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# Swedish Royal Stamp Revised

Sweden's king and queen did a little retouching on one of their latest stamps issued January 27. King Carl XVI Gustaf has appeared 22 times on Swedish stamps since his first was issued 30 years ago, according to Sweden Posten. Queen Silvia made her stamp debut in 1981 and her likeness has appeared on no fewer than 17 stamps.

The royal couple met with postal authorities and designers Martin Mörck, who designed the queen's stamp, and Lars Sjööblom, designer of the king's stamp,



Examining stamp sketches last April are, left to right, Martin Mörck, Queen Silvia, King Carl XVI Gustaf, and Lars Sjööblom.

on April 14, 2004, to go over the design of the latest definitives that were issued in coils and collector sheets.

"The queen was very satisfied with her stamp but had a request concerning the stamp of the king," press officer Thérèse Bergling told *The Posthorn*. "There was a shadow on the king's lip on the original photograph. The shadow looked like a scar when engraved, and after the queen made that observation, Lars Sjööblom changed the engraving accordingly." ■



— Paul Albright



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# Iceland's 16-Aur Í Gildi with Red Surcharge: A Forensic Study Provides Answers

By Ellis Glatt

Conspicuous by its absence from listing or even mention in major catalogs, e.g., Scott, Gibbons, Michel, and Yvert, is an especially interesting and relatively rare Iceland Í Gildi overprint color variety. This is the controversial 16-aur stamp, perforated 14x13½, overprinted in red instead of black. The stamp is often referred to as one of the Í Gildi "Ferrarities," having first appeared among the collection of well-known stamp collector Philipp la Rénotière von Ferrary. It was accompanied there by three other red-instead-of-black surcharge color varieties (on the perforated 14x13½ 50- and 100-aur stamps and on the perforated 12¾ 10-aur stamp), which were lumped into the same "error" category and thought to be unique.

Unfortunately, Ferrary's massive collection, which was auctioned off in the early 1920s following his death in 1917, included not only some of the world's greatest rarities, but many fakes as well. As a result, for many years thereafter, all four of these red-surcharged varieties were viewed by many prominent Iceland philatelic experts, including Lundgaard in his 1941 unpublished report and subsequently by Pihl in his 1946 publication, *Islands Frimerker*, as outright fakes.

Apparently, major dealers and catalog publishers, such as Gibbons and Scott, were unaware of the existence of 16-aur red-surcharge stamps until years after authorized overprinting of the original Í Gildi stamps ceased in July, 1903. This is in sharp contrast to the 25-aur Í Gildi with black surcharge, another overprint color variety recently demonstrated to be an unauthorized after-production from late 1903. (See the May and August 2004 issues of *The Posthorn* for a detailed analysis of the 25-aur black surcharge by the author.) Gibbons already had a listing for the black-overprinted 25-aur in the Addenda to its 1904 catalog. The fact that the red-surcharged 16-aur did not surface until years later certainly may have added to the skepticism by collectors and dealers regarding the authenticity of this stamp.

## Changing Views

Somewhere along the way, more examples of the 16-aur with red surcharge began to surface. And, as additional Í Gildi reference material accumulated in the hands of some researchers, not everyone remained convinced that these 16-aur stamps were bogus. Pelander's November, 1952, auction catalog, for example, describes its offering of this 16-aur stamp as a rare "trial print in red." However, Carøe's last update on the '02-'03 overprint issue in 1959 in *London Philatelist* still makes no mention of the stamp.

Apparently, listings for the 16-aur Í Gildi stamp with red surcharge first appeared in at least two specialized catalogs in the mid- to late-1960s. The 1967 edition of *Islensk Frimerki* lists this Iceland variety as number 50A, while AFA's 1971 *Danmark, Grønland, Island, Dansk Vestindien Specialkatalog* has the stamp as Iceland 29X. In researching the basis for these initial listings, Sigurður Þorsteinsson, publisher of the former, informs this writer that he first encountered the stamp in 1965 and, notwithstanding the listing, both he and AFA had some doubts at the time about the stamp's authenticity. Finally, in the late 1970s, Facit also began listing the 16-aur red-surcharge variety in its Special catalog edition as Iceland 46A. Yet to date, none of the other major catalog publishers has followed suit nor recognized the stamp.

With initial listings for the 16-aur Í Gildi with red surcharge in a few specialized catalogs, more examples of the stamp soon surfaced. From 1976 to date, the variety appeared in dozens of major auctions. Well aware of the on-going controversy in some circles regarding the status of this overprint color variety, I continued to canvas auction catalogs for photos and other information that might shed more definitive light on its origin.

## Emerging Evidence

Then, in late 1994, an unusual holiday greeting card from a fellow Í Gildi collector and enthusiast brightened my day. It was essentially an enlarged color photo of a red-surcharged 16-aur from my



friend's collection, captioned appropriately for the season. The red overprint depicted in the photo looked remarkably similar to one I had seen in a photocopy of a sheet of normal Í Gildi stamps ex Setting V. Although the underlying 16-aur stamp exhibited no discernable plate flaws, the overprint did display a defect in the accented "I" character (lower left serif cut off) that compared well with plate position 13 in Setting V (Figure 1a).

With fewer than 200 sheets estimated (by Lundgaard) to have been surcharged in the mid-May, 1903, overprinting session, surviving sheets and large multiples from Setting V are indeed rare, with only a handful remaining in private hands today. Unfortunately, none was available at the time to this researcher. Still, the photocopy comparison looked like a promising lead, which would later be confirmed via a comparison with the corresponding overprint from an actual Setting V sheet (Figure 1b).

The real breakthrough came with Høiland's May 3, 2000, Iceland Specialized auction (Part II ex the collection of Gene Scott). Included in the sale was a full sheet of the 100-aur stamp overprinted with

the scarce Setting V plate. The sale also included another lovely example of a 16-aur with red surcharge (Lot 6134), with an accompanying Møller certificate stating that the stamp was genuine and from Setting V position 41. The plating was based on a unique attribute of the final "I" in GILDI, which exhibited a small spot of color immediately above the character (Figure 2a). Again checking my photocopy of another Setting V sheet, I knew the Møller certification for this stamp was absolutely correct. Moreover, the same

collection also contained that intact Setting V sheet for direct comparison. What better evidence could exist to authenticate the stamp? Figure 2b shows the overprint from position 41 of that Setting V sheet. There was absolutely no doubt that at least some of the known red-surcharged 16-aur stamps were not only genuine, but also were produced during the authorized overprinting period (which ended with Setting VI in July, 1903).

Still to be determined was whether all of the other known red-surcharged 16-aur stamps also originated in Setting V and, if so, how many might have been produced? To help research these issues, I acquired the Setting V sheet at the Høiland sale.

In the March 23-24, 2001 Postiljonen sale (Lot 90), I spotted yet another red-surcharged 16-aur example (Figure 3a). The overprint exhibited an unusual anomaly—a pronounced indentation in the upper serif of the "D" in GILDI. With an actual Setting V sheet in hand this time, I had no doubt that the overprint was from position 7 of that setting (Figure 3b shows position 7 ex the Setting V sheet). The Postiljonen stamp also exhibited a small cliché flaw in the upper frame line of the underlying 16-aur stamp, which I thought would help in the upcoming computer-



Figure 1a: 16-aur with red surcharge ex T. C. Jensen.



Figure 1b: Í Gildi overprint from Position 13 from a Setting V sheet.



Figure 2a: Lot 6134 from Høiland's May 2000 auction.



Figure 2b: Í Gildi overprint from Position 41 from a Setting V sheet.





Figure 3a: Lot 90 from Postiljonen's March 2001 auction.



Figure 3b: 1 Gildi overprint from Position 7 from a Setting V sheet.

based analysis I had in mind to tackle those remaining issues. But, I also would need accurate plating information for the underlying 16-aur stamps.

### Plating the Underlying 16-Aur

A comparative analysis of color photos and actual examples of 16-aur stamps with red surcharge was made against examples of 16-aur stamps from each of its four printings to determine which printings received the overprint. Based on all of the data evaluated, it appeared that most, if not all, of the red-surcharged stamps originated with the fourth and final printing of the perforated 14x13½ stamps. This particular 16-aur printing (1891) is also the most common one and is easily

recognizable by its “unclean” print on medium thick paper and varnish-like print surface.

Shortly thereafter, a book by the late Henry Regeling, *Stamps of Iceland 1872 -1904*, was published. Drawing primarily on a study of full sheets of the various aur stamps remaining in official Danish and Icelandic archives, Regeling set out to document the various cliché flaws found in each of the individual printings by plate position. However, according to Regeling, neither Denmark nor Iceland had a 16-aur sheet from the fourth printing in its archives. He, therefore, attempted to reconstruct one, largely from photocopies of various pairs and blocks obtained from fellow collectors.

Recognizing the importance of accurate information re the research task at hand, I spot-checked the published fourth-printing plating details with various auction catalog photos and other available reference material. Unfortunately, Regeling's fourth-printing reconstruction, as published, turned out to be in error with respect to a number of positions. However, by that point in the process, sufficient fourth-printing examples had been uncovered to enable me to make the necessary 16-aur plate corrections and move forward with the study of the overprinted stamps.

### Methodology Overview

With at least three red-surcharged 16-aur stamps already definitively plated to overprint Setting V, how many other examples might also plate correctly? If most of the other known examples could also be plated to Setting V, it might be possible to reconstruct the specific sheet portion that received the red overprint to estimate a likely production quantity. With a full sheet of 1 Gildi stamps ex Setting V to draw upon, and the corrected cliché plating information re the underlying 16-aur stamp also in hand, I set out to resolve those remaining issues.

The next step in the research process was to collect photos of all known examples of the subject red-surcharged stamp. Hundreds of auction catalogs listing Icelandic material dating back from the early 1950s to the present were canvassed for examples of the stamp. To facilitate the study, computer scanning and imaging software was used to record and store the various stamp images and also to conduct the “on-screen” reconstruction of the overprinted 16-aur unit.

After making a high-resolution scan of each catalog image, duplicates were sorted out and each of the unique specimens was studied and plated, where possible, with respect to overprint plate position. The various scanned images were then adjusted to a standard size and aligned on the screen according to those plate positions. The reconstructed sheet section was analyzed for consistency, first with respect to overprint placement, and then with respect to positions of known cliché flaws and perforation anomalies in the underlying 16-aur stamp (fourth printing). Essentially, a computer-based forensic analysis of the overprinted stamps was performed.

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## Findings

An extensive auction-catalog search covering the last 50 years or so turned up only 20 examples of red-surcharged 16-aur stamps. More importantly, the overprints on 17 of those stamps (including the three examples previously cited) plated extremely well with corresponding positions from Setting V (overprint positions 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 17, 22, 27, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 41, 43). Another two examples were also very consistent with Setting V positions, but here the plating was a little less certain (one possibly overprint position 21 and the other probably 39, but possibly 28). And, of course, all 19 stamps passed the basic “thin/thick zero” combination test for their respective overprint positions. Only a single example, where only a poor-quality image was available to evaluate, did not appear to plate at all. However, although inconclusive, certain characteristics of that stamp suggested it may have been a fake. Also extremely noteworthy is the finding that all of the overprint positions detected were different, i.e., none is repeated among the stamps. This suggests that no more than half of a sheet of stamps likely received the red surcharge from the overprint plate of 50. However, more about that subject next.

The results of the on-screen reconstruction of the 16-aur unit, which was based on the overprint plate positions of the 19 verified examples, yielded some surprising results. Although there was reasonably good alignment of the overprints among adjacent stamps in most sections of the unit, the underlying 16-aur stamps failed to plate correctly based on the updated and verified cliché-flaw positions for the stamp’s fourth printing. Actually, this was not at all surprising, upon review of adjacent stamps in the reconstructed layout. Cliché centering, as well as adjoining perforations, appeared totally inconsistent and unrelated in most sections of the reconstruction.

Clearly, the 16-aur unit that received the red overprint had to have been a reconstruction in its own right, made up largely of singles, perhaps with a pair or two worked into the mix. The fact that some of 19 red-surcharged examples are reported to be either without gum or re-gummed certainly supports the notion that the stamps may have been mounted or fastened together in some manner prior to overprinting. Moreover, other evidence suggests that all 50 overprint plate positions may not have been occupied with 16-aur stamps. For example, the 19 plated examples of red-surcharged 16-aur are not well distributed across the 50 overprint plate positions, but seem to be grouped in certain areas and absent from others. Also, an example of the red-surcharged 16-aur stamp with the 02’-’03 error, which occurs in overprint position 50 of Setting V, has never turned up. And, the lower right portion of the reconstructed unit is generally lacking of known 16-aur examples (with the possible exception of overprint position 39).

On the other hand, a single example of the rare 20-aur stamp perforated 14x13½ with 02’-’03 error and red surcharge ex Setting V is known to exist and its overprint placement appears to be generally consistent with the current 16-aur reconstruction. Although yet to be confirmed by this researcher, it would seem logical that some or all of the remaining stamps used to assemble the reconstructed unit must have comprised aur stamps that would have normally received the red surcharge, such as the 20-aur. The fact that the 16-aur is still the only known authenticated stamp with wrong-color overprint in red certainly supports this premise.

## Conclusion and Call for Listing

Based on the overwhelming plating evidence just presented, including the three pictured examples, there is absolutely no question about the origin and authenticity of the 16-aur Í Gildi with red overprint. The overprint was applied to a reconstructed unit during the officially authorized period (ca mid-May, 1903) using the Setting V overprint plate, and, therefore, had to have been done at the Reykjavík printing office. More than likely, only one-half sheet of stamps was involved. Whether the overprinting took place during a “midnight” session at the behest of an influential stamp collector or dealer or otherwise is only of academic interest. The 16-aur stamp with red overprint is genuine and not a trial print or after-production (as was determined to be the case for the 25-aur Í Gildi with black surcharge previously written about).

The fact that a forensic analysis shows that a reconstructed unit was involved in the production of the 16-aur variety merely confirms what others have written as far back as 1903. As highlighted again by Jónsson in his book *One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps 1873-1973*, reconstructed sheets (and half sheets) of aur stamps with small perforations were not uncommon, including those with mixed aur values, ➤



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since few intact sheets from the overprinting period survived, and units of less than one-half sheet generally were not accepted from the public for overprinting.

With only 19 verified examples of the red-surcharged 16-aur uncovered to date by this researcher (based on a thorough review of some 50 years of auction listings), and with the strong likelihood that a significant number of 20-aur stamps were mixed into the reconstructed half-sheet, it is probably safe to say that this count is not likely to increase substantially due to further revelations. The 16-aur Í Gildi perforated 14x13½ with red surcharge is indeed a rare stamp, which, in my opinion, deserves the same recognition status as the corresponding 20-aur variety.

In view of the insurmountable evidence currently available, it is now time for each of the remaining major catalog publishers to include a major-stamp listing for this authentic Icelandic stamp. For consistency with current listings by the publishers for other Iceland Í Gildi stamps, the following proposed catalog numbers would seem to make sense for the red-surcharged 16-aur stamp:

Scott – 65C; Gibbons – 47A; Michel – 29 F; Yvert & Tellier – 28a.

Hopefully, these latest findings will reach most catalog publishers in time for their 2006 editions. It will be interesting to see how each responds.

The study of Iceland's rare Í Gildi stamps can be an extremely challenging undertaking, often leaving researchers with many unanswered questions. Fortunately, in the case of the 16-aur with red surcharge, nearly all of the puzzle's pieces fell nicely into place. Through the use of digital imaging and computer-based forensic analysis, we can now set the record straight regarding this particular stamp. ■

*(Acknowledgements: The author thanks Sigurður Þorsteinsson for sharing his recollection about his first encounter with the red-surcharged 16-aur. Thanks also to dear friend and fellow Í Gildi enthusiast, T. C. Jensen, whose 1994 greeting card photograph launched this researcher on a quest for the real story.*

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# Stamp Exchanges through the Iron Curtain

By Kim Widén

We often overlook aspects of recent postal history because we are so intent on our own specialized collections. One such category that I came across recently was stamp-exchange mail across the Iron Curtain. I obtained two envelopes from Greenland that spurred my interest. One was sent to the Soviet Union (USSR) (Figure 1) and the other to East Germany (GDR) (Figure 2). Both were returned and had some unusual labels on them.

It is considerably more than a decade since the fall of the Berlin Wall, which is reduced to only a small strip left standing as a reminder of a time when Europe was divided into eastern and western blocks. During the Cold War, stamp exchanges between collectors in the East and the West were in many ways anything but straightforward. In most cases, collectors needed proper permits in order to exchange stamps and it was not permitted to send any stamps at all to some countries. If an envelope contained stamps, or did not comply with the regulations, it was returned to the sender or, in some cases, confiscated.

Four years ago at a stamp show in Berlin, I asked two German specialists about the cover to the GDR (Figure 2). They told me that it was a rather scarce cover since it was unusual that contraband was returned by the East German authorities. Normally, it would have been confiscated. They also told me that in order to send stamps to the GDR, a green permit label with the text "Tauschsendung" (Exchange sending) (Figure 3) had to be on the envelope. This label could only be provided by your stamp exchanger in the GDR who also had to put a similar label on his envelope to you. Later, I found two Danish covers sent to Czechoslovakia — one returned (Figure 4), and one with a proper permit label (Figure 5), both opened by the Czech authorities. I was intrigued.

At the Danish Post Museum's library, I found the manual "Brevposttakster til udlandet" (Letter Rates Abroad) and another concerning parcels. The manuals mentioned many items that were restricted for East European countries if they were sent to private persons, stamps being no exception. To be fair, many other countries have placed restrictions on certain items sent by post, but the East European countries had the most comprehensive list. For example, to Czechoslovakia one could only send 1 kg. of coffee three times a year as part of a gift package. Moreover

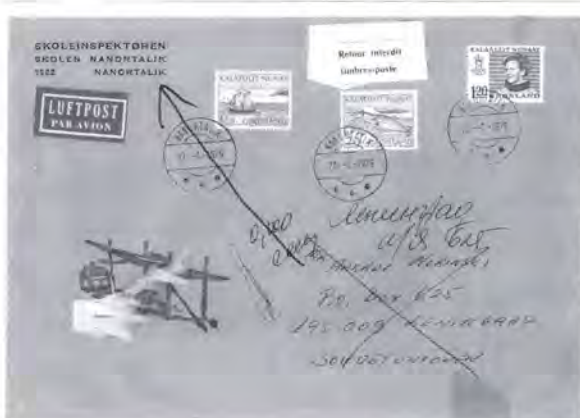


Figure 1. Cover sent in 1979 to Leningrad, USSR. Returned with a small label in French saying "return prohibited stamps." A neutral brown tape on the back is the only indication that it was opened by the Soviet authorities. The 470-øre franking is a combined airmail rate -- 350-øre letter rate to Europe 20-100 grams and 120-øre airmail surcharge for letter 50-100 grams between Greenland and Denmark.



Figure 2. Cover to the GDR. The address in Kemtau is covered by the return label stamped with "Zollverwaltung der DDR 19 Postamt Plauen 26 mai 1978." The text on the label translates to "Return." The shipment does not comply with the regulations of the GDR.

in Hungary, Rumania, and East Germany if a westerner wanted to send used clothing, it had to have a certificate of disinfection. In Czechoslovakia and Russia, clothing was disallowed. And surprisingly, something as innocent as almanacs were restricted items in mail to Finland.

### Summary of Restrictions

The language in the Danmark Post manuals is difficult to translate accurately. Instead, I have taken the liberty of summarizing. To Bulgaria: sending stamps was allowed with some conditions. To Czechoslovakia: here, the rules changed through the years. After World War II, stamps could only be imported by permission of the Ministry of Trade in Prague. From January, 1950, the manuals stated that special rules applied regarding stamps and from July, 1964, different rules applied, depending whether the stamps were for sale, a gift, or for exchange. To the GDR: there were no restrictions until July, 1954, when stamps were prohibited to be sent to private persons. From July, 1964, stamps were allowed to be sent but only on certain conditions. To Hungary: advance authorization was required from the Hungarian National Bank, and from January, 1960, stamps could only be sent through the Hungarian stamp association. The restrictions were lifted in April, 1977. To Poland: no restrictions, but the sender was advised that all shipments were subject to currency control. To Rumania: an authorization by the Rumanian National Bank had to be obtained before any stamps could be sent and, from July, 1968, all importation of stamps was prohibited. To the USSR: regulations stated that stamps were not allowed to be sent to private persons, and after July, 1962, it just said that stamps and similar material may not be sent. It is interesting to note that, before the outbreak of WWII, one could send stamps to the USSR, provided that it was co-addressed to the "Association de Philatélie Soviétique, Moscou Bolchoi Tchekasski Péréoulouk 2." If not, it was confiscated.

Who knows how many covers with official markings stemming from stamp exchanges still exist. How many collectors, in Denmark, Greenland, and elsewhere had an exchange partner in Eastern Europe? I would not be surprised to learn that most of the covers are gone after collectors removed the stamps for their albums. Another question: what about the covers (and stamps) that had to go through the official national stamp associations like those in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the USSR before World War II. How many of those covers survive, or were they kept by the associations [read, authorities]?



Figure 3. Green permit label used on letter containing stamps for exchange to and from the GDR.



Figure 4. Cover to Czechoslovakia sent in 1951 with a Czech customs label to verify that the proper permits were in order. The envelope has been inspected. The 160-øre rate comprises 50-øre letter rate for 0-20 grams, 40-øre registered fee, 30-øre additional postage 30-øre/20 grams, plus 40-øre airmail surcharge of 20-øre/20 grams. Note the two 55-øre stamps.

Meanwhile, the Danish Post Museum is still sorting newer regulations. So, I have been unable to check the regulations after 1985. My guess is that the stamp exchange restrictions ended in 1989-90 as the Iron Curtain crumbled. ■

References:

*Udenrigsk Brevposttakst* and *Udenrigsk Pakkeposttakst*, published by Generaldirektoratet fo Post-og Telegrafvæsenet four times per year in the 1950s-1970s.

“Et pust fra den kolde krig,” by Kim Widén, *Frimærkesamleren* (The Danish stamp collector), March, 2002, published by Frederiksberg Frimærke Forening.

“Et pust fra den kolde krig, II,” by Oskar Sørensen, *Frimærkesamleren*, October 2002.



L'échange de timbres-poste n'est possible qu'avec les collectionneurs tchécoslovaques organisés (enregistrés auprès de la Fédération des philatélistes tchécoslovaques à Praha) et exclusivement par l'intermédiaire du POFIS - Centre de l'échange des timbres-poste avec l'étranger, Hybernská 1, poste Praha 121.

Figures 5a and 5b. Letter to Prague that after inspection was returned with a small label “Non Admiss” (Not Admissible) plus a note in French saying (Figure 5b): “It’s only possible to trade stamps with organized Czechoslovakian collectors (registered with the Czech philatelist federation in Prague) and only through the POFIS-centre for stamp trade with foreign countries, Hybernská 1 poste Praha 121.”



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# A Primer on Norway's Posthorn Issue

By Roger Fontaine

Norway issued its first posthorn stamp in 1872. This design presently enjoys 133 years of consecutive use and is the longest running motif on any stamp in the world. (Denmark's wavy-line design claims second place as it marks its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2005.)

Norway's posthorn design is an issue that can be tricky to navigate, especially the earlier series. With a bit of preparation and a little patience, however, most collectors should be able to correctly identify the various stamps within this issue without too many difficulties.

## From Skilling to Øre

The year is 1872 and a new set of stamps is issued for use throughout the kingdom of Norway. The denominations are 1 skilling, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 skilling with the numerals printed inside an oval band. Look for the word "Skilling" in the oval band. It is the key word that makes this issue easy to identify. This first issue carried a posthorn watermark and is perforated 14½x13½.

It was five years later (1877) when Norway changed its currency system from the skilling to the present-day øre. A change in currency forced a new set of posthorns to be issued. This issue also had its own key features. Setting these stamps apart was the use of "BLOCK LETTERS" (sans serif) to write "NORGE" in the oval band. These letters are straight and lean, as opposed to the "antique style" (serif) letters of later issues. Use this feature to divide your stamps into groups.

A useful hint when working on your Norwegian posthorns is to work only on the posthorns at one given time. The more of them that you have to work with, the better it is. This allows side-by-side comparisons and identification to more easily classify your stamps.

Keep in mind that the posthorns are an expanding and progressive issue. *Scott* catalog lists 21 new stamps within the group using sans serif type. (Others count 23 stamps.) These all are perforated 14½x13½. You can further divide these 21 new stamps into two sub-groups. Ten issues from 1877-78 have a shaded posthorn ring; the other 11 stamps issued from 1882-93 have an unshaded posthorn ring. Use side-by-side comparisons to help sort these. Stamp color and cancellation dates on the stamps are also obvious methods of classification.

It also helps to use various catalogs. A combination of *Scott*, *AFA*, and *Facit* works well together in providing more detail. The set-up will be different, but the dates of issue and the key features remain the same. Also, stamp albums set these stamps up differently. My personal favorite for collecting Scandinavia is the *Stender* albums. The order is chronological and the format is according to "key" details.

## Size, Perforation, and Type Changes

The period between 1878 and 1893 seems to give most collectors difficulty. Attention to detail will allow you to find some of Norway's most elusive stamps.

An important key in this area is measuring the length of the stamp's frame. The frames are measured from top to bottom. Most measure 20 mm in height (some are 21 mm). I like using the ruler on a clear perforation gauge. I can place a magnifying glass on top of my stamp and get an accurate measurement. To repeat, side-by-side comparisons make this 1 mm difference obvious.

The year 1893 brought a new style of lettering in the oval band. "NORGE" is now written in serif, "antique letters." All of these frames are 20 mm in height and some of the denominations change color. Here, however, you will find the first change in



Figure 1. Sans serif, left, and Serif type on NORGE (Figures 1-3 from *Norgeskatalogen*, 2003, published by Oslo Filatelistklubb, Oslo, 2002.).

perforated size. Scott lists eight values that are perforated 13½x12½. The others are 14½x13½. This issue runs through 1908 and, like the issue it replaced, it has sub-groups complete with their own key features. Perforation is one key feature. Also, pay special attention to the feather engraving in the corners. The issue of 1893 has shorter, rounder, and softer looking feathers. The issues of 1910 and onwards have straighter, sharper, and longer feathers.



Figure 2. Winged wheels with different feathers.

From here on, collecting the posthorns becomes much easier. The issues of 1917 and 1921 bring new colors and additional values. The 1937 issue introduced a solid-colored background within the oval. This is the last issue with watermarks. The five stamps of 1937 were reissued in 1941 and two additional values were added.

Watermarks on Norwegian stamps are faint and often difficult to see.



Figure 3. Various posthorn watermarks.

The posthorns continue on with new issues in the 1950s and successive decades. The year 2001 sees one new and significant change: posthorns now carry values in kroner. It's a sign of the times.

While nothing seems to come easy with the stamps of Norway, the joy and pride that comes from finding an elusive stamp or completing an entire set is all the more sweet. The posthorns of Norway are ever-changing and reflect all that philately has to offer. They are challenging, a pleasure to work with, and very affordable. ■

*(Editor's Note: Editorial assistance from Eric Roberts and John Thomlinson. This article was adapted from a presentation by the writer to SCC Chapter 24, the Scandinavian Collectors Club of Manitoba, Canada, on March 24, 2004. There is a Posthorn Study Group for those interested in researching these Norwegian stamps. Contact John Thomlinson at [johnthom@fct23.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:johnthom@fct23.fsnet.co.uk).)*

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- Om At Samle Norske Posthornmærker*, S. W. Hansen, ISBN 8711037024.
- [www.frimerkehuset.no/fhe.html](http://www.frimerkehuset.no/fhe.html)
- <http://home.c2i.net/arvetaas/norske.htm>

## Åland's Public Selects Summer Stamp

Some 300 photos were submitted last year to the "Åland Summer" competition to select a 2005 stamp. The 12 finalists were submitted by a committee to a public popularity contest that drew 1,748 votes. The winner shows the schooner, "Linden," an Åland sailing ship, framed by foliage. The stamp will be issued August 26 in conjunction with the Mare Balticum 05 exhibition in Mariehamn. ■



# Scandinavian Posts Aid Victims of Asian Tsunami

By Paul Albright

Postal authorities in Scandinavia were in the forefront of efforts to raise funds to assist victims of the devastating tsunami that swept through coastal countries in the Indian Ocean on December 26. While no special tsunami semi-postal (charity) stamp was issued in Scandinavia, Denmark did dedicate funds raised from the sale of its annual charity stamp to tsunami aid. Deaths and devastation from the tsunami were heavily felt in Scandinavia, since thousands were vacationing in the area and several hundred Scandinavians were killed. In a country-by-country survey, *The Posthorn* found:

**Denmark:** A semi-postal stamp (DKK 4.50 plus 50-öre) to assist the organization SOS Children's Villages was issued January 12. The funds were to help fund a new children's village in Burundi in Africa. After the tsunami, Danmark Post and the charitable organization decided to divert the sales from January through March to children's villages in India and Sri Lanka. A special sticker (see illustration) was printed to be placed on booklets of the semi-postal, which also was issued in 50-stamp sheets. In 2004, some four million semi-postal stamps were sold on behalf of Children's Aid Day.



**Norway:** Norway Post donated NOK 175,000 immediately after the tsunami. In addition, collection boxes were placed in all post offices to gather donations and Post employees were given coupons they could use for their donations. Norway Post also offered logistical support, services, and expertise to the flooded areas.

**Sweden:** Posten considered issuing a special tsunami relief stamp, but decided instead to donate SEK 1 million to a Swedish organization working in the catastrophe area. In addition, the Post suspended fees on deposits made to tsunami aid groups. The Swedish Cashier Service said the outpouring of donations across Sweden resulted in its waiving deposit fees of about SEK 4.5 million. Several hundred vacationing Swedes were killed in the tsunami.

**Finland:** Posti also considered a tsunami stamp, but decided the need was too urgent to wait for sales revenue. Direct donations were made to different humanitarian agencies. Red Cross donations were accepted through Finland's 300 post offices. Employees of Finland Post and its parent corporation donated € 50,000 to the Red Cross. The corporation's donation was not made public.

**Iceland:** Iceland Post, Ltd. donated 1 million Icelandic kronur as part of the country's nationwide appeal.

**Åland:** The Post donated € 10,000 to Save the Children from the sale of its Christmas seals and collection boxes were placed in the 21 post offices in Åland.

**Greenland:** TELE Greenland's 600 employees donated DKK 10,786. Management more than doubled this to DKK 25,000. Most employees also made individual, private donations.

**The Faroes:** Postmen went door-to-door on their routes in January collecting funds for the Red Cross. There also were collections made through telephone calls and email. On one Sunday alone, some DKK 6 million was collected. ■



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# It's a Long Way to Tasiilaq

*By Pertti Frandsen*

The east coast of Greenland is one of the most impassable places in the world, with extreme weather conditions and huge, solid ice masses. In the middle of all this is Tasiilaq. From this isolated location, Post Greenland's philatelic bureau, "Filatelia," serves its customers throughout the world.

Due to a number of factors, the transportation of mail to and from Tasiilaq is a considerable logistical challenge. In addition to the extreme weather, the limited number of flights during the winter contributes to the fact that mail carriage in this part of the world is not as efficient as one could wish.

Tasiilaq was founded as a trading station in 1894 and has grown into a modern village with approximately 1,700 inhabitants. The unemployment rate is high. The location of Filatelia in Tasiilaq was, therefore, a wise political decision by the Greenland Home Rule (government) to bring jobs to the community. Before 1989, Greenland's stamps were sold through Copenhagen. About four employees were transferred to Greenland when Filatelia was established in September, 1989. Filatelia employs 18 people today.



Tasiilaq, home of Post Greenland Filatelia.

Tasiilaq is a popular holiday resort for the tourist who seeks trekking opportunities in the summer, dog-sledding in the winter, and first-hand knowledge of the ancient Inuit culture, which is very evident in Tasiilaq. In addition, the landscapes are strikingly beautiful. The village is encircled by high mountains and deep fjords. Impressive icebergs drift by as they have for thousands of years, but the inhabitants do not always have the opportunity to enjoy the view.

The weather in Tasiilaq can suddenly change from bright sunshine to a serious, so-called "Piteraq," i.e., a hurricane from the northeast across the ice cap. This normally occurs within a few hours, putting a natural limit on the transportation of mail to and from Tasiilaq.

## Mail Routings

All mail to Greenland is collected and sorted on a daily basis in Copenhagen, Denmark. From Copenhagen, mail for northern, western and southern Greenland is routed via Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord). Mail for the east coast, i.e., Tasiilaq and Ittoqqortoormiit (Scoresbysund), is routed from Copenhagen through Iceland. It travels on commercial airline from Copenhagen to Keflavik, Iceland's international airport, and then by road to Reykjavik.

At Reykjavik Airport, mailbags are stored for the next scheduled flight for Kulusuk in East Greenland. From October through May, there are only two flights per week between Reykjavik and Kulusuk, taking place on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In addition, the short Kulusuk runway is often covered with snow in winter. Ice, snow, fog, and storms are factors that can prevent all aviation in the area. Thus, mail for Filatelia may be delayed considerably. From June through September, Air Iceland serves Kulusuk once or twice a day since that is the peak tourist season.

The flight from Reykjavik to Kulusuk takes approximately two hours in good weather and passengers on the small commercial airplane can enjoy a spectacular view of the icebergs below. The planes can carry up to 30 persons and 1.5 tons of mail. However, passengers have priority over mail between East Greenland



and Iceland and vice versa. Thus, when Post Greenland sends out subscription mail three times a year, Air Iceland is always notified a couple of weeks before the mailing date. Air Iceland then has the option of utilizing an airplane with a larger capacity, if needed.

### The Helicopter Stage

The final hurdle before the mailbags arrive safely is a helicopter flight from Kulusuk to Tasiilaq, which takes approximately 10 minutes. However short this may seem, delays do occur at this stage. Although the distance between the two villages is less than 10 miles, weather conditions are often quite different. Hurricanes raging in Kulusuk with bright sunshine in Tasiilaq, or vice versa, are not uncommon. Kulusuk and Tasiilaq are located on separate islands, so mail normally is transported by helicopter. On rare occasions, the mail is forwarded by boat, but this is a time-consuming alternative. The entire process is reversed on mail leaving Tasiilaq for foreign destinations.

In spite of this, the people of East Greenland are used to coping with these wonders shaped by Mother Nature. In the end, all mailbags arrive safely at Filatelia. However problematical things may seem, Post Greenland is proud to be located in this small East Greenlandic community. It's a long, long way to Tasiilaq — but the mail will eventually arrive there and depart again! ■



Snow swirls around mail-bearing helicopter.

*(Editor's Note: The writer is head of production at Post Greenland's philatelic bureau, Filatelia.)*

### Reference:

"It's a long way to Tasiilaq," *Greenland Collector*, July, 1996 (updated in February, 2005).



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# Is Flash Photography Damaging to Stamps?

By John R. Sabin

Museums around the world have an almost universal prohibition against the use of flash cameras, color copiers, and scanners by the public, and, in many cases, by professionals and professional students as well. This prohibition can be due to the perceived damage that the light from the flash might do to the exhibited material, in particular the degradation of ink colors and the embrittlement of the paper. There is a considerable literature concerning the effects of light on color in the field of art conservation, in the paint industry, and in the textile industry, but much less has been written in the philatelic field. However, as stamps are closely akin to other artistic works of ink on paper, many of the considerations should be the same. In this essay, I want to consider the problem of the interaction of light with pigments and paper with especial regard to philatelic applications.

The problems we consider here are threefold. As we are concerned with light impinging on pigment, let us first address the characteristics of pigments. Second, we discuss the interaction of light with the printing pigment, and, finally, we consider the characteristics of the light source: Flash-bulb, scanner, or copier.

## The Effect of Light on Pigments

Classical philatelic materials are printed with opaque pigment inks rather than dyes. Light impinges on the stamp from any of a variety of sources. If the light is of the proper color, then the pigment can absorb some of the light. The rest of the light is reflected. The color we see is then that provided by the light that is *not* absorbed, the so called complementary color to that which is absorbed.

The pigments used to make ink<sup>1</sup> are made of particulate solids. Many of the older inks were primarily made of naturally occurring minerals, for example red lead, cobalt blue, malachite green, and Naples yellow, and are called inorganic pigments. Others were made from natural organic sources, such as carmine and madder lake.<sup>1</sup> More recently, synthetic pigments have been developed which are, perhaps, easier to standardize. They have complicated chemical structures.<sup>2</sup>

For both natural and synthetic pigments, interaction of light with the pigment can change the pigment molecules and have various deleterious effects on the pigment's color properties. If the light is not too intense, the pigment can absorb a particular color, removing that color from the light, and leaving the complementary color for us to see. However, if the amount of energy deposited by the light is too high, irreparable chemical damage can be done to the pigment. In many cases the pigment can dissociate, normally destroying its color. It should be noted that healing can occur, so that the pigment is restored after an appropriate healing time. Since blue and ultraviolet (UV) light carry more energy than does the red light, pigment damage is more prevalent for red pigments. Infra-red light (IR) does most of its damage by drying out the paper and causing cracking rather than by destroying the pigment molecules. The consequence of destruction of the pigment normally is referred to as fading, or sometimes bleaching. Colors which resist fading in light are referred to as fast colors, while those that fade easily are referred to as fugitive colors.

Typically, it is the colors in the red region of the visible spectrum that are most fugitive. For collectors who are old enough to remember, the AFA catalog for Denmark before 1983 had a listing for the yellow variety (AFA 98a and the 1922 8-øre overprint, AFA 118a) of the 1918 Chr. X 7-øre orange (AFA 98 and its 1922 8-øre overprint, AFA 118). Could it be that the orange ink used for the issue was a fugitive color that faded under light and thus contributed to giving the yellow color?

Perhaps the most important concept in the context of light-pigment interaction is that of reciprocity,<sup>3-5</sup> which simply states that it is the total amount of light deposited on an object (the dose) rather than how bright it is that is determinative. (Within reason, of course. The total light energy from a month of sunlight shone on a piece of paper, compressed into a single flash, would certainly vaporize the paper!) Thus, for normal conditions, a bright exposure for a short time and a dim exposure for a long time are equivalent in terms of the effects of light on an object.



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To set the scale of things, we must first realize that an average year's worth of sunlight on the west coast of the United States deposits approximately 350 times the light dose that an object receives in a museum which exhibits ink-on-paper objects, assuming that the gallery lights are on all day and all week.<sup>6</sup>

K.M. Colby has suggested<sup>7</sup> that objects can be classified in terms of their vulnerability to exposure to light. The most vulnerable objects would include some of the older, classic stamps, and some of those others that were printed with fugitive pigments. Objects in a second category comprise many classic and most modern stamps. In the third category, which includes objects that use the highest quality of papers and modern inks, exposures to strong light sources are tolerable. We note that Colby calculated these figures without including a contribution from UV radiation that does accelerate damage. However, UV comprises only 3 percent of the sunlight that gets through a glass window and UV light from tungsten and fluorescent sources contain only 0.67 percent and 2 percent, respectively,<sup>8</sup> so the effect of UV is small.

### **Light's Impact on Stamps**

Let us now consider the light levels from different sources experienced by stamps. First, consider a flash camera. Let's consider a unit of light to be the amount of light dose produced by a single flash from a normal camera with a built in flash.<sup>9</sup> The light overhead for a flash picture then corresponds to something like the amount of light associated with an additional few seconds of exhibition time, using the daily exhibition estimates quoted by Michalski<sup>10</sup> at ambient light levels. Alternatively, 300 amateurs taking one flash apiece would be equivalent to an additional five minutes of exhibition time for a philatelic object. Equivalently, 300 flashes per day correspond to 100,000 units of light per year. A large professional flash setup might increase this by a factor of 20 percent, at the very most.<sup>10</sup> As most of the stamps of concern here are in reference collections kept in closed albums most of the time, and as it would be unexpected that stamps in a reference collection would be accessed more than once a day, the light burden of flash photography for these objects would be equivalent to less than a few hours of ambient exhibition lighting per year.

Colby<sup>7</sup> has characterized printed objects such as stamps on a scale of 1 to 3 according to their sensitivity to light, with 1 being the most easily damaged by light. However, even Colby's most sensitive (category 1) objects are allowed 850,000 units of light per year,<sup>3,7</sup> so flash photography is apparently no direct threat to the stamps.

In a photocopier, the object is illuminated with a strong light mounted on a scanning bar. The reflected light is then focused on a photoreceptor, which then is responsible for the printing process. Although the light intensity and exposure time from the source of illumination is greater than for a flashbulb, the cumulative effect for the light dose is estimated to be considerably less than a factor of 10 greater. This additional factor would give a light load of something like 700,000 light units for 300 copies made of a stamp each day for a year of five-day openings: Still less than the Colby category 1 allowance.

The argument runs approximately parallel for a digital copier. In this case, the object is illuminated by a scanning modulated laser or with a light-emitting-diode bar. As scanners of the sort that are used with computers use lower light intensities than do photocopiers, the conclusions in the previous paragraph should still apply.

Finally, we consider flatbed scanners, also known as copy stands. Although too large for single stamps, they might be used for making images of sheets or other larger postal items. Here the object is subjected to floodlight illumination of several hundred lux, but if the illumination time is kept short, the cumulative energy deposited is still smaller than the Colby criterion.

### **Conclusion**

It seems that there is no reason for postal museums to forbid flash photography or color photocopying on the basis of damage that might be done to the stamps by the light sources. However, especially in reference collections, the material must be handled by the visitors in order to make a flash photograph or color copy. As many of the more interesting philatelic items are old, such handling puts them at risk with regard to weak perforations, tears, folds, staining, etc. Many museum curators have recognized this now, and although they will not allow visitors to make their own color reproductions, the museum personnel

will make either flash photographs or scans if requested to do so – often for a small fee. This prevents mishandling of the material, and has the secondary advantage of beginning to digitize the collection, making further photographs or scans unnecessary.

A good high pixel (at least 600 dpi) digital copy of a stamp with faithful color reproduction may, in fact, be even easier to use when studying a particular example than the original, as the possibilities of magnification are multivarious. Note that I have not dealt with other possible concerns in maintaining a philatelic reference collection, such as humidity and temperature.

On balance, it seems that flash photographs and digital scans are the least damaging of the methods of reproducing color images of stamps, but all reproduction methods are much safer than exhibition of the objects in ambient light for any significant period of time. ■

*(Author's Note: A more technical version of this article appeared in Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidskrift (NFT), Vol. III, No. 4, December, 2004. A bibliography of articles dealing with the "Preservation and Care of Philatelic Materials" can be found at the American Philatelic Society's Website <http://www.org.stamps/care/subp30.htm>)*

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*(Editor's Note: The writer, who collects Denmark, is a professor of physics with the Quantum Theory Project and associate dean for information technology at the University of Florida and adjunct professor of chemistry at the University of Southern Denmark.)*

#### End Notes and References:

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8. G. Thomson, *The Museum Environment*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Butterworth-Heinemann, New York, 1994.
9. One unit of light corresponds to the light intensity from a 60-watt bulb that impinges on an object 3½ feet away for one second. See Ref. 10 for details.
10. Stefan Michalski, "The Effect of Light from Flashbulbs and Copiers," *Abbey Newsletter*, No. 20, No.6, November, 1996.

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## Gambit! Chess Champion Yarns for Iceland

Iceland could be the new home for troubled former chess champion Bobby Fischer. He has been detained in Japan and is fighting being returned to the U.S. where he has been accused of violating international sanctions in 1992. Iceland offered Fischer political asylum over protests by the U.S. If successful, Fischer would return to the country where he gained worldwide fame at the World Chess Championship Match against Russian Boris Spassky in Reykjavik in 1972. Illustrated is the 15-kronur stamp (*Facit* Iceland 501) issued July 2, 1972, to denote the match. ■



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# President's Letter

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John DuBois



The terms of new officers and directors of the SCC, elected at the last annual meeting, began January 1, 2005. I would like to welcome the latest additions. Arnold Sorensen is our new Vice President, Ed Bode joins as the new Vice President for Chapters and there are two new directors, Warren Grosjean and Eric Roberts.

Vice Presidents are sometimes left out of the mainstream of club responsibilities, and this can be a disservice to everyone. To make sure we don't fall into this custom, I have asked our new VP to be in charge of arrangements for the SCC annual meetings. I would like to see this assignment become traditional, as it touches almost all areas of club activity. I have no doubt that Arnold Sorensen will bring his usual energy and talent to the task!

Volunteers are the life blood of organizations such as ours. We are fortunate to have a continuing reserve of members willing to step into the important jobs to keep the SCC functioning and useful, not only to ourselves, but to the greater philatelic community.

## Annual Meeting Nears

As this issue is published, our 2005 annual meeting will be only a few weeks away, approximately six months following the last instead of the normal 12 months. This situation occurred mainly because of our informal policy of rotating the geographic show/exhibition site selected to host our meetings. By shifting the locations around the country, members, for whom travel is difficult, should find it easier to attend.

A byproduct of this policy, however, is the occasional situation where the meetings will be held at a fall show and then a spring show because of long-established show schedules. This is one reason we select the show and meeting schedules so far in advance. We hope to see as many as possible at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show May 13-15 in Denver, CO.

## Posthorn Progress

*The Posthorn* has received another Gold award in literature competition! This makes two Gold awards within a year, NAPEX 04 and the latest at CHICAGOPEX 04. This achievement is a testimony to the hard work and talent of not only our editor, Paul Albright, and designer, Candy Allen, but also all of the contributors who provide articles and columns. Philatelic literature is judged primarily on the quality of the content, and that is where our authors shine.

Some of you may be aware of the sometimes spirited debate that occurs over *Posthorn* policy, staffing, and content. Despite differences of opinion, I think these literature competitions are one of the better indicators of publication quality and service to philatelists. We are certainly receiving consistent high marks from this quarter.

In my last letter (November, 2004, *Posthorn*, page 19) I recounted the discussion at the last SCC board meeting concerning some form of electronic distribution of the *Posthorn*. Various ideas were circulated, including going to publication solely on CD-ROM, or adding full-content duplication on our Website.

I have received many comments on these ideas since and, despite a few responses in favor, the consensus is that this would not be a good action now. The main problem centers on fairness to members who are paying dues to receive the print *Posthorn*, since Internet access or creation of digital media like a CD-ROM would facilitate wide distribution to non-members at little or no cost. Password or other protection schemes could be implemented, of course, but these would not be completely effective without being onerous. Further, it is felt that wide access to current *Posthorns* on electronic media, outside of the membership, might impede new member growth.

Therefore, for the present, we will continue to post the lead article on the Website in PDF format a few months after publication as an example of *Posthorn* contents, but no more. The foregoing, however, certainly does not apply to "old" *Posthorn* content — more than, say, five years back — which has long



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been a treasure for research into Scandinavian philately. Old issues are available from several philatelic libraries, ours included, but it would be a great service if *this* access could be made easier and more widespread.

The answer would be if all the back issues of the *Posthorn* through about 1995 could be scanned and made available on CD-ROM. This, admittedly, would be a job requiring considerable labor, but if one or more members were willing to do the scanning, it is well within SCC capability to make the CD-ROMs. I would very much like to hear from anyone willing to work on this project.

### Exhibits on the Web

There is more to report while I am on the subject of philatelic material on electronic media. The idea of displaying member exhibits on our Website has received general encouragement. While photocopies of some of these exhibits have been deposited in the SCC library, they are seldom seen or checked out despite being an excellent resource for study and new exhibit preparation. Scanning and placing such exhibits on the web site is a great way to make them more accessible.

Therefore, we have added just such a facility. Check out the "Member Exhibits" link from the front page of our site: [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org). At present, we have a few exhibits posted as a start, but I would like many more members to take advantage of this possibility. Unless otherwise desired, these exhibits will not identify the owner or their location. To add your material, we need a CD-ROM or other disk file of the pages scanned in jpeg or tiff format. The scan resolution will work best if over 100 dpi and can be any value over that. Contact me for more information.

At the same time, color photocopies of your prize exhibits are welcome at the SCC Library so that this valuable research section can be expanded. ■

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## News from the Home Office

*Don Brent*

Dues renewals have wrapped up for the year. The list of members who dropped by the wayside will be published in next quarter's issue. While George Kuhhorn, our membership chairman, will probably follow up with those that have dropped to see what happened, it would be appreciated if you could check over the list for any familiar names. A personal contact seems to be the best way to get feedback.

I was pleased with the positive comments and kind notes that accompanied many renewals this year. A few of you called my attention to the errors on the renewal form. I apologize for failing to proofread the form before rushing to the printer. Rest assured, I learned a valuable lesson and next year's will be clear. During the renewal process, a few members resigned. While we regret their leaving SCC, it is good that they took the time to drop a note. It is always a puzzle when some end up in the dropped column and we have no idea why.

Looking forward on the calendar, SANDICAL in San Diego will be the site for an expanded SCC Regional Meeting next January. The meeting will include a general meeting, board meeting, and Scandinavian exhibits with a Scandinavian expert judge as well as all the SCC awards with the exception of the Joanna Taylor Memorial Bowl. (The Taylor Bowl will be awarded at Washington 2006, the SCC annual meeting.) The change reflects the logistics of having an annual meeting at an international show and related limits on awards. Now is the time to start planning on SANDICAL 2006. To show your affiliation with SCC at SANDICAL and all other shows, we still have some of the SCC lapel pins for \$6, including shipping.



Back to club business, Membership was quiet the last quarter with a net loss of five members. We gained six new members. Unfortunately, we lost 11, either deceased or resigned. This is not unusual, as we normally get some resignations when the renewals go out. Once again, I would like to welcome all our new members and remind you that we are here to help with any SCC-related matters. Please contact me if you have any questions or problems with your membership. ■

## Membership Statistics for the Fourth Quarter, 2004

### New Members

- 4016 Delaney, Richard J., 12 Sybil Place, Smithtown, NY 11787  
4017 Lamontagne, Jacques, 1101, Rue des Toumesols, App. 401, Sainte-Adele, QC, J8B 1S3, Canada  
4018 Faelchle, Bob, 38607 Via Amarilla, Murrieta, CA 92563  
4019 Robinson, Keith R., 71 Beaul Court, Grangemouth, Stirlingshire, Scotland, U.K. FK3 0JQ  
4020 Dunken, B. Terry, P.O. Box 24556, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00824  
4021 Richman, Joel Mark, 7915 Côte St-Luc Road, Apt 202, Côte St-Luc, QC H4W 1R4 Canada

### Resigned

- 3521 Clark, Nancy Z.  
3773 Anderson, Iver J.  
3803 Felt, Jeremy P.  
3512 Hagen, Halge  
4002 Hayward, John C.  
4005 Artini, Alessandro  
2750 Langer, Robert M.

### Deceased

- 3060 Sorensen, Ralph J.  
2587 MacDonnell, John  
PH-43 Eichner-Larsen, Ib  
L-16/0061 Cohn, Ernst M.

### Recent Donations to SCC or to the Library (cash or materials)

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3598 Paul Albright          | 3578 John DuBois           |
| 3345 Roger Cichorz          | 4007 Jiri Kocman           |
| 1606 Lester Winick          | 3269 Don Brent             |
| H-26/L-29 S.H. Porsteinsson | Lars Enkler (non-member)   |
| 1087 Alan Warren            | Richard Small (non-member) |
| 1201 Don Halpern            | Sweden Postal Museum       |
| 2888 Roger Quinby           | Posten Norge AS            |

### Change of Address

- 4013 Wynns, J.P., P.O. Box 11971, Tucson, AZ 85734  
3909 Jarvisto, Vesa, 408 Strandview Dr., Pensacola, FL 32534-1317  
1912 Boeh, Fay K., 5511 Evergreen Ridge Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215-4108  
2757 Nordquist, John R., 2805 Indian Woods Trail, Lakeland, FL 33810-2015  
2841 Crandall, William M., 2429 Academy Circle East, Apt. 207, Kissimmee, FL 34744  
3693 Herren, Charles W. Jr., P.O. Box 866, Mulino, OR 97042  
1660 Kasper, Jerome V.V., 2718 Vanderbilt Lane, Unit B, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-3322

### Lost Contact

- 3542 Wimer, Dennis A., 13 Fall Dr., Burlington, NJ 08016  
3897 Perdomo, G. Jr., I.T.T. Industries, Unit 61336, APO, DE 09803

## From the Editor's Stamp Den

*Paul Albright*

With one very current exception, we are taking a look back in most of this report from the Editor's Stamp Den.

### Danish Fieldpost in 1864

Fieldpost mail is of considerable interest to collectors of military history. But in analyzing fieldpost locations, the military units involved, and routings, it is easy to overlook the vital function that these fieldposts play in times of war. That became clear to me by an excerpt from *The Tales of Danish Heroism* published in the January, 1945, *Posthorn*. Recounting aspects of the Sleswig-Holstein War of 1864, author JEH Skinner wrote:

"In the redoubts on Dybbol Hill, at the country quarters among villages in Als, and in the muddy streets of Sønderborg, I saw letter-bags eagerly watched for. A crowd of broad-backed, tobacco-smoking





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soldiers thronged round the postman, besieging him with questions: 'Is there one for me?' exclaimed a dragoon, who cannot dismount and who is fidgeting round and round behind the rest. Some tall sergeant of the infantry gets near the bag, and announces loudly whose letters have come. It is like seeing a lottery decided. The men appear so happy if they receive news and so disappointed should the sergeant's voice answer, 'None for you to-day Andersen!!' or 'Nothing from home, Niels, this time!!' At Dybbol it was often a service of danger to bring packets to their destination. But the pleasure of those who received them must have been all the greater.

"I walked up the hill one morning with a fine young corporal of the...regiment charged with letter(s). 'You see,' said he, 'they are anxious to have them soon, because if they are killed they will never be able to read them.' This reasoning, though homely, contained a word of truth. The more uncertain their fate the more did the soldiers desire news from home, and in supplying this healthy appetite the Fieldpost rendered infinite service."

### So, Who's Counting?

Thumbing through old periodicals looking for story ideas for *The Posthorn*, I came across a 1954 article on stamp engraver Sven Ewert (*American Philatelist*, July 1954). The author commented on Ewert's "outstanding feat of engraving" a 1949 Danish stamp that commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Denmark's Constitution. The stamp (Denmark *Facit* 347) is taken from Constantin Hansen's painting, "The Constituent National Assembly," and supposedly includes all or part of 173 persons – something Ewert called "bacilli" engraving.



(Illustration courtesy of Jay Smith.)

### Spotlight on a Steadfast Leader



Our indefatigable writer, Alan Warren, published his first "Transfers and Re-Entries" column in the February, 1983 issue of *The Posthorn*, shortly after he stepped down as SCC president. I once asked Warren the meaning of "Transfers and Re-Entries" He defined it in 1983 and it bears repeating now: "You will recognize the title of this column as terms commonly associated with stamp printing. Their use here is to connote the transfer of tidbits of information to SCC members, or re-entering newsworthy items in these pages to increase reader awareness of the marginalia of Scandinavian philately." He has been true to that definition ever since.

Warren is a voracious reader of philatelic publications, in both English and foreign languages. He is a one-man *Reader's Digest*, who has been synthesizing Scandinavian philatelic literature and reporting on winning Scandinavian exhibits even longer than he has written "Transfers and Re-Entries." In addition, Warren's reviews of philatelic books include Scandinavia and military history and stretch across his other collecting interests from the Polar Regions to the Himalayas.

### Banking on the Euro

Although international finance is beyond the scope of this publication, there is one development that might interest Scandinavian collectors. Norway and Iceland, which are not part of the European economic union, recently agreed to accept the EU's rules regarding charges for money transfers coming from the 25 EU countries. That appears to mean that funds sent from EU countries into Norway or Iceland for philatelic purchases will incur less expensive bank transfer fees than previously. Sorry, no relief on transaction charges to North Americans. ■

**Member Advertisement:** WANTED: DWI covers from 1900 or 1901 having either a single, 1-cent or two, 1-cent stamps total postage. Arnold Sorensen, Therapy Service Corp., 706 North Burkhardt Road, Evansville, IN 47715; sorensenarnold@hotmail.com.

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# Scandinavian Literature Notes

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Alan Warren



## News from Denmark

In the December *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*, Finn Skriver Laursen shows mail carried on the private railway that operated between Horsens and Juelsminde in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and E. Menne Larsen provides the 15<sup>th</sup> in his series of articles on postal history in Sleswig, 1848-1851.

In the December *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, published by KPK, John Sabin discusses the potential damage to philatelic materials caused by exposure to light. He suggests that flash photographs or scans be done on a limited basis, and by professionals in the case of archives, in order to minimize risk. In the same issue, Kurt Hansen continues his series on the special return covers of the Danish postal service. In another article, Hansen discusses paquebot markings up until the mid-1900s.

In the October *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Kim Widén continues the series on modern postal history of Greenland, and co-authors Lars Engelbrecht and Erik Hvidberg Hansen continue their series on postal stationery with examples of proofs and essays. In the November issue, they discuss Denmark's fri-correspondence kort, and editor Ib Krarup Rasmussen offers details on the thick numeral issues of the 1920s Christian X 70-øre value.

The December issue of *DFT* features an article on watermarks of postal stationery envelopes by Steffen Hartby, and Bruno Nørdam continues his series on essays of Danish stamps with the issues of 1977-1978. Torben Hjørne shows some usages of the American issue of Greenland including censored first day covers.

## News from the Faroes

Postverk Føroya's 4/2004 issue of *News from the Faroes* carries an article by Ib Krarup Rasmussen on the first post offices in the Faroe Islands. Mail routes evolved in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and Rasmussen describes the sub-offices that were created as the mails were taken from Tórshavn into the country.

## News from Finland (with thanks to Kauko Aro)

A three-part series by Jukka Sarki on the revenue stamp issue of 1963 appeared in *Abophil's* Nos. 1, 2, and 4/2004 issues. Also in issue No. 1 is a long article about former Finnish president K. J. Ståhlberg told through stamps. Issue 2 featured an article by editor Mika Heinonen on the 1891 ring stamps. (This was translated into English by Carita Parker and published in the November 2004 issue of *The Finnish Philatelist*).

Issue No. 4/2004 is devoted largely to the ABOEX 2004 exhibition where single-frame entries were particularly popular. For Cinderella collectors, there is an article on the Finnish Membership Stamps, which are labels issued by a number of organizations, typically strong unions, as proof of payment of union dues.

## News from Germany

In the August issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten* published by the Nordic countries study group, Rolf Dörnbach continues his review of the evolution of post offices in the Faroes. Dörnbach also describes the Greenland post office at Tiniteqilaaq. In the same issue, Heinrich Schilling discusses proofs of Iceland postal stationery.

## News from Great Britain

In the November issue of 238, David Quayle writes about the Faroese shipping services in 1938-1939 and their effect on economic and postal conditions of the time. Eric Glasgow presents an overview

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of the origins of the stamps of Greenland in the October issue of *Stamp Lover*. The December issue of *Scandinavian Contact* carries a number of interesting articles including the ninth part on Danish railways by Rob Willett, steamboat TPO cancels from Stockholm by Peter Hellberg, censored covers sent from Iceland to other countries during World War I by Mike Tuttle, and the first part of a series by Ann Rees and Bill Ross on Finnish shipping companies.

### News from the Netherlands

W. Graetz writes about why he collects Christmas seals in the October issue of *Het Noorderlicht*. In the December issue Henk van Meeningen presents the second part of his series on Åland.

### News from Norway

In issue 4-2004 of *Frimerke Forum*, Anders Langangen offers the eighth installment of his series on Krag meter frankings of Norway, this time on those used during 1961. Issue No. 4/2004 of *Info*, published by the Oslo Filatelistklubb, records a seven-page bibliography of items in the club's library related to Norwegian philately. In the same issue Sven Andersen continues a discussion of the handling of postage due for mail coming into Norway since the UPU was established.

Norway postage due is also the subject of Åsmund Sandland's article in the 7-2004 issue of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. In the December issue of *Tidsskrift for Krigs-og Feltpost* (Norwegian War and Field Post Journal), Ragnar Wolden looks at the many varieties of the A<sub>S</sub> and F<sub>N</sub> passmarks used on mail to and from the Norwegian SS front fighters during World War II. In the same issue co-authors Staffan Karlsson and John Torstad continue their series on postal conditions between Norway and the United States during WWII.

### News from Sweden

*Nytt på Postmuseum* from Sweden's postal museum in Stockholm announces a special exhibit to August 21, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sweden's first postage stamp. In addition, the museum has discontinued admission fees for young visitors, ages 13-18.

The Cinderella organization reports in the December issue of *Bältespännaren* the story of the stamps of the Republiken Svanön (Republic of Swan Island). In his article, Christer Brunström describes the history of this effort in the 1970s on the small island in the Ångermanälven River near Kramfors, Sweden.

Kersti and Bertil Larsson write in the November *filatelisten* about pre-stamp covers of Sweden bearing Stockholm boxed arrival markings in black and red. More than 90 such covers were analyzed with a view to determining the significance of where the marking was placed on the cover. Sten-Anders Smeds shows some of the special markings used on mail of the bicycle battalion and other units in Åland during the Winter War in the December issue of *filatelisten*.

### News from Elsewhere

Geir Sør-Reime talks about southern Greenland and the Norse heritage of Greenland in the November 19, 2004 issue of *Meekel's & Stamps Magazine*. The December 3 issue of the same journal contains another in the series of first issues of different countries by Paul Jackson and John Dunn, this time with a focus on Denmark and her first two stamps. In the December 10 issue, Sør-Reime turns his attention to Norway and some of the country's glaciers that are depicted on Norwegian stamps. In the December 17 issue, Frank Correl reports on the Frimærker i Forum stamp show held annually in Denmark.

Back in October 22, 1904, *Meekel's* published an article on "The Skilling Stamps of Norway." On its centennial, the article was reprinted in two parts in the November 5 and November 12, 2004, issues of the same publication.

The design, printing, and marketing of Denmark's stamps are featured in an article by James Carson in the November 29 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. ■

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# Transfers and Re-Entries

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*Alan Warren*

The recent 68<sup>th</sup> FIP Congress saw some changes in the various philatelic commissions of the organization. A number of Nordic philatelists serve on these commissions. Helena Obermüller Wilén of Sweden is secretary of the Fight Against Forgeries Commission. Toke Nørby of Denmark is a member of the Philatelic Literature Commission. Secretary of the Postal Stationery Commission is Denmark's Erik Hvidberg-Hansen, and serving on the Thematic Philately Commission is Ingolf Kapelrud of Norway.

Finland's Jussi Tuori chairs the Traditional Philately Commission. Norway's Eigil Thomassen chaired the Aerophilately Commission for 12 years but recently turned the chairmanship over to American Stephen Reinhard. For his many years of work for FIP, Thomassen was presented with the Medal for Service and the gold FIP pin during the Congress.

Anker Bloch Rudbeck was awarded the highest honor bestowed by the Danish Philatelic Federation, the Denmark Medal. He was recognized for his achievements such as his Greenland collection and a recent co-authored book on Danish censorship during World War II. Also recently announced was the awarding of the Robert Bechsgaard Memorial Cup to Margit Juhl Ottesen for her many years of service to philately and her stabilizing influence during turbulent periods of the Danish federation.

## Editorial and Organizational Changes

The Scandinavian Philatelic Society in the United Kingdom has a new librarian, but it is losing its veteran editor. Terry Wagg of Norfolk, England was named to replace the late Peter Berry as SPS Librarian. The library collection is being transferred to Norfolk, where Wagg can be contacted at 28 Philip Nurse Road, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6 WH, Great Britain; email [librarian@scandps.org.uk](mailto:librarian@scandps.org.uk). Meanwhile, Alan Totten has announced he is stepping down in June after 12 years as editor of the SPS quarterly journal, *Scandinavian Contact*.

In other editorial changes, Mika Heinonen stepped down as editor of the Finnish journal *Abophil*. The new editor is well known exhibitor and judge, Juhani Pietilä. Another Finn, Marius Gabrielsen of Helsinki is the new editor of Norway's *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, replacing Steinar Furunes.

Susan Oliver reports in the December issue of *Scandinavian Contact* that Geraint Jones passed away in July 2004 at 83. He was one of the early members of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society, which he joined in 1952 and served as president 1975-1977. He was a founder of the Norwegian Postal History Society and was awarded the Blue Lion of the Bergen Philatelic Society. Jones was active in organized philately and served on many committees of the British Philatelic Federation. He was a fellow and past president of the Society of Postal Historians and a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He was an international exhibitor, and received the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain medal in 1968. ■

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## Auction Marketplace

*Frank Banke*

Two Norwegian auctions from November and December are featured in this edition of Auction Marketplace.



### Kjell Germeten, December 3-4

The highlights of the auction were undoubtedly the many sheets of rather rare stamps. One in particular (#1271), the 4 sk. Coat of Arms 1863 (NK8II) in pristine condition, started at NOK 500,000 and sold for NOK 732,000/\$117,000. The 1909 Haakon set in sheets (NK 93-95) (#1449), started at NOK 400,000 and sold for NOK 468,000/\$75,000, or almost 40 percent of catalog value. A specialized postmark collection of







Imperforate 20-øre with SON cancel.

November 2004 *Posthorn* (pages 23-24). The final part of the Fossum collection of Norway brought some good results and proved that there is a good market for all sorts of material, especially if there are several buyers competing for



Manuscript cancel brings \$4,000.

the 10-øre red posthorn issue in very fine condition sold for an impressive NOK 66,000/\$10,600, 10 times more than the starting price.

Early first day covers are in great demand. A FDC franked with 10-øre green (NK120) dated December 10, 1921 (#1523) sold for NOK 32,400/\$5,200. Lot #1400, an imperforated 20-øre posthorn (NK5411e) with a perfectly centered postmark sold for NOK 45,600/\$7,300, or almost five times the starting price. The cover is considered one of the finest recorded.

There were many lots with Norwegian postmarks in this auction. One lot with 400 good cards sold for NOK 69,600/\$11,000, or six times the estimate.

### Moldenhauer, November 12-13

Here is an update from the November 2004 *Posthorn* (pages 23-24). The final part of the Fossum collection of Norway brought some good results and proved that there is a good market for all sorts of material, especially if there are several buyers competing for the very expensive objects.

The 4-sk. 1855 with

original gum (#1403) sold for the starting price of NOK 150,000/\$24,000. Lot #1419, a used block of six sold for \$55,700.

The only genuine mixed franking letter with 4-sk. 1854 and Oscar (#1449) went for NOK 588,000/\$94,000, starting at \$56,000. A beautifully cancelled 4 sk. 1855 (#1472) sold for \$2,400, three times the estimate. The same issue with town manuscript cancel "Karlsö 23/7 56" (#1635) sold for NOK 25,200/\$4,000. A unique King Oscar proof (#1664) sold for NOK 50,400/\$8,000, or double the estimate. Lot #1683, an imperforate 4-sk. Oscar on letter, sold for NOK 336,000/\$53,700, or almost double the estimate. ■



Mixed franking cover sold for \$94,000.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

*Arnold Sorenson*

It has been my pleasure to write the quarterly SCC Chapter reports since late 2002. This is my last report. From now on, the task will be performed by the new SCC Vice President for Chapters, Edward Bode, who also produces the Cyber Chapter newsletters. It has been a wonderful experience in keeping in touch with the many chapter representatives, plus the many other members who contribute to the SCC on both the local and national level. I thank you all for the assistance and courtesies you extended. I will keep in contact with everyone.

### CHAPTER 4 CHICAGO

The Chapter has a new meeting site, the Des Plaines Public Library. On November 21, the Chapter had a three-hour get-together in memory of Fred Bloedow, who passed away on September 29. They met



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at the residence hotel where he lived during his illness, and his relatives drove in from Wisconsin and Minneapolis. Also included were representatives of the Chicago United Nations Collectors.

## **CHAPTER 5 NEW ENGLAND**

Chapter 5 started 2005 with eight members and will be looking to add members at the annual Boxborough Philatelic Show. Mats Roing has been providing some fun quizzes on Scandinavian philately at the meetings. Adventures continue with the library audio-visual materials.

## **CHAPTER 13 DELAWARE**

Manville Bro talked about the Danish Astronomer Tycho Brahe, and Alan Warren showed first day covers of the 1946 Brahe stamp. A close look at that stamp will show a "nose deformity." Brahe had part of his nose cut off in a duel, and had a metal piece attached in its place.

## **CHAPTER 14 TWIN CITIES**

Finland was the featured show-and-tell October program. The annual donation auction was held in November and all 61 lots sold. The proceeds were used for a donation to the community center used for meetings, but the amount far exceeded what was needed, so the remainder was used to purchase Scandinavian goodies for the December Christmas party.

## **CHAPTER 17 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Chapter 17 is very sad that the "driving force" of our chapter has moved to Tucson, AZ. Paul Nelson was the editor of *Luren* for many years, and was responsible for our widely subscribed chapter auctions. He saw that our local library matched the national SCC Library. He brought vitality to our monthly meetings, and he will be sorely missed.

## **CHAPTER 21 GOLDEN GATE**

The October meeting was held in conjunction with the East Bay Collector's Club show in Walnut Creek. Two hours were scheduled for fellowship and circuit books. The December meeting was held at PenPex where SCC and APS circuit books were perused. Herb Volin reported that for 2004, members purchased \$1,334 worth of Scandinavian material from the SCC Mart books.

## **CHAPTER 23 PAULSON-SEAMAN**

Every month the members receive a mailed newsletter approximately one page long. The chapter does not have enough members to sustain it as a sole Scandinavian Collectors group, so the club has members with all collecting interests, and the meeting programs cover a wide range of interests. All members use the Mart books. There are typically 10 in attendance. Starting in January, the club will meet twice each month. A second meeting site is the Clearwater Branch Library, and the Clearwater Stamp Club members attend as well. Officers for 2005 are: President, Richard Hines; vice president, Joe Sipos; treasurer, Walt Parker; secretary, Ray Scott; Mart-book chair, Walt Parker; Nickel-Box chair, Tom Crowson.

## **CHAPTER 26 TIDEWATER**

The chapter met in November and December with six in attendance.

## **CHAPTER 27 COLORADO**

The September meeting had 12 of their 18 members in attendance. Roger Cichorz led a discussion on the progress of the SCC Library and a summation of the first SCC Library Auction results. A show-and-tell presentation included: (1) Illustrated Iraq cover from the British Mandate period, (2) Åland telegram from 1896 and three Mariehamn telegram receipts from 1890-1938, and (3) a cover posted for Copenhagen City delivery and franked with a 3-øre København bypost stamp. The November meeting used two SCC Library video-cassettes for the formal program, and a show-and-tell followed. Steve Nadler shared nine covers from six different countries. The chapter has welcomed two new members, Gary Rodgers of Parker, CO, and Eugene Brink from Branson, MO.



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## CHAPTER 28, CYBER CHAPTER

The newsletter is received by almost 50 members. Most stamp clubs have show-and-tell sessions, and the cyber space is ideal for anyone to share a stamp or a cover or two. Ed Bode has now produced 62 newsletters, many including scans of unique material. Issue #62 promoted our stamp fellowship with the inclusion of a standing invitation from Roger Byrne in Adelaide, Australia, to plan ahead for “a kangaroo steak.” ■

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## Scandinavian Area Awards

At the CHICAGOPEX show held in November in Arlington Heights, IL, SCC's *The Posthorn* won a gold in the philatelic literature category. Silver awards went to Arne J. Bay for *Postal History of Svalbard from 1896*, and to David A. Macdonald for *Denmark's Fri-Correspondance Kort*. ■

—Alan Warren

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## Grammatical Error in Recent Norwegian Issue

By Robert Hamerschlag

An article in the Oslo newspaper, *Aftenposten*, has pointed out an error in a recent issue of commemorative stamps. The three stamps commemorate the discovery 100 years ago of the Oseberg Viking ship that was buried centuries earlier containing Viking artifacts.

On the stamps, “Oseberg excavation” (Oseberg Utgravingen) has been printed as two words without a hyphen. Norwegian language experts consider the loss of the hyphen as an

“Anglicism.” An Oslo University linguist told the Norwegian television network that it was sad that the Post Office did not have better control of the Norwegian language. The Post Office pointed out that the three stamps are very small, and the text in question used the two words to make it more readable.

To an outsider, this controversy amounts to a “tempest in a teacup.” However, Norwegians are very sensitive in matters of language, and philologists, both professional and amateur, abound.

The three stamps showing part of the buried ship and some of the artifacts were released in September in denominations of NOK 7.50, 9.50, and 12.00. ■



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## Greenland Halts Machine Booklets

Sales of stamp machine booklets have ended in Greenland. The remaining booklets were pulled from Greenland's four machines on November 30 because of poor sales, said Søren Rose, philatelic manager for Post Greenland. No new machine booklets are planned. Remaining stock figures were to be released in the April issue of *Greenland Collector*. ■

## The leading stamp auctions in Norway



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

**[www.germeten.no](http://www.germeten.no)**

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

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



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## Springtime in the Rockies for SCC

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Plan on some springtime in the Rockies for SCC's next annual meeting. The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (formerly called ROMPEX) will host SCC and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society May 13-15 in Denver, CO.

RMSS is advertising that it will have 4,000 pages of exhibits and more than 40 dealers at the bourse. The awards banquet will be May 14. SCC members (and spouses) will get together in a local restaurant on May 13. The SCC Board of Directors' meeting on May 14 will be followed by the annual SCC membership meeting. There usually is a short philatelic program for the annual meeting, but the speaker and topic were not available at press time. Denver is the home for the SCC Library, providing an opportunity to explore the Scandinavia reference material and to do research there.

The panel of judges will include Roger Quinby of New York State, immediate past president of SCC; Greg Frantz of Colorado, the SCC Chapter 27 president; and Eero Hellsten of Finland.

The RMSS will be held at the Holiday Inn, Denver International Airport. Further information is available at [www.rockymountainstampshow.com](http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com). ■



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## The Sweden Ring-type Study Group (*Facit* 17-51)

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The Sweden Ring-Type Study Group began 25 years ago and has actively shared information and disseminated its findings through newsletters, journal articles, and personal communications. There is anticipation for a forthcoming CD-ROM "handbook" on the subject of "Swedish Rings" from member Diether Pascher. This electronic handbook should be available in English sometime in 2005.

All members of the SCC are welcome to join the study group. If you would like to work on a study, there is a project underway on the first series perf. 14 stamps. We are looking for cancels from towns and cities dated the first year of issue — in most cases 1872 but 1876 for the 4-öre perf. 14. Please write me with catalog number, town, and date that you find. My contact information is: George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; email, [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com). ■

— George Kuhhorn

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### Prices Realized – S.C.C. Library Auction #2 (Closing Date November 22, 2004)

#1 = \$6, #2 = \$6, #3 = \$5, #4 = \$2, #5 = \$2, #8 = \$2, #9 = \$8, #10 = \$1.50, #11 = \$1, #15 = \$4, #16 = \$2, #17 = \$2, #18 = \$4.50, #19 = \$2, #20 = \$5, #25 = \$5, #29 = \$8, #30 = \$15, #32 = \$4, #36 = \$1, #38 = \$3, and #39 = \$1. 22 lots sold, and realizations totaled \$90. The 17 unsold lots from this sale are available at the starting bids on a first-come, first-served basis. Inquiries to Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305-7233, USA; telephone 303-494-8361, or e-mail [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net).

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### Prices Realized – S.C.C. Library Auction #3 (Closing Date February 6, 2005)

#5 = \$11, #9 = \$13, #10 = \$11, #11 = \$4, #14 = \$6, #16 = \$6, #21 = \$1, #22 = \$4, #24 = \$21, #25 = \$1.50, #31 = \$34, #32 = \$10, #33 = \$13, #34 = \$11, #35 = \$2, #36 = \$20, #38 = \$20, #39 = \$42, and #40 = \$20. The following unsold Hafnia 76 lots are still available on a first-come, first-served basis at these net prices: #33 (D.W.I.) @ \$13, #37 (Greenland) @ \$10, and #38 (Denmark Packets #1 and #2) @ \$10 each. Four packets of the Greenland postcards (lot #11) are available at \$4 per packet. The other remaining 20 unsold lots from this sale are still available on a first-come, first-served basis at their starting bids. Inquiries to Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305-7233, USA; telephone 303-494-8361, or e-mail [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net)

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# Danish Wavy-line Study Group: A Centennial Update

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By Don Brent

The year 2005 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of the Danish wavy-line design. Used on stamps and stationery, it is Denmark's longest continuous running design and the second longest of all countries. (Norway's posthorn design is the longest.) The Danish stamp was designed by J. Therschilsen for a competition in 1902 and picked up the nickname wavy-line (*Bølgelinie* in Danish). This name comes from the three thick lines on each side of the value tablet. These represent the three main seas or belts that separate the Danish islands.



There are two main groups of wavy-lines. First were the letterpress or surface printings starting in 1905 followed by the engraved stamps from 1933. Both were printed in the millions, actually billions in the case of the letterpress issues. The later engraved issues were used less but remain plentiful and easy to acquire. The series provides an ideal area for study. Much has already been done, but there remain plenty of areas for new research.

SCC members interested in participating in the Danish Wavy-Line Study group may write to the SCC executive secretary or send an email to [scc@sprynet.com](mailto:scc@sprynet.com). The late Dan Laursen and I revived the study group a few years ago. It remains an informal group sharing information on both the flyspecking and the use and development of the series. With no formal newsletter, information is shared by post and email. Those who are new to the study can be assisted with large work copies of the illustrated design without the value. I can provide you a copy to start, along with a list of literature that will help steer you in the right direction. Whatever your interest — plate and printing errors, or usage — there is an area for you with this long-running design. ■

## Library Sale of Scandinavian Catalogs

The SCC Library has excess catalogs for sale to **members of the SCC**. Proceeds will go toward improving the library's research collection. All catalogs are either softbound (perfect bound) or paperback (staple bound) editions with original covers. They may have some cover or page wear, and/or page markings but are generally in sound condition. There are multiple copies of many of the catalogs.

**Terms of Sale:** All will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis to **members of the SCC**. Specify the names and years of catalogs desired and send orders to SCC Library, c/o RMPL, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224, USA. Do not send payment with your order. You will be invoiced the cost of the publication plus postage and packaging.

### Catalogs Still Available:

*Facit Specialkatalog* (in Swedish, English introduction and articles, covers all Scandinavian and Nordic areas; beginning about 1963 each catalog contains one or more specialized articles or monographs on Scandinavian or Nordic stamps and/or postal history, which are particular to a given edition and are not repeated in other catalogs) – \$2 each: 1965 through 1973; \$3 each: 1975-76, 1979-80, and 1980-81; \$4 each: 1981-82, 1985 through 1989; \$5 each: 1991; \$6 each: 1993-94.

*Norgeskatalogen* (Oslo Filatelistklubb) (in Norwegian, Norway only with English Introduction) – \$2 each: 1967, 1971, and 1972; \$3 each: 1976 and 1977; \$4 each: 1982, 1985, 1986/87, 1987/88, and 1988/89; \$5 each: 1990 and 1991.

*AFA Skandinavien Frimærkekatalog* – (in Danish, covers all Danish areas) – \$1 each: 1962, 1965 through 1969; \$2 each: 1972 through 1974, and 1977.

*SFF Specialkatalog* (Sveriges Filatelist Förbund) – (in Swedish, Sweden only) – \$2 each: 1971 through 1973; \$3 each: 1974-75, 1977-78, and 1979-80; \$4 each: 1985-86 through 1986-87.

**Miscellaneous Catalogs:**

\$1 each: *Lilla Facit* 1968; *Danmark Kataloget* 1972 (J. Rasmussen); *GF-10 Faroes* 1976; *Minkus Scandinavia/Baltic Countries* 1960 and 1961.

\$2 each: *Norma Finland* 1980 and *Contenta Svenska ORTSTAMPLAR 1819-1975* (Swedish postmarks catalog).

\$5: *Catalog of Scandinavian Revenue Stamps*, Volume 2, Denmark, by Paul Nelson. ■

## From SCC Storage to Your Reference Files

The SCC Library has many boxes of duplicate Scandinavian periodicals stacked uselessly in storage. Let's put this information to good use.

In some cases there are long runs of these periodicals that were published in Scandinavia plus a few from Scandinavia collector clubs in Germany and The Netherlands. The periodicals range across the decades — mostly from the 1940s to the 1990s — with some earlier and later years, as well. There are journals printed in Danish, Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Dutch, and German (but no Icelandic).

Rather than publish a long inventory in *The Posthorn*, just let us know which journal(s) might interest you. Library volunteers will inform you what is available and the price. Through Board resolution, surplus material is offered first to members of SCC. All proceeds help to build the Library's research collection.

Mail your inquiries to: SCC Library, c/o Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224 (USA), or email [palbright@wiche.edu](mailto:palbright@wiche.edu). ■

### Some stamps for sale in our auction

## May 21st 2005

### in Stockholm, Sweden



Facit 33 v1, 20/TRETIO



Facit 30 \*\*



Facit 47 \*



Facit 56 \*

***Examples from a very large collection of Sweden and Iceland.***

Auction catalogue on internet from early May, [www.frimarkshuset.se](http://www.frimarkshuset.se)

## **Frimärkshuset Skandinavisk Filateli AB**

Humlegårdsgatan 13, S-114 46 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone; +46 8 661 74 50

Fax; +46 8 662 82 46

E-mail; [auctionbids@frimarkshuset.se](mailto:auctionbids@frimarkshuset.se)

[www.frimarkshuset.se](http://www.frimarkshuset.se)

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**Addendum to Part II of "Unraveling the Mystery of Iceland's 25-Aur Í Gildi with Black Surcharge,"  
The Posthorn, August, 2004, pages 15-17.**

In discussing the flawed-hyphen characteristic shared by the 25-aur after-production shown in Figure 5 and the '03-'03 error from overprint position 16 ex Setting III and Setting IV, the writer stated that the defective hyphen was removed from service by the printer before Setting V. That, in fact, was not the case. Based on further research by the writer, clear evidence now exists that the flawed hyphen remained in place in position 16 after the '03-'03 error correction. Although the characteristic flaw is barely visible in Setting V without the help of magnification, it once again appears prominently in that same position in Setting VI. Still, the fact remains that the 25-aur example in Figure 5 could only have been produced after authorized overprinting had ceased with Setting VI. Once again, the zero-combination attribute tells the story. In all of the official overprint settings through Setting VI, position 16 retains the "thin-thick" zero combination, while the Figure 5 example exhibits the "thin-thin" combination.

As to the writer's original 14-16 estimate for the number of known 25-aur black-surcharged examples, it should not be surprising that the count has grown. One additional example has turned up in the collection of a fellow SCC member, who was kind enough to contact the writer after reading the article. No doubt, there are still a few others out there. ■

— Ellis Glatt

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## Have You Got Questions? Do You Need Answers?

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Questions and answers are what the SCC Helper's Service is all about. Contact Membership Chairman George Kuhhorn if you have questions about Scandinavian philately or have Scandinavian material that you need translated into English. Kuhhorn is coordinating a group of SCC members who have agreed to share their philatelic knowledge with other collectors. (Note: Helpers still are needed to translate Norwegian and Icelandic.) Email your questions (or volunteer your expertise) to Kuhhorn at [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com), or snail mail him at PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594 (USA). ■

### SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

#### 2005

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (SCC National Meeting), May 13-15, Denver, CO. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, or [www.rockymountainstampshow.com](http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com).

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

Mare Balticum, August 26-28, Mariehamn, Åland. Contact [www.posten.aland.fi](http://www.posten.aland.fi), or Mikael Erickson, PO Box 122, AX-22101, Mariehamn, Åland, ([m.erickson.frimarksaml@aland.net](mailto:m.erickson.frimarksaml@aland.net)).

Oslo 2005, November 17-20, national exhibition in Oslo. Contact Gunnar Melbøe, Oslo2005, Frydenlundgate 14, Oslo, Norway ([gmelboee@online.no](mailto:gmelboee@online.no)).

#### 2006

Sandical (SCC Regional Meeting), January 27-29, San Diego, CA. Contact John DuBois, SCC President, or Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary.

Washington 2006 (SCC National 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](http://www.washington-2006.org).

Nordia 2006, October 26-29, Helsinki, Finland. Contact Kari Rahiala, organizing committee chairman, or John DuBois ([jld@thlogic.com](mailto:jld@thlogic.com)).

#### 2007

NAPEX (SCC National Meeting), June 1-3, Tysons Corner, VA. Contact John DuBois, SCC President.

#### 2008

CHICAGOPEX (SCC National Meeting), November 18-20, Contact [www.chicagopex.com](http://www.chicagopex.com).

#### 2012

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (SCC National Meeting). ■



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## Book Reviews — Check [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org) for the latest book reviews

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Recently published catalogs are featured in this issue.

*FACIT 2005 Special*, 6¾ by 9¼ inches, soft covers, perfect bound, 888 pages, in Swedish and English, Facit Förlags AB, Västerås, Sweden, available from philatelic book dealers, \$53 (approximately).

This authoritative catalog continues to grow in quality and size. It is the basic information source for collectors of all the Nordic countries. The stamps are shown in color. For Sweden, tables show values of stamps on covers for the early periods. Value listings also include first day covers, booklets, and franking labels among others.

The Finland listings also cover Aunus, Karelia, and North Ingermanland. For Nordic country collectors, this is the recommended comprehensive reference catalog for one-stop reference.

— Alan Warren



*Scandinavia, Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part II*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 6 by 8½ inches, perfect bound, soft covers, 382 pages, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, 2001, ISBN 0-85259-519-0, £24.95.

These special Scandinavia editions of the Gibbons catalogs began in 1970, but they are published only every few years. There was a seven-year gap between the previous edition and this one. Countries covered here are Åland, Danish West Indies, Denmark (with Sleswig), the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The publisher has drawn on several recognized experts and updated the previous edition considerably. Some of the catalog numbers have changed since the 1994 edition and a table supplies the new equivalents.

The Gibbons approach to their specialized catalogs is to focus on stamps basically, excluding revenues, stationery, locals, labels, and specimens. However, FRAMA machine labels and stamp booklets are included. The introductory section goes into some details on printing, paper, perforation, gum, watermarks, color, luminescence, etc. and appears to be a common text used throughout their foreign catalog series.

The black and white illustrations are quite good. Major stamp varieties are listed. The Finland listing includes the military fieldpost stamps, and the Norway section includes a listing of the numeral cancels. The section on Sweden concludes with a listing of designs on her stamps, which will interest topical collectors.

For those who collect Scandinavia only, this catalog is a useful reference for the general collector who does not wish to purchase the larger versions of the Gibbons or Scott catalogs that include many other countries.

— Alan Warren



*LaPe Special Stamp Catalogue 2004*, Suomen Filateliapalvelu Oy, Turku, Finland, 760 pages, softbound. Available from philatelic book dealers, \$50 (approximately).

Although the 2005 LaPe catalog is now available, it does nothing to detract from LaPe's 2004 special edition, which is the largest stamp catalog ever published in Finland—and perhaps the best.

For years, LaPe catalogs published only in Finnish and Swedish were somewhat out of reach for most American, English, and continental European collectors. Although the 2004 catalog is not fully tri-lingual, English text is presented in nearly all introductory and descriptive essays for most major stamp series and groups. A notable exception is the lack of any English text for the section on the use of Russian stamps used in Finland.

The postal stationery section was completely revised. The catalog also includes new sections that ➤

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provide an overview of Finnish revenue and railway stamps. The introductory sections for each stamp issue offer the collector a wealth of information not usually found in general stamp catalogs. One example is the excellent section on the specimen stamps of 1856-1889, which details each stamp, delivered quantity, ordered quantity, type, color, and year. The color illustrations are very good. Another example is the introductory summary on the 1918 Vaasa issues. This section explains the periods of validity and offers important information on paper, gumming, perforations, and colors. There is even a list of cancellation forgeries with backdated postmarks from a dozen post offices. This level of detail is found throughout the catalog.

The clarity of the printing and the color illustrations are excellent. The publisher has wisely discarded the blue paper used in previous editions in favor of high quality coated white paper. The lengthy descriptions of the commemorative stamps may be somewhat excessive, and in any event the Finnish-Swedish text is so small you might need a magnifying glass to read it. A revised presentation of these listings might be considered in future editions, as well as expanding English at least for the section differentiating the printing characteristics of the difficult 1901-1908 penni stamps printed from the Berlin and Helsinki plates.

The Table of Contents, which I found only by thumbing through the pages, is oddly placed on page 759 toward the back of the advertising section. The editorial staff includes a number of well-known and eminently regarded experts. Altogether they have produced a highly useful catalog, which may serve as the first reference for collectors at every level. This catalog is highly recommended.

The 2005 edition has added stamps of Estonia and a specialized listing of ATM stamps, which are being phased out in Finland.

— Roger Quinby



*Norgeskatalogen 2005*, 6 by 8½ inches, perfect bound, soft covers, 448 pages, in Norwegian with some English, Oslo Filatelistklubb 2004, \$59 from Jay Smith & Associates, Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349.

This is the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the specialized catalog of Norway and it continues to maintain the high quality of recent years. Although the listings are in Norwegian, the introductory material and occasional summaries throughout are also in English. All stamps are shown in color.

Specialized listings include booklets, coils, franking machine labels, souvenir sheets, blocks of four stamps, postal rates, and discussions on paper, watermarks, 19<sup>th</sup> century postal markings, and identifying the varieties of the posthorn series. As usual, two specialized articles are found in this edition only. One is on stamp designer Johs. Hauklund, the other on collecting first day covers of Norway. Highly recommended for the Norwegian philatelist. ■

— Alan Warren

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## Cover Corner

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### Possible Protest Card from Åland to the U.S.

*By Roger Quinby*

This century-old picture post card was cancelled at Sund 20.V.06, in Åland en route to Hastings, Pennsylvania, arriving there on June 14. Although the postmarks are indistinct, it appears to have arrived in the U.S. on June 10, 1906. The approximate three-week transatlantic travel time is normal for that period.



Sund is a small Swedish-speaking village in the Åland Islands. The word “sund” means “sound” or “straight.” The Sund post office opened in 1877 and in the early 1890s rural mail carrier routes were opened between Sund and Tosarby and other communities and rural villages. These routes were operated by contract farmers, who traveled the route once or twice a week, picking up and delivering mail to the nearest class I post office, which affixed the town postmark.

In 1893 the Russian Ministry of the Interior, which had oversight authority of the Finnish post, issued a directive that the town names on postmarks be written in Finnish and/or Swedish and Russian. Inasmuch as Swedish was the predominant language of the residents of the Åland Islands, the town names were in Swedish and Russian.

In this case the rural carrier cancelled the card with the route number 106. At Sund, the postal clerk immediately recognized that the 10-penni franking was invalid to a destination outside Finland. The correct franking was 4 kopeks.<sup>1</sup> The card was marked with the boxed “T” and “=O” indicating that the postage had no franking value. The Finnish penni stamps were declared invalid for postage to foreign destinations on August 15, 1900.

Undoubtedly, the card was included in a westbound satchel along the mail road across Åland to Storby, then across the Gulf of Bothnia to Grisslehamn, Sweden, to Stockholm and then by steamer to New York or Boston. (The location name on the arrival postmark is indistinct.) On arrival in the U.S., four cents postage due was assessed (double the foreign post card rate).

The mystery is why at this late date the sender affixed a Finnish 10-penni stamp rather than the correct 4-kopek Russian or ring stamp. The sender undoubtedly knew that penni franking was invalid but might have hoped that it would pass unnoticed. Earlier, refusing to frank mail to abroad with the Russian kopek stamps was a common expression of protest against what the Finns believed was an unconstitutional intrusion into the administration of the country’s post office. Although this practice had been all but abandoned by 1906, it may have been the motive for using the Finnish stamp valid only for domestic mail.<sup>2</sup>

This card, which is from the collection of Charles Fricke, is interesting for the following reasons:

- It reinforced the stern directives from the postal administration in Helsinki that kopek franking to abroad was to be strictly enforced.
- Mail from the Åland Islands is difficult, but mail from the small town and village post offices (outside Mariehamn) is especially prized and eagerly sought by Åland collectors.
- Mail marked with a numbered rural route from Åland is especially dear.
- The combination of protest use of penni franking, rural-route cancellation, and the U.S. postage due stamps on a card from this small town in the Åland Islands makes this a very unusual and attractive addition to any Finland collection. ■

#### (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Mattila, Esa, *Suomen Postimaksuja 1881-1985*, Loimaa, Finland, 1985.

<sup>2</sup> Poutvaara, Matti, *Postia sortokaudelta*, K. J. Gummerus Oy, Jyväskylä, Finland 1973.



# A Loose Packet Letter from the Danish West Indies

By Arnold Sorensen

According to the definitive *DWI Mails Volume 1*, there could be 90 loose packet letters existing from 1842 to 1877 when the Danish West Indies became a member of the Universal Postal Union. It further states, "Some letters must have been posted at sea or taken by the naval agent at the docks before sailing (as an individual favor even though such servicing was not authorized in its regulations)." These letters are found with several different Southampton ship arrival cancels, and may also be found (infrequently) with cancels from other British ports.

Figure 1 shows such a loose packet letter. It is a folded letter with two blue cancels, the straight-line "SOUTHAMPTON/PACKET LETTER" and the circular date cancel "SOUTHAMPTON JU28 1854." The straight-line cancel is DWI Mails No. BR14a. This cancel is also described in *Robertson Revisited* by Tabert (1997). He places the use of the blue color from 1844-51, so this letter extends the known dates of this color. The letter is addressed to London and has a manuscript postal rate of 2/- (2 shillings).

## Steamship Mail Operations

I have seen several loose packet letters having a Southampton arrival cancel that all coincided with the arrival of a Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSPC) ship. It is worthwhile to briefly review this company. A royal charter incorporated the RMSPC in 1839. The Danish King issued a royal grant in 1840 allowing it to establish a packet station at St. Thomas. With a contract in hand, the RMSPC built a fleet of steam ships expressively for carrying both mail and passengers. Starting in December, 1841 the ships connected twice monthly with St. Thomas. In England, Fallmouth was initially the connecting mail point, but in October 1843 it was changed to Southampton. St. Thomas was the Caribbean central point connecting to more than 60 cities and countries (over the 34-year period), and the routings, ship names, departure dates and arrival dates are detailed in the book, *The Early Mail Routings of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842-1879*. The British were also allowed to operate a post office at St. Thomas. This provided the DWI islands and the entire Caribbean Basin an efficient and frequent worldwide mail connection.

This was especially favorable for the Danes since the DWI did not join the Universal Postal Union until 1877, and the DWI stamps (first issued in 1856) had very restrictive use outside the three islands. The economic impact of being the main packet station for the Caribbean Bassin must also have been very significant. The British Post Office handled as many as 10,000 letters monthly by the 1860s, so it was not a small operation. The last letters were mailed through the British Post office in 1877 when the DWI became a UPU member.

This letter apparently was not handled by the British St. Thomas Post Office. British regulations stipulated that the first British post office to process a piece of mail had to apply a dated city postmark, and that was Southampton. The PACKET LETTER/SOUTHAMPTON cancel was also important since the recipient had to pay the postage on receipt, and the St. Thomas to London rate was much more than the 1d rate from Southampton to London. The recipient of this letter had to pay 2 shillings.

## Unhappy at Sea

The letter itself makes interesting reading and provides a clue as to how a loose packet letter could originate. Today, St. Thomas is famous as a luxury cruise ship port, but the passenger who wrote this letter was none too happy with the ship accommodations.



Figure 1. Letter with manuscript date 15 June 1854 and blue SOUTHAMPTON JU29/1854 arrival cancel. The blue two-line PACKET LETTER/SOUTHAMPTON cancel is rare. Black and red inks have also been used with this cancel.

The letter starts:

Steamship Magdalena, Thursday 15 June 1854

My dear Erasmus.

We expect to be in St. Thomas tomorrow + as there is a possibility of our catching the English ship I am preparing for it by getting everything ready. The shaking of this confounded ship is such that it's next to impossible to write, so to kill two birds with one stone I have resolved to enclose my letters to you – which will make their transmission perhaps safer + at the same time leave my father's letter open for your perusal – thus avoiding a repetition of news which is no small task to write with this trembling + shaking – and if you can make anything out consider yourself lucky. The other letter you will oblige me by popping into the post as soon as you get it.

The remainder of the letter tells about the cabins and shipboard activities.

### Direct Letter Transfer Bypasses Post Office

The steamship “Magdalena” was a wooden, side-wheel paddle steamer with auxiliary sails. It was built in 1852 and scrapped in 1866. It was also one of several ships leased to the British Admiralty for troop transport during the Crimean War of 1854-56.

It left Southampton June 2 and arrived in St. Thomas June 16, 1854. On that same date another RMSPC ship “Artrato” left St. Thomas for Southampton, both ships being in the harbor for at least a little while. The next Southampton bound ship was not due to leave until July 2, so some accommodation was made to transfer the letter onto the “Artrato” directly. The St. Thomas mailbags may have been sealed by that time, and the transfer was likely done as a favor. It is quite possible the letter never was on land at St. Thomas.

It is interesting that a second letter was included with the request it be posted in London. For a postal history collector such a letter presents a dilemma. If it exists today the owner/collector likely is wondering how a letter written en route from England to St. Thomas ended up having a London postmark and a 1d stamp, and how it should be categorized. ■

### References:

*Danish West Indies Mails 1754-1917*, Volume 1 – Postal History, John DuBois, Second Edition, 2000, Jay Smith & Associates.

*The Early Mail Routings Of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842-1879*, Phil J. Kenton and Harry G. Parsons, 1999, Postal History Society.

*Robertson Revisited, A Study of Maritime Postal History of the British Isles*, Colvin Tabert, 1997, James Bendon, Ltd., Limasol, Cyprus.

## Scandinavia Stamp Agencies at Washington 2006

Postal agencies of seven Scandinavian countries and their dependencies will be sharing a booth at the “Washington 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition” next year in Washington, DC. Greeting collectors and showing their philatelic products at Stand 1523 will be representatives from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Greenland, The Faroes, and Åland, along with their U.S. agent, Nordica. Sweden Posten will be at the Unicover Corp. booth, Stand 1434.

No announcements have been made as to what new Scandinavian stamps might be issued at Washington 2006. Helena Riki of Finland Post told *The Posthorn* that Finland would have a special exhibition cancel and that some of Finland's regular issues might be released during Washington 2006, but that possibility still is under discussion. The international exhibition will be held May 27-June 3 and will include the 2006 national meeting of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, along with many other societies. DC will be the philatelic place to be! ■



## Sweden Takes Note of Its First Booklets

Although a bit late on the calendar, Sweden's post office has taken note of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that country's first stamp booklets with a special "jubilee printing." The first booklets (*Facit* Sweden H1) were assembled by hand and released in April, 1904. Each booklet contained five panes of six stamps each (30 stamps) of the 5-öre green Oscar II stamps, perforated on four sides (*Facit* 52).

*Facit* reports 43,539 booklets were produced by dividing larger sheets of stamps by hand and stapling the panes into the cover. Until 1913, Sweden's booklets carried a 5-öre surcharge to pay for the extra printing and handling. All booklets were assembled by hand until 1940.

In January, 2005, Sweden Post released a souvenir reproduction of the first booklet. The motif is the same Oscar II 5-öre image that was adapted from one of four stamps issued in 1983 to help publicize the forthcoming Stockholmia 1986 philatelic exhibition (*Facit* 1262).

The back of the jubilee booklet contains a reproduction of the original cover. The front cover notifies the owner that the booklet contains six non-valid 5-öre stamps. The single pane of six Oscar II labels are perforated on three sides. The jubilee booklet is priced at SEK 149.00. ■



Panel of Oscar II labels in 2005 jubilee booklet.

— Paul Albright

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## Albums Closed

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### Arne J. Bay, Norwegian Postal Historian



Arne Bay backed by a display of Norway's stamps. (Photo by Paul Albright.)

One of Norway's leading postal historians, Arne J. Bay, died January 3, 2005, at the age of 72. He was president of the Norwegian Postal History Society (Norsk Posthistorisk Selskap) at the time of his death, but he had held leadership positions in a number of other philatelic organizations. Bay was active in all three societies in Oslo.

He was recipient of Norway's highest award for service to philately, the Andersen-Dethloff Medal. He was an early participant and advocate of collecting areas before they became popular among collectors. These included revenues, polar mail, and seals. He published two editions of his book, *Postal History of Svalbard from 1896*, the latest of which was awarded a large vermeil at the FIP exhibition in Singapore in 2004. At NORWEX 97, he received a gold for his philatelic exhibit of "Postal History of Norway 1743-1855."

— Bjørn Muggerud and Alan Warren

### Ernst M. Cohn: Esteemed Postal Historian

Well-known postal historian and author Ernst M. Cohn died December 30, 2004, at the age of 84. He is best known for his research and writing on the postal history of France, Germany, and Scandinavia, and in particular the Franco-German War (balloon mail) of 1870-1871. He was proficient in several languages and headed a team of translators during the Nürnberg Trials.

Cohn was past president of the Washington Philatelic Society, president and editor of the Postal History Society, vice president of the American Philatelic Congress, director of the American Academy of Philately, council member of the APS Writers Unit 30, chairman of the APS Postal History Committee, and the APS representative to the FIP Postal History Commission and a member of that commission's bureau. He was on the editorial board of the Collectors Club (NY) *Philatelist* at the time of death.

He was an accredited national and international judge and a gold medal exhibitor. In 1969 he was presented the award for aerophilatelic literature by the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aérophilatéliques (FISA). He received the FIP research medal in 1987 and the APS Luff award for distinguished philatelic research in 1995. In 2004 he received the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award of the Collectors Club for distinguished service to philately.

Cohn was a member of SCC for more than 50 years. He wrote more than a dozen articles for *The Posthorn* on Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. In addition, he contributed many articles to philatelic publications in the U.S. and Europe. His "Postal History Notes" column appeared for 12 years in the *American Philatelist*. He wrote the postal history judging section of the APS *Manual of Philatelic Judging* for three editions. One of his many books, *The Flight of the Ville d'Orléans* (1978), concerns a Paris siege balloon that drifted to Norway before landing.



— Alan Warren

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## Danish Writer Ib Eichner-Larsen

Ib Eichner-Larsen, a widely-respected Danish journalist, writer, and collector, died in November, 2004, at the age of 83. Eichner-Larsen was a renowned legal and crime reporter for Denmark's largest and oldest newspaper, *Berlingske Tidende*, for 52 years. He also wrote the newspaper's weekly stamp feature column from 1953 until it was discontinued in 1996.

His other philatelic activities included editing an annual stamps' yearbook from 1967-1983, and writing biographies of engravers Czeslaw Slania and Arne Kühlman. He helped to found Fællesfonden, which supports issuing philatelic literature. An excellent artist, he designed numerous souvenir cancels and published criticism of stamp designs and proliferating issues aimed at collectors rather than postal users.

— *Information from Arnold Sorensen, Mogens Lethraborg, Paul Nelson*



Ib Eichner-Larsen  
(Photo courtesy of Naja McKenzie.)

## John MacDonnell of Australia

John MacDonnell, a Scandinavia collector and exhibitor and a leader of philatelic societies in Australia, died November 12, 2004, after battling cancer. MacDonnell exhibited important postal history collections of Finnish and Swedish railway post offices. He also collected and exhibited Swedish and Finnish postal stationery, the postal history of Hamburg, and a thematic collection on the Vikings and their discovery of North America.

MacDonnell, who joined SCC in 1982, was a philatelic judge, a commissioner from Australia to several international exhibitions, and chaired successful national exhibitions in Australia. He served 18 years on the council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Australia and was its president in both 1990 and 2001. He also was secretary and later the president of the Australian Philatelic Federation between 1993 and 2002. ■

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## New EKU on Iceland Definitive as Postage Due

In the November 2003 *Posthorn* (page 37), I described a short-paid post card mailed from Denmark to Iceland. The distinctive feature of the card is the use of a 10-aur Frederik VIII 1912 definitive (*Facit* Iceland 115) to pay the postage due. The Reykjavik cancel on this stamp is 13XI.12 (November 13, 1912). The card came from the James P. Gough Collection of Postage Dues of the World and was described in the auction catalog as “the earliest known usage (EKU) of an Icelandic definitive as a postage due.”

Shortly after my article appeared, SCC member Svein Arne Hansen of Oslo provided a scan of a cover sent from Norway to Iceland. The card is franked with the 5-øre green stamp from the posthorn issue (*Facit* Norway 103) and has a Bergen machine cancel dated 22VIII12 (August 22, 1912). In addition, there is a Kjøbenhavn transit cancel two days later. This letter was also short paid by 10 aur, as indicated by a blue crayon “10.” In this case, the additional postage is paid using the 4- and 6-aur values from the 1911 Jon Sigurdsson issue (*Facit* Iceland 110 and 111).

Unfortunately, the Reykjavik cancel on these stamps is a bit obscure — ?IX.12. Although the day is not readable, the month (September) is very clear and year (1912) is readable. Thus, Svein Hansen's cover is approximately two months earlier than mine and becomes the EKU of an Icelandic definitive to pay postage due — at least until someone else reports an even earlier usage. ■

— *W. Joseph Schlitt*



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## SCC Chapter Meetings & Contacts

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Mon. at Maple Leaf Evangelical Church, 1059 NE 96<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. CONTACT: Ken Elliott, P.O. Box 22808, Seattle, WA 98122-0808, email: ScandiaW@aol.com.
4. CHICAGO: 4th Thurs. of Jan.-June and Sept., Oct.; 1st Thurs. of Dec., Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, IL 60016. CONTACT: Ron Collins, PO Box 63, River Grove, IL 60171-0063; (773) 907-8633, email: collinr@ameritech.net.
5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wed. at the Scandinavian Living Center, 206 Waltham St., West Newton, MA at 7:30 p.m. 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: sigurdur\_thorsteinsson@yahoo.com.
12. WASHINGTON DC: 3rd Thu. at the McLean Community Center, 7:30 p.m., 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: 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: Rossmar 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 Road, Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or email: gerjerry@earthlink.net.
21. GOLDEN GATE: Meets monthly on 1st Sat., 11 a.m. at members' houses & at various shows (WESTPEX, COALPEX, PENPEX, 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. PAULSON-SEAMAN: For meeting dates and places, CONTACT: J. Edward Evan, Box 4130, Seminole, FL 33775; Roy C. Scott, 2346 Druid Rd., #235, Clearwater, FL 33764, email: raytran@aol.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: robertzacharias@shaw.ca.
25. TUCSON: CONTACT: Jack F. Schmidt, phone: (520) 648-0034, or email: jackschmidt@cox.net.
26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Sat., 3 p.m. 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 a.m. at the Rocky Mtn. 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 Norby: toke.norby@norbyhus.dk.

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# The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

SCC Website: [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org)

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