rate. As this was a paid letter from the United States, Aachen claimed 19 cents per single rate but received 17 cents for an unpaid letter from the United States to Sweden. ■

(**Acknowledgement:** The assistance of Richard F. Winter in the preparation of these comments is gratefully acknowledged.)

**Reference:**

Richard Winter, "United States – Sweden: Letter Mail Prior to the Bilateral Postal Convention of 1873," in *Methods and Topics in Postal History: Nordic Mails and Routes*, Rosetta Stone Press, New Providence, NJ, 2001.



# Danish Troops in Germany



Not only the Big Four Allies sent occupying troops into Germany after World War II. Several smaller countries also sent token forces. These included Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. I ran across a cover sent in 1951 from the Danish command in occupied Germany, nicely postmarked and with a note from the Sergeant Postmaster (translated): "F.A. Brofos. Have on this date postmarked and sent off the covers sent here by you. The Commando Post Office."

The line stamp reading "Det danske kommando i Tyskland" (the Danish command in Germany) is the same as used on the registration label on the cover.

— Frederick A. Brofos



# An 18th Century Cover from Sweden to Scotland

By Don Halpern

While looking through my exhibits for interesting covers, I came across this January 31, 1764 cover from Göteborg, Sweden. I was a naive and inexperienced postal historian when I purchased this cover (Figure 1). My first error was assuming Banff, N. Brittain was the Canadian city, and I was holding a very early Canada cover. It was the first 18th century Swedish cover that I saw for sale, and I had to have it.

It sat around for years, a true misunderstood orphan. Then I gave up trying to puzzle out the markings and sent a photocopy to a world class postal historian. He analyzed every marking, as well as what I had considered to be 18th century doodling on the cover. It suddenly made complete sense.

The route my fellow collector listed was now obvious: Göteborg > Hamburg > London > Edinburgh > Banff, Scotland. The rates were more of a challenge because I really didn't understand 18th century English penmanship.



Figure 1.

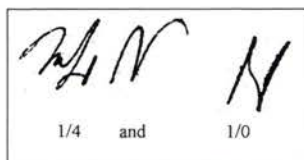


Figure 2.

Let's start at the beginning. I can only guess at the prepaid rate from Göteborg to Hamburg because I don't have rate tables from Göteborg, only from Stockholm to Hamburg. The 12 in the upper right corner of Figure 1 has been called the "List Number." I prefer "Manifest Number" because it is the number of that letter on the shipping manifest. One manifest was kept at the originating post office and the other went with the mail shipment to the receiving office. ➤

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Since the letter was two sheets of paper, the rate from Hamburg to London was triple weight, 2 shilling and 6 pence (2/6). It was originally and mistakenly charged 3/0 — Göteborg–London direct. If I look at the 2/6 scribbled on Figure 1, I can see the three under it. A triple weight letter from London to Edinburgh was 1 shilling 4 pence and Edinburgh to Banff was 1/0 as shown in Figure 2. The total due in Banff was 4/10. The 2 in the lower left of Figure 1 is 2 Hamburg schilling to transfer the letter from the Swedish post office to the Hamburg post office.

At last, with the help of my colleague and 25 years, this cover from Sweden to Scotland was moved from my collection to my exhibit.

## Missent Paquebot Card from Danish West Indies



This postal card seems to have taken an extra long way to get from one neighboring island to another in the Caribbean. It was sent from Bassin, St. Croix, in the Danish West Indies on February 17, 1915 and directed toward nearby San Juan, Porto (Puerto) Rico.

By some mistake, however, it wound up at the New York Post Office Foreign Section at Hudson Terminal, NY. Cancelled there as ship mail, it was returned south. Interestingly, the card is addressed to Hernand Behn who, with his brother Sosthenes,

later founded the giant ITT Corporation.

— Frederick A. Brofos

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## Icelandic Philatelic Magazine Resumes Publication

The Icelandic philatelic magazine, *Frímerkjablaðið*, has reappeared after an absence of 16 months. Issue No. 6 appeared in mid-October after a new agreement was reached between the Iceland Post Ltd. and the Philatelic Federation of Iceland (LÍF). The LÍF is responsible for the content and Iceland Post is providing financial backing.

Content of the issue No. 6 includes details on Iceland's 2003 stamp issues, a contest for children to design a stamp, an article on designs not used for an independence stamp in 1938, a 1940 stamp that was not issued after it arrived too late from the printer, and OAT and AV2 markings first used on Icelandic mail.

A three-member editorial board from the LÍF has responsibility for *Frímerkjablaðið*. Plans now are for new editions in February and September 2003.

— Þór Þorsteins

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# President's Letter

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*John DuBois*

We recently returned from the NORDIA 02 exhibition in the beautiful southern Norwegian city of Kristiansand. NORDIA is a fascinating total immersion experience in Scandinavian philately, which I recommend to all SCC members. A report on this year's show appears elsewhere in this *Posthorn*, but I want to emphasize here the special opportunities available at a NORDIA. Foremost is the chance to make, or renew, friendships with those attending from the Nordic countries.



You will find no other show with so much philatelic material from our specialty, both on exhibit and for sale — virtually everything is Scandinavian! And, if you are exhibiting, the judges will really know your material. All too often at U.S. shows, judges simply do not have the appreciation and understanding to recognize the subtleties of Nordic material.

Fortunately, the next NORDIA, in 2003, will be easier to attend than traveling all the way across the Atlantic. It will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland October 16-19, 2003. Iceland is a fascinating country that offers outstanding scenery to enjoy before or after the show and is an affordable, short flight from the U.S. East Coast. There is some information in this *Posthorn*, and more will appear later.

## More Notes of SCC Interest and Concern

- ❖ The slate of officers nominated for election to two-year terms, detailed in the August *Posthorn*, was unopposed through September 1, and therefore has been elected by one vote cast by the Secretary. The new roster appears on the officers' page at the back of this issue.
- ❖ The Chapter responsible for sponsoring the most new SCC members by December 31 will have the privilege of receiving its Stamp Mart books first in the rotation next year. All that is needed is to note Chapter sponsorship on the new-member application that is sent to Executive Secretary Don Brent.
- ❖ The SCC library is privileged to have a fine, safe home within the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (RMPL) in Denver. A library is costly to create and to maintain and we are fortunate to have this facility available. I want to thank President Donald Beuthel and the dedicated volunteers who operate the RMPL for their cooperation and assistance in hosting our own library. We are very grateful and hope to maintain this alliance well into the future.
- ❖ You may have noticed new names associated with the library on the officers' page. Jim Kilbane, Greg Frantz, Jeff Mondesitt, and Paul Albright have agreed to serve as library volunteers to assist with everyday operations of our library. After the *Posthorn*, our library is the most important service offered to SCC members and it is vitally important that communications, checkout, returns, and maintenance of our holdings operate promptly and accurately. As our new volunteers come up to speed, I expect to see a noticeable improvement in library functioning.
- ❖ *The Posthorn* has long had a policy of encouraging free "member to member" classified ads, but we have seen very little use of these lately. Any SCC member wishing to place an ad need only send the contents to Editor Paul Albright. (The ad must be limited to personal material and not part of a home or commercial business.)
- ❖ I have received some inquiries lately about email addresses published in the *Posthorn* and in our member directory on the World Wide Web ([www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org)). These are all published with the approval of the members listed from information on our dues-renewal form or by specific request. Some of the addresses have been picked up by both members and non-members to use for commercial purposes. Please remember that when approval is given for publication of an email address, this is one of the possible consequences and there is no practical way that the SCC can prevent it. "Spam" email has become a fact in the 21st century, and we are not immune. Anyone wishing to ➤



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have their email address removed from our publications need only notify the Editor (palbright@idcomm.com) and the Webmaster (jld@thlogic.com).

❖ A few more comments are in order on the ethics of stamp trading and commerce. The vast majority of philatelists around the world are honest and prompt about the exchange of material, payments, etc. We have become accustomed to taking this for granted. With the expanded reach of modern communications, especially the Internet and email, exceptions to this have become more common. It is always a good idea to consider the possible downside of any philatelic transaction before committing material or funds to an unknown person. A suggestion is to limit initial transactions to an amount you don't mind losing until confidence is established. The SCC can do little to help once a loss has occurred, but there is a mechanism for expelling members if investigation by our ethics committee finds unacceptable conduct.

❖ Many of the suggestions we receive relate to more assistance for newcomers to our hobby. Membership Chairman George Kuhhorn is working to address this need through the "Helper's List," which was announced early this year. This effort aims to put any member, but particularly beginners, in touch with more experienced collectors who can help with questions and other assistance. Mentoring always has played a significant role in philately, but these days it may be difficult to find someone locally to fill this role. The Helper's List can facilitate these contacts, and I would like to see it well known and used within the SCC. ■

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## Greenland Issues Its First Self-Adhesive Stamps

Greenland is moving cautiously into the world of self-adhesive stamps. Post Greenland issued its annual Christmas stamps in self-adhesive format in booklets containing six DKK 4.50 and six DKK 4.75 stamps. Water-activated Christmas stamps, 30 per sheet, also were issued. In a nod toward collectors, Post Greenland reported it "made sure that these (self-adhesive) stamps can also be washed off envelopes and cards the traditional way to be inserted into a stamp collection later on."



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## A Note from the Editor

Production delays have made this issue of *The Posthorn* unusually late in reaching our readers. I apologize to SCC's members and *Posthorn* advertisers. While we made progress during 2002 in improving the editorial and graphic quality of *The Posthorn*, we have not succeeded with another important element — timeliness.

My New Year's resolution for 2003 is to publish *The Posthorn* on a more regular schedule. Another objective is to improve the illustrations that are so essential — even vital — to many of our pages. Authors should take greater advantage of expanding computer capabilities in order to provide the best graphics possible to their Scandinavian collecting colleagues.

Members can help to further improve *The Posthorn* with their contributions, their critiques, and their suggestions. The larder of articles is not empty, but it constantly needs restocking with quality material. Everyone will benefit from that.

— Paul Albright

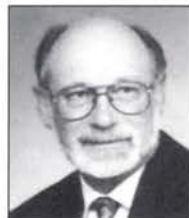
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# News From The Home Office

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*Don Brent*

By now, many of you have received your dues renewal notices and have taken care of this chore. You have mailed in your 2003 dues haven't you? If not, please take a moment to handle it now. At \$15, membership in SCC remains one of the real bargains among philatelic societies. By getting your dues in promptly, you save SCC the expense of a follow-up reminder. Of course, some of you have paid in advance to take advantage of the *Facit* promotion, or to save the hassle of an annual notice; some of you are life members. Those who fit in those groups did not receive a notice.



*The Posthorn* continues to improve under the capable direction of Paul Albright. A survey on *The Posthorn* was included with dues notices. The responses will be used by the Posthorn Committee to make our quarterly journal even more responsive to the members.

In the next few weeks, San Diego will conduct its annual national show, SANDICAL. This will be a regional show for SCC, and I hope that many of you will be able to attend. The show has moved again and I hope that the new venue will make for a good show. There will be two SCC members on the jury with Roger Schnell as chairperson and Alan Warren on the panel. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

We still have some of the SCC lapel pins at \$6 each (including shipping). Let me know if you would like one of these special SCC Viking ship logo pins.

We gained 12 new members in the third quarter of the year. Our membership continues to move in a positive direction. I would like to welcome all our new members and remind you that we are here to help you with any SCC-related matters. If you have any questions or problems with your membership be sure to get in contact. We are also open to suggestions for improving the club.

I hope that we have the opportunity to meet in the coming year at one of our shows. ■

## Membership Statistics for the Third Quarter 2002

### New Members

- 3945 Brunn, Stanley D., 740 Old Dobbin Rd. Lexington, KY 40502
- 3946 Ausmus, Regi, 4095 Fruit St. #860, La Verne, CA 91750-2937
- 3947 Irving, Cliff, P.O. Box 131, E. Sandwich, MA 02537
- 3948 Przybeck, Thomas R., 16 Haven View Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141
- 3949 Waterstradt, Charles, DNP
- 3950 Fentress, Gary, 420 Dabney Lane, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
- 3951 Marenburg, Leonard W., P.O. Box 153, Avon, MA 02322
- 3952 North Atlantic Philatelics, P.O. Box 49, IS-415 Bolungarvik, Iceland
- 3953 Pedersen, Sven J. H., 12 Harbor Lane, Apt. 9B, Oyster Bay, NY 11771
- 3954 Hahn, Raymond G., DNP
- 3955 Ostman, Rurik, Box 2135, The Pas, MB, Canada
- 3956 van der Wuff, Ton, Nic van der Steenstraat 18, Mydrecht, NL 3641CP Netherlands

### Change of Address

- 3170 Palen, Roberta, 801 9th St. N., Virginia, MN 55792
- 2323 Alevizos, George, P.O. Box 1408, Topanga, CA 90290-1408
- 3843 Vikan, David, 2008 8th Ave. NW #4, East Grand Forks, MN 56721
- 825 Olsen, Dr. Oluf E., 811 O'Berry Hoover Rd., Orlando, FL 32825-7008
- L-77 Kols, David, 229 N Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108-1505
- L-29 Cohen, Ben, P.O. Box 643313, Chicago, IL 60664-3313
- 1372 Christensen, John, 13520 Cherry Tree Circle, Hagerstown, MD 21742
- 3696 Austin, Alan, 14 Westwind Circle, Guelph, ON, N1G 424 Canada

## Report on NORDIA 2002

By John DuBois

NORDIA 2002 was held in Kristiansand, Norway October 10-13 hosted by the Kristiansand Philatelic Club. The city is a beautiful port of about 70,000 people on the southern coast between Oslo and Stavanger, and attracts tourists from Europe, Great Britain, and Scandinavia every summer. The NORDIA exhibition was held in the Gimlehallen (sports arena) about 1km northeast of the port and downtown area.

There were 170 exhibits, filling 1,028 frames plus 26 entries in the literature class and 37 dealers at the show. Three SCC members from the United States attended, bringing five exhibits, including *The Posthorn* entry.

NORDIA Chairman John Gulbrandsen opened the exhibition with a ceremony highlighted by warm welcoming talks from Trygve Karlsen, the president of the Nordic Federation, and Mrs. Bjorg Wallevik, the mayor of Kristiansand.

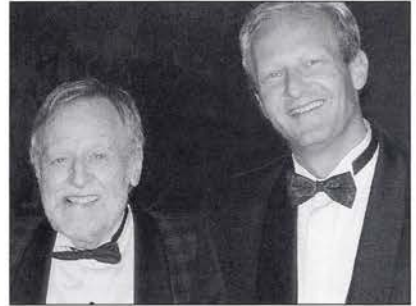
The mayor also hosted a fascinating reception in the City Hall that included a talk on the history of the town and area, while the audience sat in the council chamber, complete with little voting buttons on the desks.

Awards were presented efficiently in two groups. The large vermeil awards and below were distributed at the exhibit hall on Friday. The gold, along with special prizes, were handed out after the palmares banquet on Saturday. The banquet was quite an event, attended by over 150 people, and featured an entrée of reindeer.

As usual at NORDIA exhibitions, there were four grand prizes. The Grand Prix NORDIA went to Jan Billgren for "Swedish Postal History 1885-1921." The Grand Prix National was awarded to Bernt J. Fossum for "On Postal Service: Steamship and Steamship Routes in Norway 1827-77." The Grand Prix Nordique was awarded to Peer Lorentzen for "Danmark's Posthistorie: ca. 1800 til ca. 1865," and the Grand Prix International to Bjørn Gunnar Solaas for "Albrecht Dürer oghans tid."

SCC exhibitors came away with respectable prizes, as well. John DuBois was awarded a gold and special prize from the Danish Philatelic Federation for "Danish West Indies Mails 1748 to 1879." Don Halpern received a gold medal for his "Danish International Mail to 1865," and Roger Quinby won a large vermeil for "The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland." Leslie Nugent received a certificate for "Norway's Stave Churches on Stamps." *The Posthorn* was awarded a silver medal in the literature class.

The last NORDIA, at Tucson in January of 2001, was still fresh in the minds of our Nordic friends as almost every conversation started off with a complement or warm reminiscence of the good time had in Arizona. NORDIA 2002 should be remembered as well, for its outstanding organization, beautiful location, and splendid opportunities for renewing friendships. ➤



Peer Lorentzen, left, and his son, Mark, celebrate winning the Grand Prix Nordique at NORDIA 2002 (Photo by Don Halpern.)



The NORDIA 2002 award ceremony in the exhibition hall (Photo by John DuBois.)

## Don Halpern Receives Pelander Award

At the SCC meeting held during NORDIA 2002 in Kristiansand, Norway, SCC President John DuBois presented the Carl E. Pelander Award to Don Halpern, longtime supporter of SCC and the Nordic philatelic community. Halpern has held several positions with SCC over the years. He currently is SCC's secretary, a position that he held once before. He also is business manager of *The Posthorn* and previously served as SCC president and vice president.

Halpern has been a longtime member of SCC Chapter 7 in New York, and was instrumental in having the chapter host a SCC convention there. He was previously an American Philatelic Society accredited judge, and for many years has served as SCC's commissioner to the NORDIA shows. He served the NORDIA 2001 organization first as secretary and then as a director.

Halpern has shared his knowledge of Scandinavian philately through his talks at meetings and in his articles in *The Posthorn* and elsewhere. He is co-author with Gordon Hughmark of the important book *Stampless Mail to and from Scandinavia*. He has exhibited such material both in the United States and abroad.

The Pelander Award, which is named for SCC's founder and first editor of *The Posthorn*, has been awarded to 15 people since it was established in 1968. Halpern now joins this prestigious group who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to Nordic philately that further the aims of our club.



Don Halpern, right, receives the Pelander Award from SCC President John DuBois during NORDIA 2002 in Norway in October. (Photo by Sue C. Quinby.)

— Alan Warren

## Attention: All SCC Exhibitors!

**SANDICAL, February 7-9, 2003 in San Diego, CA** — A regional meeting and a Board of Directors meeting will be held at SANDICAL 2003. A special presentation on Scandinavian philately is being planned (subject to be announced). Request prospectus and application to exhibit from James Burgeson, SCC exhibit chairman, 2266 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107 (USA), email jburgeson003@earthlink.net.

For other information on SANDICAL, contact Jerry Santangelo, PO Box 80004, San Diego, CA 92138, email gsantang@mail.sdsu.edu.

**MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO, July 21-23, 2003, in Crystal, MN** — SCC will hold the 2003 annual meeting at this show. At least 100 frames will be available for our exhibits! The jury will be Scandinavian oriented and familiar with our material. There will be seminars and other special events for SCC members, families, and guests. Request prospectus and application from the exhibit chairman (see above).



**NORDIA 2003, October 16-19, 2003, Kjarvalsstaðir – Reykjavík, Iceland** — The NORDIA exhibit for 2003 will be held in Iceland. SCC members are eligible to submit exhibits to the NORDIA shows and are invited to prepare an application for 2003. Further information is available in another article in this issue of *The Posthorn*. ➤

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# NORDIA 03 in Reykjavík

Now that NORDIA 2002 in Norway is history, plans are under-way for the next Nordic show, which will be held in Reykjavík, Iceland October 16-19, 2003. General Commissioner for the exhibition is our own Sigurður Þorsteinsson.

Other commissioners are Ebbe Eldrup of Denmark, Kari Rahiala of Finland, Hallvard Slettebø of Norway, Lars-Magnus Sjöholm of Sweden, and Roger Quinby of the United States. The U.S. also has an assistant commissioner, SCC President John DuBois. Bulletin 1 with the exhibit application form has already been released. Copies can be obtained from Quinby, DuBois, or Exhibits Chairman Jim Burgeson (see officers' page for contact information).

Iceland's President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson is exhibition patron. Chair of the show committee is Gunnar Rafn Einarsson. Bulletin 1 carries a welcome from Einarsson, who is also the president of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation, LÍF. The bulletin has the general rules for the exhibition as well as an interesting article by Þór Þorsteins on vending machine stamps and booklets in Iceland, 1932-1970. Burgeson has exhibit applications. Deadline for exhibit applications is January 1, 2003.

Mark your calendar and plan to visit Iceland next October.

— Alan Warren



## Library News

By Jim Kilbane

There are some changes at the library. We have added some staff to assist Stuart Silverberg, our librarian. See the President's Letter for more information.

We also are accumulating items to make them available at the SCC annual meeting next July. These are duplicate books, journals, and periodicals. There also will be several philatelic posters available. One of the long-term goals is to re-catalog the library. If this major project is tackled, we probably would use the same system as that used at the American Philatelic Research Library.

Thanks to Leland Huss for his generous donation of *Lennart Bernadotte Presents Czeslow Slania Life's Work*.

In addition to philatelic books, we have books relating to the history, dictionaries, and travel within the various Scandinavian countries. Some examples are: *Scandinavia - Travel Guide by Fodor*; *Medieval Scandinavia, From Conversion to Reformation* (1993) by Birgit and Peter Sawyer; a *History of the Literature of the Scandinavian North, The Most Ancient Times to Present* (1901) by Frederik Winkel Horn; and *The Vikings* (1987) by Else Roesahl. The library offers a variety of materials for use by the collector of Scandinavian philately.

If there is anything you would like to see in this column or any other suggestions please e-mail me at [aurora\\_80017@yahoo.com](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com). ■

### Member Ad

**For Scandinavian Revenue Collectors:** Paul Nelson, who coordinates SCC's Scandinavian Revenues Study Group, would like to get copies the *Scandinavian Revenues*, Vol. II (Denmark) into every revenue collector's library. For a copy, send \$6.00 to cover postage and the envelope to Paul Nelson, Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711. Overseas members should email first to [pnels@att.net](mailto:pnels@att.net).

# Scandinavian Area Awards

James Gaudet won a gold at the APS Stampshow, held in Atlantic City in August, for his "Danish Advertising Booklets 1927-1934." Charles Shoemaker took a vermeil for "Military and Civilian Censorship on Mail to and from Greenland During W.W. II." In the single frame category, Roger Schnell won a gold and an American Air Mail Society gold for "WW II Communications between USA and Finland." In the literature category, *The Posthorn* was awarded a vermeil.

At the BALPEX show held in Maryland over the Labor Day weekend, Alan Warren won a gold and the "best in showcase" for his single frame entry in the American First Day Cover Society Showcase category, with his "Denmark: Cachet Varieties of the Horsens Filatelistklub for the Vitus Bering Issue."

At SESCAL in October, a silver award went to "The Aerogrammes of Iceland," exhibited by Jerome V. V. Kasper. Dan Laursen received a silver-bronze for his "Transportation of Mail To, From, and In Greenland: 1721-2002." In the literature section, *The Posthorn* received silver.



SCC Members Dan Laursen of Arizona, left, and Paul Nelson of California pause for the photographer while checking the exhibits at SESCAL where Laursen unveiled a new exhibit on Greenland, his specialty (Photo by Jerry Kasper.)

## Philakorea 2002

There were many Nordic area exhibits at the FIP show held in Seoul in August. Following are just some of the top awards received there. Bernt J. Fossum won a large gold, and was nominated for the Grand Prix International, for his "Norway: The First Two Issues." Other large golds went to Brdr. Engel for "The Squared Skilling Stamps of Denmark," Jussi Tori for "Classic Denmark up to the Line Perforated Issues," Pieter Ahl for "Norwegian Adhesive Covers to Foreign Destinations 1855-1877," and to Gunnar Nilsson for "Swedish Letters to Foreign Destinations 1600-UPU." In the literature section, Lasse Nielsen also won a large gold for *The Bicolored Stamps of Denmark 1870-1905*. Gerhard Müller received a gold for his "Greenland: Island of the Arctic."



American Philatelic Society President Peter McCann, left, and Herb Trenchard, right, watch as SCC's Alan Warren signs the Luff scroll at the APS summer Awards Banquet in August. (See *Posthorn*, August 2000, page 34 for details.) (Photo courtesy of APS.)

At the Minnesota Stamp Expo held in July, Charles Shoemaker received a silver for "Greenland Mails: Military and Civilian Censorship WW II." In the single frame category, Shoemaker also took a gold and the reserve grand for "Greenland: The American Issue." At the Peach State Stamp Show in Georgia in September, David Hill received a vermeil for "The Iceland Flight of the Graf Zeppelin."

At the MILCOPEX show in Milwaukee in September, Rossmer Olson won a gold for his "Definitive Postage Stamps of Sweden 1910-1919." At the same show, Charles Shoemaker won a vermeil for "Military and Civilian Censorship on Mail to and from Greenland During WW II." In the single frame category, Shoemaker also won a platinum along with the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence for "Greenland: The American Issue."

— Alan Warren

# Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren

Swedish charity stamps used to raise funds for clothing the military are discussed by David L. Straight in the November 18 issue of *Stamp Collector*. In 1916, remainders of old definitive and postage due stamps were surcharged to create semi-postal stamps to pay for winter clothing for military reservists called up to guard Sweden's neutral borders during World War I.

*The American Revenuer*, the journal of the American Revenue Association, carries an article by Paul Nelson in its September-October issue concerning import stamps in the Faroe islands. These stamps, which were used from the 1950s until 1973, were affixed to import permits and cancelled by the proper authorities. (See illustration.) Nelson describes some unusual Scandinavian postal stationery in the January-February issue of *Postal Stationery*, published by the United Postal Stationery Society. Among the items shown are the PP indicia on bulk mail of Denmark along with Christmas seals, Finnish Red Cross postal cards, the pre-paid postal cards with illustrations from Sweden known as Portokort, and the illustrated Porto Brev of Sweden.



Writing in the September issue of the *United States Specialist*, Ken Lawrence describes the transition period of six months in 1917 during which either Danish West Indies or U.S. stamps could be used on mail from what was then the U.S. Virgin Islands. The August 19 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* described the recently discovered block of 20 of the 8-skilling King Oscar issue of Norway, the largest known multiple of the stamp. It was found in a collection in England and was auctioned in October by the British firm of Bonhams. (See Auction Marketplace.)

Christer Brunström of Sweden described the new set of four values from Greenland that depict historic ships in the July issue of *Global Stamp News*. In the September issue of the same periodical, Brunström tells how Åland is using prominent people with connections to the country for creating new stamp designs.



Brunström edits a Cinderella journal entitled *Atalaya* from his home in Halmstad, Sweden. Its scope goes beyond philatelic labels and includes locals, dead country issues, and other back-of-the-book material. The Winter 2001, Summer 2002, and Winter 2002 issues all mention the Mullsjö local post issues of Sweden.

The October issue of the *Jack Knight Air Log*, available from the American Air Mail Society, has an article by Jim Hill on the 1930 Nordlandfahrten of the Graf Zeppelin. There were two flights that year to Nordic areas. The first was to Spitzbergen and the second to Iceland.

## A Recap of Recent Danish Journals

Kurt Hansen illustrates some examples of covers bearing Danish stamps that were sent from outside Denmark, in the September issue of KPK's *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. Such mail was often sent from ships, under special conditions, or sometimes with combinations of stamps of other countries. In the same issue, Lars Engelbrecht continues his series on some 19th century postal cards of Denmark.

The Danish journal *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* continues the long running series on alphabetized Danish postmarks that was begun some years ago in the discontinued magazine *Skilling*. The August issue depicts cancels from the towns of Masned Sund to Middelfart. Another regular feature is the column by Peter Schweizer on variants among Danish stamps. These are new discoveries that include modern material such as errors with respect to fluorescent marking, as well as plate flaws or irregularities in older stamps.

In the October issue of this Danish journal, co-authors Erik Hvidberg and Lars Engelbrecht ►

present the seventh in their series on postal stationery, this time with a focus on mounting and exhibiting such material. In the same issue, Kim Widén continues his series on modern postal history of Greenland with a look at handstamps and labels used on mail returned to the sender.

## Slania Adds a New Country

The July-September issue of *Close-Up*, the journal of the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, announced that the famous engraver added a new country to his list of those for which he has created stamps. Early in October, Sweden and Thailand released joint issues featuring the royal palaces of the two countries. Slania engraved all four stamps.

Harry Hohndorf presents a three-part series describing 20 military covers from the 1848-1850 war in Denmark in the Swedish journal *filatelisten*. The articles appear in the August, September, and October issues. He tabulates the data for each cover including date, origin, destination, markings, and other comments. In the August issue, Helmuth Lavicka continues his series on Frama labels of various countries, this time with a focus on Denmark. In the October issue, postal historian Lennart Ivarsson discusses returned mail in the stampless era.

Arvid Løhre illustrates forged cancels of Sandbakk in issue No. 3 of the Oslo Filatelistklubb's journal *Info*. In the same issue, Kjell Åge Johansen discusses the Tur markings of Kristiania and Oslo. The issue 3/2002 of *News from the Faroes* tells about the Løgting, one of the world's oldest parliaments. Another article reviews the postal history of the settlements Skúvoy and Stóra Dímun.

John Torstad illustrates some fleet mail using the London issue of Norway in issue No. 6 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. Properly franked mail with this issue is scarce.

Mats Ingers and Erich Harbrecht show a number of plate flaws in the 4-skilling value of Sweden's Arms issue in the issue 2/2002 of *Skillingtrycket*. Perforated stamp booklets is the subject of Finn Leiang's article in the 2/2002 issue of Norway's *Frimerke Forum*. In issue 3/2002, Anders Langangen gives us the third part of his series on Krag meter stamp markings 1932-1961.

Ron Collin shows some mail from the 1957 balloon flight in Iceland in the September *Scandinavian Contact* from Great Britain. In the same issue, Eric Keefe discusses the rural letter carrier postmarks in Finland, and Rob Willett presents the second part of his series on Danish railways and their routes. H.C. van Meeningen describes the cylinder figures on Sweden's booklets in the October issue of the Dutch journal *Het Noorderlicht*.

Uwe Raster discusses the post office of Vestmannaeyri in the Faroes in the August issue of Germany's *Philatelistische Nachrichten*. In the same issue, Rolf Dörnbach presents some background on den Kongelige Grøndlandske Handel (KGH), which was established in 1774. Jürgen Tiemer continues his series on the Norwegian fieldpost offices with offices Nos. 10 and 11, indicating their locations over the years.

One of the benefits of belonging to the German Nordic study group is to receive their occasional monographs as a bonus. The latest book is a study of the varieties and formats of Finland's definitive Lion issues of 1963 and Arms issues of 1975. Information about the FG Nordische Staaten is available from Roland Daebel, Stolzenhagener Weg 4, 16515 Wensickendorf, Germany. ■





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# Transfers and Re-Entries

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Alan Warren

An 80-krona stamp from Iceland captured the annual Asiago international award for best environmental design. The stamp (Figure 1) was one of two released in May 2001 as part of the Europa theme of water as a national treasure and resource. The Iceland design shows glacial water flowing through and over two hands in a symbolic gesture. The Asiago environmental award went to Sweden for 2000 (see *The Posthorn*, February 2002, p. 39).

At the recent NORDIA 2002 in Kristiansand, Norway, collectors of Norway's maritime mail decided to reactivate the former Arbeidsgruppe Norsk Skipspost that has been dormant for the last decade. They propose publishing a journal entitled *Postlugaren*. Anyone interested in learning more about this study group should contact either Roald Holten, Kittihaugen 38, 4250 Kopoervik, Norway (roald.holten@hydro.com) or Odd Arve Kvinnesland, Box 87, 4275 Lyngdal, Norway (odkvinne@online.no)

In several recent issues of the Netherlands journal *Het Noorderlicht*, co-authors J. M. Vroom and G. Hendriks presented a series of articles about the Schleswig-Holstein conflict, specifically the postal consequences of the second Danish-German war and its aftermath, from the perspective of a century later. The series has been expanded and translated into English, and is available on CD-ROM for €10. On receipt of the cash by Van der Vossen, Dorpstraat 32-p, 6871 AM Renkum, Netherlands, he will send the CD.

When the Government Postage Stamp Printers Conference met at the PhilaKorea international exhibition earlier this year in Seoul, they awarded honors to two of Sweden's recent postage stamps, both of them engraved by the celebrated Czeslaw Slania. The Great Deeds of Swedish Kings issue of 2000 was not only selected as best combination-printed stamp, but also received the award of excellence for best overall stamp. The 2000 Nobel stamp depicting Wislawa Szymborska, who received the Nobel prize in literature, was named best intaglio stamp. ■

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Figure 1. Award-winning Iceland Europa stamp.

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## Finland's Fighting Grouse Will Move the Mail



A popular painting that re-established the reputation of an aging artist is now coming on line as one of Finland's new Euro stamps. Scheduled for release on March 3, 2003 is a €0.90 stamp showing the painting, "Fighting Capercaillies" (wood grouse). The stamp design, which does not show a denomination, was made available to *The Posthorn* by Finland Posti and is shown in the accompanying illustration.

According to the Finnish National Gallery ([www.fng.fi](http://www.fng.fi)), where the original painting hangs, wildlife artist Ferdinand von Wright had fallen out of favor and had withdrawn to a life in the backwoods of Finland.

His 1886 scene of two male wood grouse fighting for the favor of a female (shown watching from a nearby tree) was enthusiastically received and returned von Wright to the Finnish art world.

In the past century, the popular painting has spread into thousands of Finnish homes in the form of hand-painted and printed copies, cross-stitch embroideries, tapestries, and now a postage stamp.

— Paul Albright

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# Chapter Reports

*Compiled by vice president for Chapters, Arnold Sorensen*

## **CHICAGO Chapter 4**

The colorful chapter newsletter is keeping members informed and motivated. Recent meetings have included slides of Danish stamp imperfections, Sam Begoun's narration of his philatelic journeys, and show and tell. New officers are Jerry Grimson, president, and Randy Sherman, vice president.

## **NEW YORK Chapter 7**

The September meeting was on 9/11, a day with especially bad memories for this chapter, as most everyone knew someone who was lost on this date. Art Lind spoke about his recent visit to Sweden, and mart books were available.

## **NEW JERSEY Chapter 9**

Warren Grosjean reports the chapter meets on the third Wednesday of the month in members' homes. Don Halpern presented a slide show on the Hamburg post office in September. Presentations usually are more informal. They typically talk about new items found by the attendees, and try to answer questions or problems an attendee may have.

Les Nugent is the new treasurer.

## **REYKJAVÍK Chapter 11**

Chapter 11 sponsors a Reykjavík youth club with two separate meeting places. The adults have a monthly meeting.

## **DELAWARE Chapter 13**

The September meeting was devoted to reviewing the chapter's many slide programs. After verifying that the SCC Library has a copy of each program, the remainders will be checked to see that the slides are complete with accompanying text, and will then be donated to APS.

Roe Blume described his recent visit to the Lofoten Islands of Norway. At the October meeting, Alan Warren showed varieties of the cachet made by the Horsens Filatelistklub for the Vitus Bering issue of Denmark. The November meeting will be a planning session for the holiday luncheon.

## **TWIN CITIES Chapter 14**

Chapter 14 has 27 members and meets in the Lynnhurst Community Center. The July meeting was the annual banquet with spouses included. The September program consisted of two slide shows from the SCC library plus a couple of show and tells.

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17**

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Meetings are at a member's house, so email or call Paul Nelson or Jerry Winerman for meeting place and directions.

## **GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21**

This chapter has about 15 dues-paying members, with monthly meetings scheduled on the first Saturday of each month. Six members attended the September meeting at Alfred Hansen's with a slide program on Danish cancels. Circuit books were examined. For the October meeting at Herb Volin's place, 11 Swedish, 11 Finnish, and 5 Icelandic circuit books from the SCC and APS were available. DWI #1 and #2 slides were shown and member displays were shown.

## **BOB PAULSON Chapter 23**

Doris Wending writes they have monthly luncheon meetings the first Monday of every month. Nine or ten members usually make every meeting. She also asks if their long-time member ➤

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Charlie Seaman is the oldest SCC member? He recently celebrated the 97th birthday. Let Doris know if there are any older members out there.

### **MANITOBA Chapter 24**

Robert Zacharias reports that they have 15 members, with most attending the twice-monthly meetings. October meetings included the annual election of officers, five-minute presentations on three items from each member, and the Finnish Vasa stamps. November is to feature a Canadian revenues slide show and a presentation on the fluorescence of the Wilding issue by Bob Elias from the Winnipeg Philatelic Society. He has done some original research on these stamps. December 11 will be the Christmas party and auction benefiting the club.

### **COLORADO Chapter 27**

An information meeting in September was a show and tell. This included the Norway #29a variety, WWII-era military mail from the Faroes, and an 1891 Helsingfor Stadpost cover. After the meeting several members attended to APEX 2002 Stamp Show where Greg Frantz exhibited "Sweden Local Post." In October, the members viewed a video on Finland and there was a discussion about materials to acquire for the SCC Library, which is housed at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver. In November, Jerry Eggleston presented an overview of Norway philately with two homework questions discussed: (1) Where was Norway #1 printed? (2) Why is one of the skilling values of Norway #2-5 a different size from the other values? The chapter's annual auction will be in January.

### **CYBER Chapter 28**

Ed Bode reports 37 members now with 40 electronic newsletters having been distributed. SCC members may join by contacting Bode at edbode@juno.com.

### **COPENHAGEN Chapter 29**

Chapter 29 has five members but have no activities to report. ■

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## **Seeking Color Varieties Among Sweden's Ring Stamps**



I recently came across a Sweden ring-type variety that is unlisted in Facit. Notice the dot in the ring to the left of the numeral "5" on this Facit 48e. I have found two of these #48e in my collection. These "color in the numbers" or "shaded numerals" varieties are recorded for almost all other ring-type stamps. Has anyone seen a similar #34, perf. 13, 24-öre ring-type stamp? It is the only "ring" that has not been found with shaded numbers. I would like to hear from other collectors who find such varieties. My contact information is on Page 43.

— *George Kuhhorn*

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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: Jan. - April, June, Sept., Oct., 4th Thurs; May, Sat. of Memorial Day weekend; July, Aug., no meeting; Nov., Dec., 1st Thurs. Golden Flame restaurant has been sold and unavailable for future meetings; for meeting locations & other information CONTACT: Fred Bloedow, 810 Dobson St. #1A, Evanston, IL 60202-3969 or Ronald Collin, email: collinr@ameritech.net.
5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wed. at The Swedish Home, 206 Waltham St., W. Newton, MA at 7:30 in the private dining room. <http://scc5.thlogic.com>. CONTACT: John L. DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp. 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749, email: jld@thlogic.com.
7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wed. (except Jul. & Aug.) at The Collectors Club, 26 E. 35th St. CONTACT: Carl Probst, 71 Willoughby Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801, email: carl\_probst@gardencitygroup.com.
9. N. NEW JERSEY: 3rd Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156, (973) 839-6383 or email: grosjean@optonline.net.
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@worldnet.att.net.
14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Lynnhurst Community Center, 50th St., & West Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN. CONTACT: Rossmer V. Olson, P. O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVole@aol.com.
15. ROCHESTER: 1st Mon. at Robert Gustafson's home. CONTACT: Robert Gustafson, 877 Helendale Rd., Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or Paul Nelson, P. O. Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711, (909) 626-1764, email: pnels@worldnet.att.net.
21. GOLDEN GATE: Meets monthly on 1st Sat., mid-day at Herb Volin's house in Alameda, CA & at various shows (WESTPEX, PENPEX, SUNPEX, etc.). CONTACT: Herb Volin, sec./treas., (510) 523-3727, HRVolin@aol.com, or Jerry D. Moore, pres., (415) 492-0361, 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, 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: schmidt6@mindspring.com.
26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Sat., 3 PM at Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library System, 6525 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508, (757) 441-5335, fax: (757) 441-1451, email: gwalker@npl.lib.va.us. CONTACT: Michael Falls, 575 Virginian Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505-4242, email: Mfallsice@aol.com.
27. COLORADO: 1st Sat. from Sep-Jun, 10 AM at the Rocky Mt. Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver. CO. CONTACT: Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80305-7233, email: rcichorz@attbi.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: CONTACT: Toke Nørby: toke.norby@norbyhus.dk.

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# The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

## Elected Officers

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

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

**Vice President, Chapters:** Arnold Sorensen, Therapy Service Corp., 706 North Burkhardt Rd.,  
Evansville, IN 47915; valbydwi@hotmail.com

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

**Treasurer:** James Clark, marbnk@aol.com

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

**Directors:** George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com

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

Howard Schloss, 261 Congressional Ln., #705, Rockville, MD 29852-5313;  
cayuga@starpower.net

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

Viggo Warmboe, 2740 Foxgate Dr., Minnetonka, MN, 55305; viggo@mn.rr.com

Herbert R. Volin, 2726 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2732; HRVolin@aol.com

## Appointed Officers

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

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

**Library Volunteers:** Jim Kilbane, aurora\_80017@yahoo.com; Greg Frantz, gfcaptain@aol.com; Jeff  
Mondesitt, jemcolorado@msn.com; Paul Albright, palbright@idcomm.com

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

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

**Stamp Mart Manager:** Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056; eric.roberts@halliburton.com

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

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

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

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

**Webmaster:** Toke Nørby, Vestervang 4035, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark; toke.norby@norbyhus.dk

**Historian:** Roberta Palen, 413 14th St. N., Virginia, MN 55792

## SCC Study Groups

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