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Up & Away:

Early Balloon Mail



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Santa Tightens His Belt after Subsidies End

Santa Claus had to tighten his belt this holiday season in Greenland. Post Greenland issued a DKK 5.50 stamp in October with the expectation of raising at least DKK 200,000 through its sale and a four-stamp souvenir sheet.

In 2002 and in previous years, a subsidy from Greenland Home Rule (government) and Greenland Tourism added approximately DKK 700,000 to Santa's receipts from sale of the semi-postal, charity stamp. Santa's expenses include answering letters from children around the world, operating Santa's Website (www.santa.gl), and making donations to charitable organizations.

These government subsidies were unavailable this year and "therefore it has become more difficult to accomplish the activities connected with Santa Claus," according to Post Greenland. Instead, DKK 0.50 from each stamp went to Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation to preserve Santa's presence in Greenland.

"Unfortunately, all subsidies to Santa Claus have been completely cut off, endangering the whole existence of Santa Claus of Greenland," wrote a disconsolate Søren Rose, philatelic manager, in *Greenland Collector*. "It would be a pity and very sad to lose Santa Claus of Greenland... Post Greenland hopes to find a permanent sponsor, ensuring Santa Claus keeps his home in Greenland." According to Post Greenland, Santa and his worker elves (pixies) live close to the North Pole in northeast Greenland on "his royal estate, which no human being has visited, but many still believe to have seen." When Santa's toy machine is operating, its light is seen by humans as the Northern Lights dancing in the Arctic sky.

In the past, the Santa Claus Foundation assisted the Greenland Women's Society, Red Cross Greenland, the Greenland National Museum and Archives, the Greenland National Flag Society, and a number of other Greenlandic charities. It was not immediately known if any funds will be available for charitable giving after this holiday season. ■



— Paul Albright



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Early Danish Balloon Mail

Ernst M. Cohn

Introduction

Early airmail is fascinating for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it is a portion of philatelic postal history that concerns bridging obstacles otherwise more difficult if not impossible to overcome: A message attached to a stone or an arrow may land in a fortress much easier than a messenger can slip in during war. Homing pigeons travel long distances faster and with fewer dangers and obstacles, hence greater certainty, than men on foot or mounted, singly or organized in relays. While kites have been known for a long time, I am not aware of any proven kite mail. The story of such, across the lower Potomac during the Civil War, may have been nothing more than a means of getting the Federals off the trail of smugglers.

Europeans generally learned of the existence of balloons in 1783 through demonstrations at Paris by Professor Charles (Charlières = hydrogen balloons) and the Montgolfier Brothers (Montgolfières = hot-air balloons). These were not the earliest but certainly the most spectacular experiments with balloons until then.

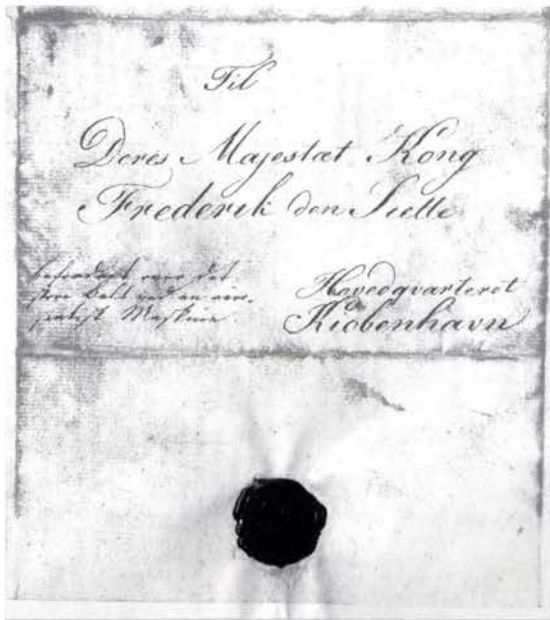


Figure 1. A facsimile of one of Colding's four surviving letters now in the Royal Danish State Archives. This letter was addressed to King Fredrik VI at "Headquarters Copenhagen" with a notation that it was "Carried across the Great Belt by aerostatic machine."

It took just about another century before the first dirigible balloon was demonstrated, also in France, equipped with an electric battery that powered a propeller. Although another Frenchman made a short, secret flight by a powered heavier-than-air machine about that time, it was not until after the Wright Brothers' widely publicized flight, early in the next century, that aeroplanes were quickly developed.

Today, some philatelic postal historians confuse 'airmail' with 'aeroplane mail,' forgetting about the various means by which messages were transported at least part way through the air. Many such are still available for collection and study, particularly those from the Franco-German War of 1870/71, sent by unmanned balloons from Metz, Paris, and Belfort, by manned balloons from Paris, and by homing pigeons both from and to Paris. Most pigeons sent to Paris carried their messages on microfilm, invented in 1839 in England, with a first useful application on a small scale in that war, and later on a large scale as V-mail by the U.S. in World War II.

The early history of European balloon mail allows interesting observations on the development of this means of indirect communication. As long as flight direction was uncontrollable, balloon mail, while spectacular, offered no advantage over terrestrial transport except in war, when normal ways were

closed by enemies. At any time, however, even non-dirigible balloons can quickly and widely distribute general messages. Old examples of various types of balloon messages still exist:

- (1) The American Philosophical Society has what it claims to be the first airmail letter. Dated December 16, 1784, it is addressed by Benjamin Franklin's son, William, at London, England, to his son William Temple Franklin, at Passy near Paris, France. It was carried by John Jeffries on the first Channel crossing by balloon, piloted by Jean-Pierre Blanchard, from Dover to Calais on January 7, 1785. This international letter went totally outside official postal channels, arriving safely even if a bit late.



- (2) The Austrian War Archives have proof of two unmanned French balloons, one launched from besieged Condé (in May or June 1793), and the other from besieged Valenciennes (in June of that year). Both fell into Austrian hands; mail from the former having been destroyed, that from the latter still exists in Austria. While it includes a number of private letters, the official, printed report to the French Government at Paris was the only reason for sending a balloon. One of the private letters is addressed to “Mansle – par un ballon.” It never arrived there, of course, but it may carry the earliest balloon (and airmail) endorsement in existence.
- (3) The Royal Danish Library and Archives contain evidence of experimental balloon mailings made in 1808 to try breaking the British blockade. It was discovered by Holger Philipson. The test flights, though not too successful, were followed by the use of unmanned balloons for spreading printed election propaganda, which the Danes sent to neighboring Sweden. It was another first for balloons – international aerial propaganda. Details about its author are found in the Swedish Postal Museum’s yearbook for 2002, which, together with the well-known ones about the balloon expert, complete the story.

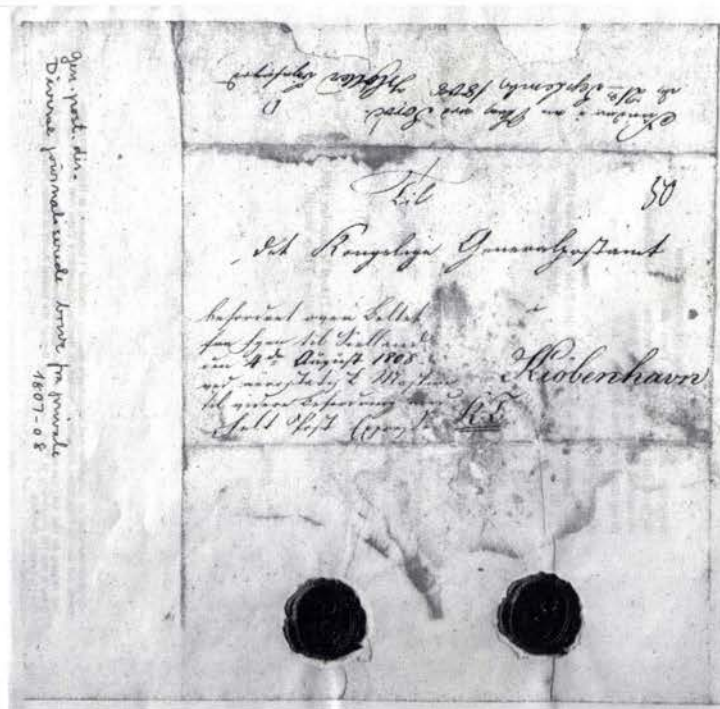


Figure 2. This Colding letter was addressed to the Royal Post Office General in Copenhagen with the notation, “forwarded across the Belt from Funen to Sjælland the 4th of August 1808 by aerostatic machine for further transportation by Field Post Express. K.T.” A notation on the back flap by a town sheriff is that the letter was found in a forest near Sorøe on September 21, 1808.



Figure 3. A 90-øre stamp issued in 1974 to mark the 350th anniversary of the Danish postal service. The motif shows one of Colding’s small balloons floating above some sailing ships, presumably the British who were blockading Copenhagen at the time.

Johann Peter Colding, Balloon Expert

Colding’s first and last names have been spelled various ways, but that is how he signed two notes addressed to Fredrik VI, King of Denmark, the earlier one dated June 2, 1808, the later July 2 at 9:30 a.m. Colding, a candidate of philosophy and philology, had been ordered on May 8, 1808 by the king to proceed with test flights across the Big Belt by unmanned mail balloons.

A stamp, designed by Holger Philipson and issued in 1974, shows a small balloon flying over sailboats. Part of the stamp’s inscription tells that the balloon flew on 2 June 1808. A postal announcement of August 1974 claims – in English as well as in German – that “the launching took place on the 4th June, 1808,” thus contradicting the stamp design. However, an essay is known of a 70-øre stamp showing the date as 4 June.¹

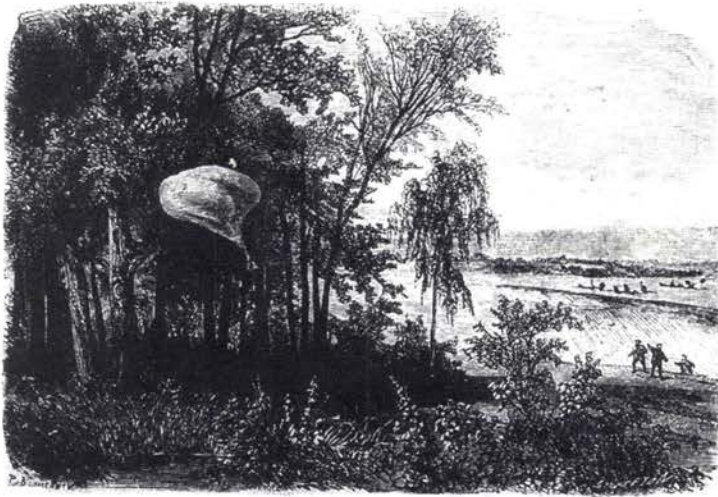


Figure 4. Balloon mail lands in some trees. The illustration depicts discovery of a balloon from Metz, France during the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. Some of Colding's and Ehrensvård's balloons 60 years earlier had similar landings and discoveries.

Later in 1808, King Fredrik VI decided to disseminate some propaganda for himself in Sweden to try to replace its recently proclaimed King Gustav IV. Colding was ordered to send packages of an anonymous pamphlet from Kronborg (Helsingør) to the province of Skåne in Sweden when the wind was favorable. He released packages of 30 pamphlets and watched the balloons land in Skåne. One such Colding balloon is kept in the château of Löveröd. The local guards soon got orders to seize and deliver the propaganda to the governor for destruction. When Gustav sent an envoy to Fredrik, informing him of this unfair action and asking him to keep aloof from such despicable practice, Fredrik informed him that he was the instigator of that "Balloon Letter."⁴

Carl Fredrik Ehrensvård, Soldier, Conspirator, Writer

This man appears to be little known in philately.⁵ In 2002, however, Fredrik Ydell published a 33-page paper on Swedish Pioneer Airmail in *Postryttaren*, the Swedish Postal Museum's yearbook.⁶ One section covers Ehrensvård, telling more about this political conspirator who became one of the early figures in balloon mail. This section is based on the corresponding portion of Ydell's paper, translated by Peter Bergh.

Nobleman Carl Fredrik Ehrensvård was born in Stockholm on January 9, 1767. At age eight, he became a page to Queen Lovisa Ulrika, widow of King Adolf Fredrik, who had died in 1771. The young Carl Fredrik was brought up at the royal castle. Lovisa Ulrika, mother of Gustavus III, later became one of her son's political enemies. This political conflict marked the education of Ehrensvård, who was commissioned a lieutenant in the Swedish army in 1789.

Ehrensvård participated in a conspiracy that led to the murder of Gustavus at a masked ball on March 16, 1792.⁷ Some conspirators, Ehrensvård among them, were condemned to loss of their nobility patent and property, as well as being beheaded. On August 15, 1792, their sentences having been commuted to lifelong exile, they were immediately transferred under guard to Helsingborg and sent to Denmark.

Letters from three tests, dated June 2, July 2, and August 4 (two letters from this date) still exist.² Nothing appears to be known about when and where the first of these arrived. The second was found rather promptly, as proven by a notation on it, dated the 3rd. It was discovered by a farmer's boy in his field and delivered to the postmaster at Skielskiør. The last turned up in a forest near Sorøe on September 21.³

About the time when Colding was giving his big 1807 show of unmanned balloons, aerostiers in Woolwich, England, had used their balloons to disseminate aerial propaganda domestically, perhaps the first of its kind. No doubt the news traveled to Denmark at that time.



Figure 5. Carl Fredrik Ehrensvård, who was not averse to changing his name.

Ehrensvärd changed his last name to his mother's maiden name, Gyllenburg, when he left Sweden. He continued on to Hamburg, stayed there for a while, moved to Holstein and, in 1798, to the outskirts of Copenhagen. At that point, he changed his last name's spelling to Gyllembourg. After his farm had burned down in 1806, he and his wife moved to downtown Copenhagen.

Around that time he met Danish Crown Prince Fredrik, later to become Fredrik VI. Fredrik asked him to influence his friends, and the Swedish public generally, so as to depose Swedish King Gustavus IV Adolphus and choose the Danish king as head of Sweden and Norway as well.

Inspired by this idea, Carl Fredrik published an anonymous 16-page pamphlet in 1808, calling upon the Swedes to revolt, depose their king, and replace him with the Danish one. *Random Notes About the Situation in Sweden in the Summer of 1808* was printed in an edition of 300 copies. Its contents made it impossible to show the author's name since he would face capital punishment in Sweden once more.

At the time, Denmark and Sweden were at war, so it was impossible to travel to Sweden to distribute the pamphlet. Boats could not be used to distribute the pamphlet since the Öresund was frozen in the winter of 1808-09. Balloons presented a possibility, however, and for safety's sake it was decided to use unmanned ones for the transport.

Every balloon being large enough to carry some 30 pamphlets, 10 were needed. The king had given permission to launch them from Kronborg castle in Helsingør. The first ones were sent in December 1808, but most followed in February and March 1809. It was hoped that they would land at various places in Skåne, would be read there, and would convince the Swedes to help the Danes who, early in 1809, were getting ready to land on the other side.

Swedish authorities, however, quickly discovered the balloons and their contents. They did not get much beyond Helsingborg, where Johan Christopher Toll, royalist Governor General of southern Sweden, instructed his people to secure them.

The king ordered Toll to destroy all but four pamphlets, to be sent to him. Today, one is in the Royal Library, one in the War Archives, and two are owned privately. The first page of one of the pamphlets is shown here.⁸ When and where did the preserved pamphlets arrive in Sweden? Assuming that each balloon contained 10 copies and that the four sent to the king came from the same balloon, then the answer is a pencil notation on the front of the one kept in the War Archives: "Found in a Danish balloon that fell near Knutstorp in Skånia on 9 March 1809."

The dream of one king to rule three countries was never realized because the Swedish Diet, meeting at Örebro in 1810, elected the Frenchman Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, who became Karl-Johann, King of Sweden and Norway.

In 1813, upon obtaining Danish citizenship, Carl Fredrik changed his last name again, this time to Gyllembourg-Ehrensvärd. He died at age 48 in Copenhagen on May 10, 1815. ■

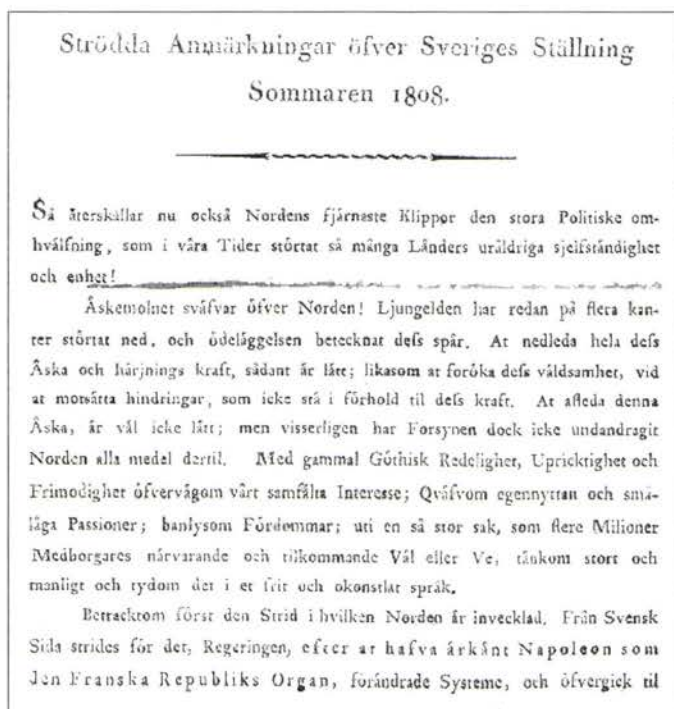


Figure 6. The first page of Ehrensvärd's political pamphlet sent by balloon from Denmark and confiscated upon landing in Sweden. Four copies are known to exist.

(Editor's Note: Appreciation is extended to translator Peter Bergh, the Swedish Postal Museum, and Fredrik Ydell for their assistance in making information available concerning Carl Fredrik Ehrensvärd. Illustrations courtesy of author Ernst M. Cohn, Frederik Ydell, Jay Smith, and the Swedish Postal Museum.)

Endnotes

¹ "The World's Oldest Airmail: Mail by Balloon in 1808," by Peter Ibbotson, *Philatelic Magazine*, No. 9, June 1983, pp. 436-439.

² See "Denmark's First Airmail," Ernst M. Cohn, *Scandinavian Scribe*, April 1975, page 51.

³ These letters and related material were reproduced in 1968 for sale by the Mutual Fund of Danish Philatelists, Postbox 11, Kastруп, Denmark.

⁴ This is reported by Lennart Ege, *Balloons and Airships*, 1973, Blandford Press, London, p. 109.

⁵ I have seen his name only once before when Christer Brunström mentioned him as C. F. Ehrensvärd-Gyllembourg in an October 11, 1986 issue of *Stamp Collector* (pages 18-19), where he wrote that one of the four surviving pamphlets was shown at the Stockholm stamp show that year.

⁶ "Svensk pionjärluftpost," by Fredrik Ydell, *Posttryttaren* 2002, Sweden Postal Museum, 2002, pages 99-102.

⁷ *Un Ballo in Maschera*, an opera based on this crime, was first performed in 1859, music by Giuseppe Verdi based on an 1833 text by Eugène Scribe.

⁸ Printed with permission of the Swedish Postal Museum and Fredrik Ydell.

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A Phantom Rate for DWI Postal Cards, 1877–1901

By John L. DuBois

The chart of Danish West Indies postal rates, reproduced in Figure 1, was first printed in the *Scandinavian Scribe* of January 16, 1969, and later published in several *Facit* catalogues as well as in volume II of *DWI Mails* (page 17-1). Although the accompanying text in Chapter 17 of *DWI Mails* explains

that there were other rates and changes not shown, there are significant errors in this table that are not explained or corrected by the additional material in that chapter or elsewhere in the philatelic literature for, at least, the last three decades.

The two-cent rate shown for domestic postal cards from April 1, 1879 to January 1, 1902 and the two-cent rate shown for domestic printed matter from September

	Nov. 1855	1 Sept. 1877	1 Apr. 1879	1 Jan. 1902	June 1905
Post cards, domestic	No cards	No cards	2 ¢	1 ¢	5 Bit
Post cards, foreign	No cards	6 ¢	3 ¢	2 ¢	10 Bit
Letters, domestic	3 ¢	3 ¢	3 ¢	2 ¢	10 Bit
Letters, foreign	*	12 ¢*	10 ¢	8 ¢	25 Bit
Letters, islands	*	12 ¢*	5 ¢	5 ¢	25 Bit
Printed matter, domestic	3 ¢*	2 ¢*	2 ¢*	1 ¢*	5 Bit
Printed matter, foreign	*	5 ¢*	2 ¢*	1 ¢	5 Bit
Printed matter, islands	*	5 ¢*	1 ¢*	1 ¢	5 Bit
Registration fee	7 ¢	7 ¢	7 ¢	5 ¢	25 Bit

Asterisks (*) indicate that examples are scarce or not known; "islands" refers to Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe and other nearby islands; rates varied at different times to different countries.

Figure 1. A rate chart that first appeared in the *Scandinavian Scribe* of January 16, 1969. It was reproduced in several *Facit* catalogues and printed in *DWI Mails*, Vol. 2, page 17-1. The categories highlighted in bold type are errors; these rates were all **three** cents.

1, 1877 to January 1, 1902 never existed. The publication of this chart has led numerous writers and exhibitors (including the author) to incorrectly describe items of postal history from the Danish West Indies. Furthermore, the existence of improperly paid covers, such as the example shown in Figure 2, exacerbates the problem by appearing to illustrate a two-cent postal card rate before January 1, 1902.

The fact of this difficulty came to light during a conversation with Torben Hilberg at the frames of the author's exhibit at NORDIA 98 in Odense, Denmark where the cover in Figure 2 was described as showing a "2¢ domestic card rate." Hilberg indicated that this was not so, despite the existence of the card as well as a handful of similar cards that had passed through the St. Thomas post office to local addresses with no apparent objection to their two-cent imprint.

The tip-off should have been the fact that cards sent to domestic addresses exist with three cents postage. (Domestic, in the case of the Danish West Indies, means on or between the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. Jan.) A properly paid, domestic use postal card dated September 3, 1895 is shown in Figure 3. If two cents were the rate, why would these



Figure 2. A domestic usage on a two-cent card, underpaid for the three-cent local rate, mailed in Fredriksted and addressed to "Bassin" (Christiansted) on St. Croix. From the message and other indications, it does not appear to be philatelic, probably just missed by the post office. This is the reply half of a double card (Engstrom DC1).



Figure 3. A properly paid three-cent domestic use. The card (Engstrom PC5) was sent from Christiansted on September 3, 1895 to a St. Thomas apothecary. The "C" hand stamp indicates it was posted at the dock.

regulation, published in St. Thomas on August 22, 1877, for use to all UPU countries at one-half the 12-cent foreign letter rate. Sometime later in 1877, postal cards were printed by H.H. Thiele, a Copenhagen printer, for use in the DWI, with a six-cent imprint. These cards were explicitly for foreign use. Domestic or local cards were still unknown.

A new postal ordinance was passed in 1878, but it did not affect the six-cent post card rate. However, a subsequent ordinance, of April 1, 1879, did. The post card rate to all UPU countries was reduced to three cents except for a new class of "favored" destinations within 300 nautical miles. Cards could be sent to these islands, such as Guadeloupe or St. Kitts, for two cents. Domestic post card rates were not changed by this ordinance.

Anticipating the lower UPU rate, the DWI post office had their printer H.H. Thiele prepare a run of 1,000 three-cent postal cards sometime before passage of the April 1, 1879 ordinance. Eventually more than 13,000 were printed (Engstrom catalog number PC-3). In the following fiscal year (April 1, 1879 to March 31, 1880) 2,800 two-cent postal cards for the favored island rate (Engstrom catalog PC-2) were printed by Thiele and delivered to the DWI post office.

There was no further change in DWI postal regulations until the ordinance of December 2, 1901 to be effective January 1, 1902. The circumstances concerning postal cards in the DWI between April 1, 1879 and January 1, 1902 were therefore:

- (a) Local card rate (on and between St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. Jan): 3¢
Imprinted 3¢ postal cards were available at post offices in the DWI.
An example is shown in Figure 3.
- (b) Favored destination card rate (within 300 nautical miles): 2¢
Imprinted 2¢ postal cards were available at post offices in the DWI.
An example is shown in Figure 4.
- (c) Foreign card rate (to all UPU countries over 300 miles): 3¢
Imprinted 3¢ postal cards were available at post offices in the DWI.
An example is shown in Figure 5.

domestically used three-cent cards exist? And, an equally valid question, if three cents was the rate, why were two-cent cards printed? The answers can be obtained by careful review of the Danish postal ordinances and practices applicable to the DWI.

Origin of the Rate

The DWI post office was established by an act of the Danish parliament in Copenhagen on July 10, 1855. Postal rates and definitions of service were based on an 1851 Danish postal law. Post cards were unknown at the time and printed matter is equated with letter mail except for a higher weight limit (printed matter could be sent at letter rate up to 60 grams).

Postal cards made their first appearance when the DWI joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on September 1, 1877. They are defined in a postal



Figure 4. A proper use of a two-cent card (Engstrom PC4), sent from St. Thomas to St. Christopher on August 23, 1883. Until January 1902, the only correct use of two-cent postal cards was for mail to "favored" islands within 300 nautical miles of the DWI.



Figure 5. The principal use for three-cent cards was foreign mail. This example (Engstrom PC3) was sent from St. Thomas to Cairo November 1, 1879.

As there was no difference in rate between local letters and local post cards, it would be expected that very few postal cards would have been sent in the period 1879-1901 because much more correspondence could be enclosed in an envelope for the same charge. And, this seems to have been the case since proper (three-cent) local cards are very rare between these dates; only about 10 are known while hundreds of three-cent cards to foreign destinations are recorded. Proper use of the two-cent DWI postal card to the "favored" islands is scarce, but examples, such as Figure 4, can be found.



Figure 6a. Local use of two-cent cards was usually caught by the post office. Figures 6a and 6b show postage due assessed on two incorrectly used cards. Figure 6a (Engstrom PC4) was sent to a ship in the St. Thomas harbor on December 23, 1897. It received the UPU standard "T" postage-due handstamp and a marking of "2c" due amount that was twice the one-cent deficiency, a penalty specified by UPU policy.



Figure 6b. This card (also Engstrom PC4) was mailed locally on St. Croix from Frederiksted to Christiansted. Frederiksted did not have the UPU "T" hand stamp at the time, so marked the due amount "2" in script at the upper left corner of the imprint. This was also a UPU practice, although the amount was supposed to be in decimes, not cents as here.

notes that accompanied the draft of this ordinance when it was discussed by the Colonial Councils on St. Croix and St. Thomas in mid-1901.²

Explanation for the Two-Cent Rate

We are left, however, with the existence of a (very) few examples of two-cent postal cards, such as Figure 2, which appear to have passed through the local mail in the DWI with no apparent postage due or objection from the post office. How are these cards explained?

There are, probably, at least two reasons for such cards. First, there is little doubt that some are philatelic. The card shown in Figure 7 is typical of

at least four known sent to the same "L. Neumann/ Dr. Med./Christiansted" with a four-word message, all on the same date. Evidently Dr. Neumann knew the uniqueness of an apparently proper local two-cent card and somehow arranged for the cancel. There are two or three different cards known with similar suggestions of a philatelic origin.

Second, it is likely that the remaining few two-cent local cards known were genuine mistakes on the part of the post office. These cards have commercial or innocent personal messages and no obvious philatelic characteristics; Figure 2 is a typical example. They were probably overlooked in the rush of processing or inattention to mail pieces. ■

The author would like to thank Torben Hilberg and Arnold Sorensen for significant advice and suggestions in developing this information.

Endnotes:

- 1) Engstrom, V.E. Ed., *D.W.I. Mails*, Vol. 3, Washington D.C., 1982, Scandinavian Philatelic Printing and Publishing Co., Chapter 17.
- 2) Remarks on the draft of an ordinance concerning the Postal Department in the Danish West India Islands, ca. June 1901, Danish Archives, Arhus. (Original in Danish.) One paragraph commenting on proposed changes to the local rates clearly indicates post cards changing from 3¢ (not 2¢) to 1¢.



Figure 7. Some of the existing two-cent cards used locally without postage due are clearly philatelic. This example (Engstrom PC2) is one of at least five cards recorded sent to a Dr. Neumann in Christiansted, all on October 17, 1894. There is a nominal four-word message and little doubt that these were contrived to appear genuinely used.

Rare DWI Mail from St. Jan to St. Croix

By Arnold Sorensen

In 1877-78, the St. Thomas Post Office received two 4-ring cancels as replacement for the single 3-ring cancel used up to this time. It just so happened that this time period coincided with the Danish West Indies joining the Universal Postal Union, which had rules requiring use of a dated town cancel. The post office decided to use the new 4-ring cancel to identify mail that arrived at St. Thomas without any cancels whether domestic or foreign.

When mail was to be transferred to another island, the mailbag would be sealed by the post office before being taken to the ship. The mail ships did not sail daily, and it was not an uncommon procedure for mail to be brought directly to the ship so it would not have to wait several days for the next scheduled departure. Upon arrival at St. Thomas docks these letters would be stamped with the 4-ring stamp. The mail would next be sorted at the post office where the dated circular St. Thomas cancel was used. DWI mail originating on the island of St. Croix is commonly seen with both the 4-ring cancel and the St. Thomas cancel.



Figure 1.

The two-cent postal card (Figure 1) that is shown here (*Engstrom* No. PC-4B, *Facit* No. BK4, and *Ringstrom* No. 6) differs in that it has been canceled *only* with the 4-ring cancel (once on each side). It has no date indicated, but being addressed to Bassin, the locally used name for Christiansted, it had to originate away from the island of St. Croix. It is a business mailing and reads as follows:

“Kindly return other acceptance or un-accept the 4 drafts sent you by post last Saturday. The Family allows 24 hours, and in that time, acceptance must be made or refused. I had to write St. Thomas today stating drafts were posted you last Saturday + since then I haven’t heard anything from you. If you accept you must do so (undecipherable from this point).”

Pinning Down the Location

The postal card was posted on a dealer’s Internet site for some time, and I was mystified when I learned that it only had the 4-ring cancel, a somewhat illogical situation based upon what I knew about the use of this cancel. The message on the card shows that St. Thomas also did not appear to be the point of origin.

Then an article by Torben Hilberg explained the unusual circumstances for this card. He stated that mail from St. Jan would only be canceled with the 4-ring handstamp. He also advised collectors to be on the lookout for such mailings, and that he had only seen two examples. In a personal communication (translated from Danish) he stated:

“The 4-ring cancel was *ONLY* available at the St. Thomas Post Office. The card was likely delivered with other cards to the mail boat at St. Jan, (It would typically depart on Thursdays) and would immediately after arrival have been sent on from St. Thomas to Christiansted (Bassin), without getting a date cancel. St. Thomas did not have a special cancel used with mail arriving from St. Jan. It only had a “C” for Christiansed and “F” for Frederiksted. Letters delivered to ships departing for St. Thomas from foreign countries would also be cancelled with the 4-ring cancel if they had not been canceled earlier. There were two identical 4-ring cancels. If the card previously had a 1-cent stamp it would have been mailed before January 1, 1902. Before that time the domestic postal rate was 3 cents for both cards and letters.”

I had initially believed the postal card ought to have had a 1-cent stamp added since the local postal rate was three cents for post cards for a long time. In examining postal stationery varieties in *DWI Mails* (Vol. 2), this card is from the second printing dating from 1902-03. It must therefore have been mailed after the post card rate had been reduced to one cent on January 1, 1902, i.e. it actually was overpaid by one cent.

In July 1905 the currency changed from cents to bit, so I estimate the card was mailed between 1902 and 1905. The new “Arms” type 1-cent postal card has an earliest reported date of May 26, 1903, and since it would be expected that these cards would largely replace earlier types, this may narrow the mailing date to before this date.

St. Jan was the least populated island with few businesses, and mail canceled there is scarce. The St. Jan cancel is seldom found either on or off cover, and is valued by the DWI specialists. If it had been canceled with a St. Jan date cancel it would likely be a more attractive item to most collectors. On the other hand, it is an example of postal history that few people have been aware of. ■

References:

- Engstrom, Victor E, editor, *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917, (Volume II)*, Washington, DC, Scandinavian Printing and Publishing Co., 1979-82.
- Hilberg, Torben, personal communications, and “Dansk Vestindiske Ring Stempler—Og Et Svar,” *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, January 1999, pages 4-8.



Figure 2. A later postal card (*Engstrom* PC14) with a 4-ring cancel, a St. Thomas 1910 date cancel, and the “C” for Christiansted mail. Typically the St. Thomas date cancel and the “C” would be on the back side of envelopes and cards, but this one has all three in a small space on the front.

Copenhagen Foot Post from DWI

Hans von Strokirch



Figure 1.

Copenhagen Foot Post was founded by the government post office (GPO) in March 1806, but it was privatized in April 1809 and remained that way for 40 years when the government again took charge (May 1849). *Facit* catalogs nine different post marks, two of which appear on mail from the Danish West Indies.

Until recently only one, Type VI, had been noted in the DWI records. It appears on a letter from 1854. Now, three more foot post (FP) marks have been recorded, two in Melbourne, Australia and another sold at the Feldman auction in Zurich in May 1988. These three carry the *Facit* No. II FP marking in red. The scarcest of the nine post marks, the No. II, was in use from 1808 until 1820.

Figure 1 shows an entire letter sent with a Danish ship, in care of the captain, from St. Croix March 25, 1816 to Copenhagen where FP marking No. II was applied. On the back in manuscript is 16 skilling payable by the addressee. That was considerably cheaper than if the letter had followed the more common route via Falmouth-London-

Hamburg-Copenhagen.

Figure 2 shows an entire letter from Frederikssted August 28, 1854 by Danish ship to Copenhagen. A blue-green foot post marking *Facit* Type VI was applied along with a manuscript "2/1" skilling foot post fee collected by GPO. This FP was in use from 1849-1867.

It will be interesting to see if other *Posthorn* readers have any further examples of these elusive letters.



Figure 2.

Earliest Known Newspaper Wrapper from DWI

By Arnold Sorensen

Pictured here is the earliest known newspaper wrapper from the Danish West Indies. It may also be the only one known from before the DWI joined the UPU in September 1877 and it could be the only stampless wrapper. Printed matter enjoyed a lower postal rate than other mail, and there must have been numerous mailings using this rate. Very few examples have survived, however. The scarcity of these items is established by the *DWI Record* that has recorded most of the known DWI covers.



Figure 1. Front of newspaper wrapper.



Figure 2. Back of newspaper wrapper.

Some 900-1,000 DWI covers are known with British or U.S. stamps, but only about 2 percent of these were mailed as printed matter — many of them advertising circulars known as “prices current.”

Most surviving mail are business letters that had to be answered, and thus were saved. The next most common are personal letters that had special reasons for being saved. When stamps were used on printed matter, the stamps were the most

common low values, and were likely of little interest to early stamp collectors. Early newspaper wrappers bore no stamps, further diminishing collector interest. Nevertheless, this one somehow survived and provides a unique example of an item not previously seen.

This newspaper mailing is clearly from St. Thomas as seen by the J. NILES & Co/ST. THOMAS forwarder's cachet. Although addressed to New York, it was routed via Philadelphia, and is dated with the "EDMD. A. SOUDER & CO/APR 23 1863/PHIL" handstamp. The black "SHIP" cancels on the front and back are from Philadelphia, #540 in the Clarke catalog. The manuscript notation of "2 papers" defines the postal classification, but there are no indications of the actual rate or how it was forwarded to New York.

The published 1869 contract shipping rate for newspapers from St. Thomas to New York was two cents per paper, so the likely rate for this wrapper was four cents, including delivery.

The natural harbor of St. Thomas made it a popular shipping center, and for many years mail from South and Central America and the Caribbean basin was sorted here before continuing on to Europe and North America. St. Thomas has a rich history of forwarding companies, and their cachets are seen on mail from outside DWI, as well as mail that originated within the islands.

The stationery used in making this wrapper identifies it as being from St. Thomas. It has a partial embossed imprint of the G. W. Smith and Co. This company is known to have been in the forwarding business from 1859-81 but evidently used another forwarder for this mailing. The J. Niles Company is a known forwarder from 1863-7, with fewer than 10 recorded covers.

To my knowledge this wrapper was part of a newspaper wrapper collection that was broken up. It was hardly "lost" all these years; it simply resided in a specialty collection that DWI specialists did not know about. I found it on the Internet and there may be more examples waiting to be discovered. ■

References:

- DuBois, John L., *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917* Vol. 1, 2nd edition. Snow Camp, NC, Jay Smith & Associates, 2000.
Engstrom, Victor E., Editor, *Danish West Indies Mails, 1754-1917* (Three volumes), Washington, DC, Scandinavian Printing and Publishing Co., 1979-82.
Sorensen, Arnold, "Danish West Indies 'Junk Mail'," *The Posthorn*, February 2002, pages 3-6.
Clarke, Tom, *A Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks – 18th Century to the Present, Part III*, Philadelphia, PA, Tom Clarke, 1990.

Search on for Finnish "Missing Markkaa" Revenues

The new LaPe catalog from Finland includes a listing for the basic Finnish documentary revenue adhesives. This is the first time for a Finnish postage stamp catalog to include these interesting items. Included are pictures of #182 and 182X, the 25-mark 1935 issue of documentaries. #182X is missing the words "markkaa mark" on it. Shown below is #179X. These were discovered after the publication in 1998 of the Saarinen catalog of Finnish revenues.

A very large accumulation in Finland was recently reviewed by its owner, for example, and only 30 examples of missing mark stamps were found, of seven denominations. There are two additional denominations that have been seen. The known denominations are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50 mk. This list was verified in an article by Jukka Sarkki in *Abophil*, No 5, 2003, the magazine from the Turku Philatelic Club.



Shown here is one that I own, a 10. As you see, there is no "unit of money" (markka) on this stamp. The normal blue stamps of this series are common. Once a collector knows what to look for, the "missing markkaa" variety is readily identified.

Let me know if you have an example or more, with the denomination, and whatever date you can find in the cancel. A scan would be useful. My address is: Paul Nelson, PO Box 310, Claremont, CA, 91711; email, pnels@att.net. ■

— Paul Nelson

References:

1. 2004 LaPe Catalogue, Philatelic Service of Finland, Turku
2. Finland and Aland Revenue Stamp and Stamped Revenue Paper Catalog 1998, B-E Saarinen, Snow Camp, NC.

Scandinavia's Foot Post – Tramping into History

By Paul Albright

“Mr. Mikkelsen is not walking over the mountains anymore.”

The era of mail delivery by foot may have reached the end of its historic path in Scandinavia. With little fanfare and almost without notice, what may be the last foot post route in Scandinavia was discontinued recently when postal vehicles were allowed to use a partially opened tunnel in a remote region of the Faroe Islands.

The last explosive charge was set off in the 1,410-meter-long Gásadalur tunnel on December 23, 2002 with former postman Solberg Henriksen given the honor of touching off the last blast. The current postman, Karl Mikkelsen, continued his foot post route to and from Gásadalur for several more months while construction continued.

In October 2003, however, Knud Wacher, philatelic manager of Postverk Føroya, confirmed to *The Posthorn* that, “Mr. Mikkelsen is not walking over the mountains anymore.” Although the tunnel is not open for traffic, Postman Mikkelsen received “special permission to drive

through the unfinished tunnel.” A 2003 Faroes tourist guide said the new tunnel signals that the “future will come to Gásadalur at last.”

Thus ends almost 90 years of foot post to and from Gásadalur, an isolated village of 16 people and 35 cows located on the western tip of the Faroes. The tourist guide cites Gásadalur as “the only village in the Faroes that is not connected to the national roadway system.”

“When mist prevents the helicopter from landing, the mail to the village is still carried in on the postman’s back,” reports the tourist guide. “The hike may be strenuous, especially the climb up from Gásadalur. It begins in the tiny village of Bøur and rises up the mountain fairly quickly, but the view from the crest is spectacular and worth the effort.”

Since 1915, only three men have been employed to tramp the sometimes

dangerous mountain terrain to pick up and deliver the mail. At first, the route was nearly 40 miles long between Gásadalur, Bøur, and Sørsvágur. In 1955, a road opened between Sørsvágur and Bøur, shortening the walking distance considerably.

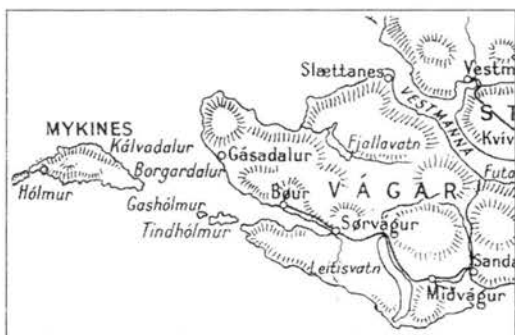
In an article in *News from the Faroes* (No. 3/2003), Postverk Føroya claimed this “has been the only route in the Faroes and the rest of Scandinavia where the post was carried on foot.” The article said the Gásadalur foot post “will become history as the last of its kind, not only in the Faroes but in other Nordic



Farøese Postman Mikkelsen makes one of his final mail deliveries by foot. In the background is Tindhólmur with its five castle-like peaks. (Photo courtesy of Postverk Føroya.)



Is this the last foot postman in Scandinavia? Karl Mikkelsen uses a head strap to support the mail bag on his back. (Photo courtesy of Postverk Føroya.)



The Vágur district in the western part of the Faroes showing Gásadalur, Bøur and Sørsvágur. No road is shown beyond Bøur. (Map from *The Atlantic Islands*, by Kenneth Williamson, 1948.)



Postman Jakup Andreas Henriksen, who was a foot postman for 60 years, is shown on Faroes *Facit 25*, one of the second series of stamps issued by the independent Faroese postal administration.

countries as well.” When questioned directly about this claim by *The Posthorn*, Wachter said he was unaware of any other foot post in Scandinavia.

Jakup Andreas Henriksen began the Gásadalur foot post in 1915 and walked the mountainous route for 60 years. Jakup Henriksen was shown on an 8 kr. stamp issued in 1976 (his retirement year) to mark the inauguration of the new Faroese postal administration. He was succeeded by his son, Solberg Henriksen, who served through 1992 when Mikkelsen took over. The Gásadalur route gained recognition through a movie, *1,700 Meters from the Future*.

Mail delivery by foot began centuries ago and by the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was normal for postmen throughout Scandinavia to walk between villages carrying the post. In addition, urban foot posts were established to move mail from collection and distribution points to addresses within towns and cities. Modern transportation made delivery by foot obsolete except for a handful of inaccessible areas.

A previous Faroese foot post route closed in 1967 when the tunnel connecting Árnafjørður to Klaksvík was completed on Borðoy. That left the Gásadalur route as the only operating foot post until this fall when Postman Mikkelsen climbed into a vehicle and delivered the mail by driving through the still-unfinished tunnel. ■

References:

News from the Faroes, Postverk Føroya, Nos. 3/2003, and 4/2003.
Faroe Islands Tourist Guide 2003, www.faroeislands.com/UK/Regions/Vagar.html



The foot post is carried between Gásadalur and Bøur, which is shown on this DKK 5.00 stamp issued along with the Gásadalur stamp.



The village of Gásadalur with a waterfall plunging into the sea. The DKK 5.00 stamp was issued in June 2003.

Individual Stamps Tested in Finland

Finland's postal agency has expanded its customized postage stamp program to include individuals in addition to companies. Posti launched a pilot program in November for selected groups to submit photographs to be issued on personalized stamps. Word on the availability of the stamps for individuals reached *The Posthorn* from Lauri Poropudas, editor of *Filatelisti*.

Under the test program, individuals must purchase at least one sheet of 20 stamps for •20.00 (plus a shipping fee). The stamps can be used on first class mail, which now requires •0.65. Users had a choice of two frames from which to select. One frame was used on Posti's corporate stamp issued in May and the other frame has a winter holiday look to it.

A Posti spokesperson said it will be spring before the individualized stamp service is available to the general public. “Naturally, if a foreign customer is able to log in (www.posti.fi/postimerkki) and order personalized stamps using the instructions provided in Finnish, the order will be delivered,” said Marja Pihlman.

When a number of poor quality photos were submitted for reproduction as stamps, postal authorities posted tips on the Internet on how to take better photographs for better stamps. Earlier in 2003, companies operating in Finland were allowed to order first class stamps promoting their images, such as corporate logos, products, or services. (More in *The Posthorn*, May 2003, August 2003, and Page 28 in this November 2003 issue.) ■



Olga Poropudas, 10, and her sister, Myy, 9, are shown on a personalized postage stamp issued under a pilot program of Finland Post. The girls are the daughters of *Filatelisti* Editor Lauri Poropudas.

— Paul Albright

Sixty Years of Faroese Metermarks

By Brian Hague

Although Norway was a pioneer of franking machine usage with the Krag machines introduced at seven post-offices in June 1903, it was to be almost 40 years later before the first metermark came into use on the neighboring Faroe Islands. As is so often the case with Faroese postal history, the story begins in World War II and the attempts to address the problems arising from the difficulty of receiving supplies of postage stamps from Denmark, which was occupied by German forces while the Faroes were under British control. Two solutions to this problem, the provisional overprints and the FRANCO BETALT handstamps, both locally produced in the islands, had already been implemented. A third tactic that was employed utilized an external solution.

At the beginning of 1943, a Neopost franking machine with registration number N446 was imported from Great Britain. It is known that the machine was dispatched by the commercial agents, Mauritzen of Leith in Scotland, in late December 1942. So, it must have arrived in the Faroes at the start of 1943. Perhaps the operating instructions were unclear, or they were missing as they had been dispatched separately in advance of the machine. Perhaps there was no immediate urgency because the first postal usage was not until May 19, 1943.

Figure 1 shows a "first-day cover." That this particular example represents philatelic usage is confirmed by the details of the addressee. The cover was sent at the 10-øre local rate to Postal Director L. D. Hansen to his home address. There was an amount of such early philatelic usage, but the machine was used to frank the annual tax assessments through the rest of May and until June 12, 1943. The tax statements were sent in window envelopes (7¾ x 5 inches) with a Færøernes Oppebørsels-kontor cachet on the back. Some 1,973 envelopes were franked at the 10-øre rate and 5,507 at the 20-øre rate.



Figure 1.

The machine had not proved easy to operate, however, and it was not returned to service until June 16, 1944 for the distribution of that year's tax assessments. The taxpayer base in the population had obviously increased because 2,171 assessments were franked at the 10-øre rate and 6,064 at the 20-øre rate. Thus, one would expect examples from 1944 to be slightly more common than those from the 1943 mailing. In my experience, the reverse is the case, and it is more than a marginal difference as to their relative rarity. Commercial examples of the Neopost frankings are not common but examples from 1943 do come onto the market from time to time. As recently as 2001, I had never seen an example of commercial usage dated 1944 (there was some philatelic usage on June 20, 1944, the last day of use, and these covers are offered occasionally).

Liquid Inducement to Pay Taxes

All was perhaps explained when at last I did see an assessment from the 1944 distribution. Due to war-time shortages, no envelope was used in 1944. The assessment had been folded so that only the name and address were visible and then sealed with a short length of brown sticky-tape. The folded assessment had then been put through the Neopost machine for franking (the poor quality of the resulting metermark impression suggests the machine was not well maintained).

But would not this have resulted in more examples surviving? The recipients would have taken the assessment to have it receipted when they paid their tax bill, and surely they would have been likely to preserve the document as evidence of payment. A printed note on the document provided further illumination (see Figure 2). A tax payment receipt was required to purchase alcohol from

the state store for the next year; certainly an interesting inducement to encourage the prompt payment of taxes. Perhaps the receipted assessments (bearing their metermark frankings) had to be handed over when first registering at the store. If so, Faroese thirst is the real reason for the relative scarcity of the 1944 frankings.

That was the end for the first Faroese franking machine: some 16,000 frankings produced during 30 days of usage over a period of 13 months. The Neopost machine was never used again and its ultimate fate is undocumented. It was to be another eight years before the next Faroese metermark appeared. In 1952, Føroya Banki in Tórshavn acquired a Francotyp franking machine (registration number D830D). A slow but steady expansion in the use of meter mail in the Faroes occurred during subsequent years.

Eric Wowern used to publish a specialist catalogue of Faroese metermarks (GF No. 12A), but it is over 20 years since the last, out-of-print edition. In the meantime, the number of Faroese metermarks has expanded tremendously. Danish collector Steen Jack Petersen addressed the need for a more up-to-date reference source by compiling a simple listing of all known Faroese metermarks. This was published by the Faroe Islands Study Circle in November 2001 as Monograph #3. Copies can be obtained from Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, GB-CH65 8BY, England for \$13 (USA) per copy, including postage to addresses in North America. (Currency only, no checks please.) Recent additions are listed on Steen Petersen's website at <http://faroeestamps.dk/>. ■

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Kristian Hopballe, *Færøernes postale forhold under anden verdenskrig*, 5F Frimærker, Odense, Denmark, 1986, ISBN 87-981244-6-5.

Steen Jack Petersen, *Faroe Islands Meter Marks*, Faroe Islands Study Circle Monograph #3, 2001.

Eric v. Wowern, *Faroe Islands 1991, GF10*, GF Frimærker, Virum, Denmark, 1990, ISBN 87-87559-59-5.

Eric v. Wowern, *Meter Marks, GF No. 12A*, GF Frimærker, Virum, Denmark, ISBN 87-87559-15-3.

**Denne Blanket, forsynet med Indbetalingspaa-
tegning, gælder som Legitimation ved Indførsel af
berusende Drikke (for saa vidt angaar Lagtings-
skat) indtil Udgangen af April Maaned 1945.**

Figure 2. Translation: "This form, receipted on payment, will serve as legitimation for importation of intoxicants (as permitted under tax laws) until the end of the month of April 1945."

Foreign Post Offices in Norway (second in a series):

U.S. APO 544, Oslo, 1945

By Frederick A. Brofos

"You are going to Norway to perform the most important mission of a soldier not on the field of battle – that of assisting a free people to regain an independence they have cherished since 1814 and have been without since 1940."

—Brig. Gen. Owen Summers, U.S. Army

Those words from the commanding officer in Norway were addressed to each member of U.S. Army Task Force "A" on May 22, 1945 as the liberating Allies moved into Oslo. The task force commanded by

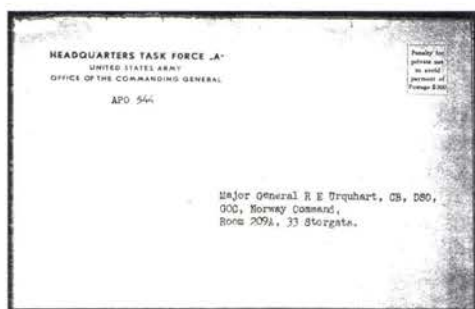


Figure 1. Official mail from APO 544 did not require postage. This cover contains a printed penalty indicia for private use.

on the ground floor of Torvgaten 17. As it was a restricted military area, there was no admittance for anyone without a special pass. The office was manned by uniformed U.S. soldiers, some of whom had worked for the U.S. Post Office before the war. I particularly remember a Sgt. Riordan from Illinois.

Official mail, as well as ordinary mail from soldiers, went postage free. U.S. stamps were used on airmail, registered mail, and parcel post. Most, but not all, values from one cent to one dollar of the U.S. 1937 Presidential series were on sale for either U.S. or Norwegian money. There was a handy currency conversion table on the wall, arranged by the Army Finance Section. Of course, other stamps, including commemoratives if one had them, could be used on mail.

A canceling machine of the "Universal" type was in general use. There were also rubber handstamps with four-bar "killers," one in good condition and one rather worn. For registered mail, two other rubber handstamps were used. A two-ring date mark was used in magenta color on the reverse side, while the stamps were canceled in black with an oval two-ring mark without any inscription. Other than this one, all the other canceling devices included the designation, "APO 544."

Some of the mail within Norway or going abroad was forwarded by the Norwegian Post office. An "Oslo" transit mark was usually added to the front. Letters with foreign addresses were usually opened by the Norwegian censor and resealed with the special tape. The majority of the ordinary postage-free soldiers' or official mail going to the U.S. was handled exclusively by the U.S. Army Post Office.

There was only this APO in Norway at that time. As parcel wrappings were usually not saved by the recipient, it is difficult to find covers with used stamps. Six-cent stamps were required on airmail letters. As everyone knew that most mail was flown anyway, few bothered to pay the extra charge.

APO 544 was opened on June 8, 1945. On November 2, after almost five months of operation, the sale of stamps and money orders ceased. At the end of December, it closed down altogether. ■

(Editor's Note: This article was translated and adapted from Frimerker som Hobby, September 1980.)

Next in the series: British Post Offices in Oslo.

Gen. Summers had the chief duty of disarming German military units and keeping order among the troops.

The Americans located their headquarters at Torvgaten 17, where the building also contained a movie theater and a post office. Around the corner, at Storgaten 33, the defeated Germans were evicted and British and Norwegian forces moved in.

The two buildings had been constructed shortly before World War II as part of slum clearance in an old part of Oslo that had been filled with dilapidated houses and a former prison for women. The German Wehrmacht took over the modern buildings after the invasion of Norway on April 9, 1940. Five years later they were in Allied hands.

The U.S. Army Post Office No. 544 (APO 544) was located



Figure 2. Philatelic cover by the author canceled on December 15, 1945 at APO 544 and franked with the five-cent Norway stamp from the Overrun Countries issue (U.S. Scott 911).

Denmark's Queen Designs 100th Christmas Seals

By Paul Albright

Denmark's designing queen is back in the philatelic arena after an absence of almost 20 years. Queen Margrethe II designed Denmark's 2003 Danish Christmas Seals — the 100th set of Christmas charity seals issued by



The first Danish Christmas seal (December, 1904) showing Queen Louise (1817-1898). The first seal honored the deceased queen's work and commitment for social outcasts. Early issues of the Danish seals were dominated by portraits of the royal family. (Information and illustration courtesy of Ann Mette Heindorff.)

Denmark. This is the third set of Christmas Seals designed by the 63-year-old queen, who also designed a semi-postal stamp in 1985.

Denmark claims the first Christmas Seals for charitable purposes, beginning in 1904. The seals are sold for charitable purposes, particularly for needy children, by the Danish Christmas Seal Foundation (Julemærkefonden). Revenue from sales is about \$3 million annually, although the 2003 issue could be more popular since it is the 100th issue and was designed by Queen Margrethe.

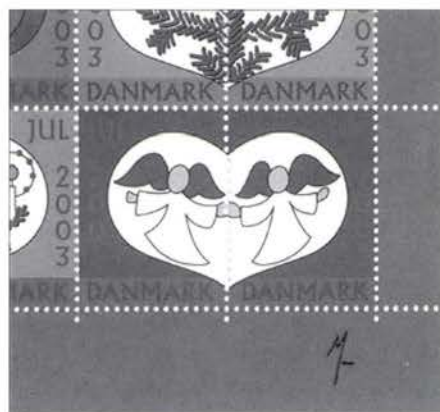
The queen also designed Denmark's Christmas seals in 1970 and Greenland's Christmas seals in 1983. The 1985 semi-postal stamp (*Facit* Denmark 863) helped raise funds to assist Danish veterans of World War II. Since infancy, Queen Margrethe has made frequent appearances on Danish

postage stamps. She appeared on Christmas seals in 1942 and again in 1972, the year she assumed the throne. In addition to stamps and seals, her designs include calendars, books, Christmas cards, ecclesiastical robes, carpets, altar cloths, and church decorations; costumes and scenery for theater, television films, and ballet; and exhibits of her own art work. She also has translated several books.

To learn more about Danish Christmas seals, check Julemærkefonden at www.julemaerket.dk, or Ann Mette Heindorff's Website, <http://danish-christmasseals.school.dk>. ■



Queen Margrethe appears November 3 at the unveiling of the 2003 Christmas Seals, which she designed. A large display of the sheet is in the background.



A portion of the 2003 sheet showing the Queen's "M" monogram in the corner. (Illustration courtesy of Ann Mette Heindorff.)

More Post Offices Closed in Faroes

Two more post offices have been closed in the Faroes. Closing on April 11 were post offices in Laynar and Kvívík. Postverk Føroya made some last day cancel covers, which are available for purchase. Contact Postverk Føroya's philatelic office at FO-159 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, or email filateli@postur.fo. ■

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Seeking British FPOs in Denmark

We are trying to identify the locations and movements of the British Field Post Offices in Denmark from May 1945 to 1947. By pooling the resources of members, we would like to draw up a list of the British Field Post offices used in Denmark during this period, with illustrations. Ideally we would like scans of the front and back – and contents, if possible – of any item that you might have for any field post that you believe to have originated in Denmark sent by allied forces during this period. Marks from Schleswig and Holstein, including Lübeck, would also be useful.

David Cornelius in *Britisk Feltpost i Norden 1940-47* (Posthistorisk Førlag, Hobro, 1981) lists the following: FPO 761 (Kolding), FPO 808 (København), and FPO 867 (No location). He also lists FPO 784 and 818 as possibly being in Denmark. Crouch and Hill, in *British Army Field Post Offices 1939-50* (New York, 1951) also list FPO 818 as being in København in 1947. However, without contents it is often impossible to prove the location of an item, and we understand that the British Army Post Office (APO) has unfortunately lost the relevant archives.

We are interested also in any Royal Air Force and army censor marks. Any numbers with a demonstrable provenance would be appreciated. Colley and Garrard's listing in *Censorship and the Royal Air Force 1918 to 1956* (Chavril Press, Perth, 1993) is incomplete.

Finally, there are at least two censor marks from SHAEF: CENSORED/ALLIED MILITARY MISSION/(DENMARK) from July 1945, and CENSORED/BRITISH MILITARY MISSION/(DENMARK) recorded in the first half of 1946 (Bo Bjerre Jakobsen and Eric Menne Larsen in *Danske Censurstempler 1914-18 og 1939-45* (Posthistorisk Førlag, Hobro, 1979).

If you can help, please fax or email copies or scans together with any information that you might have to +442083433090 or chris_king28@hotmail.com. We will, of course, share the findings with all contributors. ■

— Chris and Birthe King, London, England

Team Working on Icelandic Revenues Handbook

A team is now actively working on completing the manuscript and publication for a new handbook and catalog on Icelandic revenue stamps. The main author of this publication is Þór Þorsteins (Tor Torsteins) of Reykjavík, who was the author of a fine handbook published in 2000 on the same subject.

That work was supported by Iceland Post, which required it to have been in the Icelandic language. There were very few copies of that edition published. Because the demand for this information will be increased by the use of English, this new edition is anticipated to be in Icelandic and English.

There have been some new items found since this first edition, but this is a good time for any collector to contact the team with questions and contributions concerning Icelandic revenue material. It certainly is possible that previously undescribed material is in the hands of collectors.

Please contact me by email for further information: Paul A. Nelson, PO Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711; email pnels@att.net. ■

— Paul Nelson. Scandinavian Revenues Study Group

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Special Cancels, Stamps Mark Antarctic Rescue



Ceremonies in Argentina during November commemorated the 100th anniversary of the rescue of the first Swedish Antarctic expedition. The Swedish ship, "Antarctic," was crushed by pack ice in 1903 and the crew and expedition members spent the winter in stone huts. They were rescued by the Argentine corvette "Uruguay," which underwent a harrowing two-month voyage before reaching safety on December 2, 1903.

The Swedish post office decided to participate in Argentina's celebration of the rescue with a special "post office" in Buenos Aires from November 18-25. Commemorative stamps and cancels in various arrangements may still be

available by contacting Swedish postal historian Fred Goldberg at PO Box 1210, SE-181 24, Lidingö, Sweden; email, material.data@mailbox.swipnet.se. ■

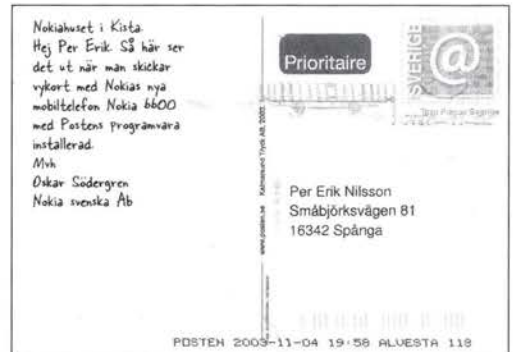
— Information from Walt Jellum

New Stationery Item – Post Cards via Cell Phones!

Sweden recently was tabbed as one of the most electronically savvy countries in the world. Here's some evidence — cards sent through cellular telephones and delivered to recipients by the postal service. Thus, a new category of postal stationery has been created.

Shown is a postal card received by Per Erik Nilsson of Spånga on November 4, one day after it was created. The message was transmitted from a "picture phone" to the Kalmar postal agency where it was printed and then sent to the Alvesta Post Center for mailing. The printed indicia shows the ubiquitous @ symbol that is used in email addresses. With this service, if a message is transmitted by noon it is supposed to be printed and delivered the next day. (The cartoon from Sweden Posten's Web site at www.posten.se shows how the system operates.)

Nilsson said the cost is about \$4 per card with the telephone company being paid for the call and



Posten receiving 25 SEK for the card. The service, which began in October, is available only with a Nokia 6600 model picture telephone with software installed by the Swedish postal service. Service on other brands of telephones is expected later.

The marketing seems aimed at vacationing Swedes who want to send a picture or message to those at home and not have the long delays usually associated with tourist mail (see illustration). ■

— Information from Per Erik Nilsson and Paul Nelson



World War I Mail to Ship in the Faroes

When it comes to postal history, the address on a cover may be more important than the postmark. Consider, for example, the Danish cover shown here, which has a Sorø cancel of August 30, 1918, and a Copenhagen receiving backstamp of the next day. It is addressed to Mr. First Lieutenant Aage Vedel, Second in Command on the "Beskyrtteren." The address concludes: "Farøene/Postkontorit i/Kjøbenhavn."

Was there a Faroe post office in Copenhagen back in 1918, as one could infer from the address, or something similar to the Royal Greenland Trade Department (KGH)? No. What we have here is a cover similar to the APO or FPO mail with which we are familiar. In other words, a letter sent to a seaman aboard a Danish ship was to be addressed with the ship name and sent to Copenhagen, where it would be routed to the Købmagergades Postkontor, in 1918 the country's largest post office. It served as a kind of forwarding agent, sending mail to the appropriate nearest port for delivery to the addressee's ship.

Why such a practice? Security. This was during World War I, and it was prudent to keep secret the actual locations of ships. The sender of this cover actually was imprudent by including "Farøerne" in the address.

The procedure continues to be used not only for mail to ships of the Danish navy but also for mail to the royal yacht "Dannebrog," training ships "Danmark" and "Georg Stage," and biological station vessels.

One wonders, of course, how many wartime covers exist like this one, with identifiable Faroe, or perhaps Greenland, connections. And what about from other periods? Still to be determined is when the practice began. ■

— Gerald H. Strauss, with Arthur Quarles and Steen Jack Petersen



A First-Ever Clearance Sale!

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The SCC Library is overstocked with back issues of *The Posthorn* and two other Scandinavian philatelic periodicals (both in English) from 1970 to 2000. This is a great opportunity to augment your reference collection while helping to support SCC's expanding Library.

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The SCC Library Committee

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President's Letter

John DuBois

Since the SCC is based in the United States, many of us tend to think of the club as an American organization. I was reminded strongly during the week of Nordia 03 in Reykjavík, Iceland that we have the honor of being accepted by our friends in the Nordic countries as a part of their family of stamp clubs. The Iceland chapter founded by Sigurður Þorsteinsson, in fact, is older than a number of U.S. chapters and is one of the leading stamp clubs in Iceland.

Altogether, seven U.S. members of the SCC (accompanied by four spouses) attended this year's Nordia and received an exceptionally warm welcome from Chapter 11 members and friends in Iceland. Thanks and compliments are due to chapter president John Zalewski and all of the others who went so far out of their way to make our visit comfortable and entertaining. The full report on Nordia 03, elsewhere in this issue, details how well we were treated and the rest of the show experience.

I would especially like to thank the Iceland chapter for the silver club pin presented to Roger Quinby and me. This is a high honor within the chapter, and it is deeply appreciated. Opportunities like this to establish and renew *personal* relationships in philately are one of the greatest benefits of the SCC.

Working With the British Society

Quite a few members of the British Scandinavian Philatelic Society (SPS) attended Nordia 03. I had a good opportunity to chat with SPS Secretary Roger Partridge, Chris and Birthe King, and others. The SPS is a very active society, well worth joining for SCC members. Their publication *Scandinavian Contact* is complementary to the *Posthorn*, with plenty of useful information in all the Nordic country areas. They are working to make foreign payment for dues easier. We will be publishing reciprocal club membership notices in the near future. I do recommend joining SPS.

Mark Your Calendars

It's not too early to begin planning for the 2004 national SCC meeting at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition. It will be held October 1-3, 2004 at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, PA. Note that the date and location are slightly different from some early announcements. The show hotel is adjacent to the Valley Forge Convention Center where the exhibition takes place.

Exhibition Chairman Jim Burgeson will be mailing out information to exhibitors. Frames will be in demand as two other major groups are convening in addition to SCC: the American Revenue Association and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. SCC plans to have a Nordic judge on the jury panel.

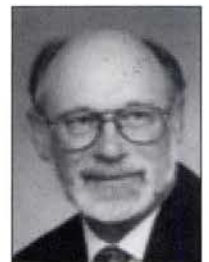
In addition to nearby historic Valley Forge National Park, there is a major shopping mall a short distance away. Attendees may want to bring family members to see historic and cultural sites in Philadelphia such as the American Swedish Historical Museum, or drive out to the Pennsylvania Dutch country. A Friday night SCC dinner is also planned. More detail will be published in forthcoming issues of *Posthorn*.

Before the national meeting, however, there will be an informal regional get-together February 20-22 at the St. Louis Stamp Expo. Some information on that meeting is in this issue. ■

News from the Home Office

Don Brent

The big item here is the dues renewal activity. By now, many of you have taken care of your renewal notices that were sent out recently. I want to thank all of those who sent



in your renewals. We really appreciate your support and participation. **You have mailed in your 2004 dues, haven't you?** If not, please take a moment to handle it right now. At \$15, membership in SCC remains one of the big bargains in philatelic societies. By getting your dues in promptly, you save SCC the expense of a follow-up reminder. In future years, I encourage you to consider paying for years in advance to save the hassle and expense of an annual notice. A plus is that you lock in at the \$15 rate. Those that have paid in advance or hold life memberships do not receive an annual notice.

We still have some of the SCC lapel pins available at \$6, including shipping. They are a great way to show your SCC affiliation at stamp events. Please contact me if you would like one of these Viking ship pins.

On a personal note, it has been more than a year since I wrote about some items I have been seeking, and I would like to once again ask for your help. First, I am still looking for examples of the usage of Denmark's first postage due stamp. (*Facit* # L1, *Scott* # J1, or *AFA* Portomærker #1) The covers will probably have the stamp used in multiple on underfranked or redirected items. Second, I am looking for a cover flown on the airship "Goliath" franked with a Danish wavy-line stamp(s) from the Sept. 11, 1919 flight from Copenhagen to Aarhus. Please let me know if you have any of these or know of them.

Back to business. Membership was quiet this last quarter with a net gain of five members. We gained six new members, plus one reinstatement, but unfortunately lost a couple this quarter. I would like to welcome all our new members and remind you that we are here to help you with any SCC-related matters. Be sure to get in touch if you have any questions or problems with your membership.

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

Membership Statistics for the Third Quarter, 2003

New Members

3981 Jensen, Arthur J., 10900 Ewing Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431
 3982 Nittelholtz, Jeff, DNP
 3983 Noer, Geoffrey, 1029 Vista Del Mar, San Jose, CA 95132

3984 Baunsøe, Peter, Kongevejen 122B, Dk+2830 Virum, Denmark
 3985 Tollefson, Donald G., 17978 Boris Dr., Encino, CA 91316
 3986 Johansson, Rolf L., Velanda Säteri, 46 198 Trollhättan, Sweden

Reinstated

3501 Oeltjenbruns, Harlan G.

Deceased

2328 Bacon, Paul L.

Resignation

3844 Daugherty, Paul

Donations

L89-2573 Sabin, John R.

Change of Address

2272 Bristow, Mercer A., 543 E Hillside Ave., State College, PA
 16803-1507

2390 Kauppi, Donald K., 58 Thackery Ct., Ventura, CA 93003-5524

2270 Montello, Lawrence J., 777 W. Chandler Blvd., Apt 1256, Chandler,
 AZ 85225

1835 Davis, Larry R., 5355 Wong Ct. Apt 132, San Jose, CA 95123-1565

3745 McDonald, F. Beattie, 1237 Northshore Blvd. East, #803,
 Burlington, ON, Canada L5S 2H8

3660 Blute III, James F., 3822 E. Calle Cayo, Tucson, AZ 85718-3330

1606 Winick, Lester, 2286 Windish Dr., Apt 3, Galesburg, IL
 61401-9792

753 Henry, John J., P.O. Box 84, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0084

3187 Hamberg, Erik, Wallerlusvägen 9, SE-752 36 Uppsala, Sweden

3627 Stoleson, Daniel W., 62694 E. Amberwood Dr., Tucson, AZ
 85739-1832

2479 Thurman, Carl L., Dept of Physiology & Biophysics, Univ. Neb.
 Med. School, Omaha, NE 68198-4575

Missing Member

(We have lost track of some members. If you have any information, please contact the Executive Secretary.)

2678 Mann, Charles A. 900 NW Mawcrest Dr., #208, Gresham, OR 97030 (last known address).

SCC Calendar

	National	Regional*	Nordic & International
2004	Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition October 1-3, King of Prussia, PA	St. Louis Stamp Expo February 20-22	
2005	Rocky Mountain Stamp Show May 20-22 Denver, CO	To be announced	 NORDIA 2005* May 26-29 Göteborg, Sweden
2006	Sandical San Diego, CA	Washington 2006 May 27-June 3 Washington, DC	NORDIA 2006* Turku, Finland
2007	NAPEX June 1-2 Tysons Corner, VA		

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

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



The Posthorn marks its 60th year of publication with this issue. Roberta Palen, SCC's historian, has written some highlights on Pages 35-37. Anniversaries are an opportune time to glance back along the trail of history to determine how far one has progressed.

We have made progress from a design, quantity, and coverage perspective. Beginning with eight pages in 1943, we now publish 40-48 pages per issue. The range of coverage across the Nordic region and among specialties is much broader. From my perspective, however, we are not doing as well as some of the journals in Scandinavia in publishing significant, long-lasting philatelic research.

This is understandable because those journals generally focus on a single country while SCC's scope includes five countries and their former or current dependencies. Much of the literature is in Scandinavian languages, hindering English-speaking researchers. In addition, most collectors in Scandinavia are not comfortable writing in English. Some of these publications are that country's "national" periodical for collectors whereas *Posthorn* is a journal of a specialist club (SCC).

Literature judges find much to like in *The Posthorn*, but it is not uncommon for them to remark on a deficit of significant and lasting philatelic research. These judges "are looking for how a publication truly advances the body of knowledge within various pieces of subject matter."¹

As Editor, I am interested in serving the needs and interests of the membership rather than angling for competitive medals. Nevertheless, I have seen enough critiques in the past four years to convince me that the judges (both U.S. and international) have a point. To fulfill its mission, *The Posthorn* should have more worth than an ordinary throwaway magazine.

A long-term objective (for this Editor, at least) is: **To establish *The Posthorn* as the principal forum for the publication of original research on Scandinavian philately.**

This will require considerable teamwork. You can help by preparing your own research for publication and/or suggesting authors and topics that might be pursued for our pages. Success in this endeavor will elevate the usefulness and the lasting value of SCC's principal communication tool.



Finland collectors appear to be facing an impossible task if they want to acquire all of the "customized" stamps being ordered by Finnish companies. These made-to-order stamps can be used as first class postage so they are not labels; they legitimately move the mail. (See the May and August 2003 issues of *The Posthorn* for further information.)

In reply to a *Posthorn* inquiry, a spokesperson for Posti said in October that more "300 different companies have ordered one or several different corporate stamps to themselves" as of October. That could increase with the holiday mail season. The actual number of stamps ordered was not available



Not all of the publicity for Finland's Posti has been positive. Some has been embarrassing. In September, Posti released a 0.65 • stamp showing publishing tycoon Amos Anderson and misspelled his name as Andersson (See *Posthorn*, August 2003, page 38). Then, it was learned that a first-class stamp showing the Russarö lighthouse was listed in the wrong location (see illustration). The map coordinates for each of five lighthouses were printed in the selvage of a souvenir sheet (not on the stamps). A misprint placed the Russarö lighthouse in eastern Poland near Lublin rather than in its proper location on the southern tip of Finland near Hangö.



Congratulations to two former presidents of SCC who have been appointed to important posts in the American Philatelic Society. Alan Warren was named to chair the APS Ethics Committee and Roger Schnell was selected as the APS delegate to the FIP Commission on traditional exhibiting.



It seems a stretch, but three stamps from the Faroes have been named the outstanding Canadiana issue for 2002. The DKK 6.50 stamps were issued by the Faroes on the theme of "Viking Voyages on the North Atlantic." A portion of a map from 1590 is shown on the selvedge of the souvenir sheet. Members of the Canadiana Study Unit qualified the sheet as related to Canada (apparently because of the map) and overwhelmingly voted it as their favorite. ■

¹ Randy L. Neil, *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook*, Traditions Press, Shawnee-Mission, KA, 1995 (page 144).

Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren



News from Britain

In the September issue of *Scandinavian Contact*, Peter Williams presents detailed plate flaws information on the 1886 numeral issues of the Trondheim local post of Norway, printed by Brækstad & Co. Susan Oliver writes the second part of her series on postal connections in the Faroes during WWII and Rob Willett offers part six of his series on Danish railways. Brian McCloy offers the second part of his series on the Finnish railway postal service.

News from the Faroes

Issue No. 3/2003 of *News from the Faroes*, published by Postverk Føroya, describes the postal history of the town of Gásadalur, the last village in the Faroes with foot post. Another article gives readers a glimpse of the traveling exhibition "Hunters of the North." The exhibit tells some of the social, historical, and technological aspects of hunting and fishing in Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroes. The exhibit opened in Tórshavn in 2002, and in 2003 it was seen at Reykjavík and Akureyri in Iceland, Nuuk in Greenland, St. John's in Newfoundland, and Copenhagen, Denmark. The journal also reported that the post offices in Leynar and Kvívík were closed in April.

In the Faroe Islands Study Circle *Newsletter* for August, Norman Hudson writes about the village of Bøur, recently depicted on a Faroes stamp issued in June. Bøur also was featured in the No. 4/2003 of *News of the Faroes*. The Faroes study circle publishes two issues of its newsletter each year as well as two issues of its postal history journal "238." Information about the study circle can be obtained from Secretary Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 8BY, United Kingdom.

News from Denmark

In the August issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Lars Peter Nellmann describes a new discovery of the 35 on 16-øre provisional (AFA 60y) with inverted frame and having certain plate flaws. In this issue also is a listing of the members of the Danish Stamp Dealers Association with their contact information.

Henning Nielsen continues his series on Danish newspaper wrappers 1872-1906 in the September issue of *KPK's Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, with a focus on plate flaws. Erling Berger studies the postal rates for overweight letters entering the French postal system between 1704 and 1840. In the same issue, William



Benfield discusses the stamp design competition of 1902 and illustrates some essays. Related to Denmark, Christer Brunström reviewed the philatelic history of Schleswig in the October issue of *Global Stamp News*.

News from Sweden

Fredrik Ydell reviews the early days of railway mail, introduced in Sweden in 1856, in the August issue of the Swedish journal *filatelisten*. Gunnar Dahlvig reviews the recent exhibition *Mare Balticum*, which moves its location among Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Germany. This year it was held in Kiel where Göran Heijtz won the master class with his entry "Germany: Destination Sweden."

In the September issue of the same journal, postal historian Lennart Ivarsson reviews how letters were addressed, along with the placement of postal markings, before and after postage stamps were introduced in Sweden. Stig Göransson writes about the Viking exploration of Greenland.

Atalaya is an occasional journal for Cinderella philatelists. It is printed in Sweden in English, and is edited by Christer Brunström. The 2003-2004 winter issue mentions a handbook of the recent Sweden locals that have appeared since 1994, when new legislation enabled private postal services again. The handbook illustrates the stamps and postal markings and is co-authored by Sixten Åkesson and Carl-Olov Carenberg. For details on cost of the handbook, write to Åkesson at Norrbäcksgatan 31 VI, 21624 Malmö, Sweden. Information on the journal *Atalaya* is available from Editor Brunström, Kungsgatan 23, 30245 Halmstad, Sweden or by email, Brunstrom@utb.halmstad.se.

Another Cinderella-type journal from Sweden is *Bältespännaren*, published by the Samlarföreningen Baltespännarna. This is a more scholarly journal and it also addresses locals as well as Cinderella items from other countries, not just Sweden. The July issue carries articles on the new issues of Lundy, Swedish passports that sometimes contain postmarked stamps, and picture post cards issued for Children's Day. Collectors in the United States can get more details from Paul Nelson, Box 310, Claremont CA 91711, or email pnels@att.net. Collectors elsewhere can contact the society's secretary Leif Bergman, Kvällsvägen 14 5 tr, 14631 Tullinge, Sweden or email leif-bergman@mail.bip.net. ■

Scandinavian Awards

Ross Olson of Minnesota had a good run this summer. He received a gold at the APS Stampshow in Columbus, OH in August for his "Definitive Postage Stamps of Sweden 1920-1938." His Sweden exhibit won another gold and the Grand Award and the American Philatelic Society 1900-1940 medal of excellence at the Omaha, NE Stamp Show, also in August. Jerome Kasper won a silver for "The Aerogrammes of Iceland" at APS Stampshow.

At the Greater Houston Stamp Show in September, Alan Warren won a vermeil for "Denmark: The Frederik IX 1948-1960 Issues on First Day Covers." Charles Shoemaker received a vermeil at the MILCOPEX show in Milwaukee in September for his "Greenland: The American Issue." Alan Warren also won a vermeil at the Peach State Stamp Show in Marietta, GA in September for his "Denmark: The Christian X 1942-1946 Issues on First Day Covers."

The Posthorn received vermeil at APS Stampshow in August, at SESCAL in Los Angeles in October, and at Chicagopex in November. It received a large silver at the FIP Bangkok 2003 exhibition in September.

Awards at NORDIA 03 are covered in a report on that exhibit on Page 33. ■

— Alan Warren

Transfers and Re-Entries

By Alan Warren

The Norwegian Federation has published its 2002 annual yearbook, which brings together significant

articles published that year in the various society and privately printed journals, touching on all aspects of the philately of the country. The new issues of Norway for 2002 are shown along with their printing details, as well as pictorial cancels and the towns where they were used during the year. The 2002 *Filatelistisk Årbok* can be purchased from *Posthorn* advertiser Jay Smith & Associates.

And speaking of the Norwegian Federation, the organization awarded its Silver Lion to Arne Thune-Larsen for his many years of service to the federation including judge or commissioner to many exhibitions, as officer in NFF, on the organizing committees for NORWEX 1980 and 1997, philatelic expert, and as representative to the FIP traditional philately commission among others.

Mike Tuttle is the new president of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society (GB), elected to a two-year term. Also in Great Britain, the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London scheduled for May 13, 2004 features Goran Nykvist who will talk about the early postal stationery of Finland 1845-1862. The talk will be at the society's home at 41 Devonshire Place in London.

According to a notice in the September issue of Denmark's *DFT*, Andreas Abitz will step down after 25 years as editor of the country's popular journal *Frimærkesamleren* in January 2004. The search is on for a new editor.

Tom Peltonen of Finland served on the jury at the Bangkok FIP show held in October. Commissioners for the show included Frode Vesterby Knudsen of Denmark, Risto-Matti Kauhanen of Finland, Ingolf Kapelrud of Norway, and Borje Wallberg of Sweden. ■

Chapter Reports

Compiled by Arnold Sorensen, Vice President for Chapters

Chapter 21, Golden Gate, has done something interesting: They have become an APS Affiliate. As Herb Volin explained: "Becoming an affiliate is easy. It requires at least 12 APS members in the group, and there is no cost. Upon affiliation, the club gets newsletters from the APS, a free subscription to the APS's *"American Philatelist,"* and monthly circuit books that are run very similar to our own mart books."

On a recent visit to the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark, I viewed the remnants of a Viking ship 30 meters long that could carry about 80 men. The keel is cut from a single tree trunk, and tree ring dating shows the tree was felled in the year 1042 in Ireland! During a guided tour of the museum I asked about the standard image of a Viking wearing a helmet with horns. While the answer I received seemed reasonable, I intend to research the matter, perhaps for a future article in *The Posthorn*. Please share your stories and explanations on this Viking horns-on-helmet imagery with me at valbydwi@hotmail.com.

NEW JERSEY Chapter 9

The September meeting was an occasion for the members to discuss the additions made during the summer and the challenges involved with exhibiting philatelic material. Warren Grosjean concluded with "The report of the departure of Kauko Aro was premature. He expects to continue with us for some additional months or more."

DELAWARE Chapter 13

Mark Manno has stepped down and Tom Bergendahl is the new president of Chapter 13. The September program at the home of Roe Blume was a slide show on minor Iceland varieties presented by Al Gruber.

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

The chapter had a lot of activity with the Minnesota Stamp Expo where they hosted the annual SCC convention. They were rewarded with 85 exhibit frames with Scandinavian material and had the pleasure of



seeing numerous SCC members receiving awards. Throw in the 39 dealers and the addition of three new members, and it was a great event.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

The July meeting was a philatelic travelogue through Denmark. Three members had lived there and that added more meaning to the discussions. At the August meeting, Herb Volin talked about the recent Minneapolis stamp show and the challenges facing the expanded SCC library. As an APS affiliate, the Chapter received 16 APS circuit books with Danish, DWI, Iceland, Faroes, Greenland, and mixed Scandinavian stamps. Combined with additional APS books loaned by a couple of local clubs, and the SCC books, there were about 50 books available.

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Robert Zacharias reported that the September meeting was informal, but there are planned programs each month through December.

COLORADO Chapter 27

The September meeting featured an overview of the extensive SCC library acquisitions donated by the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California. Also shown were the six volumes so far published of *Fakes, Forgeries, and Experts Journal*. Each attendee also received a free copy of the Peter Poulsen/Paul Nelson 94-page *Catalogue of Scandinavian Revenue Stamps*. The October meeting included sorting some of the new library material while the November meeting was show-and-tell. Secretary Roger Cichorz prepares a detailed notice for each meeting that reviews the previous meeting activities. He frequently attaches articles of interest.

CYBER Chapter 28

Ed Bode has been emailing regular e-letters, the latest being #51. Any SCC member can join the list by request. Contact him at edbode@juno.com to be added to the current roster of 42 online members. Some recent discussions have dealt with early cancel dates, and Paul Nelson described the ongoing team effort to produce a bilingual Icelandic-English handbook about Icelandic revenue stamps. Contact him at pnels@att.net if you have material that may be of interest for this project. ■

Olympic Stamp Depends on Åland Athletes

Åland's postal agency will give special attention when Finland's team is selected for the 2004 summer Olympic Games. Åland Post announced that it will issue an Olympic Games stamp in August "provided that someone from Åland qualifies for the competitions." The final decision probably will not be taken until April when the Finnish Olympic team will be selected.

"We have not had a previous Olympic stamp in Åland even though we have had some participants in the Olympic Games in the past," said Tom Jansson of Åland Post. Those participants were in 1924 and 1928, however.

In another twist for its 2004 stamp program, Mauno Koivisto, a former president of Åland (1982-1994), selected a photo that will be used for an April 23 issue in the "My Åland" series, now entering its third year.

— Paul Albright

SCC Shows Well, Warmly Welcomed at Nordia 03

By John L. DuBois



The SCC was a strong presence at Nordia 03 held October 16-19 at the Kjarvalsstaðir (art museum) in Reykjavík, Iceland. Seven SCC members from the U.S. attended, along with four spouses. Our exhibits coordinator, Jim Burgeson, did an excellent job encouraging exhibits, as there were 13 from the U.S., totaling 84 frames, as well as three from SCC members outside the United States. In the literature class, there were three SCC member entries, including *The Posthorn*.

SCC awards were outstanding too; members brought home:

Grand Prix National — Gordon Morison for *Icelandic postal cards*;

Five gold — Bill Benfield for *Denmark essays and proofs – the first 100 years*, Don Halpern for *Mail sent to/from Denmark or passing through the Danish Post from Scandinavia and Europe 1600-1865*, John DuBois for *Danish West Indies postal stationery*, Paul Jensen for *Norwegian Postal Stationery—The Posthorn design*, and Gordon Morison for *Icelandic postal cards*;

Four large vermeil — Ross Olson for *The definitive postage stamps of Sweden 1920-1938*, Steve Kaplan for *Usage of the ring stationery of Finland 1891-1911*, Kauko Aro for *Postal cards of Finland 1871-1886*, and Chris King for *Denmark, Slesvig and Holstein: invasion, occupation and postal change*;

Three vermeil — Don Brent for *Denmark's wavy-line design, relief printed issues*, Jim Burgeson for *Sweden ring type 1872-1891*, and Jeffrey Crown for *Faroe Islands Post 1929-1952*;

One large silver — Þór Þorsteins for *Icelandic cancels, bridge, roller and machine cancels 1894-2003* in the literature class; and

Three silvers — Alan Warren for *Censored FDCs of Nordic countries*, and in the literature class, Þór Þorsteins for *The Icelandic Stamp Magazine*, and Paul Albright for *The Posthorn*.

Grand Prix awards — Gordon Morison (Grand Prix National for *Icelandic postal cards*), Kersti and Bertil Larsson (Grand Prix Nordique for *Swedish postal history up to 1877*), Per-Ansers Erixon (Grand Prix International for *Zemstvo Post 1865-1917*), and Jussi Tuori (Grand Prix NORDIA 03 for *Classic Denmark 1851-1853*).

For those attending from the SCC, the highlight of Nordia 03 was the hospitality offered by Iceland Chapter 11. Led by President John Zalewski, past President Sigurður Pétursson, and founder Sigurður Þorsteinsson, the Reykjavík chapter members organized an outstanding program of welcome and activities for their guests.

A bus took visitors on an enjoyable tour of the Iceland countryside and several tourist attractions. After a trip through the remarkable volcanic Iceland landscape, lunch was served at a charming country hotel. This was followed by a visit to the



A stylized Viking ship sculpture at Reykjavík harbor.



fascinating folk museum and beautiful Skógafoss waterfall at

Toke Nørby, jury secretary at Nordia 03, left, chats with Gordon Morison, who was awarded the Grand Prix National.

Skógar on the southern coast. From many places in this area, you could see the ancient Eyjafjallajökull ice cap with the glaciers flowing off towards the ocean. Following a drive where we could see the many geothermal vents looking like fires, we stopped at the church on the outskirts of Reykjavík

where Chapter 11 meets and local members were gathered. Here, we enjoyed a supper of Icelandic specialties and cake decorated in our honor.

Following brief welcoming remarks by Sigurður Þorsteinsson and Sigurður Pétursson, John DuBois gave a short report on the activity of the SCC in the United States. Finally, silver SCC pins were presented to past president Roger Quinby and president John DuBois, a high honor within Chapter 11.

During the week, several other Nordia social activities were hosted by local organizations. These included a reception by British Ambassador John Culver and his wife, Margaret, at their embassy residence and, on the following night, a reception by Post Iceland at the Hotel Borg. Awards were presented during the palmares dinner at the Kiwanis House.

It was announced that the 2003 Jacobsen Award for outstanding publication in the past three years went to Lasse Nielsen for his five-volume publication on the bi-colored stamps of Denmark.

There will be no Nordia exhibition held in 2004. The next Nordia will be in Göteborg, Sweden in 2005 while Nordia 06 will be in Turku, Finland. ■

Library News

While the Library Committee has been dealing with the huge contribution of material from the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California, we must not overlook a number of smaller but still important donations received at the SCC Library.

In recent months, these SCC members (listed alphabetically) have donated either material or money to help support and improve the library and its member services: David Anderson, Peter Bergh, James Burgeson, Ron Collin, Alfred Gruber (and Chapter 13), Ivar Gustafson, Paul Nelson, Eric Roberts, Michael T. Smith, Arnold Sorensen, John R. Thomlinson, Alan Warren, and Þór Þorsteins.

Through these and other much-appreciated donations, SCC has not had to expend a great deal of money to purchase materials for the Library, although the Board of Directors has approved a modest acquisitions budget drawn from interest on the Richter Library Fund.

The Board (in July) told the Library Committee to decide the method to dispose of duplicate material from the Southern California library with a recommendation that SCC members have first opportunity to acquire any excess. The Committee, assisted by members of Chapter 27 (Colorado), has started going through the 100+ boxes to identify duplicates and discussing how best to make it available to the membership. In the meantime, a user friendly, searchable electronic database will be tested. If successful, it should avert having to re-catalog the collection. Operationally, shipments of loaned material to SCC members are averaging about one per week.

In addition to donating its holdings to the SCC, the Southern California library contributed \$1,500 to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (RMPL) where the SCC Library is housed. RMPL is expanding its own shelf and storage space. Some of SCC's periodicals and auction catalogs are on RMPL's shelves because of crowding in the SCC room. See www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com for more information on RMPL. ■

— SCC Library Committee

SCC Seeks a Volunteer as Publicity Manager

Job Description:

The principal responsibility of the SCC Publicity Manager is to create or edit, and distribute publicity documents to the philatelic community. This will usually consist of taking information on a future philatelic event of interest to the SCC, writing a press release or similar document, and mailing-emailing it to a standard list of recipients. (The source material will sometimes be press releases requiring only editing for SCC



purposes.) Occasionally, it will be necessary to contact or respond to interested people and organizations by telephone. Direct telephone and postage expenses will be reimbursed.

Routine tasks of the job will include:

- Writing or editing press releases about philatelic events.
- Mailing and emailing documents to a mailing list.
- Responding to inquiries about philatelic events by mail, email, and telephone
- Maintaining a publicity mailing list.

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

New Dates for SCC Regional Meeting in St. Louis

The SCC will hold a regional meeting at the St. Louis Stamp Expo, February 20-22, 2004. That is a date change as the Expo shifted its show from March to February. There will be no official SCC meetings, but we will have a room available on February 21 for a social get together and new member enrollment.

The St. Louis Stamp Expo, an APS World Series qualifying show, will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO, 63134. Show hours are: Friday (Feb. 20) and Saturday (Feb. 21) 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday (Feb. 22) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Rooms are available at the Renaissance Hotel for a special show rate of \$79. The prospectus is available on the show's Web site, <http://www.stlstampexpo.org/>. ■

The Posthorn is 60 Years Old!

By Roberta R. Palen, SCC Historian

A large number of articles, many based on original research, have been published in *The Posthorn* during the first 60 years of its existence. Members have willingly shared their expertise by writing articles and notes for other members; editors have selflessly worked to produce a high-quality magazine.

In hindsight, November 1943, with all of the constraints resulting from a world at war, was perhaps not the most auspicious time to begin a new magazine. Nevertheless, the members of the newly-created Scandinavian Collectors Club did just that. The quarterly publication first appeared under the editorship of the late, renowned Carl E. Pelander. The logo of the posthorn—still used today—was drawn by Carl Emil Buyer.

The content of the early issues is much as we read today—ranging from research articles, which have been illustrated from the first issue, to national and local chapter club news. There have been occasional supplements and special issues. Early issues were typeset in a 6" x 9" format. Today's issues appear on coated paper using computer technology and in a 7" x 10" format. Thankfully (for older eyes) the type is larger today than it was 60 years ago.

Indexes to *The Posthorn* have added to the usefulness of the journal. The first index appeared in 1951 and printed indexes were prepared regularly after that. Today's computer technology allows for quick updating and a cumulative index appears on the SCC website, www.scc-online.org. Over the years *The Posthorn* has won numerous awards for excellence.



Today's *Posthorn* continues to serve the membership of the SCC and—we hope—others interested in the philately of the Nordic countries. For 60 years the publication has provided information on philatelic matters and a means of communication among the far-flung membership. It provides links between the officers of the organization and the general membership. It is one of the best benefits available to SCC members.

Some Highlights

- The July 1945 issue was denoted the Victory Issue. Celebrating the end of World War II, the SCC extended a welcome to fellow collectors abroad and called for "PEACE and VICTORY for the cause of Democracy."
- A special issue in honor of the International Exhibition in New York was printed in May 1947. The articles concerned most of the Scandinavian countries.
- 1950 marked the beginning of reprinting articles from other sources—noticeably from the *Philatelic Journal* of Great Britain. This was done not only to bring important articles to the attention of SCC members but also perhaps because of a lack of articles submitted by members.
- Book reviews were included as early as 1949 on a sporadic basis. Alan Warren began his column "Scandinavian Literature Notes" in May 1979; it continues today.
- As the SCC re-organized at the end of 1959 into a national society, *The Posthorn* carried the notice "Sponsored by the Scandinavian Collectors Club." Because of inactivity during 1959, a bonus issue on postmarks in Greenland was sent to readers.
- The first paid advertisements appeared in April 1964.
- The April 1966 issue reported on the death of Carl E. Pelander (1893-1966) at age 72, noting that, as editor "in the early days he sometimes had to write the entire thing himself."
- By 1967 a column written by the President of the SCC began appearing with some regularity.
- Six issues were published in 1968 for the first, and only, time.
- A project was initiated in 1971 to reprint the first 12 volumes of the PH. One hundred twenty sets were sold, as reported in the August 1973 issue. Available for \$20 a set, the profit to the SCC was estimated to be \$240.
- A slogan, "The Bank of Scandinavian Philatelic Knowledge," appeared on the cover in 1973. The slogan was changed with the February 1989 issue to a straightforward "Journal of the Scandinavian Collectors Club."
- Delaware Chapter 13 auction catalogs were published from 1973-1992 when the catalog became too large for inclusion.
- In a 1983 member survey, 78 percent of those responding (nearly 11 percent of the membership) rated *The Posthorn* better than most other specialized publications.

Editors of *The Posthorn*

Following the editorship of Carl E. Pelander, editors were elected by the membership. The Bylaws were changed in 1976 to provide that the Editor of *Posthorn* is appointed by SCC's President. Sandra Downs has been the only woman Editor. Although not named here, various assistant, national, and regional Editors and members of the Editorial Board have made contributions of great value over the years.

November 1943-January 1949,
Carl E. Pelander,

April 1949-October 1955, Carl Pihl,
January 1956-April 1957, Eric B. T. Kindquist,

July/October 1957-January 1959,
Frederick A. Brofos,

January 1960-October 1966, Ralph E. Danielson,

January 1967-June 1970, Reidar Norby,

March 1971-November 1976,
Robert A. Helm,

January 1977-May 1982, Joe F. Frye,

August 1982-August 1985, Robert C. "Bob" Gross,

February 1986-November 1986,
Joe F. Frye,

February 1987-May 1989, Gene Lesney,

August 1989-November 1989, John Lindholm,

February 1990-May 1992, Gene Lesney,

August 1992-May 1997, John Lindholm,

August 1997-November 1997, Joe Frye/Sandra Downs,

February 1998-May 1999, Sandra Downs,

August 1999-Current, Paul Albright.

(List compiled by Roberta R. Palen)



- A new format was introduced in February 1985 including a two-color cover design.
- Color in articles first appeared in November 1988 in an article by Roger G. Schnell entitled "The First Stamp of Norway."
- A 40-year index was printed in 1983. Indices are now printed annually with a cumulative index on the Website.
- In 1998 some members requested that the journal be issued six times a year. President Roger P. Quinby opined that, in order for this to happen, more members would need to write articles.
- The higher-gloss paper that we now see was introduced in February 2000 to enhance the reproduction of illustrations. The present 7" x 10" format was introduced in February 2002 for more flexibility in publishing. Four-color covers made their first appearance in February 2003. ■

An Icelandic Cover Corner

Icelandic Postage Due Items

By W. Joseph Schlitt

Earlier this year (February 5), Mathew Bennett, Inc. auctioned off the James P. Gough Collection of Postage Dues of the World. According to the catalogue notes, this was a collection that was assembled over 32 years and included material from every corner of the globe. During the years that the collection was exhibited, it garnered five international large golds, four international golds, and was twice awarded Felicitations of the Jury in FIP competition — a singular honor. In 1992, Mr. Gough's collection won the APS Champion of Champions award, followed by the Grand Prix d'Honneur at PhilexFrance in 1999.

For the auction, the collection was broken down into 240 lots containing either single items or closely related material. In all, more than 125 countries and colonies were represented. In spite of this tremendous breadth, the collection contained surprisingly little Scandinavian material. There was a low-priced, single-item Danish lot and another low-priced multi-item lot containing a group of seven covers, postcards, and parcel receipts from Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Two Icelandic single-item lots of greater value and more interest were in the sale. One looks quite mundane and could easily be passed over if seen in a dealer's bargain box. This is a postcard (Figure 1) sent from Kolding, Denmark to Reykjavík. The message is dated "31 Oktober '12" and the card is franked with a 5-øre dark green wavy-line stamp (*Facit* Denmark 80). The stamp is canceled with a Kolding double-ring bridge postmark dated "-1.11.12" and there is a similar Kjøbenhavn transit cancel dated "2-11.12". The card was short-paid for delivery to Iceland and there is a circular "T" handstamp in purple and the value "10" in red crayon. Upon arrival in Reykjavík, a 10-aur Frederik VIII definitive (*Facit* Iceland 115) was applied and canceled 13 XI.12.

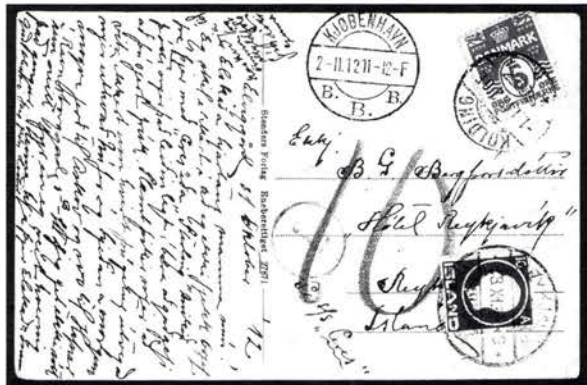


Figure 1. Early use of an Icelandic definitive to pay postage due.

This is reported to be the earliest known use of a regular stamp to pay postage due in Iceland,



other than the few examples now displayed in the Iceland Postal Museum. It is also believed to be the only known use of this issue as a postage due that is still in private hands.

The other Icelandic item (Figure 2) from the auction is an attractive, petite cover mailed to England. It is franked with 15- and 20-aur airmail values from the Parliament issue (*Facit* Iceland 189 and 190), along with a 6-aur Christian X definitive (*Facit* Iceland 149). All stamps were cancelled in Reykjavík on 6 VIII 30. Therein lies the rub. Unbeknownst to the sender, the Millennium series had been demonetized five days earlier, on August 1. An alert postal clerk caught this. In line with UPU regulations, the Millennium stamps were marked with red circles to indicate that they were invalid for postage. Accordingly, the letter was considered short-paid and was assessed 4 pence postage due upon arrival in England. This was cleared at the intended destination using a strip of four, 1-pence postage due stamps applied to the back of the envelope and cancelled with double ring Mevagsissey R.S.O. / Cornwall postmarks dated 11 AU 30.

For those interested, the auction realizations for the postcard and cover were \$1,050 and \$325, respectively, exclusive of the 10 percent buyer's commission and shipping charges. Both prices were just above the pre-auction estimates. The author would be most interested in information others may have on early use of Icelandic definitives as post dues. ■



Figure 2. Short-paid Icelandic cover caused by use of demonetized stamps.

Questions about World War II Covers from Iceland

By Les Winick

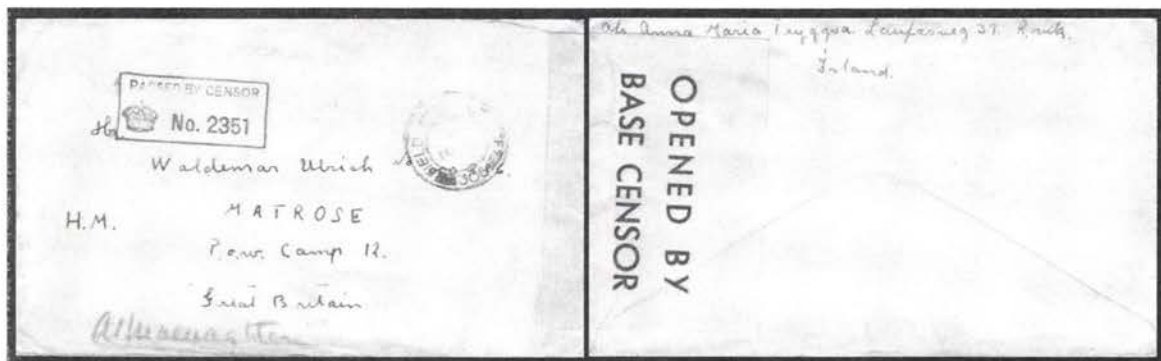
The cover on page 39 was addressed to a German sailor in a prisoner of war camp, "Matrose," in Great Britain. A British boxed purple censor marking No. 2351 was applied along with a black circular Field Post Office 306 mark (year unreadable). There is an "Opened by Base Censor" label across the side. The written name and address of the sender is Anna Maria Tryggradalli in Reykjavík, Iceland. The base censor label partially covers her name.

I have another cover from the same sender addressed to the same POW at Edinburgh, Scotland with a British boxed purple censor marking No. 2351 and black circular Field Post Office 2, dated November 20, 1940.

We know that German nationals in Iceland were arrested and interned at the outbreak of the war. The writer could be Icelandic or German, based on the first and middle names. We can imagine a love affair between an Icelandic girl and a German sailor.

Questions: How did a civilian use the military mail to send a letter to a POW in another country? Why did they move internees from Scotland to Great Britain, or was it vice-versa? Is this type of letter common?

Shown also is another cover addressed to a stamp collector in the United States from a civilian in Iceland. The return address, from Reykjavík, is in the upper left hand corner, which is a distinguishing mark of U.S. writers.



“Opened by Examiner 6582 P.C. 90” label, with initials of the examiner, covers part of the sender’s name. A peek under the label indicates no military acknowledgment with the sender’s name and address.

Two rubber stamps in the upper right hand corner need an explanation. One is in blue and reads “ON ACTIVE SERVICE” and the second handstamp reads in black, “RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS.”

While there is no date shown on the cover, consultation with two other Iceland collectors, one of whom specializes in military mail, pegs the cover to the period of World War II. The addressee in New York State was active in the American Philatelic Society at the time. ■



Delivery Markings on Iceland Postal Cards

By Gordon Morison

Collecting Iceland postal cards provides many opportunities to find interesting postal markings that may have been used for only a few years. The cards of Iceland are replete with COD and registration indications, transit markings, and arrival postmarks from many countries. Many cards themselves also have historical significance.

Among the more interesting postal markings are two used in the years 1901 to 1905, *Árdegis* and *Síðdegis*, each with a posthorn beneath. The markings are about seven-eighths of an inch tall. *Árdegis* stands for early morning; *Síðdegis* late afternoon.

During his research in postal archives, Þór Þorsteins of Iceland found a serious complaint from a person well known to the Post, noting late distribution of mail. To prevent this, the Post purchased these two marking devices from a local business, according to an invoice dated April 22, 1901. They were then used for the next four years.

Local mail marked *Árdegis* was expected to be delivered within Reykjavík that morning. Likewise, mail marked *Síðdegis* was to be delivered in the afternoon.

The *Árdegis* card shown here was postmarked November 24, 1902 and addressed solely by name with no address to Hr. landritari Jón



Síðdegis *Árdegis*



Magnússon, a secretary of the country who was one of the leading Icelandic persons in the Danish political administration that remained in Iceland until 1903. In that year, Iceland received a new Constitution with three persons becoming ministers. Jón Magnússon, the addressee, was one of them.

The Síðdegis card was canceled on December 20, 1902. It was addressed to stud. art. Bogi Brynjólfsson. The title, in Latin *studiosus artum liberarum*, is for a student in the Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík, a high school at the time. Later Bogi Brynjólfsson became a known county magistrate and a lawyer, Þór Þorsteins advises.

Both cards are *Facit* Iceland #17, issued in 1902 when the King Christian IX portrait was introduced. ■

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

November was an exciting month for Scandinavian philately with two outstanding and highly awarded collections going up for sale. F. C. Moldenhauer of Bergen, Norway is selling Bernt Fossum's collection of Norway's two first issues, the 4 sk. 1855 coat-of-arms and the King Oscar I 1856-57. This collection is the largest ever formed by a Norwegian.

In Copenhagen, Thomas Høiland held the first of three or four sales of the collection of Denmark Classic Issues 1851-1863 gathered by Peer Lorentzen, who died in March. This collection has been highly praised for its quality and many rare items.

F. C. Moldenhauer, November 15

Not all of Fossum's material is in the auction catalog as Fossum has decided to continue collecting Norwegian ship mail. The 4 sk. 1855 coat-of-arms section will offer a jewel of Norwegian philately, the only unused block of four (Lot 1525) at a starting price of \$220,000. A fine cover to Leipzig with a strip of six on cover from Bergen starts at \$12,000 (#1565). A quite impressive cover is one of only two known mixed-franking 4 sk. 1855 with Oscar issues (#1566), starting at \$45,000. The largest multiple recorded of the 2 sk. Oscar mint, a block of 25 (#1784), will start at \$15,000.



An eye-catcher to the Netherlands

with Moss c.d.s.; it will begin at \$22,000. A unique cover with the 4 sk. Oscar vertical bisected stamp starts at \$17,000 (#1795). A true beauty is the cover franked with 2, 4, and 8 sk. Oscar with a total of 78 sk. to Honfleur in France and superbly tied by Sarpsborg c.d.s., starting at \$10,000 (#1818).

Thomas Høiland, November 17

The Old Stock Exchange is the appropriate venue to auction this fantastic Denmark collection by Peer Lorentzen. Some 221 items are on sale. Among the big pieces is a complete plating of the 2 Rigsbankskilling Thiele with all the 200 positions. The plating (#TH134), which took 20 years to complete, will start at \$68,000. A fantastic item is the 4 Rigsbankskilling Ferslew block of six in mint condition (#TH037), starting at \$34,000.



A gem of Norwegian philately

An eye-catcher is the letter to the Netherlands (#1789) franked with 10 copies of the 3 sk. Oscar beautifully cancelled





Ferslew block of six mint stamps

Mecklenburg. A mixed-franked cover with a Mecklenburg stamp starts at \$8,000 (#TH166). The only known cover to New Zealand franked with a total of 60 sk. will start at \$5,500 (#TH191).

Among the appealing covers are four of the so-called "Heyn" covers. One is the 2 RBS Thiele mixed-franked with a strip of five of the 4 RBS with a starting price of \$68,000 (#TH143). There also is a mint block of eight (the largest known) of the 16 sk. gray 1857 issue starting at \$7,000 (#TH180). Danish stamps are also found on split-rate franking with covers from countries such as Prussia, Hanover, and



Starting bid: \$68,000

Jan Holding Auktioner

Jan Holding introduced an outstanding new website. One can search for text and lot numbers and browse through the excellent images. With this website, Holding more than doubled the bids received recently, adding hundreds of new buyers.

Postiljonen

A featured item at Postiljonen's September auction was the earliest recorded franked letter from the Faroes. It also is the earliest cover with a Danish stamp that passed through foreign postal areas. The letter, dated "Thorshavn d.5.Jan.1852," was sent by the governor of the Faroes to his brother, a minister. The letter moved via Lerwick (Scotland), London, and Hamburg to Ærøskjøbing in Denmark. Postiljonen reported the item sold directly after the auction for approximately \$31,000, including commissions. ■



Earliest franked letter from the Faroes

Poland Reproduces Swedish Stamps

Two Swedish stamps featuring Nobel Prize literature laureates have been reproduced on stamps issued by Poland. On December 12, Poland released four stamps as part of its series honoring persons, architecture, and religious buildings connected with Polish culture.

The 1.20 PLN value shows Sweden's 2000 stamp with a portrait of 1996 Nobel winner Wislawa Szymborska (*Scott Sweden 2399a*). The 2.10 PLN value shows Sweden's 1986 stamp of Czeslaw Milosz, the 1980 literature laureate, receiving his Nobel Prize from Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf (*Scott Sweden 1598*). Both Swedish stamps were engraved by Czeslav Slania, who is a native of Poland.

More information on the Polish stamps is available at www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczk/en/index.php.



— Paul Albright

Book Reviews

LAPE 2004 Catalog Bulks to 760 Pages

The 2004 Finnish LAPE catalog is now available with a number of revisions and the inclusion of several new sections. At 760 pages, it is described by the publisher as the largest stamp catalog ever published in Finland. The descriptive text on each stamp is in Finnish and Swedish, but there are some sections that are in English as well.

The catalog includes a new section with an overview of Finnish revenue stamps and railway stamps. The section on postal stationeries has been entirely revised. Notable changes have also been made on the issues of 1889 and 1918. As regards modern stamps of Finland, pricing of the EUROPA stamps has been updated. Price quotations are now in euros.

Among other things, the LAPE 2004 catalogue covers the following fields: Finland's early postal history, Finland's oldest cancellations, single ring and double ring cancellations, Finland cancellations, Finnish stamp issues 1856-2003, stamps for parcels carried on post buses, East Karelia, Karelia, Aunus, field post stamps, postal stationeries, franking labels, specialized listings of stamp booklets, Russian stamps used in Finland, shipping company stamps, stamps issued for use in the cities of Helsinki and Tampere, railway stamps, revenue stamps and the Åland Islands.

The LAPE 2004 catalogue is available from selected dealers or directly from the publisher: Philatelic Service of Finland Ltd, PO Box 647, FIN-20701 Turku, Finland; email, myynti@filateliapalvelu.com. ■

Norgeskatalogen 2004, 56th edition, approximately 6 x 8½ inches, perfect bound, soft covers, 448 pages, published by Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo 2003, \$55 from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349.

Another edition of this highly esteemed catalog that is a must for Norway collectors. The stamps are depicted in color throughout. Although the listings are in Norwegian, the introductory text and the special information inserts on such topics as perforation, printing, paper types, and many other subjects are in English as well.

For the specialist there are discussions of forged cancellations, cataloging of the Posthorn issues, town cancels on early issues, and rate tables among others. For the back of the book enthusiast there are listings of booklet panes, franking labels, coil stamps, and officials.

Each year several special articles are incorporated that do not appear again. This year's edition has a chapter on international reply coupons and another on Olav Haraldsson (995-1030) and his depiction on Norwegian stamps. Unfortunately, these two articles appear in Norwegian only.

What makes this country catalog especially useful are the tools presented such as the symbols and abbreviations used, the explanation of terms, the Norwegian/German/English vocabulary, and a two-page bibliography for the student of Norwegian philately. Highly recommended. ■

— Alan Warren

Ships in Greenlandic Waters over 1,000 Years, Ole Ventegodt, Volume 1 of 2, , 8¾ x 9½ inches, cloth binding, 64 pages, published by Post Greenland, 2003, DKK 179.00 plus postage.

The latest book published by Post Greenland is available in Greenlandic, Danish, English and German language versions. The book celebrates Post Greenland's issue of the first eight of a total of 16 ship-related stamps issued between 2002 and 2005.

Each ship is described with a small account of their history, but the book goes further by giving the reader a condensed account of ships and navigation in Greenland over the centuries. The book does not cover every ship that has sailed in Greenlandic waters. It does, however, provide a comprehensive taste of

interesting pieces of naval history that took place in those waters, often making extreme demands on ships and crews.

The book begins by giving the reader an impression of the difficulty of navigating these waters with severe ice conditions and temperature. One example is the mention of polar ice that is carried by the sea current through the Denmark Strait, which over the years has caused many sinkings, including the "Titanic" on April 14, 1912. Subsequent chapters cover ancient sailings to Greenland, including the Vikings, expeditions by Europeans, and settlement and trade by the Danes to the 1930s when the era of sailing ships came to an end. The book is richly illustrated with both color and black and white photos. All ships depicted on the 16 stamps to be issued are included as well as many more.

The book may be ordered from POST Greenland, Filatelia, Ujuaap Aqq, B184, P.O. Box 121, DK-3913, Tasiilaq, Greenland; email: stamps@tele.gl; <http://www.qimmeq.gl/shipsbook.html>. It is priced at DKK 179.00 plus postage. ■

—Dan Rodlie, *Ships on Stamps* President

More Information on Norwegian Foreign Mail

Shown is an August 31, 1857 cover from Drammen, Norway to Helsingør, Denmark conveyed by ship and franked with 15 skilling. According to postal historian Harry Snarvold, this is the only known franked cover with the four-skilling Norway *Facit* No. 1 in combination with stamps from the Oscar I first issue of 1856-1857.

Covers such as this are shown in Snarvold's latest book, *Carrying Norwegian mail abroad up to UPU*, which was reviewed in the August 2003 *Posthorn* (page 36). At that time, there was no information on cost or availability of the book.

Snarvold writes that the price is SEK 500 or \$85, including postage to the U.S. Information on ordering and payments is available from the author at Eneliden 11, SE-43364, Sävedalen, Sweden. ■



An Excellent Postal History Handbook of Svalbard

Postal History of Svalbard from 1896, Arne J. Bay, 6¾ x 9½, paper cover, self-published, Oslo, 2003, NOK 400 plus NOK 150 postage and handling to North American addresses.



Arne J. Bay, now the president of the Norway Postal History Society, has for 30 years been an ardent collector of postal items and documentation on Svalbard, where the island Spitzbergen is the largest and most important island in this group of Arctic islands that have been administered by Norway since 1925.

Bay's first book on Svalbard in 1979 contained 130 pages and was very quickly sold out. Now, he has produced *Postal History of Svalbard from 1896*, a greatly expanded edition of 261 pages in English profusely illustrated with covers, stamps, local share certificates, money letters, Norwegian postal savings stamps, and other Svalbard materials, some previously not known or published. Color illustrations are numerous. The book deals with the official Norwegian postmarks and offices on Spitsbergen and Bear Island plus the island of Jan Mayen.

Svalbard's postal history began with the first tourist traffic in 1896. Richard With planned regular tourist voyages from Tromsø to the Ice Fjord (Isfjorden) at Spitzbergen every summer week. Tourist



ships from Great Britain and Germany soon followed and a private post office was opened at Advent Bay (later Loneyarbyen) for the sale and franking of post cards. Norway opened a government post office at Advent Bay soon thereafter. As tourist traffic dwindled, the coal mining industry became active and Loneyarbyen became the population and economic center in the islands. Year-round airline service was introduced in the 1980s.

Bay's book covers all of this history to the present time. The wealth of information constitutes an outstanding text for anyone seriously interested in the postal history of Svalbard. This is Bay's life work and he deserves all praise for this achievement.

(Orders may be made to the author, Arne J. Bay, Karl Andersens vei 52, N-1086, Oslo, Norway, or through www.arnepolar.com; no payments by private checks; currency preferred, using latest exchange rates.) ■

—Paul H. Jensen and Walter Jellum

Joint Issues to Mark Royal Wedding and Explorer's Birth

A royal wedding and an anniversary will involve several Scandinavian areas in joint issues in the coming months. The spring wedding of Denmark's Crown Prince Frederick to Mary Elizabeth Donaldson will be marked with two stamps on their wedding day, May 14, 2004. The stamps will be a joint issue of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroes.

On March 26, Norway and Greenland will join Canada to honor Norwegian explorer Otto Sverdrup (1854-1930) on the 150th anniversary of his birth. Canada and Greenland will issue a single stamp while Norway will issue two stamps, all in the form of souvenir sheets. Sverdrup is famous for charting more Canadian Arctic territory than any other polar explorer. ■

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Scandinavia Club in Holland Marks 40 Years

The Dutch Philatelic Association Scandinavia celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2004. The specialist club started in February 1964 with about a dozen members and now has about 400 members, mostly in the Netherlands and Belgium. The club's quarterly journal, *Het Noorderlicht*, began publishing in October 1964.

Club members meet quarterly for exchanges of information and material, an auction, and to shop at a bourse. A stamp mart system includes the sale of books and catalogs at reduced prices. An effort is underway to broaden its Scandinavian library, largely through donated material.

The club will mark its 40-year jubilee by publishing a book of articles prepared by members, a special auction and meeting on March 7, 2004, and an exhibition of members' collections in October 2004.

Further information is available by emailing Henk Burgman at h.p.burgman@hccnet.nl. ■

— Henk Burgman

Study Group for Norway's Posthorn Stamps



If you are intrigued by the world's longest continuing stamp design, you might want to check the Posthorn Study Circle, which is active in the United Kingdom. Norway's posthorn stamps made their debut in 1871 and the same basic design has been in use ever since.

The study circle consists of 12 enthusiastic collectors of Norway's posthorn series. It includes all stages of collectors from beginner to advanced. The group exchanges information, and poses and answers questions about these stamps by means of a newsletter. They also run an exchange packet, which is only available in the UK. Currently they are working on identification of the engraving types of the shaded posthorns.

If you have an interest in the Norwegian posthorns (at whatever level), or have any questions about them, contact John Thomlinson (SCC # 3032) at 1 Craighton Cottages, Craighton Village, Milngavie, Glasgow, G62 7HQ, United Kingdom; email, johnthom@fct23.fsnet.co.uk. Thomlinson has donated a set of back issues of the study circle's newsletter to the SCC Library. ■

—Paul Albright

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