

The
POSTHORN

Journal
of the
Scandinavian
Collectors Club

*Stamps,
Sagas &
Song:*



A Norwegian
Medley



Thomas Høiland Auktioner A/S

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Secret Valentine Affection Hidden on Norwegian Mail

All across Norway in February people were busy deliberately defacing their mail – something distasteful to stamp collectors generally. In this case, however, collectors might be forgiven for joining in the activity to uncover private messages of endearment hidden on the 2003 Valentine stamps.

Norway Post issued 10-stamp sheets of NOK 5.50 stamps with Valentine greetings printed beneath a silver-gray heart printed on a rose-colored background. Using a coin or a fingernail, the recipient could scratch off the silver-gray ink to see one of 10 different messages (translated): The world's best father; favorite brother; you are cute; fond of you; love you; a thousand kisses; a hug from me; my best friend; favorite sister; the world's best mother. In effect, 10 varieties were produced because that many messages were created.

In its sales promotion, Norway Post likened the stamps to lottery scratch cards. "Perhaps this message will mean just as much to the person who receives it as a winning lottery ticket." Valentine's Day is also designated as "Letter Writing Day" in Norway.



Two Norway Valentine stamps, one "unscratched" and the other with the message revealed. The short sentiments were printed in the selvage of each stamp so that the sender might know what message was being conveyed to his or her Valentine.

—Paul Albright

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Peter Bergh for helping to translate the Valentine messages into English.) ■



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Norway's Coarse Perforation Varieties of 1892-1893

(Norgeskatalogen Numbers 51 IV b vt1, 52 IV vt1, and 56B)

By Bjørn Kristian Wang

For many years, collectors of early Norwegian stamps have been aware of the existence of a few, very rare perforation varieties of 3-øre and 5-øre stamps produced by the Central Printing Works. Despite the collector knowledge of the existence of these stamps, virtually nothing substantive has ever come forth about the reason for the manufacture of these stamps.

This article is intended to try to make sense of the various published and unpublished theories, early speculative literature, printing and delivery data, and the stamps themselves. The perforations and the cancellations on the stamps provide clues to the origins of these enigmatic postage stamps.

The Equipment

The first topic that needs to be addressed is the subject of which perforator was used to perforate these stamps. *Central Trykkeriets Produksjon Volume VIII of Håndbok Over Norges Frimerker* from 1988 states (page 5) that the error stamps of 1892, perforated 13½ x 12½, most likely were not made by the same perforator apparatus as the later, regular issue coarse perforation stamps made from December 1893 through 1897. This opinion apparently originated with Wiegand Hansen, who was on the committee working on the handbooks. Hansen had published this opinion in *Norges Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* (January 1986), reasoning that the error stamps do not exhibit the same distinctive variations as the later, regular issue, coarse perforation stamps (NK58B-NK72 and P6-P7). This opinion was later reversed in Volume VII of the Handbook in 1992 with the discussion in that volume about NK 52 IV. The original statements in Volume VIII and in Mr. Hansen's article are not correct. These early stamps do in fact exhibit the same perforation variations as the regular issue stamps.

All stamps made with the coarse-perforation perforator show characteristic markers that result from misplaced and bent perforation teeth. These characteristics can be used to determine which vertical row of the sheet a stamp was originally positioned in. Figure 1 shows an example of NK 52 IV vt1 with the same misplaced perforation hole that is commonly seen on the regular issue, coarse perforation stamps, from vertical row 9 in the sheet. The fourth hole from the right at the top and bottom of the stamp is misplaced upward.

In reality all of the same perforation variations are present on these early stamps as they are on the later issues. The only real difference is the degree to which they exhibit these flaws. These variations became more pronounced as time went along. An example of NK56B is shown in Figure 2 along with a later version of the same perforation flaw on NK64. In addition, an example of NK69 is shown with the final evolution of this flaw. All of these stamps are from vertical row 10 in the sheet. The final version of this flaw is listed as Perforation Variation number 2 in Norgeskatalogen. ▶



Figure 1. Rough perforated example of NK 52 IV vt1, stamp #8.



Figure 2. A comparison of perforation flaws between NK56B, NK64, and NK69 (auction lot, December 1999).

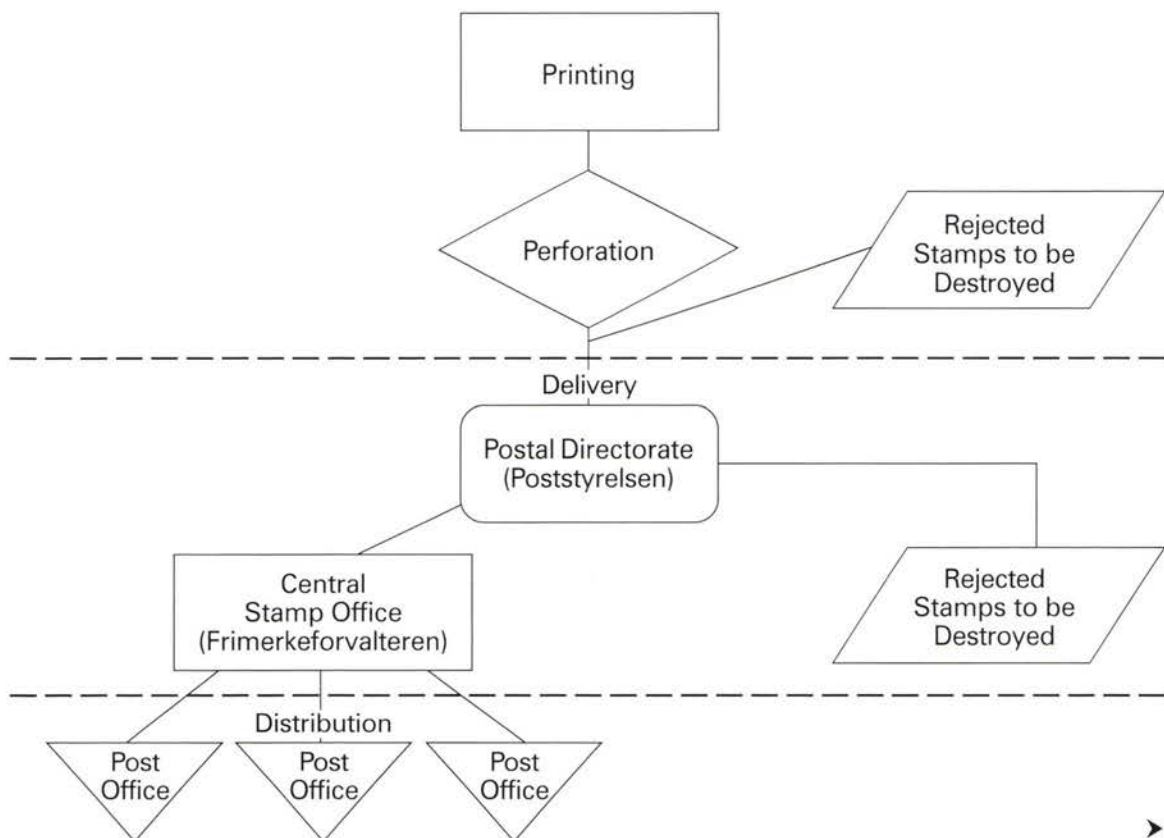
In general, stamps made from this perforator are of less than perfect quality. The distance between the holes made it very difficult to tear the stamps apart. The result is that many coarse-perforated stamps have short or missing perforations. This may have been a contributing cause to the short time of use for this perforator.

With the resolution of the issue of which perforator was used, we need to look at the perforator equipment itself. Jørgen Sjønnung, in an article in *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* (10/91), gives a detailed description of the design and the operation of the perforation machine, as well as diagrams of how this machine was used. This article is recommended for anyone interested in the perforation process of early Norwegian stamps. This description is invaluable in gaining an understanding of how Norwegian stamps in general were perforated from 1863 through 1910. The most important piece of information we learn from Sjønnung's research is that the coarse perforation "comb" has a manufacturers' marking that designates when the apparatus was made, as well as who made it. Stamped into the metal is: X.2=92N. The N stands for Nordby, an instrument maker in Christiania. The manufacture date of this instrument is Sunday, October 2, 1892 (X-2-92). The delivery of this perforator to the postal authorities and the printer would have taken place soon after its manufacture.

Now that the machinery portion of the scenario has been set, we need to look at these rare stamps to determine when they were made and why. Neither of these issues is easily resolved. Most of the information presented here is based on the facts surrounding the printing and usage of these stamps. Additional information and conclusions have been necessarily extrapolated from the available data.

The Process

To help understand many of the terms I have used, and to explain the process of how the stamps made their way from the printer to the post offices, I devised a flowchart to help understand the distribution of the stamps.



It is my assertion that these variety stamps were perforated and delivered on two separate occasions. The first group is apparently directly related to the manufacture and delivery of the new perforator, while the reason for the existence of the second group is much less clear. Each group will be discussed separately. This assertion goes against previous theories that there were multiple (at least three) emergency usages of the coarse perforation machine.

Epoch One, October 1892 (NK 52 IV vt 1)



Figure 3. Mint stamp #1 of NK 52 IV vt1 (auction lot, November 2001).

Within a few days of Nordby making the new perforator, this apparatus would have been delivered to the Central Printing Works. It seems logical that the government officials who had ordered this part, as well as officials at the contracted printing agency, would want to test the new perforator to make sure it adequately met their needs.

According to information provided in Volumes II and VII of the handbooks, NK 52 plate IV was printed from October 1-21, 1892. Of the original contract for 7,000,000 stamps, only 6,800,000 were printed, and only 6,685,000 were approved for use.

Using the information and diagrams provided by Sjønnung in his 10/91 article, it appears that it would have been relatively easy for the operator of the perforation machine to replace the old perforation apparatus with the brand new part. These perforator combs were designed to fit onto the same machine and to be interchangeable. The operator could then run through a few sheets for the

management and/or officials to examine and approve or disapprove. It is not known what level or form of approval was required.

The new perforator comb likely would have been delivered sometime between October 3-5, the Monday through Wednesday of that week. Printing of stamps, which had started on Saturday, October 1, had stopped and did not resume until Thursday, October 6. The resumption of printing on October 6 provides the likely day for the test usage of the new equipment at the printing office.

Referring to Figure 1, we see a phenomenon that is quite common on some series of later Norwegian stamps. "Flisetagging," as it is called in Norwegian, is an incomplete perforation that results in a stamp appearing as if it has been perforated by a needle rather than a full-sized perforation peg. This makes the stamps very difficult to tear apart.

This is the only example of this phenomenon that I have seen on one of these variety stamps. The common cause of this problem was simply trying to perforate too many sheets at one time in the perforation machine. Could this have been an issue of the machine operator not being familiar with the new apparatus, and placing a couple too many sheets of stamps in the machine? Is it possible that the new perforator was not able to accommodate as many sheets of stamps as the older apparatus?

The total issue of NK52 IV was delivered to the central stamp office between October 13, 1892 and September 22, 1893. The largest delivery of stamps occurred on March 3, 1893 when a total of 14,500 sheets were delivered from the postal directorate.



Figure 4. First day cancellation on NK 52 IV vt1, Stamp #2 (auction lot, October 2002).

The coarse-perforated 5-øre stamps first show up in early April of 1893. The earliest known cancellation of this stamp is from Christiania on April 7 as shown in Figure 4. Based on the cancellation data, it is my opinion that the variety perforation stamps were released as a small portion of the March 3 delivery. More than 50 percent of all dateable examples of NK 52 IV, perforated $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$, are used during April and May of 1893 in Christiania. A smaller number of stamps are known used during the autumn and early winter months of 1893. Stamps from the second group are used in both Christiania and in Fredrikstad. Additionally one specimen is known used in Christiania in June of 1895. This is most likely the case of a stamp being used after laying around for a couple of years, unused, after being purchased. Chart 1 (following) is a listing of known cancellation dates and locations. ►

NK 52 IV was listed in *Norgeskatalogen* for many years as having two main color groups: grass-green and olive-green. Jørgen Sjønnung, in another article (*NFT*, 5/91) discussed three main color groups: grass-green, olive-green, and gray-green. In more recent years the color designations for this plate have been narrowed to a single, all-inclusive color designation in *Norgeskatalogen*. The 2002 edition gives a designation of green to olive-green, but then a smaller notation is made after the main listing saying that the color ranges from fresh-green to dull-yellowish-green. In my own research, I have found a total of four color shades or groups, all of which occur on both the regular stamps as well as the coarse-perforated varieties. They are: grass-green, olive-green, gray-green and a color similar to the olive-green but with a little more yellow in the mix. The colors seem to have been mixed randomly throughout the delivery. None of the colors correspond to a certain usage time or place. By far the most commonly seen colors are the olive-green and yellowish olive-green shades. The gray-green and grass green shades are scarcer with the gray-green being the least common.

The coarse-perforated 5-øre stamps occur in all four horizontal watermark positions, according to the 1992 handbook. The rarity of the various positions is not known, but I have verified positions 1, 2, and 3.

Sjønnung's article in May 1991 was oriented around extra engraving types of the small number in the stamp design. One of the known examples of the coarse-perforated 5-øre stamps exhibits what Sjønnung designated as Type 2. The variation is listed as re-engraving O1 of Fellingstype 1 in the 1992 handbook. The coarse-perforated example of this variety is listed in Chart 1 as stamp #14 cancelled April 21, 1893. This stamp was sold in a joint auction of Samler Børsen and Frimerke Børsen on September 30, 1995.

Based on the information published in *Norgeskatalogen* 1986/87 by Georg Størmer, we learn that he knew of 48 used and 4 mint examples. Through my own research, and the assistance of other researchers, I have been able to trace 96 used and between 2 and 4 mint examples. In my estimation, the total number of extant specimens of NK 52 IV vt1 is probably in all reality between 120 and 140 examples. The 2003 *Norgeskatalogen* states a known total of 68 examples. ➤

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Chart 1 is an overview of the various specimens known to me at this time. Usage date and location have been included along with notes about condition, provenance, or other useful information about the stamp. A number of stamps only show partial information due to lack of available photographs. A small number of duplicate examples may result from these listings as they are clarified.

Chart 1. Known examples of NK 52 IV vt1

#	USAGE DATE	CANCELLATION	NOTES
1*	Mint	None	Kjell Germeten Auction 12/5/98 Lot 1467. Moldenhauer Auction 11/17/01 Lot 2209. Figure 3. Folded across lower part of stamp.
2*	Mint	None	Exhibited at Norwex '97.
3*	Mint	None	
4*	Mint	None	
1	7-IV-93	Kristiania	
2	7-IV-93	Kristiania	Exceptional example. Figure 4.
3	7-IV-93		
4	10-IV-93	Christiania	From vertical row 2 in the sheet. Stamp is damaged.
5	12-IV-93	Kristiania	
6	14-IV-93	Christiania	
7	14-IV-93	Kristiania	
8	17-IV-93	Christiania	Variation missing dot after POSTFRIM. Figure 1. From vertical row 9 in the sheet. Handbook Ft. 1 Var. 6
9	17-IV-93	Kristiania	
10	18-IV-93	Christiania	
11	18-IV-93	Kristiania	
12	20-IV-93	Kristiania	
13	20-IV-93	Kristiania	
14	21-IV-93	Kristiania	Sjønnung Type 2. Handbook Ft.4 Oppgraving 1 From vertical row 6 in the sheet.
15	21-IV-93	Christiania	
16	22-IV-93	Kristiania	
17	22-IV-93	Kristiania	
18	24-IV-93	Kristiania	
19	24-IV-93	Kristiania	A possible third unlisted example bearing this cancel could be the discovery example owned by Bøgh.
20	24-IV-93	Christiania	This may also be the Bøgh example.
21	24-IV-93	Bureau Reexpediente de Christiania	
22	25-IV-93	Kristiania	
23	25-IV-93	Kristiania	
24	26-IV-93	Kristiania	
25	27-IV-93	Kristiania	
26-27	27-IV-93	Christiania	Only known attached multiple. Resides in the Norwegian Postal Museum.
28-29	27-IV-93	Kristiania	2 singles on cover. Only known cover with multiple examples. Figure 5.
30	29-IV-93	Kristiania	
31	29-IV-93	Kristiania	
32	29-IV-93	Christiania	One ring cancel.
33	2?-IV-93	Kristiania	
34	??-IV-93	Christiania	
35	??-IV-93	Christiania	
36	??-IV-93	Bureau Reexpediente de Christiania	



37	??-4-93	Kristiania Tur	See # 38.
38	??-4-93	Kristiania Tur	Yes, there really are 2 different examples with the same unreadable date with the same cancel type.
39	1-V-1893	Kristiania	Poor quality. From vertical row 1 in the sheet.
40	3-V-93	Kristiania	
41	12-V-93	Kristiania	
42	??-V-93	Kristiania	
43	24-V?-93	Kristiania	
44	30-V-93	Christiania	Sold in 1994 as damaged. Sold in 2000 as "nice." Stamp has been repaired. Figure 6.
45	??-5-93	Kristiania (Tur?)	
46	1-VI-95	Kristiania	
47	6-VI-93	Christiania	3 folded and damaged corners.
48	15-VI-93	Kristiania	
49	21-VI-93	Christiania G	
50	23-VI-93	Kristiania	
51	5?-VI-93	Christiania	One Ring Rubber cancel. Stamp is quite off center.
52	??-VI-93	Christiania	
53	17-VII-93	Christiania	One Ring Rubber cancel.
54	??-VII-93	Kristiania	
55	6-IX-93	Fredrikstad	On postal card to Bavaria.
56	10-IX-93	Fredrikstad	
57	21-IX-93	Kristiania	Olive Green.
58	??-IX-93	Fredrikstad	
59	24-IX-93	Christiania	
60	30-IX-93	Kristiania	
61	30-IX-93	Kristiania	
62	30-IX-93	Christiania	Missing lower left corner.
63	??-IX-93	Fredrikstad	
64	1-X-93	Kristiania	Missing several perforations on right side of stamp.
65	3-X-93	Kristiania	
66	10-X-93	Fredrikstad	
67	12-X-93	Fredrikstad	Watermark Position 2
68	14-X-93	Kristiania	
69	14-X-93	Fredrikstad	
70	14-X-93	Fredrikstad	
71	16-X-93	Fredrikstad	
72	21-X-93	Fredrikstad	Missing upper right corner and several perfs on right side. From vertical row 9 in the sheet.
73	25-X-93	Kristiania	This and next stamp were once sold as a pair, later split apart.
74	25-X-93	Kristiania	This and previous stamp were once sold as a pair, later split apart.
75	??-X-93	Fredrikstad	
76	??-X-93	Kristiania	
77	??-10-1893	Rygge	1 ring cancel. Information taken from poor photo. Dano 1/95 Lot 639.
78	21-XI-??	Unknown	
79	30-XI-93	Kristiania	Minor damage on left side of stamp.
80	12-XII-93	Christiania	
81	18-XII-93	Fredrikstad	
82	??-?-93	Kristiania	Frettingham sale 1958. Cannot read cancel date in photo.
83	-93	Christiania	
84	-93	Kristiania	
85	Unknown	Fredrikstad	
86	Unknown	Fredrikstad	
87	Unknown	Christiania	

88	Unknown	Christiania	
89	Unknown	Kristiania	
90	Unknown	Kristiania	
91	Unknown	Unknown	Dano Auction group lot 672 9/10/99. "Rounded Corner." No photo available.
92	Unknown	Unknown	Oslo Frimerke og Myntsenter Auction group Lot 114 9/7/94, "Small Fault." No photo available.
93	Unknown	Unknown	Vestauksjon 2/14/82
94	Unknown	Unknown	Germeten sales list October 1985.
95	Unknown	Unknown	Weak cancel on a stamp with a plate flaw above the mouthpiece.
96	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown one ring cancel, possibly Rygge.

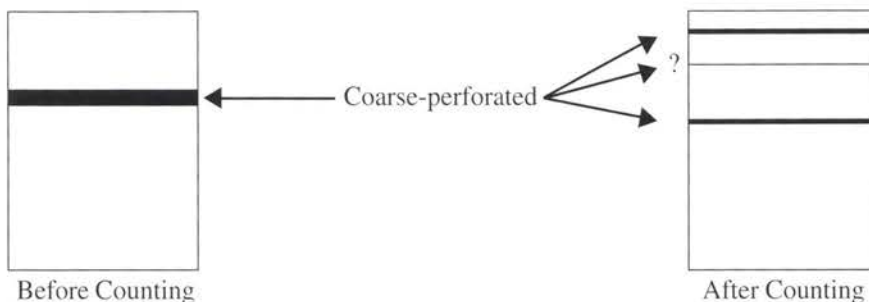
It is interesting to note that NK 52 IV vt1 is known cancelled in only three different locations: Christiania/Kristiania, Fredrikstad, and Rygge. The much rarer NK56B (discussed later) is known to have been used in more locations. Only one stamp is known used in Rygge (Stamp #77.) This stamp was likely purchased in Fredrikstad by someone who was traveling and used on mail sent from Rygge. The alternative is that a piece of mail was sent to Rygge containing a reply card or envelope that was franked with this stamp.

Linking Cancels to Distribution

Matching the cancellation to a calendar from 1893 yields interesting additional facts. April 7 was a Friday and could likely have been the day that the stamps were delivered to the Christiania office. April 10 is the next Monday and it makes sense that few if any of these stamps were sold to be used during the weekend. Fully 50 percent of the used stamps listed were cancelled during the five-week period from April 7 to May 12, 1893. Apparently, most of the variety stamps originally produced went into the initial delivery made to the Christiania post office in early April 1893.

How did these stamps end up being used in two different places during distinctly different time frames? I think I have an answer that will logically explain the majority of the used specimens of these stamps.

I believe that all of the coarse-perforated 5-øre stamps started out in the same "stack" at the Central Printing Works. During one of the various counting or sorting operations, the sheets of coarse-perforated stamps were separated into at least two separate groups. This could have happened at any one of the places where the stamps were counted before being sent to the post offices for use.



The largest group, which was sent out in early April 1893, was sent exclusively to the Christiania post office. The second group, which was apparently smaller, was split with some stamps again going to Christiania in September 1893, and the rest going to Fredrikstad in October 1893. A possible very small third group (a few sheets only) could have been sent to Christiania in mid-June 1893. It is possible that the few random stamps used in late May through July, and again in December are simply stamps that were used after having been purchased at the post office during previous weeks

Justus Anderssen and Henrik Dethloff, writing in *Norges Frimerker* in 1924, attributed the discovery of the 5-øre coarse-perforated stamp to Olaf Bøgh of Copenhagen sometime before 1914. By 1924, several ►

additional examples had been identified. I have records of auction sales of this variation dating to 1958, when an example sold in a Robson-Lowe auction in London for £22. An example was also offered for sale by Frimerkesentralen in 1942.



Figure 5. Cover with two examples of NK 52 IV vt1 (Stamps #18-19).

to Skedsmo in Lillestrøm on April 27, 1893 and was returned on May 3 due to the addressee having “moved to an unknown location.” An additional example (listed as stamp #55) is known on a postal card sent to Bavaria from Fredrikstad.

The stamp listed as stamp #44 and cancelled in Christiania on 30-V-93 has an interesting recent past. I first noted this stamp when it was offered in a 1994 sales catalog for NOK 1,350. The description, along with a photograph of the stamp, made it clear that the perforations at the bottom right corner had been trimmed. The stamp then became available in a dealer’s stock in 1996 as a trimmed stamp. More recently, the stamp was offered in a 2000 auction and described as having good perforations for the issue. In the newer photo of the stamp, shown here as Figure 6, the stamp is no longer trimmed. Sometime between 1996 and 2000, someone had added perforations to the stamp. They did a marvelous job, but it still is a repaired stamp. The moral is (as always): Buyer Beware! There are many forms of dubious stamps on the market. ■



Figure 6. Repaired example of NK 52 IV vt1, Stamp #44 (auction lot, December 2000).

(To be continued in *The Posthorn with Epoch Two.*)

Advice for When Your Collecting Interest is Low

If your interest in collecting the Nordic countries begins to wane, take heart in this anonymous writer’s advice on collecting Scandinavia:

“[Y]ou would do well to remember that craftsmanship, steady development within a consistent framework, genuine postal use, reasonable complexity of classic issues, and a small but growing band of keen followers, all indicate a field of interest which deserves your attention.”

— Published in *Stamp Monthly*, February 1972, by the Gibbons company in Great Britain.

Tales from the Sagas of the Norse Kings

By Frederick A. Brofos

Introduction

Norse history and mythology are skillfully brought together in the ancient writings produced some 780 years ago in Iceland. The set of Norwegian stamps issued in 1941 gives us a great opportunity to delve into the past, combining it all with philately.

Snorre Sturlason, Biographer of Kings

Snorre Sturlason (also spelled Snorri Sturluson), the author of the “Sagas of the Norse Kings,” was born in Iceland in 1178 (1179?) as part of a family with many illustrious ancestors. After his father, Sturla, died in 1183, the boy was cared for by John Loftson, a powerful man of Odde whose family sprung from Norse kings. The young Snorre received the best education and at an early age began to study historical writings. He also listened with interest when, on winter nights around the log fire in the common hall, men recalled past history and the exploits of famous Vikings in Norway and Iceland.

Although Snorre (Figure 1) became an important politician, he is most remembered for his historical writings. His great work, the *Prose Edda* was completed in 1222-1223, followed later by his other famous work *Heimskringla*, which provided biographies of the Norse kings up to 1177.

Although his work was creative, his biographies now are generally accepted as true. He did not aim to write scientific history but portrayed his heroes imaginatively based on earlier stories and records, many now lost.

Norway issued an attractive set of six stamps in 1941 to mark the 700th anniversary of his death in 1241. Saga scenes by several artists were used.



Figure 1. Snorre Sturlason in a pensive mood.

Queen Ragnhild's Dream

Long ago, Norway was divided between many small kings. One of them was Halvdan the Black (Halvdan Svarte) who ruled the Romerike area in Vestfold and most of Norway to the south of the mountains. His wife, Ragnhild, dreamt once that she stood in her herb garden and pulled a thorn out of her dress. While she held it, it grew into a large tree with branches spreading themselves across all of Norway (Figure 2).



Figure 2. One version of Ragnhild's Dream.

This dream was interpreted to mean that she would have a son who would conquer the whole of Norway. That son was Harald Fair-haired or Harald Shock-head (Harald I Hårfagre or Haarfager), who succeeded to the throne after his father drowned by falling through the ice of a lake. The neighboring small kings hurried to attack the new young king, but he was able to beat them all.

When Harald was 12 years old, he proposed marriage to the beautiful Gyda, haughty and proud daughter of a wealthy king of Hadeland. She scornfully answered Harald's messengers that she would not throw herself away on a small king saying, "I will either have no man at all, or else I will have he who wins all of Norway." When Harald heard this, he promised ➤

not to cut or comb his hair until he had conquered Norway. He was therefore surnamed “Lufa” (shock-head). This was changed to “Fair-hair” when he had conquered all of Norway after 10 years. His victory was clinched at the Battle of Hafsfjord near Stavanger (c. 872-900) and he is considered the man who united Norway. King Harald married Gyda and had five children. However, he already had numerous wives and children.

The Battle of Svolder (1000 AD)

King Olav Tryggvesson (Tryggvason) is widely regarded as the apostle of Iceland for bringing Christianity to that island. As he sailed home in his well-named Viking ship “Ormen Lange” (Long Serpent), his fleet was suddenly attacked at Svolder, near Rygen, by Swedish and Danish kings as well as the Norwegian Eirik Jarl.



Figure 3. Einar draws his bow.

One of King Olav’s sharpest archers was a big fellow called Einar Tambarskjelve. When his bow split apart, the king asked what broke with such a noise. “Norway, king, from thy hands,” cried Einar. “No, not quite so much as that,” said the king, flinging his bow to him. Einar took the king’s bow and drew it over the head of an arrow. Then he exclaimed, “Too weak, too weak, for the bow of a mighty king!” He threw it aside and fought valiantly on with sword and shield. This is the scene shown on the 15-øre stamp (Figure 3). However, the enemy was too powerful and in the end the king jumped overboard and drowned. There was a myth that King Olav had escaped, but that was apparently just wishful thinking, as he never returned to Norway.

An Inferno at the Hall of the Seven Kings

Where is the rather ominous troop in Figure 4 heading so late at night, with torches ablaze? To a party, you might think, and you would be right, but treachery is abroad and blood will flow.

When Ingjald, son of King Anund, was a small boy he was weak, so he was brought to his blind foster-father called Svipdag. He was fed the roasted heart of a wolf and thereafter became nastier than anyone.

After King Anund had been killed by a mountain landslide, his son became king. However, there were many smaller kings around the country. King Ingjald decided to throw a great party, but first he had built the huge Hall of the Seven Kings. From far and near, minor kings and nobles came to the feast — except King Granmar, who was of a suspicious nature.

The six kings sat on thrones and their men on benches around long tables. In the evening, when all were drunk, King Ingjald as he was heading out, spoke to his old friends Folkvid and Hulvid, sons of Svipdag. As prearranged, they and their men were to burn down the hall. The six kings and their followers were burned to death. Anyone trying to escape was killed instantly. After this inferno, Ingjald conquered all six kingdoms and taxed them. Later on there was fighting with King Granmar, but that is another story.



Figure 4. Ingjald’s men going to torch his rivals.



Figure 5. King Olav under sail.

The Battle of Stiklestad (1030 AD)

King Olav the Holy (Olav II Haraldsson), the patron saint of Norway, was slain near the farm of Stiklestad, about 40 miles from Trondheim. The battle was fierce and lasted all day (Figures 5-7). ➤



Figure 6. Holy Olav under attack.

A superior force, which included peasants, was led by Tore Hund (The Dog). Olav met Tore and struck him, but the sword didn't bite. The king was immediately hit by a cut across his left knee. He leaned himself against a stone and asked God to help him. Now, Tore stuck his spear into him. After that he received a cut in the neck. These three wounds caused the death of the king. The scene is shown on a 30-øre stamp issued in 1930 (Figure 8 and on the cover).

The battle at Stiklestad had a great impact on the Norse with St. Olav (Olaf) having a greater influence after his death than when he was alive.



Figure 7. Soldiers on their way to fight at Stiklestad.



Figure 8. Death of the king.

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Norway's Ole Bull

– Violinist, Showman, Entrepreneur –

By Alfred A. Gruber

The name itself sounds like some sort of American slang – Ol' Bull. It was Steve Pendleton's piece in the September 2002 *American Philatelist* that moved me to learn more about this Ole Bull. Pendleton reported that Norwegian-American explorer Finn Ronne named an Antarctic site OLEONA BASE in honor of Norwegian violinist and composer Ole Bull and the 19th Century village in Pennsylvania that Bull attempted to establish.



Figure 1. A white swan finial over the doorway guards Bull's birthplace.

including Oscar II, who was then king of the unhappy marriage of Norway and Sweden (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Oscar II, king of Sweden-Norway.

Bull's birthplace in Bergen, Norway has been honored with a stamp that did not mention the connection to the musician. In 1995, two stamps commemorated the 400th anniversary of the Swan Pharmacy (Svane Apoteket) as the first retail pharmacy in Norway (Figure 1). Ole Bull's father was the chemist there. In the residence above, Ole was born in 1810. The original building on Strandgaten was destroyed by fire in 1916, but it was rebuilt on the corner of Christian Michelsensgate and Strandgaten.

During his lifetime (1810-1880), this natural-born violinist (Figure 2) was described as a virtuoso, a humbug, and a mad-cap fiddler (the last by Thackery) who performed all over Europe and North America. Above all, he was an extreme Norwegian patriot who disdained Scandinavian unity, insulting Danes and Swedes including Oscar II, who was then king of the unhappy marriage of Norway and Sweden (Figure 3).

Self-taught, Bull wowed Paris at the age of 22, assisted by Ernst and Chopin and applauded by Meyerbeer. He and Franz Liszt toured Germany. Queen Isabella presented him with jewelry in Spain in 1847 – a pin containing 140 diamonds! Bull was a charming, athletic Apollo and Isabella was rumored to be quite amorous. (See cover illustration.)

As the years passed, Bull was often ridiculed in Europe, but glorified in Norway as a native son. His compositions incorporate beloved Norwegian folk music. His friends were mostly, like himself, free spirits, with radical leanings toward Norwegian independence and no regard for money. His comrades included the liberal author Bjornstjerne Bjornson (Figure 4) and Jonas Lie, the writer of native tales in Norwegian settings (Figure 5).

Henrik Ibsen (Figure 6) used Bull as his model for the self-centered "Peer Gynt." Lillian Whitney sculpting the statue of Lief Ericson in about 1884, now standing on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, used Ole Bull's figure as her model. Longfellow introduced the Norwegian in "Tales of a Wayside Inn," with: "Before the blazing fire of wood, erect the rapt musician stood." Statues to the man stand in both Bergen and Minneapolis.



Figure 2. Bull performs.



Rare cancel from Antarctic base named after Ole Bull (reproduced with permission of Steve Pendleton and the American Philatelic Society.)



Figure 4. Bjornstjerne Bjornson.

Starting in 1843 in America, he may have reached his greatest peak. He set himself against the classical and orthodox, playing mostly pieces of his own and native tunes wherever he went, “without an accent.” This was timely for the brawling young country. He traveled throughout the United States, giving 200 concerts to sold-out houses. He was equally as effective playing Yankee Doodle as his Norwegian, “A Mother’s Prayer.”

His American fans included the young Thomas Edison, who met Bull crossing the Atlantic; Ralph Waldo Emerson, with whom the Bulls often stayed in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Oliver Wendell Holmes; Edgar Allen Poe; Daniel Webster; and Samuel Clemens (a.k.a. Mark Twain). Bull and John Ericsson, the famous Swedish-American who built the first armored turret ship, got along well. Ericsson designed and built the maestro a piano.

Bull constantly experimented with his violins. He composed, “The Mountains of Norway,” blending folk music expressly for the Hardanger Fiddle (Figure 7). This instrument has a set of drone strings beneath the played ones. He built flat bridges on fiddles so all four strings were bowed simultaneously. His pizzicato was prodigious

Figure 6. Henrik Ibsen

and he performed amazing feats on his chosen instrument. His favorite violin was a Nicola Amati, large pattern; his next favorite a Gaspard da-Salo Cellini. Most of his violins are now in museums, including the Smithsonian. The Norwegian Theater in Bergen, his idea, still stands.

In 1852, the citizens of Potter County in northern Pennsylvania learned that the world famous Ole Bull had purchased 11,000 acres of land to start a Norwegian colony. Why he ever thought it a suitable location is unimaginable. Perhaps it is so like Norway with miniscule arable land and gorgeous forested mountains that he thought it appealing. He laid out several village sites, the primary one appropriately named Oleana (sometimes spelled Oleona). His daughter by his second wife, Sara, was named Olea.

Norwegian immigrants did come, stayed about a year, and left for better land in Wisconsin. One of the few colonists to remain in the area was the newly widowed Hermania Olsen (or Olson), who became employed as a cook nearby. Her son, Burt, was appointed postmaster at Kettle Creek in 1890 (population 129 in the 1890 census). It was he who successfully changed at least the postal designation back to Oleana. Rand-McNally’s *Pennsylvania Pocket Map and Shippers Guide* from 1893 indicates that mail for Kettle Creek should be directed to “Oleona.” The post office closed Sept 15, 1906. I have been unable to locate a postmark; even the Postmark Collector’s Club museum lacks one.

The lost Utopian dream lives on. In September 2002, 150 years after the colonization attempt, hundreds gathered at the recreational Ole Bull State Park southeast of Coudersport in Potter County. Olea Smith, Ole’s great-granddaughter, gave a short speech. She and violinist Arve Tellefsen unveiled a new monument. Tellefsen appropriately played Ole Bull music long into the night, just as Ole himself had often done.

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(Acknowledgements: Assistance is acknowledged from SCC members Tom Bergendahl, Frank Correl, Roe Blume, and Otto Ofjord, who was reared near the Swan Pharmacy in Bergen. The cover illustration was used with permission of the Ole Bull family and the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.) ■



Figure 5. Jonas Lie.



Figure 7. Hardanger fiddle championed by Bull.



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Cover Corner

Danish Cover Contains Postal History Appeal

By Don Halpern

There are covers with perfect stamps and there are covers like the one illustrated: the stamps folded over the edge. Perhaps the folding was done for security or just carelessness. From the purist point of view, I own a cover with four damaged stamps. As a postal historian, I consider this to be a fascinating cover. Why?

I'm always on the lookout for Scandinavian mail to the Americas, especially our country. I have a Scandinavian cover that arrived in Boston, routed through Canada, and delivered to a small town in New York near the Canadian border.

Mailed in Nakskov, Denmark October 9, 1865, it was transported to Lübeck. After the loss of the Danish post office in Hamburg in 1864, the Lübeck office handled Danish foreign mail. Foreign letters were prepaid to the last Danish post office. At this time the Danish uniform postage rate was 4 sk Rm for a single weight letter throughout Denmark and to its remaining foreign post office. Pre-1864 there were Danish offices in Altona, Hamburg, and Lübeck. Now only Lübeck remained.

The letter, in a commercial envelope, was carried by the Lübeck-Lauenburg railway to Hamburg where it was taken to Berlin by rail and then to Aachen. It was transported by closed mail to Boston as shown by the faint "BOSTON BR PKT.PAID" circular date marking.¹ From Boston, it went to Hamilton, U.C. (Upper Canada), Kingston, Ontario, and then to Cape Vincent in New York, on the Canadian border.

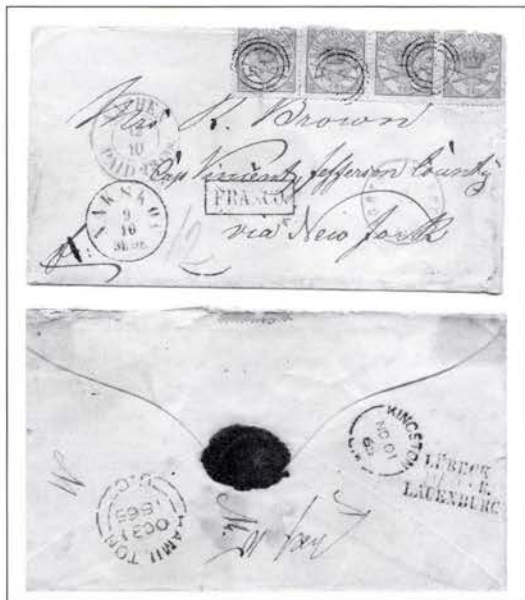
The 64 skilling Rigsmønt (sk Rm) franking (equal to 34¢, USA) is the fully paid rate from Denmark to the USA.

Unfortunately, Denmark couldn't keep it all. This fee had to be divided between Denmark, Prussia, Belgium, England and the USA. The sharing could be looked at in the following way:

Nakskov to Lübeck	=	4 sk Rm	=	2¢
Lübeck to Aachen	=	13 sk Rm	=	7¢
Belgian transit	=	4 sk Rm	=	2¢
Subtotal	=	21 sk Rm	=	11¢ (There is a 23¢ credited noted in the Aachen postmark.)
Sea and British transit	=	33 sk Rm	=	18¢ ²
USA inland postage	=	10 sk Rm	=	5¢ ²
Subtotal	=	43 sk Rm	=	23¢

The Total is 21 sk Rm + 43 sk Rm = the franking of 64 sk Rm; 11¢ + 23¢ = 34¢, USA.

The next challenge is how to equate currencies. I have found the easiest currency conversion tables for Nordic mail during the 1851-1875 period are the last pages of Ivar Sundsbø's *Norske Brev Før 1855*.³



Although the *Parity of Currency in Postal History* is more thorough, with every country listed, and a wider time frame, it is much more challenging to use.⁴

The postal markings include both a Nakskov CDS and the very faint 43 numeral cancel on the four, 16-skilling oval stamps (Facit #15). Because the markings were very faint, I couldn't identify which of the three known 43 handstamps were used.⁵ The Prussian foreign mail boxed FRANCO,⁶ and the Lübeck-Lauenburg railway marking help identify the route. The AACHEN PAID 23 Cts., also shows the 23¢ forward credit.

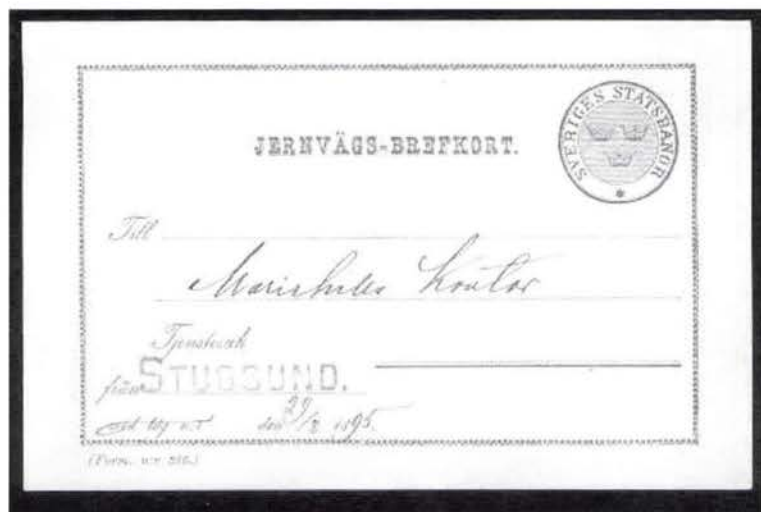
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Swedish Railway Cards for Internal Use

These cards were used on various railway lines in Sweden for internal communications among different stations and their employees. It is inscribed "Tjenstesak," which means something like "official communication" and is from the station in Stugsund, a district of Söderhamn, Hälsingland province, on the mid-eastern coast of Sweden. The line below says "med tog nr." meaning "by train number" and the date. In the bottom margin is the form number.

The cards traveled from station to station, but not in the mails and, therefore, usually did not get canceled. However, sometimes one will find a railroad cancel that shows the train number, line number, and date. These are the same cancels found on freight waybills. Also, one might occasionally find a card with an accidental postal cancel.



There were at least 100 different Swedish railroad cards, many with the emblem of the various rail lines in the franking corner. Similar items were used in Norway and Finland; the Danish rail lines often used cards that were specially printed, but they usually had a Danish stamp imprint on them. Those are listed with Danish postal stationery in the "printed to private order" section. These, however, were intended to be used to communicate with the Danish public, for such purposes as telling a person that he had a package to be picked up, or for confirming a reservation.

There is an old, out-of-print catalog of the private railway stamps, but none for the cards. Bältespännarna, the Swedish cinderella society, has most of the information about these in the form of articles, etc. (see <http://w1.865.telia.com/~u86511049/>). Åke Torkelstam is the most knowledgeable individual about these railroad items. This card came from the stock of Swedish dealer Sören Andersson, who also provided some of the information presented here.

—Paul Nelson and Herb Volin

A Retaliatory Rate Period Letter from Louisiana to Copenhagen

By Gordon Hughmark

Regularly scheduled mails between the United Kingdom and the United States were conveyed exclusively by British-owned Cunard Line steamers under British contract beginning in 1840. An Act of Congress of March 3, 1845 authorized the United States Postmaster General to enter into contracts to convey U.S. mails to and from Europe by American steam vessels. The American-owned steamship "Washington" of the Ocean Line began conveying mail between New York and Bremen with a call at Southampton in June 1847. U.S. mails to France and other European destinations were left at Southampton for forwarding.

The British government issued an order on June 9, 1847 that subjected all letters conveyed by the "Washington" to England to the same postal charge as if they had been conveyed by British steamship at British expense. This required that mails conveyed by the "Washington" to Southampton for European destinations had to be sent to London and were subject to the charge for British conveyance from the USA to England in addition to the transatlantic postal charge paid in the USA.

England persisted in collecting postage on letters conveyed by the American steamships in spite of official American protests to the British government. The Reprisal Act of June 27, 1848 passed by the U.S. Congress provided for the Postmaster General to charge postage on mail conveyed to and from the U.S. by Cunard steamships. Transatlantic postage was established as 24 cents per one-half ounce.

Also as a result of the Act, the U.S. Post Office terminated the arrangement for transit of British mails to Canada that arrived on Cunard ships at Boston and New York. A British attempt to establish a private mail connection between Montreal and the Cunard ships in U.S. ports was stopped by the U.S. Postal Service.

The British Post Office was then forced to negotiate the terms of a postal treaty that was signed at London on December 15, 1848. This provided for sharing of postage on mails between the U.S. and Britain depending on the nationality of the carrier. The so-called "retaliatory rate" conveyance began with the Liverpool departure of the Cunard "Caledonia" on June 24, 1848 and ended with the Liverpool arrival of the Cunard "Niagara" on January 8, 1849.

A "Retaliatory Rate" Letter to Copenhagen

I have seen only one letter from the U.S. to Scandinavia with retaliatory rates. This is a letter of July 19, 1848 from Farmerville, Louisiana to Copenhagen that is in the collection of Ole Steen Jacobsen of Gentofte, Denmark. The letter shows prepaid postage of 24 cents that was accepted at Boston although the correct postage was 34 cents, the U.S. transatlantic postage of 24 cents plus the U.S. postage of 10 cents from Louisiana. The PAID stamp was probably added at Farmerville. The letter was then conveyed on the Cunard Line "Europa" that sailed from Boston on August 9, arrived at Liverpool on August 20, and was postmarked at London on August 20. British postage from Boston to London was 1 shilling.

British conveyance from London to Denmark was covered by a Danish-British convention of 1846 that provided for paid or unpaid letters to be sent by British packet to Altona, Holstein on the Elbe River for exchange with the Danish post. The packets called at Altona on the voyages to Hamburg. Postage for a one-half ounce letter was 6d. (22½ Rbs.) as the British share and 6d. (22½ Rbs.) as the Danish share for letters to Copenhagen. ➤



The Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein were crown lands under the Danish king with Danish postal administration. The Duchies rebelled against Denmark in March 1848 and established a Schleswig-Holstein postal administration. The post offices in Schleswig and Holstein, including the Altona post office, became part of the Schleswig-Holstein postal system.

The Danish post office in Hamburg was also taken over. This closed the route for Danish mail conveyance between Denmark and Hamburg through the duchies. A Danish mail wagon then operated between Hamburg and Lübeck with conveyance through Bergedorf and Lauenburg to avoid Holstein. German states, particularly Prussia, provided military support for the rebellion. The Danish mails from Britain continued to be sent to Altona in accordance with the 1846 Danish-British convention. Thus, this letter was sent by British packet to Altona so 1/6d. was marked as the postage due to Britain – one shilling for transatlantic postage and 6d. for the transit to Altona.

The Schleswig-Holstein post office marked 21 schillings as the equivalent of 1/6d. and added 2 schillings for a debit to Denmark of 23 schillings as marked. The letter was conveyed by Danish wagon to Lübeck and then conveyed by ship to Copenhagen. The Danish post office in Copenhagen inscribed "74/29" on the reverse for foreign postage of 74 Rbs. equal to 23 schillings and 29 Rbs. postage from Hamburg to Copenhagen. This was the postage between Hamburg and Copenhagen rather than 6d or 22½ Rbs. in accordance with the Danish-British convention of 1846. Total postage due was 103 Rbs.

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An Interesting Norway Package Cover

By Walt Jellum

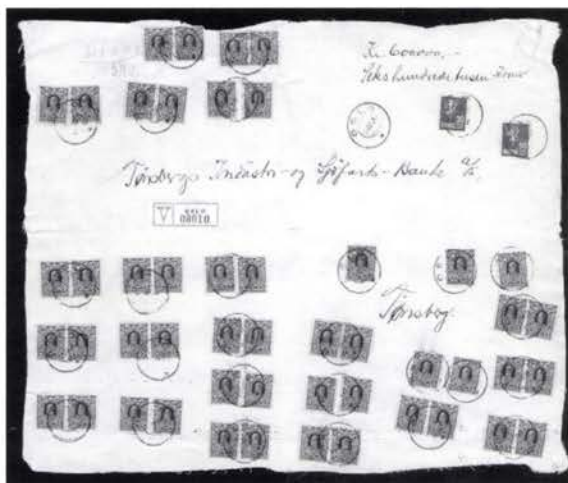
Illustrated is a Norwegian wrapper (11" x 13¼") postmarked 2(5?) IV 31 of a package with 49, 5-Kr. (NK. #113) stamps plus a 60-øre (NK. #154) and a 30-øre (NK. #148). It has a registration label "V08010 Oslo."

Auctioneer Kjell Germeten suggests the "V" means *verdibrev*, an insured letter containing banknotes. The package was addressed to what appears as *Tønsbergs Industri og Ljøfart Bank a/s* from Oslo.

In the upper right corner is "*Kr.600.000, — Seks hundrede tusen kroner,*" most likely the insured amount. This is a considerable sum for 1931, but not surprising considering that the parcel probably contained banknotes. In the upper left-hand corner is what looks like calculations: "*600 x 0.4 / 245.90*" ($600 \times 0.4 = 240 = 48$, 5-Kr. stamps, probably the insurance). The postage then might be the remaining 5.90 Kr.

Germeten also states, "*The placement of the stamps was according to the rules. The stamps must be placed apart on the package/envelope to prevent anyone cutting into it and using the stamps to cover the damage afterwards.*"

I would be interested in anyone's comments or information regarding this cover. ■



A 1931 Norwegian Parcel Cover insured for 600,000 Kroner.

The Tragedy of the "Hans Hedtoft"

By Alan Warren

Memories of the sinking of the "Titanic" were relived in 1959 when Denmark's "M/S Hans Hedtoft" ran into an iceberg on January 30, resulting in great loss of life. Despite the vast improvements in safety equipment and use of radar, the ship struck the ice 37 miles off of Cape Farewell.

The 2,800-ton "Hedtoft" carried passengers and cargo to Greenland and was in service year-round. The vessel was pounded by 20-foot waves on this particularly blustery winter night. The thrashing was alarming enough that Capt. P. E. Rasmussen sent out an SOS. The nearest ship was the American Coast Guard cutter "Campbell," which headed immediately in the direction of the stricken "Hedtoft," although she was nearly 300 miles away.



Figure 1. FDC to raise fund for families of shipwreck victims.



Figure 3. Greenland overprint created another semipostal.

Rasmussen's following messages predicted the fate of the ship – "Collision with iceberg" – "Filling fast" – "Taking a lot of water in the engine room." Shortly after that last gasp, the ship sank, taking with her 55 passengers and a crew of 40. By the time the "Campbell" and other rescue ships and planes arrived, it was much too late. The violent sea would have prevented lowering any rescue boats, and anyone who dove into the icy waters probably could not have lived more than a minute. Among the

victims were six children and Augo Lyng, a member of the Danish parliament.

Less than a month after the tragedy, Denmark issued a semipostal to raise funds to aid the families of those who died. The 30-øre Frederik IX definitive was surcharged with "Grønlands-fonden +10" and issued February 23, 1959. Figure 1 is a first day cover of the stamp sent from Copenhagen to Virum.

There was no special first day cancel, and the cover has a transit marking applied the next day at Herlev. The cachet is No. 59 in the long series of cachets made by the magazine *Frimerke Nyt* (Stamp News), and shows the "Hedtoft" against an outline map of Greenland.

Figure 2 is an airmail FDC to a Clayton Hinckley at Medina, NY bearing a Grønlandsfonden label, perhaps also sold to raise funds for the needy families. This cover contained a letter that underscored the tragedy and the purpose for which the stamp was issued:

Dear Mr. Hinckley,

I do not know if you read about the dreadful sea-accident by which the Danish M/S "Hans Hedtoft" was lost in the Atlantic Ocean, and by which 95 people found their death.

The Danish Prime Minister took the initiative of establishing a National Fund to help the children and families of the perished people, and the Postal authorities used this sad occasion to issue our overprint, the surcharge of which goes to the Fund.

On the cover you will find the stamps, cancelled on the day of issue (there was no time to make a special F.D. cancel). You'll also get a similar cover with Greenland stamps overprinted.



Figure 2. This cover included letter explaining the fund-raising effort.

Reference:

www.rmstitanichistory.com (Other Historic Shipwrecks section). ■

Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

The Faroe Islands Study Circle is taking credit for an eight-stamp set of Faroe post offices to be issued on June 10. Last November, the study group reminded the Faroes philatelic office that the post offices would be marking their centenary on July 1. Original plans were for eight post cards and special handstamps, but this was changed to a miniature sheet showing post offices in Eiði, Hvalba, Sandur, Vágur, Fuglafjørður, Miðvágur, Strendur, and Vestmanna.

The study circle produces an annual picture post card of its own. The sixth in its series shows a postman in Tórshavn delivering mail from a small motorcycle. (See illustration.)

For further information on the study circle, contact Secretary Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 8BY (Great Britain), email, jntropics@hotmail.com.

Auction Expertise – The Thomas Høiland auction firm has appointed the well-known expert of classic Denmark, Lasse Nielsen, as a philatelic consultant. In a similar move, Claes Arnrup of Postiljonen announced that another expert, Carl Aage Møller, has joined their staff. Møller brings expertise in Danish areas including DWI, Iceland, and Schleswig. He is also an expert on forgeries of these countries.

Checking Postryttaren 2002 – Those who help support the Swedish Postal Museum, as members of the Friends of the Museum, look forward at the end of each year to receiving the annual yearbook *Postryttaren*. The 2002 edition is once again handsomely printed and bound and contains a wealth of interesting articles. Postal historian Sören Andersson reviews the postage due markings seen on Swedish covers sent to destinations abroad, and illustrates many of these handstamp “T” marks.

FIP judge Gunnar Dahlvig cites some of the major events in exhibitions since the 1850s and tells how current exhibitions are conducted and how exhibits are judged. Fredrik Ydell presents a picture of pioneer airmail in Sweden starting with balloon flights in the early 19th century and the handling of airmail up to 1920. These are just a few of the eight articles in this year’s volume, most of which contain excellent illustrations in color. The book concludes with a subject index to the articles from the first 51 volumes. Information about membership in Postmusei Vänner is available from Postmuseum, Box 2002, 10311 Stockholm, Sweden. ■



Famous Tre Skilling Yellow Found on Swedish Beer Label

Now you can have your own Tre Skilling Banco in a can. The Swedish brewery Banco Bryggeri, sells a beer named after the famous Tre Skilling Banco, which is considered the world’s most valuable postage stamp.

The brewery, which is located at Skruv, Sweden, has been operating for more than 120 years and brewing Tre Skilling Banco beer since 1965 in two varieties – 2.8 percent and 5.2 percent alcohol content. The label shows the famous stamp overprinted with the Tre Skilling Banco name.

Editor/Publisher Wayne L. Youngblood reported on the beer in the February 24 edition of *Stamp Collector*. More information (in Swedish) is available at the brewery’s website at <http://www.bancobryggeri.se/>

The unique 3 skilling stamp, printed in yellow when others were green, sold for \$2.3 million in 1996. It was reproduced by Sweden Post on a 1992 stamp, and now can be added to your collection on a beer label. ■

—Paul Nelson and Paul Albright



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Book Reviews

250 Years on Åland's Post Road

The Mail Road Across Åland, Jan Andersson, 6 x 8½ inches, 76 pages, illustrated, hardbound, in English, Åland government, 2000, ISBN 951-8946-67-1.

This fine little book was published by the Archaeological Section of the Åland government, and tells the story of the development of the main mail route used from 1638 until 1910. For centuries, Åland was part of the sea route between Sweden and Finland. With the advent of the postal system in the early 17th century in Sweden, a series of farm posts was established across the islands between which couriers could take the mails.

Inns, ferries, and other facilities were gradually created along this well-traveled route across the mainland and the smaller islands. The mails left Sweden from Grisslehamn in Vårdö and entered Eckerö at Storby. They continued across the mainland to Bomarsund, then on to Vårdö, Kumlinge, and Brändö, eventually reaching Turku in Finland. Mail deliveries between Stockholm and Turku began once a week and then increased to twice a week.

The well-written text takes the reader from town to town, documenting the mail route with historic and current photos. While vestiges of the original mail route remain, it has largely been replaced with new highways. Still, it is possible for visitors to see remnants of the old post road and to get a feel of how the mails traveled for two and one-half centuries.

The book offers little in the way of postal history and instead dwells on the historic route and its mileposts. Still, for the casual Åland collector and tourists visiting the island, the book gives a nice overview of what can be seen in the context of history. The book costs about \$10 and can be obtained directly from Posten Åland, Box 99, 22101 Mariehamn, Åland, or through their U.S. representative Nordica, Box 284, Old Bethpage NY 11804.

— Alan Warren

Germans Publish Handbook on Finnish Definitives

Die finnischen Dauermarken von 1963 und 1975 mit Löwen-, Wappen- und Bildmotiven (The Finnish Definitives of 1963 and 1975 with Lion, Arms, and Pictorial Designs), Dieter Wehling, 5¾ by 8¼ inches, 108 pages, perfect bound, in German, FG Nordische Staaten, Obernkirchen, Germany, 2002.

The Finnish Study Group of the Research Society of Nordic Countries in Germany compiled this handbook of various definitive series issued by Finland in 1963 and 1975. These are the lion type, arms type, and pictorial design issues.

Consisting primarily of data tables, this book lists the many varieties and types of these stamps. Although the German language is used, the tabular format and catalog references help guide the reader through the listings. Each value stamp can be identified by printing method (engraved, photogravure, offset); printing format (sheet, machine booklet); printing press (rotary press 2-color, rotary press 6-color); gum (gum Arabic, polyvinyl acetate); print order number; first day of issue; and quantity printed.

Each stamp is identified by Facit, Norma, Michel, and LaPe catalog numbers. Distinct color varieties are also listed as well as the recognized catalog varieties. Details are also provided for the slot machine booklets, identified by the Norma, Facit, and Michel numbers. A separate section identifies the types of paper, including the manufacturer, and compares the various catalog as well as the Finnish Handbook references. This section also addresses fluorescent paper and the yellow and white phosphorescent types.

The book concludes with a bibliography. This handbook will help collectors of these issues to sort them out and classify them. The print is a little small but quite legible, and the few illustrations help identify issues and varieties.

This monograph and others published by the FG Nordische Staaten come automatically to subscribers as a part of their membership. The book may be available separately. For details, contact the society's ➤

director, Roland Daebel, Stolzenhagener Weg 6, 16515 Wensickendorf, Germany (info@nordische-staaten.de).

—Alan Warren

Finnish Fieldpost: A Review

Finnish Fieldpost 1939-1945, Les Freestone and Eric Keefe, 8¼ by 11¾ inches, 126 pages, soft covers, spiral bound. Scandinavia Philatelic Society, Surrey, England, 2001, ISBN 0 9523532 2 9. £15 plus shipping.

This book is the result of a series of articles that the co-authors wrote over a number of years in *Scandinavian Contact*, the journal of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The authors were encouraged to update the series and publish as a separate monograph. The result is a very good picture of Finnish Fieldposts and their postal history during the Winter War, the Continuation War, and the Lapland War. The Fieldpost offices are listed by number and location with dates of operation.

Covers are used to illustrate postmarks, unit handstamps, and the handling of mail. For the Continuation War, during which stamps were introduced, covers illustrate the use of these issues including the red label, the sword and Posthorn labels, and the overprinted Lion issues. The chapter on the Lapland War of 1944-1945 includes a listing of the unit code numbers of the III Army Corps.

Subsequent chapters deal with the naval and air force fieldposts, the women's auxiliary (Lotta Svärd) and civil guard units, official mail, hospital and POW mail, censorship, the Swedish and other volunteers, Finnish volunteers in German service, the German fieldpost in north Finland, Eastern Karelia, and fieldpost stationery. Useful appendices cover such items as a Finnish/Swedish glossary, listings of Finnish and German military ranks with their British equivalents, and German censorship offices.

The illustrations and maps are good quality and the text easy to read. If the authors and publisher had included an index, it would have made for an even more useful reference. However, this is now the major English language resource for collectors of Finnish military mail during the World War II period.

— Alan Warren



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Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

This Auction Marketplace report highlights two large Finnish collections to be auctioned in the spring.

Corinphila Auctions Ltd, Zürich and David Feldman, Geneva

2003 is the first exciting year in the new millennium for the collector of Classic Finland. Two very important collections are about to be auctioned in Switzerland. Corinphila is offering the "Sibelius" collection April 6. On May 10, the David Feldman house will offer the outstanding "Irina" collection, a true lifetime achievement.



Cover with a 5-penni, 1866 brown tête-bêche pair and normal pair together with 20-penni. A true gem and one of the most important letters of the rouletted issues.



10-kopek tête-bêche block of four in used condition.

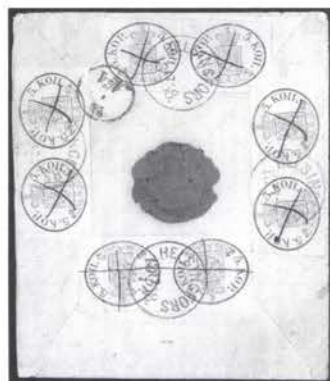
At least eight tête-bêche first issue pairs and blocks are available. Also offered is the largest multiple recorded of the first issue, i.e. the famous seven-strip of the 10-kopek, the famous cover with four pairs of the 5-kopek, and more interesting items from the early issues of Finland.

The auctions offer a rare opportunity to both big spenders and normal collectors to acquire items for an outstanding collection. Two other important first issue collections are owned by Mr. Kanai and Mr. Nyman, who exhibited his collection at "The Stamp Show 2000" in London.

These early issues of Finland have always attracted major general collectors because of the tête-bêche pairs. Such famous names as Fabergé, Ferrari, Hind, Burrus, Dale-Lichtenstein, and Amundson had these pairs in their collections. Although it has not been exhibited for many years, we must not forget what might be in the legendary Gummesson collection in Sweden.



5-kopek tête-bêche block of four in mint condition.



A cover gem with four pairs of the 5-kopek stamp. Some regard this as the most important Finland cover.



The famous seven-strip of the 10-kopek stamp. The largest multiple known of the first issues.



A beautiful little tête-bêche block of the 10-kopek first issue.

Kaj Hellman, Finland

This well-established dealer and auctioneer claimed a record-setting auction in February. Hellman said the auction realized •436,000, the largest amount ever recorded at a Finland philatelic auction. Most of the lots were Finnish, including some fine pieces from the Sundman collection. One particular item was an 1875 issue 20-penni blue tête-bêche pair position 8-9 ➤

on piece. The item, according to *Facit* the only one recorded, started at •3,000 and sold for •8,200 plus fees (approximately \$10,500).

AFINSA Adds Corinphila

The Spanish enterprise AFINSA has added another company to its list of auction houses. Corinphila, Zürich is now part of the AFINSA, which bought Heinrich Köhler in December 2002 and also has a share in Greg Manning Auctions.

Thomas Høiland Auctions Ltd.

The Kurt Hansen Denmark collection was the main attractions in last November's auction where many interesting postal history items were dispersed among enthusiastic Denmark collectors. A letter with eight copies of Denmark 4 RBS sold for \$35,000. Another 4 RBS First Day Cover went for \$76,000. A set of extremely rare Greenland's Danmark Befriet overprint in a mint NH block of four went for \$13,000.

Another section of the Vienna collection of Swedish letters to foreign destinations attracted some interest, but most of the covers sold for around their starting price. A skilling cover lot starting at DKK 150,000 did not find a buyer.



This cover went for \$35,000 at the most recent Høiland auction.



This tête-bêche pair on piece sold for approximately \$10,500.

As usual, this Høiland auction had a good offer of Scandinavian material, around 4,500 single lots and 1,500 collections and accumulations. Collections are always going well; top quality attracts many buyers and reaches high prices, whereas there is a buyers' market for sound stamps. This could be a good time to acquire stamps to fill some of the empty spaces in your collection. ■

Sweden and Finland Mark Saint's Birth with Stamps

Although not a joint issue, both Sweden and Finland issued stamps early this year commemorating the 700th anniversary of the birth of a Swedish nun who became one of Europe's patron saints.

St. Brigitta (also spelled Brigit and Bridget) was born into a noble Swedish family in 1303, entered religious life, and was the founder of the Brigittine order of nuns. She was canonized in 1391 and named one of Europe's six patron saints by Pope John Paul II in 1999.



So far, the Vatican has not announced any plans for a stamp to commemorate her birth, according to Sal Quinonez and W. M. Wickert of the Vatican Philatelic Society.



—Paul Albright

Errata

In haste, the Editor entered the author's first name incorrectly on Page 17 of the November 2002 *Posthorn*. It is **Florence Melberg**.

For clarification, the second sentence on Page 14 of the November, 2002 issue should read: "One is a line plate flaw (position 45),^{1,2} and the other is due to the omission of one of the background plates during the printing process."²

The incorrect images were shown for Figures 2a and 2b on Page 14. Here are the correct images.

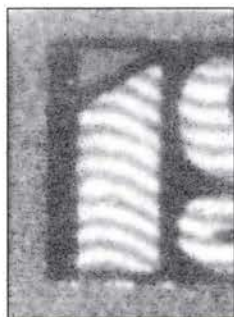


Figure 2a.

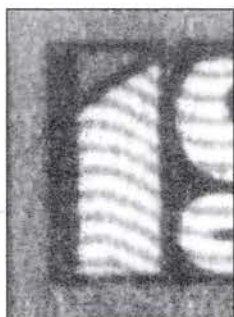


Figure 2b.

The images on Page 19 of the November 2002 *Posthorn* were improperly cropped so that the margin markings were not visible. Here are the images with those markings shown.



Åland Stamps Follow Format of Painting

Four uncommonly narrow stamps patterned after the layout used by a landscape artist were issued by Åland's post on March 28. The First Class stamps, issued in booklets, were drawn from "Landscape in Summer" painted about 1890 by Elkin Danielson-Gambogi. The oil painting consists of four narrow, tall panels, called a polyptych. The stamps were perforated where the borders exist in the actual landscape painting.

"The divided format itself was not the decisive reason why we used it for a stamp issue," Tom Jansson of Posten på Åland told *The Posthorn*, "but the format created the idea to use the painting for a booklet, hence receiving a rather unusual stamp size."

Åland Post mistakenly announced the stamps as 20.32mm wide when they actually are narrower – 17.00mm. ■



—Paul Albright

President's Letter

John DuBois



Some Highlights of Board Meeting

A regional SCC meeting was held during SANDICAL the weekend of February 7-9 and included meetings of the Board of Directors and Posthorn Committee. There is more complete information presented separately in this issue, but I want to highlight two items. First, I was able to give a good preliminary financial report on the year 2002. Our operating results showed a net expense of a little over \$3,000, in line with budget as well as recent years and our capital assets are about \$88,000. These results and current budgeting appear to preclude any dues increase for next year. A financial report will be published in the next issue of *The Posthorn*.

Second, Don Brent, our Executive Secretary, reported that membership for last year showed a net increase of five, giving a total membership of 855 at year's end. We clearly are having continued success at maintaining a strong organization in today's changing philatelic world.

New Member Contest Continues

The first period of the new member contest announced last spring is over and the winner is...a tie. Both Chapter 14 (Twin Cities) and 5 (New England) sponsored a qualifying new member. The contest prize is to be first recipient in the rotation of new Mart books, so for the tie, Chapter 14 will be first from January through June and Chapter 5 will be first during the rest of the year.

It is disappointing that only two new members signed up as a result of this contest. As with most any new product or project, perhaps many of our members were not aware of this contest, forgot about it, or simply couldn't find a warm body to enroll. Still, the objective and the prize are worthwhile so we will continue the contest for 2003. The SCC chapter that sponsors the most new members over this year will receive new Mart books first in rotation during 2004.

Red Flag for Stamp Mart

Our Stamp Mart needs attention. The balance of material in Mart books has declined 56 percent since January 2000. If the current rate of decline were to continue, we would have no material left to circulate by 2006!

The Mart is the single most important reason that many, possibly most, members attend monthly meetings. Many more members receive Mart books through direct circuit mailings and there is little doubt they consider this privilege a top reason to belong to the SCC. The Mart books provide a wide-ranging, low-cost way to build up general or specialized Scandinavian collections.

New Mart material, however, doesn't come out of the blue. New Mart material comes from SCC members. The procedure is simple: blank Mart books (type F, the "standard" type, or type G, the pocket books) are obtained from the Mart manager, Eric Roberts, at PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056. Instructions for filling the books can be found on the SCC website at <http://www.scc-online.org/memberregulations.htm> and will be sent with the books.

Our Mart is an excellent way to dispose of duplicate or excess material, regain some of what has been spent, and ensure the health of a very important SCC member service well into the future. **Please consider making up Mart books as a personal or Chapter project soon. A continuing Mart may well depend on it!** Mart Manager Roberts discusses this issue further elsewhere on Pages 44-45.

A Goodbye and a Hello

As mentioned in the Editor's Notes, Production Editor Lisa Beytien-Carlson has resigned to take a new full-time job with the Minnesota Children's Museum. I want to thank her for her excellent and dedicated work that contributed significantly to the ongoing campaign of improvements to *The Posthorn*. We welcome her incoming replacement, Candy Allen of Boulder, CO, and are confident of her contributions to distinctive *Posthorn* production. ➤

Recapping a Recent Member Survey

Finally, **member survey** forms were sent out with this year's dues notices. We have received almost 300 responses, an excellent response rate of about 30 percent. I appreciate the time that members took to fill out this survey and add specific comments – all of which will be studied. Life members and other members whose dues are paid up for one or more years did not receive the survey form since they did not receive dues reminders. I apologize for this oversight. We would be happy to send a form to anyone who did not receive one and wishes to fill it out. Just drop a note to Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022, or email dbrent47@sprynet.com.

Our treasurer, James Clark, tabulated the results and conducted a partial analysis. A few things stand out as particularly significant. The most widely read sections are: SCC News Notes, Scandinavian Literature Notes, Editor's Notes, President's Letter, and feature articles which together averaged 57 percent "always read" versus 37 percent "sometimes or never" read (the total is not 100 percent because of partially completed forms). The other categories were more closely balanced as were specific comments suggesting more, or less, of features such as beginner topics, new issues, postal history, country specialization, etc.

I interpret this pattern to indicate two important things. First, SCC members do use *The Posthorn* as a primary source of news about our club, and it would be a disservice to emphasize feature articles over news. "Too much news" is a frequent criticism of judges when *The Posthorn* is entered in literature competitions, but I think the survey is telling us this is okay.

Second, it appears that our balance of topics and depth of coverage is about right in the feature articles, since the suggestions pulled toward "more" and "less" pretty much evenly in all topics. Of course, this could be interpreted as making nobody happy, but I prefer the equally valid opposite, with everyone seeing what they are interested in some of the time.

Lastly, on the subject of color printing, we did not receive enthusiastic support, especially if it involved an ad-hoc dues increase – the percent in favor was only slightly more than those against. As you see in this issue, however, we have already implemented four-color printing on the cover because the incremental cost is defrayed through advertising revenue. For numerous reasons (including the survey), we will hold off awhile before considering internal color.

I conclude by presenting the survey tabulation from Treasurer Clark. ■

SCC MEMBER SURVEY OF THE POSTHORN

I read the following items:	Always	Sometimes	Never
Feature Article	59%	35%	0%
Auction Marketplace	42%	40%	6%
Presidents Letter	62%	28%	3%
Chapter Reports	27%	51%	14%
Editors Notes	60%	29%	3%
Membership Statistics	36%	46%	10%
Scandinavian Area Awards	31%	47%	12%
Scandinavian Literature Notes	53%	34%	10%
Closed Album	44%	36%	11%
Library News	47%	38%	7%
Book Reviews	46%	40%	3%
Advertisements	36%	53%	2%
SCC News Notes	51%	36%	5%
SCC Web Site News	31%	37%	14%
News from the Home Office	47%	37%	3%
Transfers and Re-entries	31%	41%	14%
Would a Dues Increase be OK if color was added to <i>The Posthorn</i> ?	Yes 41%	No 39%	Maybe 8%

DAKA/GF Specialized Catalogs

FAROE ISLANDS 2000

Postmarks on and off cover since 19th century; postal rates since 1975; specialized treatment of World Wars I and II provisionals; Faroes stamps since 1975; plate flaws; booklets; year sets; maxicards; exhibition cards; presentation packs; mail of 1940s occupation; ship mail. In English and Danish. (GF10. 224 pages. \$29.50)

DAKA SØNDERJYLLAND

Postmarks of Northern Slesvig in German period (1864-1920) and related postal history: Danish cancels before 1865; first Danish cancels after 1920 reunification; postmarks in Northern Slevig area from beginning to 1920, plus postal history sections. Postmarks chronological under each post office in user-friendly layout with relevant information on periods of usage. In English and Danish. (144 pages. \$29.50)

CLASSIC DENMARK 1999

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

GREENLAND 1999

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

GREENLAND CINDERELLA 1999

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

ICELAND 1999

Many price increases for rare stamps and covers, and a trend toward price increases for modern issues. New is a chapter on Greidslu and Orlof stamps, and the plate flaws section is expanded. In English and Danish. (GF20. 144 pages. \$24.50)

FAROE ISLANDS PLATE FLAWS 1975-83

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

GREENLAND POSTMARKS AFTER 1938 (1997)

Over 1,200 postmarks are priced on piece and on cover. New to this edition are tables of Greenland and Danish place names and a chapter on APO postmarks. In English and Danish. (GF6. 128 pages. \$21.50)

DAKA DANSK BYPOST (1996)

Covering all Danish locals and postmarks and prices for covers and stationery. In English and Danish. (144 pages. \$24.50)

DAKA CLASSIC (1998)

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

GREENLAND PAKKE-PORTO (1988)

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

GREENLAND THULE (1985)

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

ICELAND I GILDI '02 - '03

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

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

News from the Home Office

Don Brent

Before sitting down to write this column, I took a moment to check the membership list and noticed that more than 100 members have not mailed in their renewals. You have mailed in your 2003 dues haven't you? **If you are one of the tardy members, why don't you do it right now?** It will take only a moment to write out that check and get it in the mail. SCC remains a real bargain among the philatelic societies.

Of course, most of you have already sent in your dues, and I thank you for your prompt attention. Many of you included donations. These are of real assistance and we appreciate your consideration.

Some of you have paid in advance to take advantage of the *Facit* promotion, or to save the hassle of an annual notice; others are life members. Members in these groups did not receive a dues notice and therefore did not see the *Posthorn* survey that was attached to the dues notice. The large response to the survey included a number of good suggestions for articles in *The Posthorn*.

Now that SCC's regional show at SANDICAL is over (see reports in this issue), the focus shifts to our annual show, this year at Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. I look forward to meeting you at one of our meetings, or on the show floor.

We have gained eleven new members and reinstated three this quarter. This is the time of year that I receive resignations, and we have had nine this quarter, the same as last year. While we hate to see members leave, we also understand that health problems come up as we get older and sometimes interests change.

As usual, I welcome our new members and remind them that we are here to help with any SCC-related matters. If you have any questions or problems with your membership please 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.

Membership Statistics for the Fourth Quarter, 2002

New Members

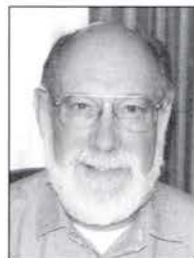
- 3957 Nordin, Göran, 1015 Rexhill Ct., Apex, NC 27502
- 3958 Lopes, Marcelo, Rua Mato Grosso 412, 11450-250 - Guarujá - SP, Brazil
- 3959 Kauppi, Hannu, Lehontie 2, F-90830 Haukipudas, Finland
- 3960 Kilstad, Eivind, Vestheimvegen 5, Porsgrunn, N-3919, Norway
- 3961 Salmi, John, 5907 Betsworth Ave., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3R 0J8
- 3962 Lorentzen, Mark, 1123 Luneta Dr., Del Mar, CA 92014
- 3963 Lord, Daniel, 102 19th Ave., Lachine, QB, Canada H8S 3R8
- 3964 Sherman, Randall, 1101 W. Columbia Ave. #212, Chicago, IL 60626
- 3965 Stein, Michael, DNP
- 3966 Jensen, David, 8184 Grafton Ave. So., Cottage Grove, MN 55016
- 3967 Harden, Thomas L., 719 Marquette St., Muscatine, IA 52761-3545

Reinstated

- 2994 Regenthal, Albert F., DNP
- 3797 Tollan, Rev. John R., St Joseph's, 362 Station St., Chelsea, VIC, Australia 3196
- 3778 Fagerquist, Harold Max, PO Box 935, Anderson, CA 96007

Deceased

- 666 Wiley, Robert S.
- H-25/925 Koplowitz, George B.



Resigned

3922 Hasselfjall, Mikae	3666 Capill, Colin	3559 Rutherford, Cliff
3432 Kurki, Donald	2277 Owens, Roy	850 Gilinsky, T. George
3818 Rasmussen, Arne	670 Bostwick, George	3465 Schwedt, Eugene

Donations

3242 Morison, G.	2299 McCaw, W.	3397 Sporel, S.
3345 Cichorz, R.	1545 Sickels, C.	1604 Seastedt, N.
1714 Smith, W.	3294 Svensson, E.	3105 Rannikko, T.
1611 Ostergaard, P.	3466 Tuchman, A.	3687 Angus, J.
1372 Christensen, J.	3067 Woifel, W.	1995 Clark, T.
3770 Dant, D.	1329 Birdsall, G.	3890 Lawrence, J.
1615 Hedley, M.	3889 Abrahamson, J.	1462 Deisz, G.
1764 Brandal, O.	2403 Bjorklund, H.	3314 Jonsson, M.
3053 Klaus, K.	945 Gudmundson, H.	

Change of Address

3161 Steele, John R., 337D Paseo Cerro, Green Valley, AZ 85614
1611 Ostergaard, Paul B., 5071 Bear Creek Rd., Fairview, PA 16415-2009
3770 Dant, Denis M., 1775 E Palm Canyon Dr. Ste. H, Palm Springs, CA 92264-1642
3310 Feness, Roald J., 400-1701 Cedar Hill Crossroad, Victoria, BC, Canada V8P 2P9
3013 Page, André, 24, Chemin a Grand-Papa, St-Fabien-sur-mer, QB, Canada G0L 2Z0
3624 Horner, Jack B., 3001 Lititz Pike, Box 5093, Lancaster, PA 17606-5093
3343 Dalman, Roy L., 6 Kirkland Dr., Asheville, NC 28805
2457 Bednar, Leif, 25 Brumell Ave. Toronto, ON Canada M6S 4G3
3475 Oliver, Adolph, 3843 Somerset Ave.. Castro Valley, CA 94546-3442
3170 Palen, Roberta R., 413 14th St. N., Virginia, MN 55792-2245
3875 Krulla, J.H., P.O. Box 88, Downsville, NY 13755
3730 Haight, D.N., 1111 Sutter Dr., Delavan, WI 53115-3517 ■

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright

The New Look! Did you spot anything different about this issue of *The Posthorn*? I hope so. We embark on *The Posthorn's* 60th year of publication with a new, all-color cover. This marks the latest step in improving the look and feel of SCC's journal while trying to keep a rein on printing and other production costs.

This effort began three years ago with an improved paper stock. One year ago we enlarged the size of *The Posthorn* for better readability and larger display of illustrations. Now, we are adding four-color process printing – first on the cover and, someday, to the inside text as well.

A full-color cover provides a showcase for three auction houses, which are defraying the additional printing cost through increased advertising rates. We appreciate their support of SCC's effort to improve the journal for the benefit of all Scandinavia collectors. I do not hesitate to encourage collectors to spend their money with dealers and auction houses that help defray the cost of this quarterly publication. Most of our advertisers have been faithful supporters of SCC for years; our loyal members can be equally as faithful as customers. ➤



There is another change to report as *The Posthorn* turns 60. **Lisa Beytien-Carlson** of Minnesota has accepted a full-time position and turned over the graphic design of *The Posthorn* to **Candy Allen** of Boulder, CO, where your Editor also is situated. Ms. Beytien-Carlson guided us through the transition to a larger format, and Ms. Allen is poised to move us into a multicolored world of philatelic publishing.

This issue also notes the addition of the current SCC president and three past presidents to the Posthorn Editorial Board (see Page 2). All four served actively on the Posthorn Committee, which dissolved in February after several years of guiding changes and improvements in *The Posthorn*. By adding them to the Editorial Board, I will continue to benefit from their extensive knowledge of SCC and Scandinavia philately.

You can read more on these topics, plus the recent survey on *Posthorn*, in the President's Letter in this issue.

Regarding the Centerfold. Most U.S. periodicals bury their indices (if they have them at all) in small type in the back of one issue each year. In contrast, we are implementing a suggestion from several European members to print readable Subject and Author indices in the centerfold.

Some European philatelic journals print their indexes in the centerfold so that they can be removed easily and placed with the appropriate issues (in this case, the four *Posthorns* of 2002) for easier retention as a complete volume. Removing the centerfold pages does not disturb the content of this issue. It makes sense to me, but I would like to hear from you whether the annual indexes should return to "back-of-the-book" status.

This provides an opportunity to publicly thank **Alan Warren** for his many contributions to *The Posthorn* over the years. These include preparation of the annual index and quarterly reports on Scandinavian philatelic literature, awards, news of interest to members, and frequent book reviews and research articles. These elements are on display in this issue. Alan Warren constantly amazes me with his astonishing productivity and committed leadership on behalf of SCC and a number of other philatelic organizations. ■

Chapter Reports

Compiled by Arnold Sorensen, Vice President for Chapters

We have 20 chapters, and 10 responded to the requests for their quarterly activity report. Following is a report of activities in some chapters.

Check the Chapter 21 report about Herb Volin's suggestion that the chapter join the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. The web site is www.scandps.org.uk. I also suggest that each of you consider using the Cyber Chapter to report Earliest Recorded Postmarks (ERP). This column may be used to summarize new listings with each issue of *The Posthorn*.

CHICAGO Chapter 4

Jerry Grimson produces a wonderful newsletter that includes information on Scandinavian-related activities that are not necessarily related to stamps. The Chicago chapter was involved in numerous activities during the holiday period. Grimson recommends the Jim Forte Postal History website, postalhistory.com.

NEW JERSEY Chapter 9

The usual activity at each meeting is having members review their latest acquisitions. An outstanding item of interest was a 1994 book on Norway No. 1 by Tore Gjelsvik. Meetings continue every Wednesday.

REYKJAVIK Chapter 11

Sigurður Þorsteinsson reports that the chapter is working on plans for NORDIA 03 to be held October 16-19 in Reykjavík. ➤

DELAWARE Chapter 13

At the December meeting, members reviewed copies of several chapter slide programs that will be turned over to the SCC Library and the APRL. Former SCC treasurer Howard Schloss and Schleswig specialist Frank Correl joined the annual holiday luncheon in Newark, DE. The annual chapter auction is set for June 24 (see advertisement on page 40).

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

The Twin Cities are reputed to have a Scandinavian population, and Chapter 14 has been having good meeting attendance with 15-20 members. Their old meeting place has been outgrown, but a larger room became available. Ross Olson reported proceeds from the annual auction went to the Lynnhurst Community Center in lieu of rent. Most meetings consist of a show and tell featuring a different Scandinavian Country each time.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

Herb Volin reports 11 members from the SCC and 7 from the APS. Their meetings feature slide shows from the SCC Library and circuit books from the SCC and APS. They occasionally conduct meetings at various stamp shows where the general public is invited. Recent meetings featured slide shows on DWI covers, Norwegian ship cancels, and fake Swedish cancels. New member Geoff Noer recently showed some of his Faroe Islands material. Herb Volin has suggested the chapter join the London-based Scandinavia Philatelic Society so that its journal, *Scandinavian Contact*, might be shared by members. As a point of interest, Volin reported \$3,069 in purchases from SCC Mart books last year, "and that figure is not so much a measure of our demand as it is a measure of the SCC's supply."

BOB PAULSON (FLORIDA), Chapter 23

The third quarter attendance has been averaging six per meeting so flyers have been prepared and are being posted to try to attract new members. The meetings included an auction, and new officers have been elected. The Christmas party included a gift exchange.

MANITOBA, Chapter 24

A glance at the chapter's program schedule demonstrates that it is quite organized. January: stamp quiz and presentation by Bob Elias on the fluorescence of the Wilding issue. February: trading night and a talk by Robert Zacharias on the local posts of Germany. March: show and tell and a presentation by Don Fraser. April: a presentation by Trever Sewell and a slide show on stamps of Åland. May: a slide show on early stamps of Iceland.

COLORADO Chapter 27

Attendees proclaimed Jerry Eggleston's presentation on Norwegian philately in November as one of their better programs. The January meeting featured an auction of member-supplied material with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library and to help pay for refreshments at the monthly meetings, which have been averaging about a dozen participants. Secretary Roger Cichorz provides comprehensive newsletters describing chapter activities.

CYBER Chapter 28

The Cyber chapter now has 39 members, and has issued 42 electronic newsletters since its formation in June 2000. The members contribute any information they wish to share. Any SCC member may join by submitting name and SCC number to Ed Bode at edbode@juno.com. In a recent e-letter, Alan Warren noted that auction catalogs are part of the SCC Library collection, and Paul Nelson reviewed his experiences and lessons of using eBay (excellent luck) but warned that "caveat emptor applies." Finally, Arnold Sorensen moved the ERP for DWI Scott #18 back from 1902 to July 1901. ■

Norway Post Museum Closed in Oslo



The doors have been closed at the Norway Post Museum in Oslo amid negotiations to shift the museum to a large museum complex in Lillehammer.

The Post Museum closed November 25 with the museum's "expertise, collections, and library open and available by appointment only," according to Helge Sognli of Norway Post.

The museum, which opened in 1947, boasted the largest and most valuable collection of Norwegian stamps in the world. Its location at Kirkegaten 20 will reopen as a post office in June.

Negotiations were started to move the collection, artifacts, photographs, films, and documents covering 350 years of Norway's postal history to the Sandvig Collection at Maihaugen, a large open-air museum with 185 buildings. The museum has been known for depicting life in a rural Norwegian society.

"We want the Post Museum to be part of a larger museum," said Elisabeth H. Gjølme, the information director at Norway Post, in a press release. "It will direct greater attention to Norway Post's history and historical collections and attract increased interest from the public. At the same time, it will reduce Norway Post's running costs for the museum."

Other options explored unsuccessfully included collaborating with the Norwegian Folk Museum or becoming part of a media, communications, and telecommunications museum in Oslo. ■

—Paul Albright

Melberg Collectibles Displayed at Danish Immigrant Museum

The Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa was the location for another tribute to the late "Doc" Melberg, longtime SCC leader and former Librarian. He and his widow, Florence, decided to donate some of their stamps, books, pictures, news articles, and other collectibles to the museum after visiting there in 1999. A four-month exhibit of some of the materials this winter included Danish maps of star-canceled stamps and Christmas seals. ■

SCC Chapter 13 Delaware 36th Annual Auction

300+ Lots of Specialized Scandinavian Material
We are known for offering many unusual items!

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Catalog free on request to new bidders!
P.O. Box 325, Rockland, DE 19732

Catalog is sent automatically to bidders of the past three years

The leading stamp auctions in Norway

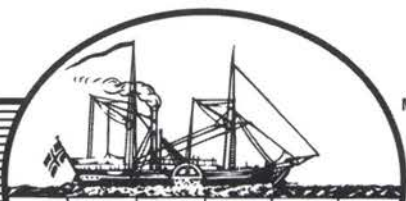


We arrange international stamp auctions in Oslo twice a year. Each time with a total turnover of USD 800,000 up to USD 1,3 mill. The auction catalogues feature approximately 150 pages with full colour illustrations. A complete Internet version is published 3 weeks prior to a sale. More information is to be found in our web site

www.germeten.no

We offer almost 70 to 90 % Scandinavian material but frequently also big lots and collections from a range of countries.

We invite you to take advantage of the fine opportunity to sell in one of the best markets for stamps in the world. There is no government tax on stamp sales in Norway.



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Member Forum

SCC Leaders Streamline Club Operations

More streamlined operations emerged from productive meetings of SCC's Board of Directors and the Posthorn Committee held February 9 in conjunction with the annual SANDICAL exhibition and show in San Diego, CA.



Palm trees and sunshine awaited SCC leaders following a Board meeting in San Diego. Left to right are Alan Warren, Arnold Sorensen, Don Brent, John DuBois, Herb Volin, and Donald Halpern. (Photos by Paul Albright).

as Librarian. **Greg Frantz, Jim Kilbane, Jeff Mondesitt, and Paul Albright** volunteered to work with Silverberg during this transition.

The Board agreed with a recommendation by President **John DuBois** to drop the \$2 "admission fee" for members who join SCC in the future.

President DuBois announced that the Ethics Committee had been reactivated after some complaints about business dealings involving SCC members. No disciplinary actions have been



Arnold Sorensen, SCC vice president for chapters, left, points out an item to John DuBois, SCC president, during the bourse at SANDICAL. Both specialize in philately of the Danish West Indies.

Diego, CA.

Attending their first Board meetings were **Herbert R. Volin** of California and our new vice president of chapters, **Arnold Sorensen** of Indiana.

A number of administrative decisions were made during the meetings.

The Posthorn Committee agreed to transfer its members to the Posthorn Editorial Board. The Posthorn Committee provided valuable guidance and oversight during transitions in editorial and business operations of SCC's journal in the last few years.

Four members of Chapter 27 were named to a Library Committee to help operate a smoothly functioning SCC Library in Denver. After overseeing the successful transfer of the library from Wisconsin in 2000, **Stuart Silverberg**

expressed a desire to step down



Former SCC President Roger Schnell, right, confers with Alan Warren before the judges' critique at SANDICAL. Schnell was chair of the exhibition jury and Warren was one of six judges.

necessary so far, he reported.

The Posthorn

Committee affirmed plans to print the cover of *The Posthorn* in full color with the added cost covered through higher advertising rates and no increase in the dues paid by members. The use of full color on inside pages of the journal will be addressed later.

In addition to these items, the Board received a preliminary report on the member survey of contents in *The Posthorn*, a Stamp Mart report, and a financial report. More on these subjects is found in the President's Letter and Member Forum in this issue.

President DuBois gave special thanks and recognition to **James Burgeson** of California for his efforts to stimulate Scandinavian exhibits from among ▶

the membership; to **Greg Frantz** of Colorado for building much-needed shelving at the SCC Library; and to **Lisa Beytien-Carlson** of Minnesota, who resigned as Production Editor to accept a fulltime position at the Minnesota Children's Museum. **Candy Allen** of Boulder, CO is the new graphic designer for *The Posthorn*.

The Board's next meeting is planned at the **SCC National Meeting at Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20**.

—Paul Albright

A Look at the Lipscomb Memorial Audio-Visual Library

The SCC Library lists 60 audio-visual (AV) donations. At least 15 originated in Chapter 13, including four recently received. The mover, shaker, and photographer in this effort was the late Robert D. Lipscomb. He was a precision-minded chemist and collector who believed in widening philately, not by exhibiting or writing, but through the lens.

For more than a quarter century, he encouraged members and other collectors to use his skills with the camera for their presentations.

At first, Chapter 13 was the AV Library, lending shows to whomever. As the SCC Library was being restored and reorganized following a flood, the completed AV shows moved there. Like most collections, there were incomplete shows in boxes and folders. Through the efforts of Bob Lang and others, these are emerging along with backup copies of some shows in case of loss.

Lipscomb used a macro lens on a top quality Nikon 35mm SLR, a balanced set of photo quality floodlights, a camera stand and a selection of masks. He used Kodachrome 25 ASA or 64 ASA film and usually a black background.

Bob Lang lately uses an automatic Nikon SLR with unbalanced lighting and a screw-on close-up lens. He prefers Ektachrome 160 ASA indoor slide film, which we hope has a longer shelf life. Lang selects colored mats chosen to enhance the subject. His setup handles covers and multiples well, but it is not as keen with singles.

Following Lipscomb's death in 1997, the Board of Directors approved Chapter 13's petition to designate SCC's AV collection as "The Robert D. Lipscomb Memorial Audio Visual Library."

What about the future? Technology presses on. Color-slide photography is obsolete, and the beauty will fade. We need to move into the newest methodology and convert those old shows to it.

—Alfred A. Gruber, Chapter 13

Addendum from the Library Committee: The four recent AV contributions from Chapter 13 are "Finland Forgeries Reference Collection," "Greenland Before 1940," "Finland Airmail to America by Transatlantic Clipper, 1939-1941," and "Danish Railway Stamps." Most recently, Jerry Moore of Chapter 21 donated a copy of his slide program, "A Most Satisfying Hobby—Collecting the Stamps of Sweden," which he presented at NORDIA 01.

A complete listing of AV programs available for Chapter programs can be found on the Library Index page at www.scc-online.org.

Going Electronic on SCC's Website

An electronic membership directory is available at SCC's website, www.scc-online.org. Click on the Member Directory page for instructions on how to be included. It has been suggested that those already on the list might occasionally check the directory to update their information as their email addresses and collecting interests change.

SCC Historian to Update Club Archives

SCC Historian Roberta Palen has launched a project to organize SCC's archives and make sure that appropriate club documents are preserved. Here is a list of items that she asks members to mail to her at PO Box 364, Forbes, MN 55738. No need to organize the material; she will do that for you.

- Official correspondence to/from officers, 1991-99;
- Press releases, 1990, 1991, 1994-99;
- Financial records (including audits), 1991-99;
- Any annual reports (from Executive Secretary, chairs of committees, Stamp Mart managers, etc.), 1990-99;
- Minutes of meetings and attendance lists from regional and national meetings, 1990-99;
- Budgets, 1990-99;
- Paper copies of emails (official correspondence);
- Material older than the 1990s that can be used to document the history and organization of SCC.

Attention Chapters! If you have older correspondence you no longer wish to store, the Historian will be glad to organize and store it.

SCC President John DuBois has endorsed this activity and stressed its importance to SCC. He said members will be reimbursed for postage used to send material to Palen.

NORDIA 03 News



Ten SCC members are preparing exhibits for NORDIA 2003 to be held October 16-19 in Iceland. The annual all-Nordic exhibition, sponsored this year by the Icelandic Philatelic Federation, will be held at Kjarvalsstaðir, an art gallery in central Reykjavík and part of the Reykjavík Municipal Art Museum.

The SCC exhibits will give the SCC the largest frame count at NORDIA since the outstanding – and highly unusual – NORDIA held in Tucson two years ago. SCC members are the only non-Nordic group eligible to exhibit in the NORDIA shows and have consistently provided high quality displays.

SCC members who have attended NORDIA understand what a superb opportunity these shows offer for studying Nordic stamps and postal history, making contacts with like-minded collectors, and, especially, shopping at the large number of dealers specializing in Scandinavian material.

One twist to pre-planning is that *Frimerkjablaðið*, the Icelandic philatelic magazine, will combine its September issue (No. 7) with the NORDIA catalogue and be printed in both Icelandic and English.

More information is available on the exhibition website, www.stamps.is/nordia03, or from the U.S. Commissioner, Roger Quinby, rpquinby@aol.com, or PO Box 738, Clifton Park, NY, 12065.

—John DuBois

Stamp Mart Needs Material!

By Eric Roberts

The Mart has about \$65,000 (selling price) in Scandinavian material mounted in 350 Mart books ready for purchase through Chapter or individual circuits. We had close to \$150,000 worth of material in the ➤

Mart three years ago. We urge all members to fill a few Mart books with those unwanted duplicates. We are really lacking a good depth of the classical material in high quality.

Several members used to buy great collections in auctions and cherry pick the few items they needed while placing the balance in the Mart. Now, most of our new material is from the estate services as outlined in the February 2002 *Posthorn*.

Pricing

We are often asked to recommend pricing of Mart material. Keep in mind these are your fellow Scandinavian collectors, so price it similar to what you may be willing to pay. When we are entering Mart books for the estate services, we price recent MNH and used at about 50 percent of Scott, while recent unused hinged is priced at 20 percent (which often is less than face). The classical material is priced based on condition with F-VF material going in at around 40 percent of Scott. We also use *Facit* when warranted.

Needed Material

Items that sell especially well are specialty items such as premium cancels, perfins, railroads, revenues, and locals. We are getting a nice supply of Finish material like this but can also use all other Scandinavian countries. Everything sells well except modern FDCs. A book of modern FDCs is quite heavy and also sells poorly; so, this type material is not recommended.

Individual Circuits

All members may receive individual circuits of stamps. Each circuit contains similar material. We recommend Mart books be made of one country or area to maximize exposure. Presently the following circuits are active: Scandinavian mint, Scandinavian used, Denmark & DWI, Finland & Åland, Greenland & Faroes, Iceland, Norway, Sweden. With more material, we probably could get the railroad, revenue, and locals' active again.

Album Closed: George B. Koplowitz

Long-time SCC member George Koplowitz passed away November 19, 2002. He had been residing at a rest home in Thousand Oaks, CA. He was active in Scandinavian philately for many years and served a number of offices in SCC New York Chapter 7 and was a past director of the SCC. In 1996, he was named Honorary Member H-25 of SCC.

Koplowitz was a charter member and president of the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation (SPF) from 1978 to 1983, and then served as Secretary/Treasurer. He also was editor of many of the foundation's publications. He served SPF as a trustee from the beginning and was named an emeritus trustee in 2001. He was highly regarded by Nordic collectors abroad as he often traveled to many of the international exhibitions. His interest, activity, and hard work kept SCC's Chapter 7 alive and strong for several decades.

Koplowitz was very active in his synagogue and was always helping others for as long as he was physically able. He was extremely generous in sharing his time and knowledge with others, and he helped interest school children in stamps and coins. As a Holocaust survivor, he was highly regarded for his knowledge of the history and customs of his faith.

His wife Edith predeceased him. He is survived by son Steve Koplowitz of Thousand Oaks, and daughter Miriam Johnston of Glendale, CA.

— Alan Warren

A Sweden Ring Study Group Update Early Cancel, New Variety, and a Request for Help

By George Kuhhorn



Vesa Jarvisto of Florida has pushed back the earliest recorded postmark (ERP) on *Facit* Sweden 23, the 20-öre ring-type stamp. Member Deither Pascher said records show that the printer delivered the stamps to postal authorities on November 25, 1876. Jarvisto's stamp is canceled on that date. (See illustration.) *Facit* lists the stamp from December 1876 without a specific day.

SCC member Ranji Atapattu of Sweden has come up with what may be a new variety of the 10-öre *Facit* Sweden 51. The stamp appears to have a broken digit on the upper left corner. There are three varieties of this stamp listed in *Facit* but none with a broken digit. (See illustration.)

The Ring Study Group is searching for the ERP on *Facit* 32, the blue 12-öre perf. 13. The earliest known is May 14, 1877. Anyone with an earlier cancel can contact George Kuhhorn, the study group coordinator, at the addresses shown on Page 48.

Finally, Deither Pascher of Sweden has asked assistance from collectors in his work to produce a new handbook on the Swedish ring-type stamps of 1872-91 (*Facit* 17-51). He needs scans or photocopies of any perf. 14 stamps with plate flaws and readable cancellation dates. Kuhhorn will be happy to forward these to Pascher.

I will conclude with a reminder that the "Helpers" service is available to all SCC members irregardless of their interests. Contact me to see if there is a knowledgeable member available to help answer your questions on Scandinavian philately. ■



SCC Calendar

	National	Regional*	Nordic & International
2003	Minnesota Stamp Expo July 18-20 Crystal, MN	Sandical February 7-9 San Diego, CA (completed)	NORDIA 2003* October 16-19 Reykjavík, 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.

Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren

The history of Denmark's "doomsday" stamps, produced during the height of the Cold War and kept secret for almost 30 years, is recounted by J. H. Krulla in the January 13 edition of *Linn's Stamp News*. The emergency stamps were produced in 1963 in case a nuclear war or a foreign invasion might disrupt Danish government services. A limited number of stamps were made available to collectors in 1991.

Innovations in Scandinavia's stamps were described by David L. Straight in the February 17 issue of *Linn's*. These include stamps attached to lottery tickets, free Valentine's stamps printed in a daily newspaper, or stamps placed under the flap of an envelope for use by members of the military.

Classic Denmark exhibitor Peer Lorentzen was invited in November 2001 to present a talk and exhibit before the Royal Philatelic Society London on usages of the 2 RBS stamp. His comments and some of his exceptional covers are presented in the November 2002 issue of the society's journal *London Philatelist*.

E. Menne Larsen continues his series on postal history in Schleswig 1848-1851 with the ninth part in the September issue of *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift* of Denmark. In the November issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Erik Hvidberg and Lars Engelbrecht furnish part eight of their series on postal stationery, this time providing a nice list of literature references on the topic. In the December issue of the same journal, Ib Krarup Rasmussen writes about radio letters and shows some examples from the early 20th century, and Kim Widén continues his series on modern postal history of Greenland with an explanation of the airmail fees to Denmark.

The November issue of 238 *Journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle* carries the second part of the series by Brian Hague on British forces in the Faroes during World War II. The name of the journal comes from the old numeral cancel designated for Tórshavn. The Lovat Scouts regiment was located in the Faroes for two years, and the author shows some examples of the unit's mail. The postal history of Vidareidi is featured in the 2002/4 issue of *News from the Faroes*, and that of Slættanes in issue 2003/1. This quarterly publication comes from Postverk Føroya.

In the December issue of the *German Postal Specialist*, Eric Lørdahl tells the story of the last concentration camp to be built by the Germans in Norway. It was constructed on the site of a racehorse track near Mysen, south of Oslo, early in 1945. Just a few months later, prisoners and German guards listened to the radio together as the surrender was announced.

The November issue of *The Finnish Philatelist* offers another part in Heikki Pahlman's series on the golden age of Finnish philately, this time on the Crown Post. Several other articles on Finland's Crown Post and the development of the so-called meander markings complement the main article.

Kim Frankenhoff describes Greenland's first excursion into self-adhesive stamps in the December 16 issue of *Stamp Collector*. Plate varieties of Sweden's 4-skilling banco are illustrated in an article by Mats Ingers and Erich Harbrecht in the issue 3/2002 of *Skillingtrycket* from Sweden. The October/December issue of *Close-Up*, published by the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, lists all the stamps that the famous engraver created during 2002, including issues of Denmark, Greenland, and Sweden. The December *Bältespännaren*, the Swedish Cinderella journal, has articles by Åke Torkelstam and Leif Bergman on postage dues in Sweden.

Uwe Raster shows some markings from the Sandur post office in the Faroes in the November issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten* from the Nordic countries study group in Germany. This issue also has an article about varieties of Finland's postal card of 1871 and another by Rolf Dörnbach on the Iceland flight of the Graf Zeppelin in 1931.

Interesting design issues in eight Swedish stamps were commented on by Charles G. Firby in the January 10 and January 17 issues of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. In the February 14 issue of *Mekeel's*, Swedish writer Christer Brunström takes "A Look at the Nordic Stamp Market." ■

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

Elected Officers

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