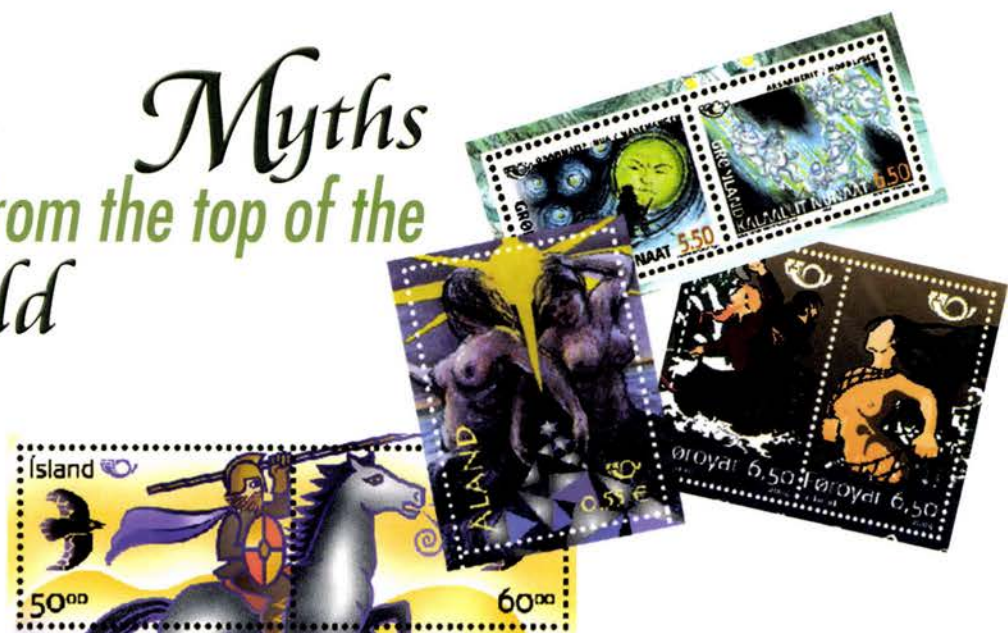


The POSTHORN



Finland's Purple Goose

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Fresh Plate for Danish Coat-of-Arms Stamps

For the first time in almost 60 years, Denmark's small national coat-of-arms stamps are being printed from a new plate. Three denominations, DKK 12.50, 13, and 15, were released January 2 after being printed on the new plate engraved by Martin Mörck from the original drawing by Primus Nielsen.



Magnification of the new plate. The engraved lines are at an angle.

Many millions of stamps were produced in 59 different denominations from the "mother die" that was originally engraved by Johannes Oppenheuser and went into service in 1946. A separate relief-die (an embossed impression of the mother plate) is used for each new stamp, but the same plate had been used on every stamp in the coat-of-arms definitive series until now.



An enlargement of the well-worn coat-of-arms plate used for almost 60 years.

and vertical. Magnification is needed to see the line alterations. ■

There is a slight design change in the re-engraved plate. The background lines now go diagonally across the plate with the intention that this will improve the color of the stamps, reported Danmark Post. In the original plate, the engraved lines are horizontal

— Paul Albright



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Finland's Violet Goose

By Karri Hara¹

Machine-generated stamps on demand for the public are quite popular in some countries. The United States is not one of them, but Finland is. These stamps are different from private meter stamps in that they can be obtained from self-service public vending machines by anyone with coins, bills, or credit cards. The stamps are not dated and are valid until canceled or demonetized as a class, as was done when Finland switched from marks to euros.

The stamps were first issued from machines located in Finnish post offices as quite plain reddish dot-matrix prints on stamp-size stickers in 1982. Since then, they have evolved into attractive multicolored issues equivalent to annual definitives and occasional commemoratives and Christmas stamps.

The stamps now have their values individually printed on self-adhesive strips of preprinted, basic designs. The stamps are generically called ATMs, a term found in *Michel's* catalog of the worldwide machine-generated stamps and their major varieties. Specialty catalogs such as *LaPe*, *Norma*, and *Facit* also list ATMs for their constituent countries or areas.

Different manufacturers made the vending machines for various countries at different times. On May 10, 2001, a new type of ATM, the Amiel Sima, was put into experimental use in the main post office of the city of Turku. It was put in use following a vague announcement of its forthcoming experimental installation a month or so hence, but the date was uncertain. The public use of the machine needed to wait until problems with the machine's software were resolved.



Figure 2. Amiel Goose Type IIa (black)

M over K (for "mark"), instead of the more common horizontally aligned MK printed by Dassault's "Intermarketing" machines in other Finnish cities. The goose issue was replaced in 2002 by the next stamp issues (reindeer, wolves, etc.) with small fonts.

The Amiel printed three successive formats of stacked M/K: big, medium, and small. The goose stamps were printed from May 10, 2001 until December 29, 2001.² *LaPe* lists the Amiel stamps as ATM 39, Types I, II & III, respectively.³ Furthermore, Types I and II were printed with sprayed ink; Type III was thermoprinted. Also, Type II has three sub-types: IIa (violet), IIa (black), and IIb (dark gray – the same as the



Figure 1. Amiel Goose Type I (violet)

The Amiel machine was programmed to produce stamps in six different standard denominations for domestic first-class mail in different weight increments, and six other standard denominations for foreign-bound mail, etc. The Amiel stamps were somewhat different from those of other ATM machines in Finland: the basic stamp that depicted the then-current, white-fronted goose was the same as those from other machines, but instead of thermoprinted denomination values, the Amiel machine printed the values with sprayed ink in a different font style. The difference can most easily be seen by looking for the vertically stacked



Figure 3. Amiel Goose Type III (thermoprint)

black IIa but with less ink). The Amiel machine was configured also to give printed receipts on demand when Type II stamps were purchased, and thereafter.

	Michel Catalog No.	LaPe Cat. No.	Facit Cat. No.	Size
1.	Mi 35.1 (Dassault goose)	ATM 37 (black)	EA.27 (Dassault)	std.
2.	Mi 35.2 (Amiel goose)	ATM 39 Type I (violet)	not listed	big
3.	none	ATM 39 Type IIa (violet)	none	med.
4.	Mi 35.3	ATM 39 Type IIa (black)	none	med.
5.	none	ATM 39 Type IIb (gray)	none	med.
6.	Mi 35.4	ATM 39 Type III (black)	none	small

	LaPe	Ink	Receipts	Dates of Use	Examples Remaining
1.					
2.	ATM 39 I	sprayed	no	10 - 21 May 01	100± mint, 700± used
3.	ATM 39 IIav	sprayed	yes	22 May 01 (lunch)	6± used
4.	ATM 39 IIab	sprayed	yes	22 May - 19 Jun 01	1000+
5.	ATM 39 IIb	sprayed	yes	20 Jun - 9 Jul 01	1000+
6.	ATM 39 III	thermal	yes	9 Jul - 29 Dec 01	5000+

Note that the 2002 *Michel* catalog⁴ confused the issues from the two machines. Furthermore, the *Facit* catalog⁵ has not yet recognized that the Amiel machine makes different stamps.

The first issue lasted for 1½ weeks in the large stacked font. Violet ink was used for this issue but was to be replaced on May 22 with the medium-sized stacked font and black ink (the second type). However, after setting the new font, the violet ink was kept in use by mistake for an hour or so over lunchtime, creating a hugely important variety. The medium font with sprayed black and then grayish black ink was used until July 9. After that, the small stacked font/black thermoprinted ink was used.

The sprayed inks, both violet and black, are water-soluble and easily smudged, and it became clear that the sprayed stamps were not successful. Thermoprinted denominations are now in use in all machines.

Collectors and some catalog publishers did not understand these varieties until they were described in the European press, so their retail prices are now quite high. The rarest of the Amiel issues is the lunchtime mistake, *LaPe's* ATM 39 - Type IIa, with violet ink. This is, however, quite a speculative issue as it was only available to people for an hour or so. The mechanic who services the machine told me that they installed the new font, went to lunch, and then changed the ink to black. So only during this lunchtime was it possible to take stamps printed in violet medium-sized font instead of black.



Figure 4. Dassault Goose



Figure 5. Late 2002 Amiel ATM stamp in Euros

All of Turku's M/K stamps still come from one machine, and they are all scarce. Only about 800 of the Type I prints were kept by collectors; only a half-dozen of the second violet issue are known. These stamps proved to be sensations as they became known to Finnish and world ATM philately. A set of Type I and Type IIa mint violet singles sold on eBay in July for \$2,800. A full set of six violet domestic-rate

Type I stamps was sold in October to a Hong Kong buyer for \$1,381. These retail values are quite likely to change when more ATM buyers “notice” these rarities and sellers take further advantage of the situation.

Please write to me if you have any questions about Finnish ATMs, and I’ll find an answer for you (karri.hara@kolumbus.fi). If collecting these items of modern postal history interests you, watch eBay and the other auctions, or write and I’ll help you find the material. ■

Endnotes:

¹ With a lot of extra information from Kai Brodtkin and Jyrki Laitinen, and a little from Herb Volin.

² Matti Heikkinen, *Suomen Automaattimerkkien Käsikirja*, 2003.

³ Lauri Peltonen Ky, *Postimerkkiluettelo - Frimärkskatalog*, 2004, Phil. Service of Finland, Ltd., Turku.

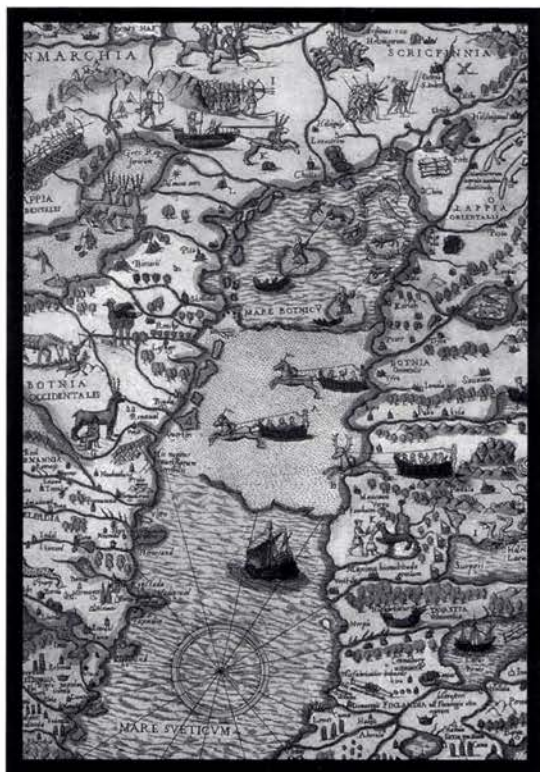
⁴ *Michel Automatenmarken-Spezial-Catalog* 2002, Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, München.

⁵ *Facit 2004 Special catalog*, Facit Förlags AB, Västerås.

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Mail Distribution Over the Kvarken Strait

By Per Erik Nilsson



The Olaus Magnus map “Carta Marina,” from 1539.

The narrowest part of the Gulf of Bothnia, the Kvarken Strait (Merenkukku in Finnish), has in a natural way brought the coastal population of Finnish Österbotten and Swedish Västerbotten together with strong bonds, particularly affecting the relations between the islands Holmön and Björkö. Some 70 kilometers of fairly shallow water separates the cities of Umeå (Uumaja) in Västerbotten, Sweden, and Vasa (Vaasa) in Österbotten, Finland. This reality demanded close cooperation between the Swedish and the Finnish people, both for economic reasons and family relations.

As early as in the mid-16th century, cartographer Olaus Magnus marked on his *Carta Marina* that traffic with horse and sleigh was in full progress between Västerbotten and Österbotten during the winter. According to this map, the route seems to have gone through Holmön, where he marked the settlement by drawing a house. The oldest record for the two villages is from the first half of the 16th century. The first written notes about the winter traffic over the Kvarken Strait date from the lengthy wars between Sweden and Russia at the end of the 16th century.

The amount of people and goods being transported over Kvarken was particularly large during that turbulent time, requiring the residents of Holmön and Björkö to be on guard. In 1591, the military



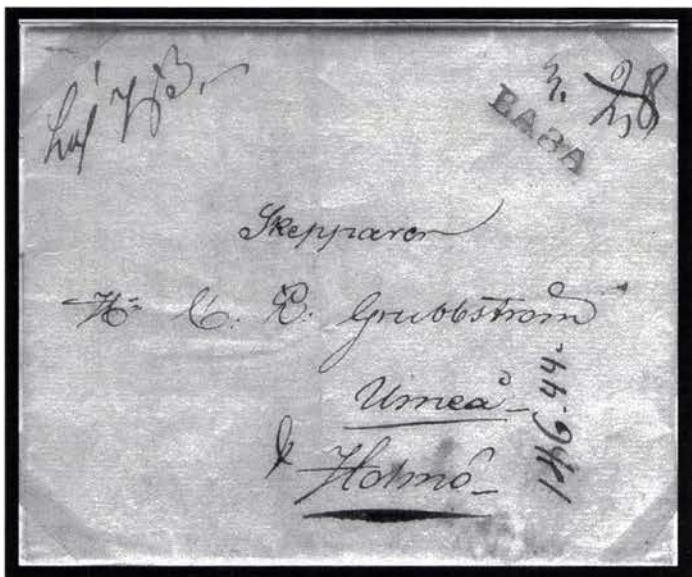
commander in Västerbotten and Österbotten, Per Bagge, also was appointed governor (landshövding) in both regions. In the records from 1592, it appears that he granted an exemption from taxes for the transportation of people and goods that lasted until his death in 1599. Thereafter a 50 percent reduction of tax and liberation from enlistment was granted. It is recorded that in 1624, King Gustav II Adolf was among those traveling over the Kvarken Strait from Finnish Björkö, passing Holmön to the town of Umeå.

Weekly Mail Service Across the Strait

Apart from goods and people, mail also seems to have been included in the transport regulations from time to time. Governor Frans Crusebjörn wrote in 1650 that it is possible to send mail with the inhabitants of Holmön, with mail delivery in Umeå every Saturday and in Vasa every Sunday.¹ Proof of the new postal route can be found in a complaint from the Björkö residents in 1675 and in an order from the 1690s to the postmaster in Umeå. It is stated there that mail to Finland always should be sent over the Kvarken Strait whenever possible. Under this directive, mail to Finland (including the Baltic provinces after 1698) was not to be routed by land around the Gulf of Bothnia whenever the short cut over the Kvarken Strait could be used.² This reduced the distance by about 800 kilometers.

The Swedish National Judicial Board for Public Lands and Funds (Kammarkollegiet) demanded a report in 1702 from the governor of Österbotten regarding use of the Kvarken Strait as a mail route. In the same year the mayor of Umeå, John Rydström, became postmaster of Umeå and postal inspector over the whole district. At that time it seems that the residents of Holmön were obligated to bring the mail to Vasa. By Christmas, 1708 they obviously had had enough, and refused to leave. But

Postmaster Rydström, by threatening legal actions and using other methods of persuasion, apparently succeeded in convincing the islanders to undertake the trip on January 6, 1709. The journey was somewhat adventurous due to thin ice but was accomplished on a second attempt. Rydström made two trial journeys over the Kvarken Strait that winter to further ascertain the feasibility of transporting mail over this route.



Letter sent from Vasa in 1833 to Umeå and Holmön.

The Burden of Providing Mail Service

It is understandable that the obligation to be on duty to transport all kinds of goods over the Kvarken Strait must have been a large burden on the citizenry, especially during the winter and in times of war. There is a transcript of a petition from the men of Holmön that states (among other things):

“The King’s decision is requested on the petition, that all village men from Holmön have made regarding their obligation to transport letters and travelers on the Kvarken strait route to Österbotten on the one side and to Osnäs on the other side, you would have to grant some tax alleviation and that one man from every farm should be liberated from enlistment, written on the county chancellery (Landskansliet) on January 31, 1760.” (There are similar petitions from 1792 and 1814.)

It might be thought that after 1809, when Finland was separated from Sweden, service over the Kvarken Strait ended or at least decreased substantially. That was not the case. The winter traffic was more frequent from 1816-1844. Grain, hemp, meat and fish, and linens were transported. Some unfavorable winters brought

the traffic to a standstill, but winters in the 1850s and the 1860s seem to have been favorable. In 1860, Sweden's parliament decided that farmers would be released from the obligation to transport mail.

There is more to tell about the connections between Holmön and Österbotten during the hard years of 1916-17 and during the Winter War of 1939-40, but that is a different story. In 1982, an annual postal rowing event was started over the Kvarken Strait to commemorate the people's hard labor over many years. ■

(Editor's Note: This article is translated and adapted by the author from Aktuellt om Posthistoria, Swedish Postal History Society (SSPD), No. 8, 2003, pages 28-30.)

Sources:

Lassila, M, *Vägarna inom Västerbottens län*, Umeå, 1972.

Jansson, O, *Förbindelser och kontakter över Kvarken förr i tiden*, Umeå, 1983.

Porko, O, *Förbindelserna över Kvarken i historisk tid*, Vasa 1981 (unpublished).

Grape, Ernst, *Postkontor och Postmästare*, Stockholm, 1951.

Vasabladet, off-prints from 1929 and 1961

Nurmoi, Yrjö, *Postverket i Finland historia 1638-1938*, Helsingfors, 1938.

Endnotes:

¹ KB: s skriv. t. K. Maj: t Vbt 1 2.3. 1650. RA (Official letter from Västerbotten to the Swedish government.)

² KB: s skriv. t. K. Maj: t Vbt 22.11.1658 RA (Official letter from Västerbotten to the Swedish government.)

Poste Restante Mail of Scandinavia

By James Burgeson

P ô s t e R e s – T ä n t é, (French, “Remaining Post”) 1. A notation on a letter or postcard asking that it be held at the post office until called for; 2. A department of the post office having charge of letters waiting to be called for (chiefly British).

— *Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary, Second Edition.*

Covers addressed to a person, town and country, and possibly a specific post office, but without a street address or box number and noted *Poste Restante*, were to be held at the post office until called for by the addressee.

Poste Restante in German is “Post Lagernd” or “Postlagernd” and is called “General Delivery” in the United States. It is a way of reaching someone by mail who is traveling or otherwise without an established address. It was often used to reach tourists traveling abroad or in the home country.

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) established guidelines for the amount that could be charged for Poste Restante service on incoming, international mail shortly after the UPU was formed. The fee was usually 20 percent to 40 percent of the single-weight international letter rate as decided by each country and could not exceed the charge for domestic Poste Restante service. That fee structure is still in place today.

It appears that, so far as we know, neither Denmark, Iceland, Norway nor Sweden ever charged a fee for Poste Restante service. (Finland could probably be included but more research is needed.) Other European countries, including Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Poland and many Asian, Middle Eastern, and South American countries had a policy of charging a fee for Poste Restante service. There has never been a charge for it in the USA. Registered mail could be sent Poste Restante.

In the Journal of the UPU, *L'Union Postale* (Vol. III, No. 4, April 1, 1878), there is a report titled; *Delai De Garde Des Lettres Poste-Restante*, which attempts to make a case for shortening the time Poste Restante mail should be held. At that time, it varied from 14 days to six months. The report noted that long periods for holding mail were based on earlier modes of travel, such as by horseback or coach where journeys were several weeks long. These were no longer necessary with steamship and railroad travel. The report cited the

trouble the Post has with excessive amounts of unclaimed letters “uselessly filling up cases and the need to be looked through at every fresh application” and that “many of which have no chance of being claimed.” Another reason for reducing the period of retention: “Frequent sorting unclaimed letters weakens the envelopes and when weakened, soiled envelopes are returned to sender, there is a tendency to doubt observance of secrecy by the Post.” The report makes a long and detailed argument against accepting Poste Restante letters “addressed to initials or fictitious names,” pointing out that such letters in Great Britain “are treated as undeliverable mail,” and added: “If the fact, moreover, is taken into consideration, that very often when letters are addressed to initials or fictitious names, the Post is made the instrument of intrigues and villainies” due to not being able to match required identification of claimant with “spurious initials, fictitious names, aliases, nick names and the like.” Subsequently, most countries set a limit on the time mail could be held. For France, it was 14 days and if not called for by then, it went to the *Rebuts Department*, the equivalent of our Dead Letter Office. Policies adopted by the Scandinavian countries were similar.



Figure 1. French poste restante label used in March 1907. © Jean-Claude Coulon & Académie de Philatélie.

Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians on vacation in the South of Europe. In the 1920s and 1930s they traveled mostly in Italy; in the 1940s and 1950s (WW II excluded), France appears to have been more popular.

Students living abroad, especially art students after WW II, frequently had no fixed address and received mail from home Poste Restante. Sending mail in this way appears to be in decline possibly due to the cell phone, email, and the plastic credit card.

The post card addressed to a hotel in Bern, Switzerland from Finland (Figure 2) is franked with the 4-kopec red stamp, which paid the international post card rate. The rectangular cancellation on the stamp is not readable but the dateline

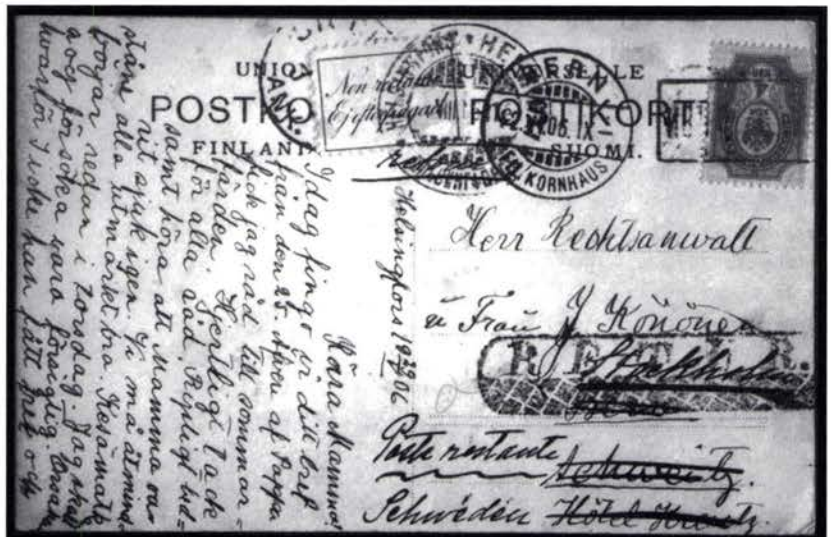


Figure 2. Card returned to poste restante in Sweden.

is *Helsingfors* May 29 1906. Of the three cancellation dates, only the “June 2 06” is readable in the Bern cancel. At Bern, all parts of the Swiss address were crossed out and the card was forwarded to: “*Stockholm Schweden Poste Restante*.” Evidently, the addressee advised her hotel in Bern that she was leaving for Stockholm but gave them no specific forwarding address. The card was then forwarded, possibly by the hotel staff, and possibly by pre-arrangement, to Stockholm Poste Restante. (The Swiss post office could have—and often did—require additional postage to forward the card out of Switzerland to another country.) The circular date stamp at the far left top is a Stockholm arrival. But the card and the addressee did not connect at Stockholm. It is not known how long the card was held there since cancellation dates are not readable. When Stockholm decided not to hold the card any longer, the large, black rubber stamp with cross hatching in the bottom and the word “Retur” (return) in the top was placed over the word Stockholm. The perforated label with green border at center-top, indicating the card was unclaimed, was applied and the card was sent back to its origin in Helsinki where the circular date stamp in the center at the top was applied, tying the “unclaimed” label.¹ This may have been the end of the journey for this card as there is little or no identification of the sender.²

The Icelandic cover in Figure 3 measures only 6” X 4 ½” (150 X 115 mm) and has five separate labels (new record?) on the front. The addressee is SCC member Sigurður Þorsteinsson. This cover is a recent example of Poste Restante mail with meter label dated December 3, 2001. It served as a *Parcel Advice Notice*



Figure 3. A poste restante cover of many labels.

with 115.00 ISK postage, paying the rate for an inland small parcel over 100 grams. All of Iceland is one rate zone and there is no local rate. Shortly after delivering a radio address in Reykjavík, Dr. Þorsteinsson and his wife left for USA. While he was away, Icelandic State Broadcasting (*Ríkisútvarpið* or *RÚV*) mailed a tape of the speech to him at his home address but applied a label BIÐPÓSTUR (waiting for arrival of recipient) and Poste restante so that the packet was held until his return to Iceland. The other two labels are, upper left, “SP” (Smapakki) for small parcel with a tracking number and bar code and the vertical production number of the label and, lower left, with “K180,” which is a routing label for the delivering post office. All those labels and Dr. Þorsteinsson reports there was no charge for the Poste Restante service.³

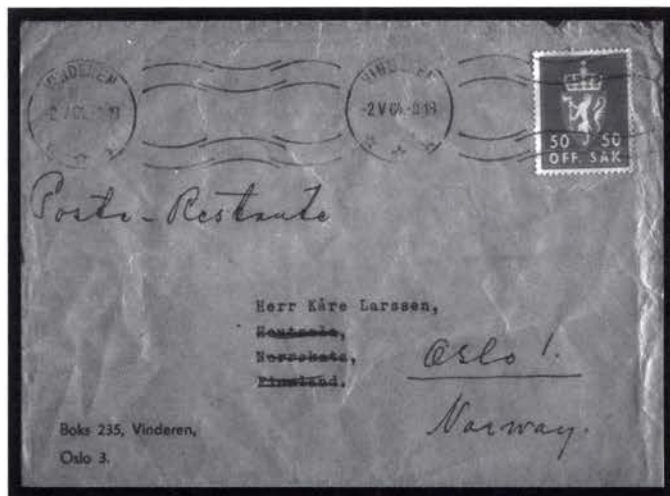


Figure 4. Official cover returned from Finland to Norway poste restante.

The Official Norwegian cover in Figure 4 is postmarked Vinderen, May 2, 1964, and addressed to Finland. The 50-

ore red OFF. SAK. stamp of 1962 on usual paper paid the Nordic letter rate to Finland⁴ and this rate was in place only until November 15, 1964. It appears that when the cover arrived in Finland on May 5, 1964, as shown by the Norrskata arrival cancel on the back, the addressee had left Finland. The cover was redirected to Oslo, Norway, Poste Restante and an Oslo Sentrum arrival cancel dated May 8, 1964, shows on the back.⁵

The 10-öre dark carmine postal card of Sweden in Figure 5 is Facit 13e, cancelled May 30, 1904 and paid the international post card rate to Austria. It is addressed Poste



Figure 5. Sweden postal card sent poste restante to Austria.



Figure 6. Italy fee assessed to Swedish poste restante letter.

Restante service and the 25-centesimo postage due stamp evidently paid this fee. This was equal to approximately 20 percent of the Italian international letter rate at that time and in line with UPU guidelines.⁸

The Swedish aerogram in Figure 7 is Formular Type Fundelius⁹ No. 108 produced by Sture Ljungdahl & Co. in Nybro, Sweden, and first issued in 1954. It is cancelled at Stockholm December 4, 1964, with 60-öre Swedish postage that paid the international aerogram rate in effect from July 1, 1964 to December 30, 1966. It is addressed Poste Restante, Bangkok, Thailand. The 10-satang

Restante to an individual at the post office in Vienna with arrival cancel dated June 1, 1904. Austrian Post policy to charge for Poste Restante service commenced in January 1922. This card was well before that time and evidently not charged.^{6,7}

The cover in Figure 6 is also Swedish but from a later period. It is franked with three, 10-öre Type II Standing Lion ultramarine violet on white paper stamps, perf 4 sides cancelled April 10, 1937 paying the 30-öre international letter rate addressed Poste Restante to a Swede in Italy who was most likely a tourist on vacation. Italy charges a fee for Poste



Figure 7. Thailand's poste restante service fee on aerogramme from Sweden.

Poste Restante service fee charged by Thailand is paid by the two 5-satang stamps cancelled Bangkok December 12, 1964.¹⁰ ■

Acknowledgements: Many members and friends of SCC contributed to this article. I especially want to thank Jean-Claude Coulon of France for sharing his knowledge gained from his pioneering work in Poste Restante, and Ellen Peachey of the American Philatelic Research Library for research that made this article more complete. Sören Andersson of Sweden provided insight and access to unpublished data in his files. Thanks also to Pentti (Ben) Lappalainen and Christian Quiquenpois for translations from Finnish and French respectively. Thanks to those who provided the covers for illustrations: Gunnar Dahlstrand of Sweden, Roger Quinby of New York State, Eric Roberts of Texas, and Sigurður Þorsteinsson of Iceland.

Endnotes

¹ Returetikett No. 39e as shown in *Svensk Posthistoria 1855-1925* by Andersson and Billgren, page 287.

² From the collection of Roger Quinby.

³ From the collection of Sigurður Þorsteinsson.

⁴ Article 3 of the Ottawa Postal Convention (1957) reads: All members are obliged to "exempt Official mail, mail to and from prisoners of war and civil internees and mail for the blind from all postal charges." From this, and from the proceedings of earlier treaties and conventions, it would appear that this Official cover may have needed no franking. The author can only speculate on this and perhaps someone will have an explanation to share with the readers.

⁵ From the collection of Eric Roberts.

⁶ For other Poste Restante covers to Austria, see "Poste Restante Service Could Command Special Fees" by David L. Straight, *Stamp Collector*, December 16, 2002.

⁷ From the collection of Jim Burgeson.

⁸ From the collection of Jim Burgeson.

⁹ A numbering system for Swedish aerogrammes developed by the late Bertil Fundelius published in *Bältespännaren*, July 1984.

¹⁰ From the collection of Gunnar Dahlstrand, Göteborg, Sweden.

New Information on DWI Wrapper

New information has surfaced concerning the 1863 newspaper wrapper from the Danish West Indies (DWI) that was described in the last issue of *The Posthorn* (November 2003, page 13). I recently learned the item is hardly a new discovery; rather, it had been part of a prominent DWI collection that was auctioned in 1996.

I routinely review old auction catalogues. While reading through the Northland Co. auction catalog for the Christine Blinn collection of May 18, 1996, Lot No. 82 caught my attention. It was described as follows:

1863, Interesting ship cover to NY, DOUBLE FORWARDED in St. Thomas by Niles & Co (backstamp in black) and in Philadelphia by Souder & Co, cover is from G. W. Smith affiliates in St. Thomas. E(stimate) 100-150.

That is the same item I acquired recently in an Internet auction. The item was misdescribed in the catalog as a cover instead of a newspaper wrapper. The manuscript "2 papers" in the corner was hidden in the Northland catalog picture. In addition, the wrapper is still glued together in the back with open ends in accord with regulations that it had to be verifiable that the wrapper contained one or more newspapers. The erroneous 1996 description may have misled interested collectors. The item sold for \$170. ■

— Arnold Sorensen

Rate Intricacies on Swedish Mail: Another Possibility

By James Burgeson

The May 2002 issue of *The Posthorn* (page 25) carried my article showing two very similar Swedish covers to the U.S. The gist of the article was (and remains): Why was one cover charged 26 Cents postage due but not the other? It now appears that the answer to this question might be slightly different than that suggested in the article. Here is why.

Swedish postal regulations effective January 1, 1976 (consistent with UPU rules) require a cover that is short-paid and addressed overseas to be marked with a "fraction" and a large letter "T." The numerator of the fraction is to show the amount short-paid or missing in native money (no longer in French centimes and no longer doubled). The denominator is to show the amount for an international single weight surface letter. In addition, the amount due was to be the sum of the amount short paid plus a *fixed handling fee*.

The cover shown in the article that is marked for postage due could have been cited for one of two reasons. As explained in the original article, letters addressed abroad and fully prepaid for surface mail would be sent by air mail if not marked for "air mail" in any way and not weighing more than 5 grams. Collectors often find letters addressed abroad marked in the upper left, "5gr" and this is applied either by the sender (after weighing or in hopes his surface paid letter would go by air), or by the postal clerk at the window, or by the office of exchange, where checking for adequate franking was done and where postage due markings were applied. Any letter checked and found to weigh between 5 and 10 grams (or *double weight air mail*) and marked "air mail" but paid only for the surface rate (in this case 1.70Kr) would be stamped "T 50/170." This may be what happened here.

Letters checked and found to weigh between 5 and 10 grams and which were paid only for surface mail but not marked "air mail," were usually sent by surface mail. Such covers are sometimes found. The additional amount for air mail (in accordance with tables in the Karin Svahn book, *Flygporten 1920-1992*) was 25 öre per five grams and would be in this case 50 öre. That is what shows in the numerator with 1.70Kr (170 öre) in the denominator.

To convert this marking to a due and collectable amount on arrival in the U.S., the fraction 50/170 must be multiplied by the U.S. international letter rate (20 cents at this time) to which the fixed handling fee of 20 cents (January 1, 1976 to June 30, 1981) must be added.

Thus: $50/170 \times 20$ (cents) + 20 (cents) = 25.88, and rounding up gives **26 Cents**.

For more on Swedish postage-due see the English translation of an article, "Swedish Due Handstamps with Centime Values: 1897-1965", by Sören Andersson published in *Postage Due Mail Study Group Journal*, #25, March 2003.. ■

Danish Freight & Railway Stamp Club

Collectors interested in freight and railway stamps may want to check the Danish Freight Stamp and Railway Stamp Club. The club's main project is updating and publishing a catalog of Danish railway stamps. Thus far, the club has covered the Danish State Railways and private railways in alphabetical order from A to O. Some 20-30 catalog pages are issued twice a year.

The club's magazine, *Dansk Fragt og Banemøkeklub*, is published in Danish 4-5 times a year, but English speaking members are provided a brief summary of each issue. There are about 90 members in the study group. Club members also are interested in Greenland and Faroese freight stamps, railway postage and fiscal stamps, ferry and steamship stamps, bus stamps, consignment notes, tickets, timetables, postcards, and stamps with railroad motifs.

Membership is DKK 260 annually for members outside Scandinavia. Further information is available at www.fragtmaerker.dk or from Hans Andersen, Engbovej 115, DK-2610 Rødovre, Denmark. ■

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British Field Post Office 786 and Courier Post Office, Oslo, 1945

By Frederick A. Brofos

In the hectic and exciting weeks around the liberation of Norway in May 1945, the victory celebration made most collectors temporarily put aside their hobbies. However, philately was not forgotten by everyone! While many people were busy drinking or swapping for cigarettes with Allied soldiers, young Brofos (the author) was more interested in the fieldpost operations. He may have been the only Norwegian philatelist who managed to find out in detail the military postal arrangements of the Allies in those days. Here are some recollections.

A British field post office with the identification number 786 was opened in Oslo after the liberation, probably around the end of May. It was in operation until the late fall of 1945. It was set up in a former classroom on the second floor of Kampen High School, which had been confiscated by the Germans during the war and used as a barracks. At war's end, the Germans were ousted, and the British troops moved in.

As it was a military area, British military police guarded the entrance and the Norwegian public was kept out. The post office personnel consisted of three uniformed soldiers who had some pre-war postal experience. Before their army service, they had worked in post offices in Scotland.

Most of the mail was postage free, without stamps, and inscribed "On Active Service," and sent home by the soldiers to relatives and friends in England. A special envelope, marked with a green cross, could be used by them if they wanted to avoid local British censorship. The sender had to sign and certify on the outside of these so-called "Honor" envelopes that the contents contained no military information. A good number of money orders were sent off, whereby part, if not all, of the soldier's pay was sent home to his family.

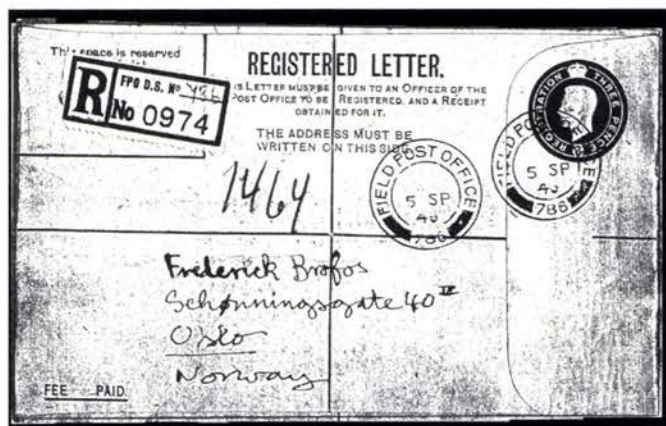


Figure 1. Registered cover showing the FPO 786 cancel from Oslo.

Special registered envelopes, at a reduced rate for the military, were available. They had a 3-pence stamp showing King George VI embossed in dark green. (See Figure 1.) For use on parcel post, registered, or airmail, British stamps of the current George VI type with light background were on sale. Most values were on hand up to perhaps five shillings. Of course, other kinds of British stamps could also be used, if one happened to have them.

As with the Americans, mail from the British field post office to Norwegian addresses and maybe other places in Scandinavia was handed over to the Norwegian post office, which transpostmarked it on the front or back.

The British had no canceling machine. Only two metal handstamps were in use. They had to be struck rather hard in order to show a clear impression, but if one hit too hard, then the date cut through the stamps. The two postmarks differed from each other, mainly in the length of the two small arcs in the lower section. I have divided them into Type 1 (long arcs) and Type 2 (short arcs). Type 2 has a break in the outer rim over the "s" and another under the figure "7."

There was also a dateless and rather worn rubber handstamp. It had vertical bars in the upper and lower half-circles. In the center was the two-lined text "ARMY POST OFFICE." It was used mainly on printed matter or parcel post.

Creating Philatelic Covers

During the summer of 1945, one could read in the Swedish *Nordisk Filateli* and other stamp magazines, a number of sale announcements for envelopes with Swedish or Norwegian stamps affixed and canceled "Postkontoret N.L. Stockholm," a special postmark used at the Norwegian Legation in Stockholm, Sweden. They were mass-produced by enterprising Swedish dealers and offered at a high price. Even though they were obviously "philatelic," many were collected by those who liked cachets, first day covers, and first flight covers.

I couldn't afford those odd and expensive Swedish covers, but I had an idea: why not produce something myself?

As a teenage schoolboy looking for a summer job, I chose to be a Norwegian-English translator at the Allied Military Headquarters. This gave me access to the British and American fieldpost offices, where I was able to arrange a number of remarkable covers for my own collection as mementos of those historic times. If they were able to use Norwegian stamps in Sweden, I thought I would use a Norwegian London set at the British and U.S. APOs. Although not authorized, they do look nice!

Although I did not know it at the time, there were other British FPOs operating in 1945 in various other towns in Norway. They were No. 150 in Bergen (cancel in violet, later black) and No. 785 in Kristiansand S. There were others at Stavanger, Trondheim, and Tromsø. Not to be forgotten are the British FPOs that operated for a short time in Norway back in 1940. Markings from them, of course, are rarities.

Military Courier Post Office

The 180th Despatch Rider Section, Norway Force Signals, operated from Storgaten 33, where the Allied Military Headquarters was located. The unit was part of the Royal Army Signal Corps, which was in charge of British Army communications. Two or three uniformed soldiers managed the office while several others drove around Oslo on motorcycles, delivering and receiving important courier mail. The mail handled at the courier post office in Oslo was mostly postage-free military matter, but British George VI stamps may also be found occasionally.

They were all jolly, nice fellows, and I remember it was Corporal Salt who saved an interesting cover just before it was being thrown away. (See Figure 2.) It was an official letter just arrived from England. It carried a British machine cancel marking the war's end in Europe. The famous "V" sign was shown and repeated five times in Morse code (...-) among the usual wavy lines, as well as two Victory bells. Most important was the receiving mark used at the office. They only had one postmark, but it was larger than usual. It was also much heavier and, perhaps because of that, always produced a nice clear impression. On the envelope, the handstamp date is September 2, 1945, which was the day the Japanese surrendered. Victory in Europe and in the Far East – a nice combination. The hand cancel shows the code letters

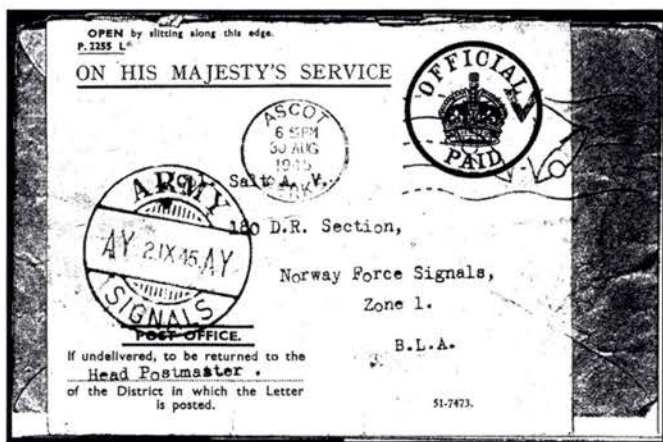


Figure 2. British Official mail cover with a "Victory" cancel in upper right corner and a 2 IX 45 "AY" receive cancel applied in Oslo. September 2, 1945 was when Japan surrendered in World War II.

“AY,” which distinguishes it from similar marks used elsewhere. They were usually applied in black, but I have seen one in violet with the letters “SACR.” Not much of a code, as I think it meant Supreme Allied Command, Rear, and was probably used in England or France. Similar postmarks were used in World War I and even on British colonial stamps from Africa.

Scavenging from Waste and Broken Packages

Another interesting find I saved from a HQ waste basket has a penciled blue cross on front and back of the envelope. (See Figure 3.) The British used this to distinguish registered mail. Aside from a numerator number stamped in black, there is an inscription: Regd. SDS. G.O. Smith, the latter being the clerk’s signature. At the lower left corner is a double-circle mark in red, reading “1st Air Landing/Reconnaissance Squadron/Orderly Room.” This is from the first Liberation force that came to Norway, namely the British parachutists called the “Red Devils” after their dark red or maroon berets. The envelope is addressed to Captain D. H. Robson, Aide de Camp to General Officer Commanding, Norway Command, i.e., the adjutant to British Maj. Gen. R. E. Urquhart, the commander of British forces in Norway.

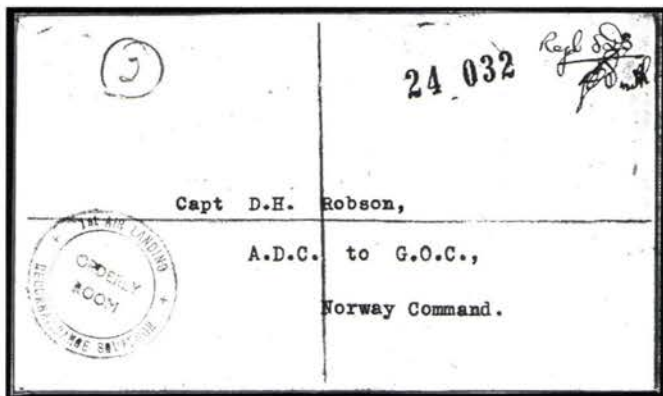


Figure 3. Cover saved from a British HQ waste basket. See description in article.

On another occasion, a soldier named Scottie came to me with a torn package and offered me the chance to make some markings from a stamp that had come from the half-opened package that he was about to repair and send on its way.

I quickly stifled my surprise at this irregularity in mail handling and nodded my interest. I was handed an oval rubber stamp that appeared to be a censor mark for newspapers or press reports. It probably was made in London from the appearance of the Norwegian coat of arms in the center. The inscription was “Pressekontrollen/Godkjent,” i.e., Press Control/Approved. Scottie said the other three handstamps in the package appeared to be of the same type. I did not examine them, but I wonder now whether perhaps two of them may have contained the text “Ikke godkjent,” i.e., Not approved.

Be that as it may, I struck off four impressions in black on an empty envelope and handed back the stamp with thanks. It was then repacked and sent on its way, but I no longer recall where. It obviously was used to censor the press in Oslo and maybe elsewhere. The Germans had a large press censor office in Oslo during the war, but it is less known that this press censorship was continued after the war by others. ■

(Editor’s Note: This article is translated and adapted from Frimerker som Hobby, December 1980 and March 1981.)

Early Cancel on 4-Öre Sweden Ring Stamp

Shown here is one of the earliest cancels, possibly the earliest known, on the 4-Öre perf 13 Sweden Ring type. This superb stamp received a socked-on-the-nose cancel at Borås on February 24, 1879. The stamp belongs to Robert Matsson of Stockholm and the picture was provided by Erik Hamberg of Sweden’s Postmuseum. James Burgeson relayed the image for the enjoyment of *Posthorn’s* readers. ■



Lyricist Pens Finland's Kissable Stamps



A lyricist, rock musician, author, and translator who is widely known in Finland inscribed the words for a somewhat unusual booklet of first class stamps issued on January 14. The booklet contains six different nondenominated stamps on the theme of kisses as part of Finland's "With Friendship" series.

The designs are based on black and white photographs of flowers and people of different ages. The photographs, ranging from playful to tenderness, catch the moments just before or after a kiss. Each contains some text from lyricist Juice Leskinen, whose name and a ©

(copyright symbol) appears on each stamp. The self-adhesive stamps were issued in booklets only.

Finland's postal agency (Posti) provided *The Posthorn* with a literal (rather than a literary or poetic) translation of Leskinen's expressions.



— Paul Albright



A Fateful Kiss in Denmark

By Dan Laursen

Finland's new booklet of stamps dedicated to kisses is an affectionate theme that recalls my schoolboy days in Denmark many years ago. It was a time in which pupils were trained to memorize poetry. One of the beautiful narrative poems we had to learn was *A Kiss* by Carl Ploug. The poem began (my translation):

*A kiss was once the border
That parted past and future;
The law of fate was written
On girl lips, rose leaves.*

The poem tells of a young lad who wants to get out into the world and do great things and become famous. But he is short of cash. His friends promise to give him the money if he can get a kiss from the professor's beautiful daughter. He goes to her, rings the door bell, and asks the girl for a kiss after explaining the reason. At first she is angry and refuses but then relents as she observes his pleasant and honest face. She kisses him in front of her living room window and he departs. As time passes, the young girl thinks about the boy and wonders how he fares in foreign lands.

Seven years later, the door bell rings again. She opens it to find a stranger there.

"My father isn't home," she says, but he replies, "I do not want to visit your father but yourself. Remember seven years ago a young lad asked you for a kiss and you were kind enough to give him one."

That man is standing before you again full of gold and honor. If you do not hate him and are still available, will you then share with him the good fortune you yourself once created?"

Soon thereafter, there was a glorious wedding in the Copenhagen cathedral joining the professor's daughter and the handsome young man in marriage.



Postscript: The poem may have been a romantic fantasy, but it was based on a real couple from the 18th century. Poul Vendelbo Løvenørn, a commoner from Horsens, met the professor's daughter, Ingeborg Vinding, while he was studying theology. They were married.

After dropping his theological studies, Løvenørn became a military officer in Russia where he rose to be a chief negotiator and confidant to the czar. After a decade in Russia, Løvenørn was sent to Denmark as an ambassador, was ennobled, and became Denmark's greatest statesman in the first half of the 18th century. As far as I know, no stamp has honored Løvenørn. ■

Family Ties to New Norway Stamp

By Walt Jellum

On January 2, 2004, stamps were issued honoring three Norwegian artists, one of them marking the 150th birthday of Christian Skredsvig who was born March 12, 1854. This 6-kr. stamp shows his oil painting *Idyll* (1888) that now resides in the Lillehammer Art Museum. Skredsvig had a home in Eggedal, about halfway between Oslo and Bergen in the county of Buskerud. Many of Skredsvig's paintings are from that area.



"Idyll" by Christian Skredsvig on new 6-kr. stamp.



Skredsvig's sketch of Gunnar Jellum (1897)

This painting is of special interest to me because the scene is from my great-grandfather's farm, Jellum. The painting shows a farmhand, Ole Olsen Omnan, who was employed by Gunnar Evensen Jellum (1819-1911), my great-grandfather. On a visit there in 1976, I stood in about the same spot that Skredsvig must have used for painting the scene. The buildings shown in the painting (and stamp) looked much the same in 1976 as in 1888.

Of course, all of my relatives in Norway are proud of this painting and most display a reproduction of it somewhere in their home. *Idyll* is frequently used in advertisements in such magazines as the *Viking*. Another Skredsvig painting, *Seljefloyten*, (1889), was shown on *Facit* Norway 859 issued in 1980. Although not on a stamp, a sketch by Skredsvig from 1897 is even closer to my family. This sketch shows my great-grandfather, Gunnar Jellum. ■

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New Partnership Promotes Nordic Stamp Themes

Norse mythology is the theme of the latest Norden issue that involves all of eight Scandinavian postal agencies in a synchronized release. The agencies formed a partnership, Top of the World of Stamps, to promote the Nordic issue being released March 26 at the NorrPhil 04 exhibition near Stockholm.

"The Nordic postal service providers have felt the need to strengthen their ties, to clearly position the Nordics as a cohesive region," commented Jörgen Andersén, Sweden's liaison with the Top of the World project. "A long-range stamp-issue plan with synchronized release dates, common profile and fertile theme are key elements of the new Top of the World of Stamps alliance."

Joint Nordic theme stamps (not always including all countries) have been issued 14 times beginning with the Five Swans issue in 1956. This is the first time, however, that the Nordic stamps are gathered into a folder that contains all eight interpretations of the central theme. The partners plan more joint releases on the same Norse mythology theme in 2006 and again in 2008.

"The expectations of the postal administrations are quite high and we have already noticed a great interest among stamp collectors," commented Anita Häggblom, Åland's philatelic manager. Seven of the eight countries are issuing miniature sheets containing two stamps. Åland's sheet has only one stamp.

Further information on all the stamps in the 2004 series is available at www.topoftheworld.nu. The folder of all eight miniature sheets must be ordered through one of the countries' postal agencies.

— Paul Albright



Denmark: Heimdal and Gefion. The Norse god Heimdal dwells in the heavens and guards the bridge between Asgaard and Midgaard. Gefion, the goddess of fertility, transformed her sons to oxen, which plowed a hole in Sweden (Lake Vaener) with the dirt becoming the Danish island Sjælland.

Sweden: Meeting in Valhalla. A warrior rides into Valhalla where he is about to encounter a Valkyrie. She holds a drinking horn in welcome. The design was inspired by stone carvings found on Gotland.

Norway: Njord and Baldur. Njord is the god of seamanship and sailing, controlling the wind and weather to assist fishermen. The other scene mourns the death of Baldur, who was invulnerable to everything but mistletoe. The evil god Loki gave an arrow made of mistletoe to Baldur's blind brother Hod, who inadvertently killed Baldur.

Finland: Luonnotar. The goddess Luonnotar is both mother and daughter of nature and is called the Virgin of the Air. After becoming bored living in the air for eternity, she descends into the sea and is impregnated by wind and water. Her son, Väinämöinen, is the first man on the earth and the hero of the epic poems known as the Kalevala.

Åland: Fenja and Menja. These mythical maids are responsible for the saltiness of the seas. King Frodi originally instructed them to grind gold, but they were captured by the sea king, Mysing, who instructed them to grind salt instead. Their ship sank from the weight of the salt but Fenja and Menja continued to grind salt at the bottom of the sea.



Greenland: The Man in the Moon and the Northern Lights. The frowning man-in-the-moon controls fertility in men and animals, natural phenomena, and even the pattern of seal hunting. The Northern Lights swirl in the heavens with spirits of the dead playing with the head of a walrus.

Iceland: Odin and Sleipner. Odin is considered the supreme god of Norse mythology. He and his brother(s) created the world and the first people. Odin is omnipotent and omniscient. He is not, however, invulnerable. When the mythological world convulses, the evil Loki's son, the wolf Fenris, swallows Odin, who is shown mounted on his eight-legged steed, Sleipner.

Faroe Islands: Thor and Ran. Thor was so popular in the Faroes that the capital city, Tórshavn, is named for him. Ran, on the other hand, is the goddess of the drowned, catching sailors in her net and dragging them beneath the waves. The wild waves on stormy seas are Ran's many daughters. ■

Color Variety on Norway Booklet

Norway Post ordered its printer in the Netherlands to destroy 134,000 stamp booklets after finding an unacceptable color variation in the printing. Nevertheless, the color varieties are there for collectors to hunt.

The variety was caused when there was more blue than gray on some of the NOK 5.50 stamp in the Norwegian fairy tales issue released May 22, 2003. "The gray color was bluer than it was supposed to be, resulting in different shades," said a Norway Post spokesman.

The stamp in question (NK1498) depicts Theodor Kittelsen's watercolor drawing of 1904 named Skogstrollet (Forest Goblin). It was printed in photogravure at Joh. Enschedé in booklets of eight stamps on self-adhesive paper, perforated 13x14 on three sides with the non-perforated side at either the top or bottom.

There are no exact figures on how many faulty booklets were distributed to post offices in Norway or sent to its subscribing customers. The spokesman estimated a few thousand booklets were released before the variety was spotted and distribution halted.

The variety was first reported in *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*.

— Rolf Scharning



Iceland Marks Stride Toward Independence

By Þór Þorsteins

Home rule came to Iceland 100 years ago. Iceland Post marked the anniversary with a stamp that honors one of the country's foremost politicians who helped to link Iceland to the modern world. Hannes Hafstein, the first minister of Iceland, solidified home rule after 1904 as an important first step toward independence from Denmark.

Self governance through home rule and the recognition of the Icelandic Parliament were landmarks to be followed by recognition as a separate state under the Danish crown in 1918 and the founding of the republic in 1944. Hafstein, who was both poet and politician, took the lead on a number of national issues that energized the country after centuries of stagnation. One of those advances was the installation of a sea cable for telegraph communications with the outside world.

The agreement that Hafstein signed in 1904 with the Great Northern Co. to lay the cable to Iceland was greatly disputed. His greatest opposition came from another poet, Einar Benediktsson (see *Facit* Iceland 434), who had started discussions with the Marconi Co. to establish radio-telegraph communications to Iceland. Hafstein stayed the course and the underwater cable reached Seyðisfjörður in 1906 (see *Facit* Iceland 345).



In one of the most absurd cases in Iceland's history, a group of farmers from the south and west coast of Iceland traveled by horseback to Reykjavik to protest against telephone and telegraph service. Many rode hundreds of miles with few bridges over the rivers. We Icelanders always consider this the greatest example of conservative opposition to the modernization of Iceland.

On February 9, less than a month after the Hafstein stamp was issued on January 15, it was announced that a new submarine cable opened linking Iceland with Scotland via the Faroe Islands. This is the first time that Iceland has a double (or backup) connection through separate optical cables to both North America and Europe. Iceland's exploding telecommunications will now have a backup so that "if a connection should be cut this should mean practically no disruption in service," according to a press release from Cellular-news, www.cellular-news.com. Iceland is indeed well into the modern world a century after home rule was established. ■



The 150 ISK minisheet shows Hafstein flanked by the prime minister's office building. The structure was built as a prison, and then became the governors' residence, a ministry building, and finally offices for the president and prime minister (See *Facit* 363-364 and 381-382). The bird on the shield was Iceland's coat of arms in 1904.



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Nordic Philately and Cooperation

By Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson

The recent pronouncement of a new philatelic “partnership” among the Nordic countries (see Page 20) brings to mind earlier examples of postal and philatelic cooperation that extends back for 150 years. The issuance of miniature sheets on a common date, with a common theme, and in a special folder is, in truth, a progression to be expected given the continuing policies of cooperation among Scandinavian postal agencies and collector groups. The stamps issued in March are the 14th in the popular Norden series.



Norway's 35-øre Five Swans stamp from the first Norden issue of 1956.

The first joint Nordic stamps came in 1956 when Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden issued the “Five Flying Swans” stamps that symbolize the closeness of the five countries. Subsequent series also had a joint motif — Viking ships in 1969, the Nordic House in Reykjavik in 1973, and water lilies in 1977 during the 25th session of the Nordic parliament. In fact, the second Norden issue in 1969 commemorated the centenary of the first Nordic postal treaty and the 50th anniversary of the “Norden associations.”

In 1989, the five countries begin presenting their own motifs within a common theme. There were old crafts (1980), tourism (1983), sister towns (1986), and folk customs (1989). By then the Faroes had joined the partnership and Åland and Greenland joined two years later. The Norden series continued in 1991, 1993, and 1995 with the theme of Nordic travel. In 1998 it was shipping and in 2002 it was public art. There is no end in sight, as there are plans for more Norden stamps in 2006 and 2008 in addition to those released this March.

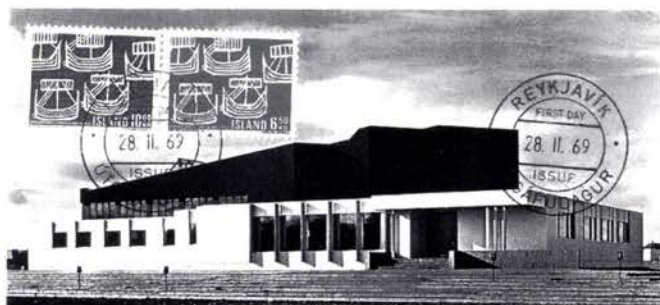
As a press release from the Top of the World of Stamps project noted:

“It is natural for the people of the Nordic countries to join forces and form networks across their borders. History, the same cultural inheritance and an understanding of each other’s languages have all helped this process. Today, there are many channels for Nordic partnerships, including the Nordic Council (a parliamentary forum) and the Nordic Council of Ministers (cooperation between governments).”

I might also mention cooperation among the Nordic Federation of stamp collecting organizations and among the eight stamp-issuing entities in the greater Scandinavian region.

When Chapter 11 of the Scandinavian Collectors Club was established in Reykjavik in the late summer of 1966, one of its goals was to have a Scandinavian exhibition as soon as possible in Iceland. That occurred on February 28, 1969, when Chapter 11 joined in hosting the first stamp exhibition at Nordic House. It was determined that Sweden had planned a show in Stockholm at the same time. As an early sign of cooperation, it was agreed that all Nordic countries would send their new stamps in all possible varieties to both exhibitions for distribution and for first-day and show cancels.

The volcanic eruption on the island Heimaey in Iceland on January 23, 1973 provided an unexpected reason for a joint issue. Stamps marking the disaster were issued by Greenland and Denmark in October 1973 and by Iceland in January 1975. ■



A maximum card showing Nordic House in Reykjavik franked with the second Norden issue, Viking ships, released in 1969.

Anatomy of an Error: Denmark's Frederik VIII 5-øre Green

By John R. Sabin



The 1907 Frederik VIII 5-øre green (*AF* 54) of Denmark exhibits an error that is not cataloged by either *AF* or *Facit*. The error consists of a line running from the selvage side of the stamp in plate position 50 up through the background and through the center of the K in DANMARK, as shown.

The line becomes fainter as it progresses upward and, although it runs into the lower part of the stamp in plate position 40, it rapidly peters out.

The 1907 Frederik VIII 5-øre was printed in 82 printings (tryk nr. I – LXXXII) delivered to the postal authorities between February 11, 1907 and February 3, 1912, and comprised 4,778,229 sheets of 100 stamps each.¹ The

printings delivered after November 1, 1910 (LVIII – LXXXII) were labeled with small marginal plate numbers,² corresponding to the printer's (Thiele) production number. Several of the printings previous to that, however, had small, hand-engraved, marginal numbers,^{1,3} and that is the origin of this particular error.

The error here comes from one of the earlier plates, marked with a hand-engraved 4. in the right margin, opposite from plate position 60 (the upper right corner in the block of four that is shown). There is, in addition to the hand-engraved numeral, a V-like marking, connecting positions 50 and 60. It is the extension of this marking into the stamp at position 50 that is the origin of the error.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine from which of the printings this plate arises, and thus to estimate how many of the errors must have existed. Part of the reason for this is that although there are color variations in the different printings, they are so minor that it is not possible to use this to identify particular printings.¹ However, the printings with hand-engraved plate numbers must all come before the small plate numbers began to be used, that is, from printings I – LVII.

Of these printings, the smallest run was of 8,681 sheets (XL) while the largest was of 74,884 sheets (XXIX).¹ Most of the print runs were of the order of 60,000-70,000 sheets. The expectation is thus that at least several tens of thousands of this error must have existed at one time. ■



References:

¹ Hagamann, G.A., *Danmarks og Dansk Vestindiens Frimærker (Bind 4)*, Københavns Philatelist Klub, Universitets-Bogtrykkeri, København, 1951.

² Juul, Knud, *De Klassiske Marginalnumre – Danmarks Frimærker 1910-1933*, Brabrand Bogtryk, Brabrand, 1987.

³ Sabin, John R., *The Hand Written Plate Numbers of the Christian IX and Frederik VIII Issues Printed between 1904 and 1907. Part I: Denmark*, submitted to *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*.

Scandinavian Area Awards

At the Mare Balticum show held in Kiel, Germany, last May, Harold Peter received a large gold for his "Schleswig-Holstein Feldpost 1848/51 & 1864." At CHICAGOPEX in November, Roger Quinby received a vermeil and the AAPE gold award of honor for his "Postal Cards of Finland 1917-1930." Also at CHICAGOPEX, Jerome V. V. Kasper received a silver for "The Aerogrammes of Iceland." ■

— Alan Warren

President's Letter

John DuBois



Looking Ahead to Elections

The national elections this fall will not be the only ones that are important to SCC's members. Our own biennial elections are coming up, too. Up for nomination and election will be the positions of: president, first vice president, vice president of chapters, treasurer, secretary, and three regular director positions. I will be appointing a nominating committee, consisting of one director and two club members who are not directors, to recommend a slate of candidates to the membership.

I would like to hear from anyone who would like to help our club by serving in one of these positions (jld@thlogic.com). The job of the nominating committee will be far easier if we have some willing and enthusiastic candidates. This is your chance to put new ideas to work and to build on the strong advances in our organization over the past few years.

Dues Increase to be Proposed

This will be the last year we can get by without increasing club dues. We have chosen to run our yearly finances at a modest loss for the last several years, and this has not caused any lasting harm. However, all categories of expense are continuing to increase through inflation. It is no longer sound management to operate at a loss, eating into our reserves. The board will make the final decision on just how much this increase will be, but I will recommend \$5.00, bringing the normal 12-month membership rate to \$20.00, about equal to a movie and snacks for two. When you think about the important benefits this membership brings, such as *The Posthorn* and our fine library, I don't believe it is an unreasonable amount.

Add Your Email

Almost every activity of the SCC benefits from Internet communications, especially email. Many members, however, have not provided email addresses for our member directory (http://www.scc_online.org/dir.htm). I know that "spam" is a huge annoyance, but, nevertheless, please consider providing us with an email address for SCC communications. It helps and speeds up the work of people such as our chapter vice president and executive secretary. You can email me or Executive Secretary Don Brent with your email information (jld@thlogic.com, or dbrent47@sprynet.com).

More Open Doors for Exhibitors

With this issue you will see the SCC Calendar expanded to include a few Nordic national shows that will accept entries from SCC members. There has been some discussion about the need or wisdom for listing these shows, since it's not common for SCC members from the U.S. to send exhibits overseas (except for NORDIA). Even so, the privilege of entering Nordic shows is a significant benefit of SCC membership. We would like to encourage more such activity.

Library Progress

The SCC library continues to grow and strengthen procedures behind the scenes every month, thanks to our hard working and exceptionally capable Library Committee composed of members from Colorado Chapter 27. Just one example is the new computer database system under development by Jeff Mondesitt. As it takes shape, the database will make it easier for library users to search online by country, title, subject, author, date, and possibly other criteria. I want to express my continuing appreciation to our committee and to the generous cooperation of the staff at our host, the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver. ■

Transfers and Re-Entries

By Alan Warren

The Post & Tele Museum of Denmark publishes a quarterly journal, *Museums Posten*. Each issue contains brief articles on museum exhibits and interesting tidbits about Danish stamps and postal history. The November 2003 issue completes 10 years of publication for this journal and contains a detailed index 1994-2003. Information about the museum is available from Post & Tele Museum, Box 2053, 1012 Copenhagen K, Denmark, or by email to museum@ptt-museum.dk, or on their website www.ptt-museum.dk.

In Norway, Egil Thomassen was awarded the Richter prize for 2002 for his extensive writings on behalf of Norwegian aerophilately. The prize is named for the late Jared H. Richter, former SCC president. Another Norwegian award, known as the Badge of Honor of the Norwegian Federation, was presented last year to Peer-Christian Ånnensen in recognition of his work for the *Norgeskatalogen* and his writings about railway mails of Norway.

The Swedish auction firm Postiljonen is taking over publication of *Fakes and Forgeries Journal*, which began in 1998 to inform collectors and exhibitors about faked and forged items and how philatelic experts work in their countries. It has published information about 200 cases of fakes or forgeries in its first six issues. The new editor will be Denmark's Knud Mohr, former president of FIP.

Valencia, Spain is the site of the España show in May, an FIP exhibition. The following commissioners are representing their countries: Denmark, Per Friis Mortensen; Finland, Pekka Taitto; Iceland, Gunnar Rafn Einarsson; Norway, Per M. Kinden; and Sweden, Hasse Brockenhuus von Löwenhielm. ■

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

As one would expect, the sales of the Brent Fossum and Peer Lorentzen collections in November drew many potential buyers and a curious audience to the auction rooms. The rooms were electric before the first hammer fell, and just an hour later the collections were disposed among known and unknown buyers. Many years of efforts were used to build these fantastic collections but only a few hours to distribute them to new collectors.

F. C. Moldenhauer, November 15

Three hundred Fossum items were up for sale and nearly every one found a new home. With a weaker economy than five years ago, everyone was unsure how the auction would go. As always, however, when name collections are up for sale, collectors seem to have no shortage of funds despite economic conditions. Only a few items failed to sell, and there were some spectacular results.

Lot 1799, 4x 4 sk. Oscar cover to Denmark sold for \$8,000.* Lot 1809 Oscar-on-cover to Holstein reached \$46,000, starting from \$14,000. Rare-destination covers and ship-mail letters were favorites among the buyers.

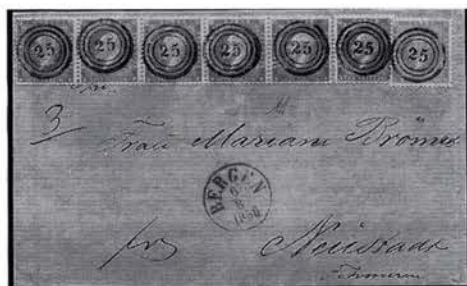
Checking the lots described in the November, 2003, issue of *The Posthorn*, we can report: Lot 1525, 4 sk. 1855 mint block of four, \$277,000; #1565, strip of six from Bergen, \$24,000;



1857 cover Bergen to Denmark (#1799).

* Prices cited include commission and USA dollar rate set at 1.27 against the Euro. ➤

#1784, 2 sk. Oscar mint block, \$28,000; #1789, letter to Netherlands, \$50,000 after intense bidding; #1795, 4 sk. Oscar bisected stamp, \$40,500; and the superb Oscar cover, #1818, \$25,000. Lot 1566, a mixed-franking 4 sk. 1855, brought \$54,000 amid reports that when this cover last changed ownership it sold for NOK 1,350,000, or \$250,000 in today's exchange rate. This represented a huge decline of almost \$200,000.



Rare destination cover from 1858 (#1809).

Thomas Høiland, November 17

Although the Lorentzen collection was the highlight of this auction, remarkable prices were achieved for Danish advertising booklets from the Dusen collection. Lot 1277, the large General Motors booklet 7.50 kr., more than doubled its starting bid and sold for \$14,000. Lot 1280, a Mohawk booklet with leather cover sold for a record price for a Danish booklet at \$18,500. Two other General Motors booklets with leather covers sold for \$15,400 (#1281) and \$16,400 (#1282), more than tripling the estimates for these three booklets. Elsewhere in the auction, an Iceland skilling cover (#2259) failed to reach its estimate of \$100,000, whereas a used block of 6 with 4 sk. official perf. 12 sold for \$35,000.



Stationery cover surprises (#155).

In the Lorentzen sale, the auction of Lot #166 in particular silenced the room amid intense bidding that surprised everyone. The combination cover Denmark and Mecklenburg-Schwerin sold for \$75,000, a record price for a combination cover with foreign stamps. This is one of only two known.

Though these are the big items, some other items did extremely well. Who would have thought that the 4 sk. stationery envelope franked with 2 sk. 1855 (#155) would go for DKK 48,000 (\$8,200) against a starting price of only DKK 3,000. Another 4 sk. stationery (#206), franked with 8 sk. 1858 sold for \$9,000. A desirable cover for quality and rarity was Lot #188, franked

with a pair of 16 sk. to Cronstad in Russia. This proved one of the best buys at \$6,500.

Some other items worth noting included: #134, the 2 RBS plating, \$130,000; #037, 4 RBS Ferslew mint block of six, \$70,000; a fantastic Heyn cover (#143) sold for \$152,000. Of the later issues, the 16 sk. mint block of eight (#180) brought \$15,500, not a lot of money for one of the best blocks in Danish philately. The New Zealand cover (#191) stirred competition before selling for DKK 204,000 (\$35,000) against a starting price of DKK 40,000.



Quality + Rarity = \$6,500 (#188)

Finnish auctions (this section reported by Kauko Aro)

Kaj Hellman held another auction in October 2003 with the high points covered in the 9/2003 issue of the Finnish journal, *Filatelisti*. With total sales of about \$550,000 (including sales after auction), he broke a company record established eight months earlier. The highest prices came from two B-perf varieties of the 1911 issue and a cover with a Cyrillic TOHMAJÄRVI strike.

The 10/2003 issue of *Filatelisti* reported that the Merkki Albert auction yielded sales of some \$160,000 and included six submitted designs for the canceled 1940 Olympics, that were to have been held in Helsinki.

Postiljonen, March 19-20

Highlighting this auction will be the Danish proofs and essays from the famed Peer Lorentzen collection. Postiljonen calls this the most comprehensive collection of Denmark's proofs and essays ever assembled and includes most of the known items from the early period. Included is a proof of Denmark's first stamp, the 2 Rigsbank-skilling from 1851. Starting price for the essay is €2,500. ■

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright

While the rovers on Mars have been dominating the recent interplanetary headlines, one of SCC's members has been playing a "starring" role in another U.S. adventure in outer space. California's Ray L. Newburn is co-investigator at the Jet



Propulsion Laboratory for NASA's Stardust mission. The Stardust vehicle successfully caught samples of comet particles and made detailed photographs of a comet in January. Analysis of the samples and the images "will help us better understand the mechanisms that drive conditions on comets," Newburn told the media. Stardust took almost 10 years from proposal writing to the encounter with the Wild 2 comet that is located about two billion miles from Earth. Previously, Newburn was an organizer and leader of the international Halley Comet Watch, including coordinating efforts by 1,000 astronomers worldwide.

When he does have time for his Scandinavian collection, Newburn focuses on Iceland. He is one of those working on a new catalog of Icelandic postal cards. "I collect mint stamps including the various printings of the aurarmerki and the plate flaws of the later issues. I have most of the first-day covers that exist. And I have been building a collection of the Í GILDI overprints." His philatelic interests include other parts of this world, as well.



You can expect to see this happy couple and their monogram on some Danish stamps this spring. Crown Prince Frederik and Mary Elisabeth Donaldson of Tasmania (who went to elementary school in Houston, Texas) will be married May 14. Two wedding stamps will be issued jointly by Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroes. The Crown Prince's mother, Queen Margrete II, designed the monogram for the couple.



The stamps will kick off a series of Danish stamps related to royalty. Also being released May 14 are three stamps celebrating the 300th anniversary of Frederiksberg Palace, which today is the national museum rather than a royal palace. On June 9 there will be a stamp marking the 70th birthday of Prince Consort Henrik, the queen's husband. To keep up with the royal family, click on www.hkhkronprinsen.dk or www.kongehuset.dk.

Late news on other Nordic royals: Norway will issue 1.8 million miniature sheets (NOK 6.00 value) portraying Princess Ingrid Alexandra on the occasion of her baptism April 17. The infant, who was born January 21, is second in line to the Norwegian crown behind her father, Crown Prince Haakon Magnus.



We pause a moment to toot our own horn. Jim Burgeson's article, "Swedish Stamps with Blue Posthorns on the Back," (*The Posthorn*, August 2002, pages 21-22) apparently scored a bull's-eye with many collectors. Here is what Jim emailed: "The article on the blue posthorns and the stamp with *three* posthorns on the back got the attention of many, many people around the world. I have had several letters,

e-mails, etc. about it. And, it was also in *Linn's*. I am not sure why that particular article got so much response. I have had feedback from everywhere: Russia, Finland, several from Sweden, Germany, and from three or four here in the States. It seemed to catch everyone's attention."

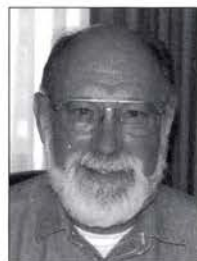
In the same vein, a translation of *The Posthorn* article on Finnish semi-postal stamps (November 2002, pages 3-6) was published in the 7/2003 issue of Finland's *Filatelisti*. This is indicative of stronger collaboration among editors of Scandinavian philatelic publications. In this case, *Filatelisti* Editor Lauri Poropudas wrote his article in English while deferring publication in his own journal by almost a year. In recent months, we have collaborated with philatelic editors in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom on articles large and small. This helps to fill our pages with useful research and other information to benefit Scandinavia collectors everywhere. ■

News From the Home Office

By Don Brent

This is my standard annual plea for the last of the dues renewals. Before sitting down to write, I took a moment to check the membership list and noticed that 70 some members have not mailed in their renewals. You have mailed in your 2004 dues haven't you? If you are one of the tardy members, why don't you do it right now? This will be the last Posthorn you will receive if your dues are not paid for 2004. It will take only a moment to write out that check and get it in the mail. Please do it now. SCC remains a real bargain among the philatelic societies.

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



First-Ever Clearance Sale

- Boost Your Reference Collection
- Help the SCC Library

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

The Posthorns from the 1970s through the 1990s are being sold @ 50 cents per copy. We also will try to fill orders for older copies of *Scandinavian Scribe* and *Scandinavian Contact* on a per year basis (if available).

We have sold out of many of the *Posthorns* from the 1970s and 1980s, but some remain. There is still an inventory from the 1990s.

Available *Posthorns* from the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s – 50 cents per copy (plus shipping). We will send what is available and invoice accordingly.

Scandinavian Scribe and *Scandinavian Contact* – 25 cents per copy (plus shipping). Limited number available. Tell us what you want and we will see if it is available.

Mail orders to SCC Library, c/o RMPL, 2038 Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224; email orders to palbright@wiche.edu. An invoice will accompany your order.

The SCC Library Committee

consideration. Also some of you have paid in advance to lock in the \$15 annual membership rate, or to save the hassle of an annual notice. Some, of course, are life members. Those who fit in those groups did not receive a notice.

We gained 12 new members in the past quarter. This is the time of year that I receive resignations; we received seven in the quarter. While we hate to see members leave, we also understand that health problems come up as we get older and sometimes interests change. As usual, I would like to welcome all new members and remind them that we are here to help you with any SCC-related matters. Be sure to get in contact with any questions or problems with your membership. ■

SCC Stats for 3rd Quarter 2003

New Members

3987 King, Chris, 74 Lyndhurst Gardens, London, UK, N3 1TD
3988 Faralli, Ugo, Via Pietro Secchia 26, Rivarolo Torriale, (PR) Italy 43030
3989 Williams, John Henry, 1252 North Crestway, Wichita, KS 67208
3990 McIntyre, Gordon, 3047 16th Ave. W. Lower Apt., Seattle, WA 98119
3991 Johnson, Carl H., 9 Mountain Stream Ct., Narnegat, NJ 08005
3992 Fedon, Joseph, DNP
3993 Countryman, Robert L., DNP
3994 Wohlfart, John F., DNP
3995 Munoz, Lazaro, 138 Collfield Ave., Staten IS., NY 10302
3996 Smith, Barry E., DNP
3997 Gareau, Bernard, 8812 117th Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB, T5B 4V1 Canada
3998 Ronsse, Walter, L. De Raetstraat 13, Gent 9051 Belgium

Deceased

3738 Casey, Lynn R.
3791 Brandt, Norman H.
2899 Kisner, Jacob
L25/772 Frigstad, Robert A.

Resignation

3654 Spaugy, Robert E. 3518 Jones, Lawrence H.
3599 Cilluffo, Joseph P. 3141 Linder, Olof
3760 Kolstad, Eivind 3752 Kelly, Raymond
3947 Irving, Cliff

Donations

1006 DeBus, R.	3846 Hacker, F.	3226 Benett, D.	1615 Hedley, M.	3067 Wolfel, W.
2299 McCaw, W.	1714 Smith, W. Jr.	3294 Svensson, E.	1545 Sickels, G.	1372 Christensen, J.
1408 Gary, N.	1956 Schloss, H.	2253 Melberg, I.	3649 Hanson, B.	3053 Klaus, K.
2964 Rees, C.	2403 Bjorklund, H.	3855 Green, E.	1095 Lang, R.	1793 Shuck, T.
3871 Leblanc, L.	3221 Roberts, R.	2618 Sun, A.	2016 Villadsen, D.	3647 Tann, L.
1417 Omberg, R.	2994 Regenthal, A.	3687 Angus, J.	2743 Fader, M.	

Change of Address

3328 Feldt, Dr. Robert H., 1950 Westfield Ct. SW, Rochester, MN 55902
768 Anderson, Donald, PO Box 8213, St. Paul, MN 55108
3865 Lukens, Elsie Mae, 2323 East Hills Dr. #19, Bakersfield, CA 93306
2949 Crown, Jeffrey N., 403 West High St., Portland, IN 47371
3627 Stoleson, Daniel W., 62694 E. Amberwood Dr., Tucson, AZ 85739-1832
3900 Littlefield, Tony, 108 Hilltop Dr., Chesterfield, MD 21620-2045
3819 Bustad, Eric K., PO Box 20458, Seattle, WA 98102-1458
3843 Vikan, David, 340 Eastern Ave., Grafton, ND 58237-1234
3012 Lewis, Steohen E., PO Box 2707, Sequim, WA 98382-2707
3693 Herren, Charles Jr., 16525 S. Forest Glen Dr., Mulino, OR 97042
132GL Johnson, J.M., 498 Page St., San Jose, CA 95126-3361
3692 Nupponen, Bert, 318 Rathburn Road, Etobicoke, ON, M9B 2L8 Canada

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Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren



News from Britain

David Macdonald continues his series on the Fri-Correspondence Kort of Denmark with Part 4 in the December issue of *Scandinavian Contact*. Other series included in this issue are Part 6 of Bob Johnson's post office markings of Denmark, Rob Willett's Part 7 on Danish railways, and Brian McCloy's Part 3 on the railways of Finland and its postal service.

The December issue of the Royal Philatelic Society London's journal *The London Philatelist* has a supplement by Gavin Fryer and John Whiteside that discusses the currencies of the world and their application to postal rates from 1840 up to the Universal Postal Union in 1875. One section is devoted to Denmark, Sweden, and Norway and includes the efforts of Denmark and Sweden in 1872 to establish a common currency based on gold.

The November issue of 238, the journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle, features an article by Editor Norman Hudson on Czeslaw Slania in conjunction with the 100th stamp he designed for the Faroes. In the same issue, Steen Jack Petersen lists the private registration and packet labels of the Faroes.

News from Denmark

In the October *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Jan Læby discusses postal cards, post cards, and DWI postal history. In the November issue of *DFT*, Lasse Nielsen illustrates a Danish essay that looks similar to the 4 RBS but is imprinted "Fire Skill." Also Ib Krarup Rasmussen writes about the early post offices and collection offices of the Faroes. Denmark's Official Cards are the subject of the ongoing postal stationery series by Lars Engelbrecht and Erik Hvidberg Hansen in the December *DFT*. In the same issue, Kim Vilhelmsen writes about the 2003 Christmas seals of Denmark and Greenland.

Writing in the September issue of *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*, Uffe Munch-Andersen marks the centenary of Denmark's registration labels or etiquettes. This issue also provides Part 11 of E. Menne Larsen's study of postal history in Schleswig from 1848-1851. Another nice review article is Torben Sørensen's historic survey of the ice-post flights after 1917 when winter ice prevented surface delivery of the mails in Denmark.

News from Åland

Ålandsposten Filateli, published by the country's postal service, contains articles in Issue No. 3/2003 on last year's collector sheets and an introduction to the postal service's marketing department. In Issue No. 4/2003, the country's first definitives for 2004 feature three predators—the fox, the pine marten, and the ermine. Åland marks the 50th anniversary of its flag with a new stamp this year.

News from the Faroes

Postverk Føroya's journal No. 4/2003 presents a brief postal history of Bøur, and a thumbnail sketch of vicar and hymn-writer Thomas Kingo on the 300th anniversary of his death.

News from Iceland

Issue No. 8 of *Frímerkjablaðið* is a special one that served as the catalog for the NORDIA 2003 exhibition in Reykjavík. This issue also contains interesting articles by Þór Þorsteins such as the one on postal seals of Iceland and another on prisoner of war mail to Iceland 1940-1945.

News from Sweden

In the October issue of *filatelisten*, Lennart Ivarsson points out that the Stockholm boxed cancel was used as the country's first postage due marking. He illustrates an 1843 cover with this marking that was sent from Norrköping to Stockholm by ship, with a postage due manuscript marking of 5 skilling banco. In the



November issue, Fred Goldberg writes about the 75th anniversary of the crash of the *Italia* in Svalbard, and also the centenary of the rescue by Argentine sailors of members of the Nordenskjöld expedition in 1903. This issue also contains new rules for judging picture post cards at philatelic shows. The rules will go into effect at two national shows in Sweden this year.

In the December issue, Kersti and Bertil Larsson provide additional information regarding early use of the Stockholm box cancels as postage due markings, in follow-up of the Ivarsson article mentioned above. The Swedish Postal History Society (SSPD) released its eighth collection of articles, *Aktuellt om Posthistoria*. Jan Billgren writes about insured mail from Sweden to foreign countries in the early 1900s, and Jan-Olov Edling discusses receipts for domestic insured and registered mail in the early 1900s. These are just two of the interesting articles in the booklet.

Another excellent collection of articles will be found in the annual yearbook for the Swedish Postmuseum, *Postryttaren*. Björn Sylwan gives a nice portrait of the famous Swedish philatelist Nils Strandell, and Åke Torkelstam describes paper seals used on Swedish mail from 1877 to 1926. Tomas Bjäringer and Erik Hamberg describe the country's important philatelic journals with their history and a list of their editors.

News from Finland (This section provided by *Kauko Aro*.)

Filatelisti 5/2003 had two more articles on the 1875 issue about errors and compulsory usages. Another lengthy article covers booklet AV7, which represented a booklet in new format. Issue 6 of this journal had an article about the 141 entities that had obtained permission by August 2003 to issue customized company stamps.

Filatelisti 7/2003 continues the pros and cons of collecting the private issue stamps. The Postal Museum held a picture post card exhibit of St. Petersburg and Helsinki commemorating the tercentenary of the founding of St. Petersburg. The 1911 issue is covered by R. Nummela who discusses the imperforate 5 and 10 penni stamps. This nice research article pulls together information from various prior publications and the Finnish Handbook.

Issue 8/2003 lists Finland's planned stamp program for 2004, which will include stamps honoring Runeberg (poet/writer), Sibelius (composer), and Edelfelt and Gallen-Kallela (two painters). This issue also provides a listing of stamp clubs in Finland. An article in the 10/2003 issue discusses the mail of the Russian Northwestern army.

News from Norway

Tore Berg reports in the Issue No. 4/2003 of *Info*, the quarterly journal of the Oslo Filatelistklubb, on Norway's currency such as the riksdaler (1628-1813), the riksbankdaler (1813-1816), the speciedaler (1816-1875), and finally the krone (1875 to present). Ian Reed writes on the centennial of Norway's introduction of machine cancels in No. 8/2003 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. He includes a number of early covers with machine cancels. In the same issue, Torbjørn Larson Fedde writes about the vessel "M/S Mosdale" that saw service during WW II. He shows some covers with the ship's cancels on the London series stamps. In issue No. 9/2003 of this journal, Jan Michaelsen describes some new types of paper used on recently issued self-adhesive booklets of Norway.

In the same issue, Roald Holten discusses the publication and sales of handbooks in Norway. Most recent handbooks have sold in the 100-400 range. An exception is a handbook of Norwegian seapost cancels, which has sold 661 copies.

News from Elsewhere

In the November issue of the *Airpost Journal*, published by the American Air Mail Society, Egil Thomassen writes about the use of balloons to carry mails in Denmark in 1808. In the October 2003 issue of *Indien-Report*, published by the India Study Group in Germany, Avinash B. Jagtap writes about Danish settlements in India that date to the 17th century. The two specific ones he describes are those at Tranquebar and Serampore, and he illustrates some of the 18th century postal markings from these sites.

The July-September issue of *Close-Up*, the quarterly journal of the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, ➤

features an article on the joint issues of Sweden and Hong Kong that he engraved for the water bird series. Hong Kong is the 32nd country for which Slania has made stamps. The October-December issue highlights the 100th stamp that Slania created for the Faroes, which is a portion of a painting by Emil Krause on Faroese traditional dancing.

The Canadian Philatelist is the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. In the November-December 2003 issue, Henrik Mouritsen describes a Danish cover sent early in 1875 (pre-UPU) to Toronto. It is especially interesting as it is addressed to Alexander Milton Ross, a medical doctor, ornithologist, and prominent organizer of the “underground railroad,” which assisted runaway slaves to travel through the U.S. to freedom in Canada.

The August issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten* from Germany features articles on the Nólsoy post office in the Faroes, the Greenland post office of Qassiarsuk, the 1934 airmail stamps of Iceland, special museum and tourist site railway cancels of Norway, and 20th century postage due markings of Sweden. The September issue of *Het Noorderlicht* from Holland features an article by Editor Ton Steenbakkers on mail, especially postal cards, associated with the H7 Lottery in Norway in 1946. ■

Chapter Reports

Compiled by vice president for Chapters, Arnold Sorensen

Chapter meetings are in full swing. I am routinely getting monthly reports from several chapter secretaries, and I thank them for keeping me informed. There is one chapter that everyone can join without having to attend any meetings. It's the Cyber Chapter where any member can share information, stories, or anything related to Scandinavian philately. Currently, it has 44 participants, both U.S. and foreign members. As each new member joins, coordinator Ed Bode suggests a brief history of collecting interest. You may locate an interesting contact for your collecting specialties. We need you to participate in the Cyber Chapter.

You also will find that the circuit books have a dedicated following, and many chapter meetings attract members by having these books available. It “pays” to keep them coming.

NEW ENGLAND Chapter 5

John DuBois received a gold medal for his Danish West Indies postal stationery exhibit at NORDIA 2003. The annual Christmas dinner attracted all members plus a few spouses. Meeting programs are planned for the next six months. They include using audio-visual shows borrowed from SCC's Library. The chapter uses the Scandinavian Living center newsletter to publicize the meetings.

DELAWARE Chapter 13

Mark Manno has stepped down as president and Tom Bergendahl has taken over. For some meetings, a letter from the alphabet is picked, and each member is asked to bring an item that begins with that letter. The chapter is about half-way through the alphabet. April's program will be a slide show from the SCC Library and Danish first covers will be shown in May.

TWIN CITIES Chapter 14

The death of Bob Frigstad on Christmas Day was a big blow. He had been secretary/treasurer since the club was founded 37 years ago, and had also been the chapter circuit manager. (See his Closed Album in this issue.) John Salminen is the new secretary/treasurer, and Al Sarvi is the new circuit manager. In November, the club had the annual donation auction, with the proceeds going to the Lynnhurst Community Center for use of their facilities.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Chapter 17

The October meeting neatly coincided with SESCAL so the chapter participated as needed in the show arrangements. In November, Paul Nelson provided a "trip report" from NORDIA 2003 in Iceland, and in December a large shipment of SCC martbooks was devoured.

GOLDEN GATE Chapter 21

Monthly meetings are scheduled for four hours, and about 50 circuit books with Scandinavian stamps are available. In November, two members showed parts of their collections. One was Danish plate varieties and the second was Schleswig stamps used before and after the 1920 plebiscite. The December meeting was limited to examining circuit books. Herb Volin reported circuit book purchases by chapter members in 2003: SCC books: \$2,121 and APS books (four months only): \$267. It goes to show there is a ready market for your philatelic duplicates.

BOB PAULSON Chapter 23

Typical attendance is 10 members. The chapter participated with three other stamp clubs in a mailing to more than 120 persons who attended last year's BAYPEX show plus an advertisement in a large condominium association's newspaper. Each club gained one new member as a result. In October, Walter Parker showed his collection, virtually all of which was acquired from SCC circuit books. New officers were elected in November.

MANITOBA Chapter 24

Following officer elections in October, the fall programs were a slide presentation on the Russian Zone overprints of Germany, a talk by Des Conner, historian of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society, on the history of Western Canada's oldest stamp club, and Robert Zacharias talking on German Local Posts. A Christmas party was held in December.

COLORADO Chapter 27

This chapter meets monthly at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. In October, 12 members sorted through a pile of literature (and Danish pastry). In November, Roger Cichorz displayed Åland revenue stamps and Jim Kilbane showed new SCC Library acquisitions. Frederick Campbell spoke on Scandinavian railroad parcel stamps in December. These stamps were affixed to waybills attached to packages or a bill of lading. Reference material is hard to come by, and the countries discontinued the stamps between 1935 and 1968. Secretary Roger Cichorz's records showed 15 different members attended at least one chapter meeting in 2003.

CYBER Chapter 28

Recent e-newsletters covered the following: Sweden-Argentina anniversary of the Arctic rescue of the Nordenskjold crew in 1903; an Iceland revenues book being prepared in Icelandic and English; the Finnish catalog LaPe now includes a listing of Finnish revenues; Sweden had postal cards and letter cards overprinted for the exclusive use of the post office from 1919-1964 (a back-of-the-book item); a request for information about a "post card club" that exchanged postcards using the printed matter rate about 1900-1914.

The e-newsletter frequently includes images of stamps or covers. In Newsletter 54, Jim Burgeson provided this comment: "In my opinion this kind of attachment is excellent for the newsletter. Why? Mainstream exhibition-grade material that is usually from auctions and often expensive belongs mainly in *The Posthorn*. But there is a vast world of other material (like the double overprint on lettercard) that is interesting and widely collected. It is mainly not suitable for exhibits and is not *crème de la crème*. While many may shun this secondary material, others thrive on it! I think nearly everyone has some of it. This material needs a venue, and I think the Cyber Chapter Newsletter is a good place for it. More participants are needed. Everyone has material like that. Dust it off and send it in." ■

Cover Corner

Svalbard Cover Merits Personal Service

This cover from Australia was serviced informally and personally — but effectively — when it arrived in Svalbard off the Norwegian coast. The cover, mailed from Queensland, Australia, on Oct. 18, 2001, contained a request for a Svalbard porto sticker that was to have been issued earlier that year.

Someone at the Longyearbyen post office typed that the “Svalbard-porto was not introdused [sic] after all. Sorry!” The message was taped to the cover and a “Retur” (Return to Sender) handstamp applied. The cover was canceled on February 1, 2002 in Loneyarbyen on its way back to Australia (sender’s address on the back). Rud Svendsen of New York obtained the cover from the sender and is sharing it with *Posthorn* readers.

The porto stickers were to identify mail from Svalbard so it was not delayed on the Norwegian mainland where a postage increase had been enacted effective July 1, 2001. The government decided at the 11th hour to raise the rates for Svalbard’s mail, making the stickers unnecessary. An estimated 3,000 covers went into the mail with the stickers on them on one day (July 2) before their use was suspended.¹ That was more than three months before the request from Australia was mailed. ■



¹ See *The Posthorn*, August 2001, page 8.

—Paul Albright

A New Variety or Just a Fluke?

By W. Joseph Schlitt

From 1938 until the early 1990s, the standard hand-canceling device used throughout Greenland was the double ring-bridge or Swiss-type canceller. These cancellers were replaced at intervals due to wear, disappearance, or changes in the town name or spelling. However, for a given canceling device, the Daka GF6 catalog (*Greenland Postmarks After 1938*) lists few varieties, other than a number of favor cancels in color. On a few occasions, damage to the outer ring or bridge has also led to the listing of a constant variety that reflects the damage.



Figure 1. A nice example of the normal Angmagssalik (5.Br.02) postmark.

A typical Swiss-type cancel is shown in Figure 1. This is the Angmagssalik (Tasiilaq) cancel used from 1953 to 1975 and denoted 5.Br.02 in the latest GF6 catalog. There are no varieties listed for this cancel, other than those in colored ink. The cover shown in Figure 2 is postmarked with the same canceller about 18 months later. However, there is an interesting difference: the lower half of the inner circle is missing on both strikes in Figure 2.

The question then becomes, “Is this a previously unreported variety for a fairly common cancel, or is it just an unexplained fluke?” I have examined the cover carefully, along with another SCC member, Jerry Strauss of Lizabeth Stamp Co. We concur that the two strikes appear to be reasonably strong and made with a well-inked canceller. Thus, we can see no reason for the disappearance of the lower arcs.

This is where you readers come in. If additional examples of the “missing-arc” cancels can be located, then there is some basis for designating this as a variety. If no other examples can be found, however, then the postmarks shown in Figure 2 must be considered as mere flukes.

Anyone with information on 5.Bro.02 cancels may contact the author directly by e-mail: joseph.schlitt@akerkvaerner.com. ■



Figure 2. The same 5.Bro.02 cancellation, but with the lower half of the inner arc missing on both strikes.

Deadlines Set for NORDIA 2005 Exhibits

Deadlines have been established for exhibitors at NORDIA 2005 that will be held May 26-29, 2005 in Göteborg, Sweden. Bulletin 1 gives June 15, 2004 as the deadline for exhibit applications. However, exhibits that qualify after June 15 15. Exhibits must have been awarded national exhibition to qualify.

The show draws competitive and the SCC. Organizing NORDIA in cooperation with the Swedish Sweden. The show will be held at center of Göteborg.

Organizers request that all contacts be made through each nation's commissioner. Greg Frantz of Colorado has been selected by SCC as the U.S. commissioner to NORDIA and will serve as a judge. Further information is available at www.nordia2005.com, or from Greg Frantz at 18314 East Geddes Pl., Foxfield, CO 80016; telephone, 303-680-6114; email, gfcaptain@aol.com. ■



could apply for entry as late as September at least a large silver medal (70 points) at a exhibits from all of the Nordic countries 2005 is the Swedish Philatelic Federation Philatelic Society in Göteborg and Post Swedish Fair (Svenska Mässan) in the

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SCC 2004 Convention at Pennsylvania Show

This year's annual convention will be held October 1-3 at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE) in King of Prussia, PA, just outside Philadelphia. The venue is the Valley Forge Convention Center. The show hotel is the Radisson Valley Forge, which is adjacent to the convention center, so that you can walk between the buildings without going outdoors. The hotel is located near the Valley Forge exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and is also served by limo from the Philadelphia airport.

SCC members are encouraged to exhibit. Since several other specialty societies are also convening at the Philadelphia show, early application is recommended to be sure of reserving your frames. The other societies include the American Revenue Association, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, the Pennsylvania Postal History Society, and the International Society for Portuguese Philately.

A copy of the show prospectus and exhibitor's application may be obtained from SCC Exhibition Chairman Jim Burgeson, jburgeson003@earthlink.net, or Alan Warren, alanwar@att.net. PNSE is an APS World Series of Philately show and the grand award winner will be invited to show at the Champion of Champions competition at APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, MI in August 2005.

Past SCC president Roger Schnell will chair the PNSE jury, which includes Ebbe Eldrup of Denmark, an FIP judge who has served on NORDIA juries. The SCC schedule will include a dinner on Friday and a board meeting and general membership meeting on Saturday. Exhibit prizes will be announced at the show awards banquet on Saturday at the convention center. The SCC bowl and SCC medals will be available for use by the jury. The jury critique of exhibits will be Sunday (11 a.m.). ■

— Alan Warren



Scandinavian Stamp Mart Report

By Eric Roberts, Mart Manager

It was a sad day when we learned of the "closed albums" for both Bob Frigstad and Jack Kisner in November and December. This was a large loss for philately, for SCC, and for the Mart in particular. Bob and Jack's Mart books accounted for 38 percent of all sales last year. To put that in perspective, estates sales accounted for 34 percent and the remainder of the membership only accounted for 28 percent of sales last year.

More and more of our members are taking advantage of the Stamp Mart and requesting to be placed on one or more circuits. Needless to say, we will need more filled Mart books to keep these circuits full of interesting material.

We need all types of Scandinavian material. Recent used material always sells well, so hopefully some of our kiloware "soakers" will fill some books with their duplicates. Non-Scott material such as locals, railways, and revenues are always in short supply.

The "specialist" materials such as Norwegian posthorns, Swedish ring types, and Danish numerals also sell well. Iceland has always been popular. Cancels are another area that draws interest and tend to be plucked from the books quickly.

Blank Mart books are still a bargain at 75 cents each with a minimum order of four. We have two types of books available: Blue books with 16 pages and spaces for 192 stamps and green books with 16 pages each with one pocket for a small cover, booklet, or stamp set.

The Mart address is Eric Roberts, P.O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056. Telephone (713) 963-0485 (you may leave a message). E-mail eric.roberts@halliburton.com ■

Matchmaker Make Me a Match

Are there too many holes in your collection? Or perhaps an oversupply of duplicates is clogging your stock pages? Like to find a regular trading partner, or maybe arrange some private sales with another collector? Maybe you just want to correspond with another collector in your area of interest. If so, perhaps SCC's new Matchmaker Service will be able to catch you a catch!

Membership Chairman George Kuhhorn is spearheading the Matchmaker Service after hearing from a member who was seeking someone to trade Scandinavian stamps. Here's how the Matchmaker Service is proposed: Members who would like to buy, sell, or trade Scandinavian stamps or postal history items — or just perhaps communicate with another collector about a particular topic — would notify Kuhhorn of their philatelic desires in **general** terms. Kuhhorn will act as a middleman to try to match one collector with another. "I would match up the members and give one of them the name and address of his new partner," explained Kuhhorn. "What goes on after that will be between them." **Important:** Do **not** send specific want or sale/trade lists, only the general areas of Scandinavia collecting that you are seeking.

Kuhhorn also noted that the Helpers Group is available to help members obtain expert assistance with their Scandinavian philatelic questions. For more information and to participate in these services, contact George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; email, geokuhh@starfishnet.com. ■

Library News

Orders for older issues of *The Posthorn* and two other Scandinavian periodicals are arriving at the SCC Library at a fairly steady pace. This helps to reduce unnecessary inventory, free up storage space, and provide funds for library acquisitions and operational expenses.

Another advertisement concerning acquiring these older publications is in this issue of *The Posthorn*. Adjustments are required in shipments as the overstock is depleted. Consequently, purchase and shipping costs will vary. It is easier on the library staff, therefore, if payment is not sent in advance. Rather, invoices will accompany each order as it is filled.

It should be noted that the oversupply of periodicals was not a result of the generous donation from the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California. Volunteers from SCC Chapter 27 continue to sort that material.

There have been several inquiries expressing interest in acquiring surplus items that may turn up. While no final decisions have been reached, the Library Committee may publish lists of excess material in *The Posthorn*. More sorting and reconciling with current holdings is needed before those notices can begin, however.

Recently, our host Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library set aside about 100 linear feet of new shelf space for SCC's library needs. Those shelves are now filled with Scandinavian-related periodicals that were removed from storage and are now available on open shelves for researchers.

In the meantime, donations of material and cash continue to arrive at the same time that borrowing activity picks up. (We now average about two mailings per week to SCC members here and abroad.) Recent donors include: Arne J. Bay, John L. DuBois, Walt Jellum, Paul Nelson, Roger Quinby, John W. Schaad, Geir Sør-Reime, Alan Warren, and the members of Colorado Chapter 27. ■

— 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 already 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. ■

SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

2004

NorrPhil, March 24-28, Täby, Sweden. Contact James Burgeson, SCC Exhibition Chairman; <http://www.norrphil2004.se>.

ABOEX 2004, April 23-25, Turku, Finland. Contact ABOEX 2004, Lapiokuja 3, 21260 Raisio, Finland.

Skåneland 04, September 11-12, Kristanstad, Sweden. Contact Lars Haagen, Tollarpsv 90, 290 11 Linderöd, Sweden.

Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition, (SCC Annual Meeting) October 1-3, King of Prussia, PA. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, or James Burgeson, SCC Exhibition Chairman.

2005

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (SCC Annual Meeting), May 20-22, Denver, CO. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, or James Burgeson, SCC Exhibition Chairman.

Nordia 2005, May 26-29, Göteborg, Sweden. Contact Greg Frantz, 18314 E. Geddes Pl., Foxfield, CO 80016 (gfcaptain@aol.com) or www.nordia2005.com.

Mare Balticum, August 26-28, Mariehamn, Åland. Contact www.posten.aland.fi, or Mikael Erickson, PO Box 122, AX-22101, Mariehamn, Åland, (j.erickson.frimarksaml@aland.net).

Oslo 2005, October (tentative), national exhibition in Oslo. Contact Gunnar Melbøe, Norsk Filatelistforbund, PO Box 875 Sentrum, 0104 Oslo, Norway (gmelboee@online.no).

2006

Sandical (SCC National Meeting), San Diego, CA. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary, or James Burgeson, SCC Exhibition Chairman.

Washington 2006 (SCC Regional Meeting), May 27-June 3, Washington, DC. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, or Washington 2006, Box 2006, Ashburn, VA. 20146-2006; www.washington-2006.org.

Nordia 2006, Helsinki, Finland.

2007

NAPEX (SCC National Meeting), June 1-2, Tysons Corner, VA. Contact John DuBois, SCC President. ■

Albums Closed

SCC Leader Robert Frigstad Closes Albums

Former SCC President Robert A. Frigstad of White Bear Lake, MN passed away on Christmas Day, 2003, at the age of 75 after a long struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. Frigstad was one of seven charter members who organized SCC Chapter 14 in 1967 and he served as the chapter's secretary/treasurer and stamp mart manager from then until his death.

Frigstad served as vice-president of the national SCC from 1971-1972 before being elected president, holding that position from 1973-1976. He was one of the three largest contributors of material to the SCC Stamp Mart. The major part of his working career was spent as a chemical engineer at the 3M Company

Other philatelic activities included exhibitor and part-time dealer at numerous local stamp shows. He was also a member of the 3M Stamp Club and the Maplewood Stamp Club and served as president of the Twin City Philatelic Society in the late 1960s. Scandinavia was Frigstad's main area of interest, with particular expertise in Norway. His sense of humor helped to liven up Chapter 14 meetings, with Scandinavian type jokes being a favorite.

Frigstad always enjoyed traveling to out-of-town stamp shows, the favorite being COMPEX in Chicago. A collector to the end, he was eagerly awaiting the results of some auction bids just the week-end before his death. ■



—Ross Olson

Philatelist and Writer Jacob Kisner



Writer, historian, and philatelist Jacob Kisner died November 17, 2003 in New York City at the age of 77. His special interests included the philately of both Finland and Israel as well as revenues and perfins. He frequently commented on the new editions of Finnish stamp catalogs. The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Kisner was a peace and civil rights activist.

Kisner began his career as a newspaper journalist and later became a scriptwriter, poet, and playwright. He participated in the NBC Comedy Writers Development Project, writing scripts for the Sid Caesar Show. His poetry was acclaimed with a World Peace Award from the Kentucky State Poetry Society and a special commendation from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for a poem commemorating the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. ■

Swedish Dealer Per Gummesson Dies at 56

Swedish dealer Per Gummesson died January 7 in Sweden after an 18-month struggle against a brain tumor. He was 56. His father, the late Rolf Gummesson, was one of the great collectors of Finnish material and established a large stamp business in Stockholm. Per Gummesson worked with his father and managed the collection. He continued the business following his father's death in June 2002 and began to expertise Finnish stamps as his father had done before him. In addition to his stamp business, Per Gummesson was active in the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and a devoted recreational sailor. He was a life member of SCC and a longtime advertiser in *The Posthorn*. ■



Per and Rolf Gummesson

Book Reviews

Stempel der Norwegischen Bahnpost (Norwegian Railway Cancellations), Jürgen Tiemer and Peer-Christian Ånensen, 7 by 9¾ inches, hardbound, German text, 256 pages, Kristiansand, Norway, 2002, ISBN 82-996445-1-8. Approximately \$50 from Jürgen Tiemer, Amvorkamp 13, 24214 Altwittenbek über Kiel, Germany.

Collectors of mobile post office mail will be indebted to the co-authors for publishing this handbook and catalog of the railway cancels of Norway. The introduction includes a guide to the format and arrangement of the book. Although this is not a priced catalog, there is a 10-point rarity scale for each cancel from common to extremely rare.

The major railway lines are discussed with separate chapters, such as the Østfold, Kongsvinger, Trondheim, Gjøvik, Bergen, and other systems. Maps and data tables show the length of each line and its branches as well as their start dates. The pages of text include many covers and the page margins illustrate cancels.

Each chapter concludes with detailed tables illustrating the cancel, its catalog number, period of usage, name of engraving firm, and cancel type as shown in the introduction. Enlarged illustrations help to identify cancel varieties. Illustrations of covers and cancels are excellent. Even special cancels from museums and tourist trains are included.

A bibliography leads the reader to source materials. An alphabetical index of cancels by place name, followed by thematic and numeral cancel listings, conclude the book. With this listing and the detailed table of contents, a general index is not needed. ■

— Alan Warren

Íslenskar Stimplar / Icelandic Cancellers — Bridge, Roller, and Machine Cancellers, 1894 - 2003, Þór Þorsteins, 124 pages, spiral bound, Icelandic and English text, self-published in Reykjavík, Iceland, 2003; \$46 postpaid in U.S. from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349, or www.JaySmith.com.

When I came home recently from our SCC chapter meeting and excitedly told my wife with great delight about the Iceland book I had just acquired, she echoed my enthusiasm by exclaiming, “Ooh, let’s see it!” I could only chuckle at her obvious disappointment when she got a look at my new acquisition. She had naturally assumed that this was going to be another addition to my bookshelf of gorgeous photography of Iceland. It may be only a black-and-white, spiral-bound, card-stock-covered, and photo-less book in her eyes, but it is a thing of beauty for Iceland philatelists!

Icelandic Cancellers – Bridge, Roller and Machine Cancellers, 1894 - 2003 is a much-improved and expanded second edition of author Þór Þorstein’s 1993 book on the same subject. This 123-page updating contains more than 1,000 clear representations of Iceland postal cancels, classified by type, and listed with their dates of known and normal use.

Presented in both Icelandic and English, the listings for the first time provide a handy valuation in Euros. In addition to the types of cancels listed in the title, Þorsteins also presents examples of the original Danish hand cancels used on the island, crown and posthorn cancels, eight different styles of the bridge cancels, slogan cancels, and even the pictorial cancel in common use on the island of Grímsey.

Bridge cancellers are known in Iceland as early as 1894, but they were not widely introduced by the postal service until 1930. Bridge cancellations are listed in eight major types, alphabetically by place name, showing period of use and earliest and latest usage where known. Periods of use were determined by canceled stamps, manufacturer’s invoice, or opening and closing date of the post office or branch. Roller cancels were introduced in 1931 and appear similar to bridge cancels but with the addition of wavy lines. Machine cancels in Iceland began with use of a Krag machine in 1921. Fifteen different machines were used and the cancels and some slogans are shown.



There are comments and remarks about certain cancels throughout the book and the section headings are very informative. A highly valuable closing section is a godsend to owners of partially struck cancels that leave the true town or village name a mystery. Þorsteins has provided a sort of suffix index, grouped by the endings of place names, so that a cancel's origin can be pieced together in reverse! The only missing facet I could have wished for would have been a map showing where each of these cancels was used. Many places are now gone not only from the mails but also the landscape.

The amount of research that Þorsteins conducted is staggering. He mentions that there are over 400 additions and corrections in this volume over the last. He deserves our appreciation for this important reference treasure. And my wife wants me to add that a few photos in the next edition might be a good thing! ■

— Dave Bennett (and Alan Warren)

Swedish and Russian Revenue Stamped Papers in the Baltic Sea Provinces (Estland, Livland, Curland) 1688–1917, Ants Kulo, International Estonian Philatelic Society, 190 pages, Tallinn, 2002, ISBN 9985-78-457-X. Approximately \$100 from author Ants Kulo, Pojengi tee 27, 11913 Tallinn, Estonia. Edition limited to 100 copies, signed by the author.

Unfortunately, the Swedish material occupies a tiny number of pages, about 12, from some 190 or so. There are four types of Swedish coats of arms illustrated: the “Swedish” three crowns, the Estonian and Livonian Provinces, the Province of Estonia, and the Province of Livonia. Of these, the book lists two values for Sweden, four for the Estonian and Livonian Provinces, three for Livonia, and four for Estonia. (Note the sequences are different.)

The text of the denominations in the imprints are in Swedish currency, but in the German language for the Estonian and Livonian Provinces. This apparently is because of the large German speaking population in these southern regions.

The text states that during the Swedish period from 1688 until about 1720, the paper was handmade and was often of foreign origin. The watermarks of the papermakers appear in the paper. One page of Western European watermark illustrations is given, but there is no indication about which ones appear on the Swedish papers. (Incidentally, I have in my collection one document that contains the Amsterdam Coat of Arms, which is one of those illustrated here.)

There are some pages of introduction in English, a skeletal pricing guide, and a bibliography. In the bibliography, the Saarinen book of Finnish revenue stamps and papers is referenced. Neither the late Gunnar Joos' 1997 publication nor the privately produced 1992 book by the late Stig Kjellander, who preceded Joos, are mentioned. Both of those references document denominations from these areas and this period that are not described by Kulo. ■

— Paul A. Nelson, *Scandinavian Revenues Study Group*

Search on for Uncataloged Iceland Items

A search is underway for some elusive Icelandic collectibles. As reported in *The Posthorn* (February 2001, pages 11-14), a number of Iceland's stamps, booklets, and packets have never appeared in catalog listings or their existence never announced by the post office.

Research by Þór Þorsteins indicates there could be as many as 18 different items, some of which were listed and shown in *The Posthorn* article. Þorsteins is preparing a follow-up article on these items and would like to see as many of them as possible. Those with information on any unannounced and uncataloged items from Iceland are asked to contact Þór Þorsteins, Laugarasvegur 50, 104 Reykjavík, Iceland, or email him at thort@simnet.is. ■

— Paul Albright

SCC Chapter Meeting & Contacts

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Mon. at University Christian Church. CONTACT: Ken Elliott, P.O. Box 22808, Seattle, WA 98122-0808, email: ScandiaW@aol.com.
4. CHICAGO: Jan.-April, June, Sept., Oct., 4th Thurs; May, Sat. of Memorial Day weekend; July, Aug., no meeting; Nov., Dec., 1st Thurs. Golden Flame restaurant has been sold and unavailable for future meetings; for meeting locations & other information CONTACT: Fred Bloedow, 810 Dobson St. #1A, Evanston, IL 60202-3969 or Ronald Collin, email: collinr@ameritech.net.
5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wed. at the Scandinavian Living Center, 206 Waltham St., W. Newton, MA at 7:30 in the private dining room. <http://scc5.thlogic.com>. CONTACT: John L. DuBois, c/o Thermalogic Corp., 22 Kane Industrial Dr., Hudson, MA 01749, email: jld@thlogic.com.
7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wed. (except Jul. & Aug.) at The Collectors Club, 26 E. 35th St. CONTACT: Carl Probst, 71 Willoughby Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801, email: carl_probst@gardencitygroup.com.
9. N. NEW JERSEY: 3rd Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156, email: grosjean@optonline.net.
11. REYKJAVÍK: 2nd Mon., 19:00, program 20:00, at Siðmúli 11, The Center of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation. Junior meeting every Tue., 17:00 in the Seljakirkja in Breiðholt, Reykjavík. CONTACT: Sigurður H. Þorsteinsson, Postbox 26, IS-222 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, email: sholm@tv.is.
12. WASHINGTON DC: 3rd Thu. at the McLean Community Center, 7:30, unless there is a major show, or it is summer. CONTACT: Peter Alten, 9300 Main St., Manassas, VA 22110.
13. DELAWARE: Last Tue. at members' homes. CONTACT: Tom Bergendahl, 118 Red Pine Circle, Newark, DE 19711, or email Alan Warren, alanwar@worldnet.att.net.
14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thu. (except Jul. & Aug.) at Lynnhurst Community Center, 50th St., & West Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN. CONTACT: Rossmer V. Olson, P.O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVole@aol.com.
15. ROCHESTER: 1st Mon. at Robert Gustafson's home. CONTACT: Robert Gustafson, 877 Helendale Rod., Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or Paul Nelson, P.O. Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711, (909) 626-1764, email: pnels@worldnet.att.net.
21. GOLDEN GATE: Meets monthly on 1st Sat., mid-day at members' houses & at various shows (WESTPEX, PENPEX, SUNPEX, etc.). CONTACT: Herb Volin, sec./treas., (510) 523-3727, HRVolin@aol.com.
22. HOUSTON: Periodically at stamp shop of Mary Jane Menzel, 2015 W. 34th St., Houston, TX (selected Sun. afternoons). CONTACT: Eric Roberts, P.O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056-8201, email: eric.roberts@halliburton.com.
23. BOB PAULSON: 1st Tues., noon, at Kissin Cuzzins Restaurant, 28910 U.S. Rt. 19, Clearwater, FL. CONTACT: John "Ed" Evan, P.O. Box 4130, Seminole, FL 33775-4130, email: geevan_33775@yahoo.com.
24. MANITOBA: 2nd & 4th Wed. at Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St., Winnipeg, MB. CONTACT: Robert Zacharias, 808 Polson Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1M5, Canada, email: zachar@shaw.ca.
25. TUCSON: 4th Tue. (except Jul. & Aug.) at members' homes. CONTACT: Jack F. Schmidt, phone: (520) 648-0034, or email: jackschmidt@cox.net.
26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Sat., 3 PM at Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library System, 6525 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508, (757) 441-5335, fax: (757) 441-1451, email: gwalker@npl.lib.va.us. CONTACT: Michael Falls, 575 Virginian Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505-4242, email: Mfallsice@aol.com.
27. COLORADO: 1st Sat. from Sep-Jun, 10 AM at the Rocky Mt. Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. CONTACT: Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80305-7233, email: reichorz@comcast.net.
28. CYBER: Members connected by email to exchange ideas & scans, plus an electronic newsletter. CONTACT: Edward L. Bode, email: edbode@juno.com.
29. COPENHAGEN: CONTACT: Toke Nørby: toke.norby@norbyhus.dk.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

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

Elected Officers

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

Vice President: Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1H9, Canada;
stampman@mts.net

Vice President, Chapters: Arnold Sorensen, Therapy Service Corp., 706 North Burkhardt Rd.,
Evansville, IN 47715; valbydwi@hotmail.com

Secretary: Donald Halpern, PO Box 930, New Providence, NJ 07974-0930; don2halpern@yahoo.com

Treasurer: James Clark, marbnk@aol.com

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

Directors: George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com
Howard Schloss, 261 Congressional Ln., #705, Rockville, MD 29852-5313;
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Viggo Warmboe, 2740 Foxgate Dr., Minnetonka, MN, 55305; viggo@mn.rr.com

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

Library Committee: Paul Albright, Greg Frantz, Jim Kilbane, Jeff Mondesitt. Contact: SCC Library, c/o
RMPL, 2038 Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224; palbright@wiche.edu

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geokuhh@starfishnet.com

Exhibition Chairman: James Burgeson, 2266 Kinclair Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107;
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Publicity Chairman: Vacant

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

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Scandinavian Revenues: Paul Nelson, PO Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711-0310; pnels@att.net

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