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Table of Contents

The Real Story of Iceland's "Missing Í" Í Gildi		
Overprint Varieties	Ellis Glatt	3
Norway's "Return to Sender" Mail	Paul Albright	2
Mourning Covers: A Scandinavian Perspective	Ernest A. Mosher	13
Swedish Revenue Stamps Revalued in English	Paul Nelson	19
Coins Commemorate Sweden's First Stamp		20
The Danish Pre-Zip Code	Kim Widén	20
Aurar Disappearing from Iceland's Stamps		24
Forged Icelandic Bridge Cancels	þór þorsteins	24
Types of Icelandic Bridge Cancels	Viggo Warmboe	25
Forged Swedish Stamps Surface	Ingvar Larsson	27
New Icelandic Varieties		28
Use of Stamps on Comeback in Iceland	þór þorsteins	29
Early Mail Delivery Has a Price in Denmark		29
Iceland Gastronomy Stamp Wins Award		29
Swedish Local Postal History Club	Gustaf Ankarerona	39
SCC News		
Stamp Mart Needs Material	Eric Roberts	40
APS Can Use Nordic Experts	Don Brent	40
Nordia 2006 in Helsinki: An Update		41
SCC Expanded Regional Meeting at Sandical		42
SCC Library Auction No. 5		43
Corrections		42
Book Reviews and Announcements		
New Catalog on Denmark's Encased Postage	John R. Sabin	45
New Book on Danish Advertising Panes	Alan Warren	46

DEPARTMENTS

Auction Marketplace	33	Scandinavian Area Awards	36
Chapter Contacts	47	Scandinavian Literature Notes	34
Chapter Reports	37	SCC Member Services	41
Editor's Notes	32	SCC and Scandinavian Calendar	42
Membership Statistics	31	SCC Officers	48
News from the Home Office	31	Transfers and Re-Entries	37
President's Letter	30		

Special Stamps for Norway's "Return to Sender" Mail

The cover shown here is franked with a non-denominated "returned letter stamp" used by Norway's Postal Letter Opening Commission to return mail to senders when it was undeliverable or not picked up by the recipient. These labels from the 1870s are regarded as stamps in Norway. The first returned-letter stamp was issued in 1872 followed by others in 1878 and 1885.



Recently, collector Leif Jonas asked Norway Post how to distinguish one return stamp from another since there are a number of color variations. Norway Post's magazine for collectors, *Frimerkeposten*, responded in its 03/2005 issue as follows: "To separate the different issues from each other is difficult if one has only one stamp without the possibility to compare the variations in the colors. If the stamp is canceled, the cancellation date may help."

Norgeskatalogen records return stamps ("Returmerker" in Norwegian) in dark lilac (R1x, 1872), red lilac (R1y, 1878), dark green (R2x, 1872) and blue green (R2y, 1885). ■

— Paul Albright



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The Real Story of Iceland's "Missing Í" Í Gildi Overprint Varieties

By Ellis Glatt

PART I

In connection with the officially authorized production period for Iceland's Í Gildi overprints, which ran from late October, 1902, through July, 1903, six major overprint-plate settings have been identified and extensively described in the literature by earlier researchers. Details of these settings were presented by Munk in 1936 (*Kohl – Briefmarken Handbuch*), by Lundgaard in 1941, and later by Carøe in 1942 and again in 1959, among others. Moreover, a number of these six major settings exist in one or more intermediate states, some more discernable than others and not all of which have been adequately documented.

One of the most well-known intermediate states developed in the late stage of Setting I, when the entire stock of 50-aur OS (Official Service) stamps on hand at the GPO plus smaller numbers of sheets of several other aur stamps were about to be overprinted. At that point, a single piece of type – the leading accented "Í" – either became loose or fell out of the Setting I overprint plate at position 6, such that the character no longer printed. It is this intermediate state, often referred to as Setting IA, which produced one of the most notable Í Gildi overprint varieties – the "Missing Í" surcharge.

What is not widely known to most Iceland collectors, and even some experts, is that three other classes of Í Gildi "Missing Í" plate varieties also exist that do not originate from position 6 of the Setting IA plate. Unfortunately, one such group of "Missing Í" overprints actually turns out to be less than bona fide, having been produced intentionally and clandestinely for the philatelic market. More about that subject, including details of when and where, and by whom, will be presented in Part II of this article. For now, the focus will be on the authentic "Missing Í" varieties, including the settings, intermediate states, and aur stamps involved, as well as how to identify them. Some guidance as to the relative scarcity of these stamps (which seldom is correctly reflected by catalog publishers) will be presented based on many years of intensive research by the writer.

"Missing Í" Plate Variety from Setting IA

Most authentic "Missing Í" examples originate from plate position 6 in Setting IA. Since the overprint plate of 50 was applied twice to each sheet of aur stamps, the variety generally appeared twice on each surcharged sheet (in positions 6 and 56). However, according to *Kohl*, on one or more 5-aur sheets perforated $12\frac{3}{4}$, the variety occurred only in position 56. Since the 5-aur green is the only red-surcharged stamp found with the "Missing Í" variety from Setting IA (all the others are surcharged in black), it may have received the overprint at the start of this intermediate Setting I state. This could explain why some 5-aur sheets exhibited the variety only on half the sheet, since the top half of those sheets may have been overprinted before the problem developed.

In his 1941 research report on the Í Gildi overprints, Lundgaard put forth a timeline for Setting IA's use. It was based on journal entries from the Reykjavík printing office plus other information found in Iceland's postal archives at the time. From those details, Lundgaard deduced that the Setting IA must have materialized in mid-November, 1902, remained in use into January, 1903, and accounted for all "Missing Í" varieties. Unfortunately, Lundgaard's analysis overlooked one critical detail, which caused him to reach a faulty conclusion (more about this later).

Based on the current state of information on the subject, as collected and reviewed by this researcher in recent years, Setting IA most probably began in the second half of November, 1902, and lasted no more than a week or two. We will soon see how this timeline ties into recent findings re the other classes of authentic "Missing Í" examples discussed below.



Figure 1 shows a vivid example of the “Missing Í” surcharge variety from Setting IA on a 3-aur OS stamp (center stamp in marginal strip of 3). Both the underlying aur stamp and overprint are from position 6 of the sheet. All “Missing Í” examples from Setting IA invariably exhibit nearly all of the same basic identifying characteristics and, therefore, are easily authenticated. The key characteristics are as follows:

1. Thin-thin zero combination (as opposed to thin-thick, thick-thin, and thick-thick zero combinations);
2. Lower portion of “G” in GILDI with excess ink fill;
3. Much of “2” with excess ink fill;
4. Upper portion of “D” in GILDI with excess or traces of ink fill.

All of these characteristics are clearly evident on the center stamp in Figure 1. Although the extent of ink fill in the “D” (final characteristic) can vary significantly from example to example, some trace of excess ink in the center of the “D” is generally visible in nearly all genuine examples. Essentially, any “Missing Í” surcharge variety that does not exhibit, at a minimum, the first three characteristics listed above, cannot be from Setting IA.

During the relatively brief period in which the Setting IA plate was in use, some sheets were surcharged upside down, probably purely by accident. This resulted in a few authentic so-called “double errors.” One such inverted “Missing Í” surcharge from Setting IA is shown in Figure 2, where it appears on the 4-aur bicolor. The inverted surcharge is clearly from position 6 in the overprint plate (note identifying characteristics 1 through 3 are clearly visible, but there is only a very faint indication of ink fill in the upper “D”). Furthermore, the underlying 4-aur stamp is consistent with sheet position 95, based on established frame and related characteristics.



Figure 2. Inverted “Missing Í” variety from Position 6 from Setting IA



Figure 1. “Missing Í” variety from Position 6 from Setting IA

One other extremely rare (possibly unique) “Missing Í” variety from Setting IA is known to exist on the large 3-aur stamp (1901 printing). It is the double overprint variety shown in Figure 3. In this example, both overprints on the stamp originate from Setting IA—the one with the missing “Í” from plate position 6 and the normal overprint from plate position 26. The underlying stamp is, without a doubt, from sheet position 56 (based on certain verifiable cliché characteristics). One can theorize that, somewhere along the way, the printer finally noticed the problem in position 6 of his plate and may have reacted in frustration with a “quick fix,” in this instance by re-applying the plate to the same sheet in this offset manner. If that were the case, another double-overprint example (one with the “Missing Í” variety in sheet position 36 should also have been produced. In any event, even



Figure 3. Double overprint “Missing Í” variety from Setting IA

single-surcharged “Missing Í” examples from Setting IA are very rare on the large 3-aur stamp, and inverted examples are unknown, at least to this researcher. This suggests that no more than a few of these 3-aur sheets could have been overprinted in Setting IA before the problem in position 6 was more permanently addressed.

Table 1 lists the various aur stamps, both postage and Official Service (OS) types, known to exist with bona fide “Missing Í” plate varieties from Setting IA. At least one example of each of the varieties mentioned has been thoroughly investigated by this researcher (either by examining the stamp itself or an appropriate image) and confirmed based on plating analysis. Also provided in the table is an indication of the relative scarcity of each variety, based largely on the author’s review of hundreds of auction catalogs with specialized Iceland offerings dating back to the early 1950s. The rarity categories shown range from R0 (indicating the variety is widely available and known to have been produced in a quantity greater than 1,000) to R5 (indicating that no more than one or two are currently known to exist, but at least two examples were likely produced).

TABLE 1 – Confirmed Setting IA “Missing Í” Varieties

	Normal	Inverted	Double Print
<i>Postage – Perf 12 3/4</i>			
3 aur (small)	R3	R4+	--
3 aur (large)	R5	--	R5
4 aur	R2	R5	--
5 aur (red surcharge on 1899 8th printing)	R1	R5	--
16 aur	R3	--	--
<i>Postage – Perf 14x13 1/2</i>			
100 aur	R4	R5	--
<i>Official Service – Perf 12 3/4</i>			
3 aur (1898-99 4th printing)	R1	--	--
4 aur	R1	R5	--
<i>Official Service – Perf 14x13 1/2</i>			
10 aur (1891 3rd printing)	R5	--	--
16 aur (1895 2nd printing)	R3+	--	--
50 aur	R0	--	--

For example, nearly all of the 50-aur OS stamps are known to have been overprinted with Setting IA and in fairly large quantities (approximately 760 sheets in total). Lundgaard was able initially to establish this fact by reviewing journals and related archived records, as well as the large remaining stock of 50-aur OS sheets on hand at the Reykjavík GPO in 1941. Since the “Missing Í” variety occurred in both positions 6 and 56 on those sheets, he further estimated the total number of “Missing Í” examples for this stamp at roughly 1,500. Unfortunately, Setting IA sheets of other aur values were not among the remaining GPO stock, so it was impossible for him to provide similar production estimates for most others. (Lundgaard did come up with a rough estimate of 50 examples for the small 3-aur stamp, again using journal and other anecdotal evidence.) Nevertheless, in my search of auction catalogs dating back more than 50 years, only a single Setting IA example of some of the varieties listed in Table 1 was found in some instances (most notably, among the inverted “Missing Í” stamps plus the large 3-aur varieties). Of course, over those many years, the same stamp may have been sold several times.

“Missing Í” Plate Variety from Early Setting I

First mentioned by Lundgaard in his 1941 report is another “Missing Í” variety that occurs only on a single aur value—the blue 20-aur (1898 7th printing) with red surcharge, perforated $12\frac{3}{4}$. Although this variety is also from Setting I, it is totally distinct in origin from those produced in Setting IA. An example of this plate variety is shown in Figure 4, where it appears as the middle stamp in a marginal strip of three.



Figure 4. “Missing Í” variety from Position 5 from early Setting I

IA examples. Unfortunately, this was Lundgaard’s mistake when he encountered a group of 20-aur sheets containing the variety in 1941 in the GPO’s remaining stock. He noted that each of the sheets exhibited the variety once in the top row and thus assumed they were from Setting IA and similar to the 50-aur OS sheets he had also encountered. However, he missed the fact that, on these sheets, the variety occurred in plate position 5, not 6. Because journal entries from the printing office indicated that the 20-aur stock on hand had been overprinted prior to November 17, 1902, Lundgaard further concluded, incorrectly, that Setting IA must have come into existence prior to that time. We now know that, based on other evidence, the Setting IA state actually came about later.

It was not until 1969 or thereabouts that the first intact 20-aur sheet with “Missing Í” variety in position 5 appeared on the market. Initially, several prominent Iceland experts who examined the sheet thought the position 5 variety had been faked. However, the matter was soon cleared up when Sigurður Þorsteinsson, in a November, 1971 *Posthorn* article, related what he knew about the stamp. Upon examining one such 20-aur sheet, Þorsteinsson noted that nearly all of the Setting I plate flaws previously documented in *Kohl* were present on the sheet, with the exception of the “broken 2” in sheet positions 40 and 90. From this, Munk correctly concluded that the sheet must have been overprinted early in Setting I.

More recent evaluations by this researcher of a number of intact 20-aur sheets exhibiting the “Missing Í” variety in position 5, as well as a few surviving sheets of other aur stamps from Setting IA, further confirms the early state of the Setting I overprint plate used on the 20 aur. While nearly all of the Setting IA sheets showed at least some signs of the top of the “2” deteriorating in positions 40 and 90, none of the 20-aur sheets exhibited this defect. However, an even better test is the “notched L” flaw in plate position 11. (Although this particular plate flaw is not mentioned in *Kohl* or by Carøe in his extensive writings on the subject, it was noted by this researcher some years ago and proved to be instrumental in solving the mystery of the 25-aur Í Gildi with black surcharge previously written about in this journal.) This particular flaw (small notch on the right side of the vertical portion of the “L” near the center) also developed in the middle of Setting I, but prior to Setting IA. In at least a few normal Setting I sheets examined by the writer, the flaw is seen in position 61, but is absent from position 11 (as mentioned, the plate was applied twice to each sheet). However, the flaw appears in both positions 11 and 61 on all Setting IA sheets examined, but is absent on the subject 20-aur sheets. There is no doubt about the early state of the overprint plate that produced the “Missing Í” variety in position 5 on this stamp.

Authenticating 20-aur examples exhibiting the “Missing Í” variety is very easy to do when the stamp is part of a pair, strip, or larger unit. In these cases, the zero-combination type on all adjoining stamps would have to correctly jibe with stamps adjacent to plate position 5 in Setting I. For single stamps, however, the process is a little more difficult. One would first verify the thin-thin zero combination and then check the underlying 20-aur stamp for a small cliché flaw also found in sheet position 5 (a small white dot, sometimes expanding to a small notch, between the inner and outer diagonals of the lower right ornamental triangles). The other overprint characteristics of plate position 6 of Setting IA, i.e. the various ink fills previously mentioned, do not apply here.

As to scarcity of this particular “Missing Í” stamp, Lundgaard stated that he found 125 sheets of 20-aur stamps exhibiting this early Setting I variation in the GPO’s remaining stock in 1941. From this and other information gathered at the time, he estimated a total production of roughly 200 sheets, each containing a single example with the subject variety. Based on the number of examples that have turned up over the last 30 years or so, Lundgaard’s estimate seems reasonable. In terms of rarity classification, (as used in connection the Setting IA varieties), an R1+ designation seems appropriate.

“Missing Í” and Transitional Plate Varieties from Setting IIA

There is one other category of authentic “Missing Í” plate varieties that most Iceland collectors and many experts are still totally unaware of. It occurs only on one stamp -- the 10-aur OS perforated 12¾, although a subsequent transition state of the overprint is also found on two other OS stamps. And, once again, the “Missing Í” variety appears only once in each sheet in position 5, a fact which, for many years, escaped the leading researchers, Munk (*Kohl*), Lundgaard, and Carøe included. Since there were no intact sheets containing the variety available for these experts to evaluate (certainly none was found by Lundgaard at the Reykjavik GPO in 1941), all assumed that the variety originated from plate position 6 of Setting IA and occurred twice in each sheet (positions 6 and 56). However, in actuality, the variety was produced with a very early state of the Setting II overprint plate, often referred to as Setting IIA. More will be presented shortly about the evidence that connects this particular “Missing Í” plate variety to Setting IIA and that also helps establish the timeline for this phase of the overprinting.

An example of the “Missing Í” variety from Setting IIA on the 10-aur OS is shown in Figure 5, where it appears as the center stamp in a strip of 3. Although the zero-combination type seen in the variety is thin-thin, similar to that found in plate position 6 of Setting IA, it lacks all three of the ink-fill characteristics



Figure 5. “Missing Í” variety from Position 5 from Setting IIA

also associated with Setting IA “Missing Í” varieties. Of course, when the variety is present in a pair or strip of 3, as in this instance, it is easy to confirm that we are dealing with plate position 5, instead. This is because the zero-combination types on the adjoining stamps would be different if the center stamp was from position 6. In addition, the underlying 10-aur stamps exhibit several prominent and well-documented matrix and cliché flaws, which further confirm sheet positions 4-5-6 or 54-55-56, and not 5-6-7 or 55-56-57. Had a portion of the sheet margin been attached to the strip or had part of the sheet-margin watermark extended into the stamps, there would be no doubt as to which half of the sheet the variety came from. However, in this case, the researcher must rely on other external evidence that ties this specific “Missing Í” variety to one of its subsequent transitional states, where the plate variety can be found and studied in

complete sheets. Because numerous complete 10-aur OS sheets overprinted during the final transitional state of Setting IIA exist today, there is absolutely no doubt that only the top half of each sheet was impacted.



Figure 6. "IL only" variety (normal spacing) from Position 5 from Setting IIA

envelope, properly canceled with a legible date. The 30-aur franking applied was the proper second-class rate at the time (letters over 15 grams) for official correspondence to Denmark. Most revealing, however, is the very early cancellation date of 12-12-1902.

For many years, a number of Í Gildi researchers, including Munk (*Kohl*) and Lundgaard, mistakenly believed that Setting IIA was a late state of Setting II. In his 1941 report, Lundgaard concluded (from printing-office journal entries and other anecdotal evidence) that Setting II first came into use in January, 1903, and that the Setting IIA state did not come about until March of that year. More recently, the Lundgaard timeline for Setting IIA also appears in AFA's *Special Katalog 1995* (the last edition with Iceland included). However, as far back as 1942, Carøe noted the absence of a well-documented Setting II flaw (one usually found in plate position 42) in a Setting IIA sheet containing the final transitional position 5 variety previously mentioned. From that, he correctly concluded that Setting IIA must be an early Setting II state and not a late one. Now, with an early Setting IIA example, complete with dated cancellation (Figure 6), we have corroborating evidence pointing to early December, 1902 as the most likely time Setting IIA first came into use. More importantly, this timeframe fits with the corrected timeline established for Setting IA, which runs from late November to early December, 1902.

An example of the final transitional state of plate position 5 in Setting IIA is shown in Figure 7, where it appears on the center stamp in a marginal strip of 3 of the 10-aur OS. In this last state, only the "L" remains intact in the top line of the surcharge. As mentioned earlier, full sheets of the 10-aur OS containing this variety are fairly common. However, at least two other transitional states of plate position 5 are known in Setting IIA, and both are found only on the 10-aur OS. One of these must have evolved soon after the



Figure 7. "L only" variety from Position 5 from Setting IIA

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initial “IL only” variety developed and is shown in Figure 8. It also exhibits only the “I” and “L” in the top line of the surcharge, but the spacing between those characters has widened considerably. Still another transition-state variety from the same Setting IIA plate position also exists. Although not mentioned at all in the usual literature, the variety appears to be bona fide based on analysis of an auction catalog photocopy provided to this researcher. In that variety, the top row of the surcharge exhibits only “GIL,” which indicates an early intermediate state occurring between the initial “Missing I” plate condition and the “IL only” condition (with normal spacing). The photocopy examined was of a 10-aur OS pair from sheet positions 4-5, which was readily verifiable. Unfortunately, a quality photo of the pair is not available for publication at this time.

In addition to the Setting IIA variations previously mentioned, the final “L only” state also exists with the surcharge inverted. Figure 9 shows one such example on a marginal pair of the 10-aur OS. The overprint positions are clearly 4-5 and the sheet positions of the underlying stamps are 96-97 (again, readily verifiable based on matrix and cliché flaws). Although *Kohl*, Carøe, and others also have mentioned the existence of the “IL only” variation with inverted surcharge, this researcher has yet to find any evidence supporting this (although the possibility seems plausible).

Finally, there are two other Official Service stamps that are known with Setting IIA overprints. One is the 5-aur OS perforated 14x13 ½ (1892 4th printing) and the other is the 4-aur OS. In each instance, as with the 10-aur OS, only one-half the sheet was overprinted in the final state of Setting IIA, producing the “L only” surcharge variation in plate position 5. In the case of the 5-aur, the sheet was overprinted inverted. The only fully verified example of this inverted 5-aur OS variety, as far as the writer is aware, is shown in Figure 10. Based on well-documented matrix and cliché flaws visible on the underlying 5-aur OS stamp, it is undoubtedly from sheet position 96.

The corresponding “L only” plate variety on the 4-aur OS stamp (not inverted) is shown in Figure 11, where it appears on the second stamp from the left in the top row of a marginal block of 8 (only the top row is shown). The sheet positions shown are 4-5-6-7, which are easily confirmed by the zero-combination test. The 4-aur OS variety is also the only one ever encountered by the writer. Although Carøe previously mentioned the existence of an inverted “L only” variety on the 4-aur OS stamp, he may have been relying on *Kohl’s* reference to the same. However, *Kohl* made no mention of the normal “L only” variation for the 4-aur OS, so the reference to the inverted variety



Figure 8. “IL only” variety (wide spacing) from Position 5 from Setting IIA



Figure 9. Inverted “L only” variety on 10-aur OS from Setting IIA



Figure 10. Inverted “L only” variety on 5-aur OS from Setting IIA



Figure 11. "L only" variety on 4-aur OS from Setting IIA

may have been merely a typographical error. In any event, at least thus far, this researcher has turned up nothing that supports *Kohl's* original claim.

Table 2 summarizes the various aur stamps that exist with bona fide Setting IIA "Missing Í" and related transitional varieties from plate position 5 and which have been confirmed by the writer. The table also provides an indication of the relative scarcity of each variety, once again, based on the author's extensive review of auction catalogs dating back more than 50 years (see Table 1 re Setting IA, for a brief discussion of the rarity categories utilized in this table).

Table 2 - Confirmed Setting IIA "Missing Í" and Transitional Varieties

	Normal	Inverted
<i>Official Service – Perf 12 3/4</i>		
4 aur – "L only"	R5	--
10 aur – "Missing Í"	R3	--
10 aur – "GIL only"	R5	--
10 aur – "IL only" (normal spacing)	R3	--
10 aur – "IL only" (wide spacing)	R4	--
10 aur – "L only"	R0	R4+
<i>Official Service – Perf 14x13 1/2</i>		
5 aur (1892 4th printing) – "L only"	--	R5

Tying it Together

Based on the expanded pool of evidence available today, there is no doubt that the various categories of "Missing Í" and related plate varieties detailed above are all authentic and the result of pure happenstance during the overprinting process. Moreover, the revised production chronology for these varieties, as presented by this researcher, is much more consistent with observed characteristics of the associated intermediate Setting I and II states than that assumed by earlier researchers.

To recap, the saga begins in early November, 1902, with Setting I, when, during the overprinting of the top half of several thousand 20-aur sheets, a piece of type, i.e., the leading "Í", becomes loose in plate position 5 and fails to print. The problem evidently is spotted relatively quickly by the printer and corrected, such that only some 200 sheets are impacted. Then in late November or early December, 1902, still in Setting I, a similar problem develops in adjoining position 6 of the same plate (giving rise to Setting IA). This time, however, the problem goes unnoticed until after 1,000 or so sheets are impacted. Included in this group is the entire stock of 50-aur OS sheets on hand at the time. Both the top and bottom half of most sheets are affected.



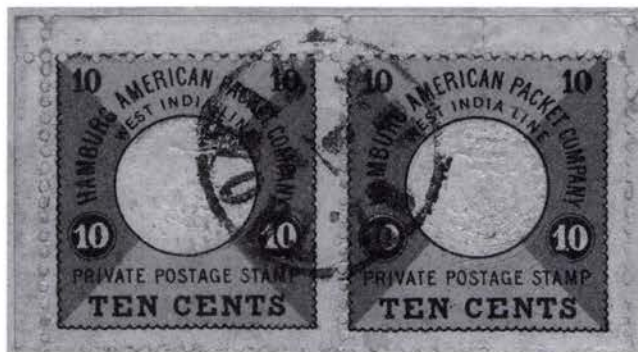
Then, probably in early December, 1902, the plate is serviced and reassembled by the printer, perhaps in an attempt to permanently correct the “Missing Í” issue. In the process, some of the type used in plate position 20 is also changed (the zero-combination type changes from thick-thick to thin-thick) and Setting II comes in use. Unfortunately, the type once again becomes loose in the center of the first row of the plate, back in position 5 this time, and the situation further deteriorates during the initial use of the Setting II plate. On this occasion, during the overprinting of the top half of a large batch of 10-aur OS sheets, the leading “Í” again fails to print in position 5 (early Setting IIA). Then, other characters in the “Í GILDI” line of the surcharge also begin to fail and the various Setting IIA transitional states evolve.

Based on the existence of the “IL only” variety with wide spacing, at least one or more pieces of type must have fallen out of the Setting II plate completely at some point. The deteriorating situation at position 5 of the Setting II plate is ultimately spotted and fixed by the printer (permanently, this time), but not before the top half of some 1,600 sheets of the 10-aur OS (and a few sheets of some other OS values) receive the defective surcharge in one state or another. However, the story of “Missing Í” plate varieties on at least some of Iceland’s Í Gildi stamps does not end here. ■

(To be continued)

(Editor’s Note: References will be included with Part II in the February, 2006, issue of The Posthorn.

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Mourning Covers: A Scandinavian Perspective

By Ernest A. Mosher

Postal historians with a special interest in letters posted in Scandinavian countries may occasionally run into a black edged cover and wonder what it is! And if their cover collection is limited to the last half century, they may never have seen one.

This should not be surprising. Mourning covers – black edged covers that long served as harbingers of death and messengers of grief – from Finland, Iceland, and Norway are fairly rare, with those from Denmark and Sweden more common but still scarce. And like other countries known to have used mourning covers as a cultural practice, they are seldom found posted during the past 75 years except from a few countries.

This article provides a brief summary of the cultural and postal history of mourning covers (MCs), as used throughout the world, and exhibits several Scandinavia examples. Much of the information is taken from my 373-page book on the subject.*

“Mourning covers may be simply defined as black-edged, posted letters used in many countries during the 19th and early 20th centuries as harbingers of death and messengers of grief.”

This simple statement is probably as accurate as possible using only one sentence. That they were “used in many countries” is correct, but hardly acknowledges the fact that this included at least 225 different countries, ranging from Aden to Zanzibar.

Similarly, that they were used “during the 19th and early 20th centuries” is correct, for this was the period of their most widespread use. However, the first proven MC was mailed in 1767 and they are still occasionally used in a few countries, notably Austria and Germany. Those in my collection range from Luxembourg in 1776 to Germany in 2003.

Defining MCs as “harbingers of death and messengers of grief” is also generally correct. Many mourning covers were used to mail death and/or funeral notices (see the Norway example in Figure 5), but even more of them were used to send a black-edged card or letter to extend sympathy or to express appreciation for condolences received. These are similar to the cards or folders (but not black-edged) that now are routinely provided by funeral homes and mailed by the deceased’s family.

Even more common was the use of mourning covers for social correspondence, especially by widows. The contents of some black-edged letters show no evidence that the sender was in mourning – I have one that is clearly a “love letter”. But we are seldom privileged to know the personal circumstances of the writer or recipient. Only a small percent of the several thousand MCs I have seen still have their contents.



Figure 1. Iceland, c1925. Mourning cover from Reykjavík, Iceland, local, with double circle dts, circa 1925. Franked with the 10a dark blue and brown Landing of the Mail issue of 1925, Scott 145. Unusual oblong cover. Mourning covers from Iceland are rare.

The Color Black

The typical mourning cover has a black edge on the cover as well as the contents. The significance of black as a mourning hue is old, if not ancient, perhaps because black – the symbol of night – simply seems appropriate for the absence of life as well as light. Black was often chosen for funerals and masses for the dead in European countries by the 12th century. It was well established by the 16th century as the proper color for mourning dress.

The color black became the standard for

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- **Postcards** (privately printed), often with a religious picture, were commercially available and were mostly used in the early 1900s.
- **Lettersheets**, with gummed edges to be folded by the user to become an envelope, were rarely used as mourning covers.
- **Wrappers**, typically a sheet of paper used to enclose a separate sheet for a message, were also rarely used for mourning purposes. This is perhaps explained by the fact that most countries, before the use of adhesive stamps, charged postage based on the number of sheets.
- **Self-enclosed.** The self-enclosed form of mourning cover is a single sheet, usually quite large, where the printed message is on the inside that is revealed when opened. They often have a pointed flap for insertion in a cut slot on the back. I have never seen this particular form of cover used except for mourning purposes. See Figure 3 for an example from Finland.



Figure 4. SWEDEN-USA, 1937. Mourning cover from Broeryd, Sweden to Trowbridge, Wisconsin, posted 9 4 37. Franked with two of the 15-öre brown King Gustav V booklet stamps of 1936, Scott 169. This cover has a black tissue lining, unusual in Scandinavia mourning covers. Swedish communities were common in Wisconsin at the time.

Franking Characteristics

The black marking on mourning covers make them distinguishable from other types of covers. Their typical contents also make them different, even though they were often used for ordinary correspondence during the socially acceptable mourning period of the time. But the franking (evidence of postage payment, usually stamps) and the postal markings on mourning covers make them remarkably similar to other covers used for social and family correspondence.

Indeed, with one type of exception, all those in my collection are substantially similar in franking to other covers used

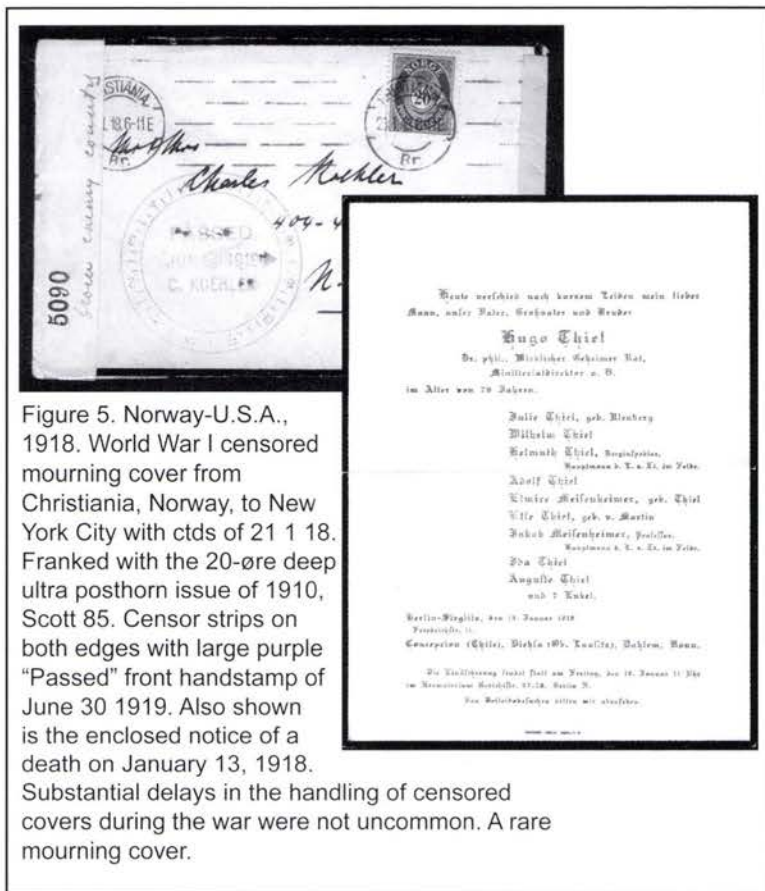


Figure 5. Norway-U.S.A., 1918. World War I censored mourning cover from Christiania, Norway, to New York City with ctds of 21 1 18. Franked with the 20-øre deep ultra posthorn issue of 1910, Scott 85. Censor strips on both edges with large purple "Passed" front handstamp of June 30 1919. Also shown is the enclosed notice of a death on January 13, 1918. Substantial delays in the handling of censored covers during the war were not uncommon. A rare mourning cover.

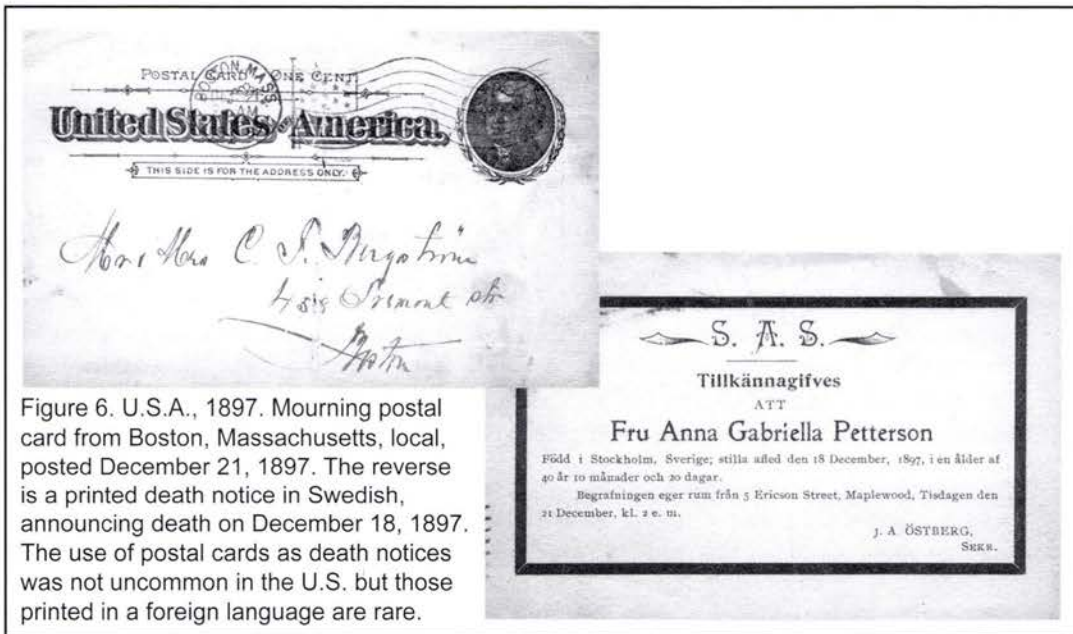


Figure 6. U.S.A., 1897. Mourning postal card from Boston, Massachusetts, local, posted December 21, 1897. The reverse is a printed death notice in Swedish, announcing death on December 18, 1897. The use of postal cards as death notices was not uncommon in the U.S. but those printed in a foreign language are rare.

for non-commercial purposes in the same era. This exception is that the proportion of MCs sent at low postal rates, such as for local or printed matter, seems high when compared to other non-commercial covers. There is also some convincing evidence that underpaid, postage-due mourning covers are much less common than are other kinds of covers, which may be explained by the fact that some sympathetic postal clerks simply ignored the fact that a black-edged cover was underpaid.

Other than these two differences, the franking or

stamps on mourning covers, their method of delivery (e.g. ship, rail, air, registered, special delivery, etc.) as well as their auxiliary markings (including censorship – see the Norway example in Figure 5) seem no different from covers used for other purposes. Those mailed for normal delivery with high-value stamps are suspiciously philatelic.

Physical Characteristics of MCs

As noted above, mourning covers, except for the mourning mark, are remarkably similar to other types of covers in basic forms and franking. Following are brief comments highlighting their physical variations.

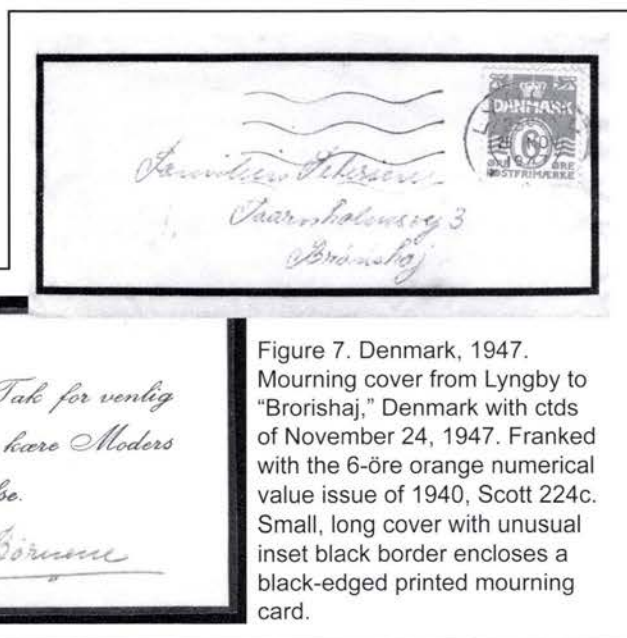


Figure 7. Denmark, 1947. Mourning cover from Lyngby to "Brorishaj," Denmark with ctds of November 24, 1947. Franked with the 6-øre orange numerical value issue of 1940, Scott 224c. Small, long cover with unusual inset black border encloses a black-edged printed mourning card.



- The **width of the marking** varies from about one mm to very wide, such as a large 1948 Swiss cover with a black band of 4.1 cm.
- Their **size** varies, ranging from a miniature 1912 Canada cover only 7.9 x 4.1 cm to a Switzerland envelope which is 22.9 x 16.2 cm.
- The most common **shape** is rectangular, but some are square and even a few in the shape of triangles or parallelograms are known.
- The **placement of the black marking** is typically on the edge but a few have them on the back only, some inset (see the Sweden cover in Figure 4), some with diagonal stripes or a single stripe, as well as a few other forms.
- The **design of the marking** is usually a straight line, but a few are very different, such as a Kentucky cover with a black tree limb and ivy or the classic Canadian “black lace” cover.
- The **reverse and backflap designs** of MCs are sometimes more fancy than the front, particularly on those from the 1800s that came complete with a flap embossment and a wax seal.



Figure 8. Sweden, 1905. Mourning cover from Lund to Holstein, Sweden, with ctds of January 6, 1905. Franked with two of the 10-öre pink King Oscar II issue of 1891, Scott 45. On the reverse are two purple tuberculosis cinderella stamps, rare on mourning covers.

Comparing U.S. and Foreign MCs

With some over-simplifications, here are a few general comparisons of the differences between U.S. and foreign mourning covers:

- Small covers were in general use by most all countries until about 1875, when foreign MCs tended to become larger than the common U.S. size.
- Small, name-card-size MCs are found from the U.S., Canada, and European countries but tend to have been used more in Latin America. I have not seen one from a Scandinavian country.
- The large, self-enclosed type was used in several countries, but I have never seen one from the U.S. These typically are much larger than the Finland self-enclosed cover shown in Figure 3.
- “Squarish” MCs (shaped like modern wedding invitations) became popular in many countries in about the 1880s but were never common in the U.S. I have not seen one from a Scandinavian country.
- Wide black bands or borders (wide in proportion to the cover size) were used in many countries but are not common from the U.S. or England, nor have I seen one from a Scandinavian country.
- Black tissue linings, such as within the Sweden cover shown in Figure 4, are found mostly from Western European countries. They are very rare from North America and Scandinavian countries and from British Commonwealth countries.



- Registered and special delivery MCs are found from many countries but were not commonly used in the U.S.
- Censored MCs, such as shown by the Norway cover in Figure 5, are found primarily from foreign countries and are scarce from the U.S.

Collecting MCs from Scandinavia

Developing an extensive collection of mourning covers from the several Scandinavian countries would be challenging and probably frustrating. This is not because they are expensive. They are simply not often found in the postal history market. Of the several thousand MCs in my collection or that I have seen in photo form, from 225 countries, they are generally in the fairly scarce to rare class, except those from Denmark and Sweden. This is particularly true in comparison to those available from Western Europe or from countries of the Americas with a historical Western Europe influence.

The above appraisal of the relative scarcity of Scandinavian MCs was affirmed recently by some of the dealers advertising covers in *The Posthorn*. Indeed, one dealer believes those from Iceland should be in the very rare category. Another dealer said he has never seen a mourning cover from Greenland or the Faroe Islands in 30 years – nor has this author.

The challenge is there, and for those who have an interest in the societal and cultural practices of peoples in the past, as well as in postal history, mourning covers are fun to search for! ■

* Ernest A. Mosher is author of the book *Mourning Covers: The Cultural and Postal History of Letters Edged in Black*. He received the Elliott Perry Cup award from the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society in 2004. Copies of the book may be purchased for \$35.00, U.S. postpaid, by writing him at 1939 SW Oakley Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604 (USA).

Swedish Consular Revenue Stamp Revalued in Elish

By Paul Nelson

This stamp is Sweden *Facit* 27 in the Consular Revenue stamp section. This is one of nine values in the final set from about 1920, according to *Facit*. This set has no exchange rates shown as was the case with the previous sets of stamps. Consular stamps were used until July 1, 1950.

The original denomination on this stamp is 10 Swedish Crowns. However, this particular stamp has an overprint that appears to have been made with a rubberstamp in black. The “10 KRONOR” across the top has been blacked out with a bar, and in the body of the stamp appears, in English, “Swedish Government” and “10 dollars”.

I’ve not seen anything published about this provisional overprint, nor have I seen other stamps with this revalue. The cancel is not centered enough to have the city name visible for the consular office. However, since the revalue is apparently in U.S. dollars, this probably was from a consulate in the United States. Do any of our readers have an opinion, or more information? ■



Coins Commemorate Sweden's First Stamp

It is not often that the image of a stamp makes it onto a coin. But it has happened in Sweden, which is commemorating the 150th anniversary of its first postage stamp.

The Swedish royal bank, Riksbank, released a commemorative coin October 14. One side shows a 4-skillings banco stamp and the words, "Sweden's first stamp 150 years." The reverse has a winged letter flying over the countryside and the traditional curved posthorn. The coin shows a face value of SEK50 and sells for SEK60. Some 100,000 of the coins were minted in "Nordic gold," which is 89 percent copper, 5 percent aluminum, 5 percent zinc, and 1 percent tin.

Pictures of the coins and ordering information are found at two Internet sites, www.riksbank.se, and www.myntverket.se. ■

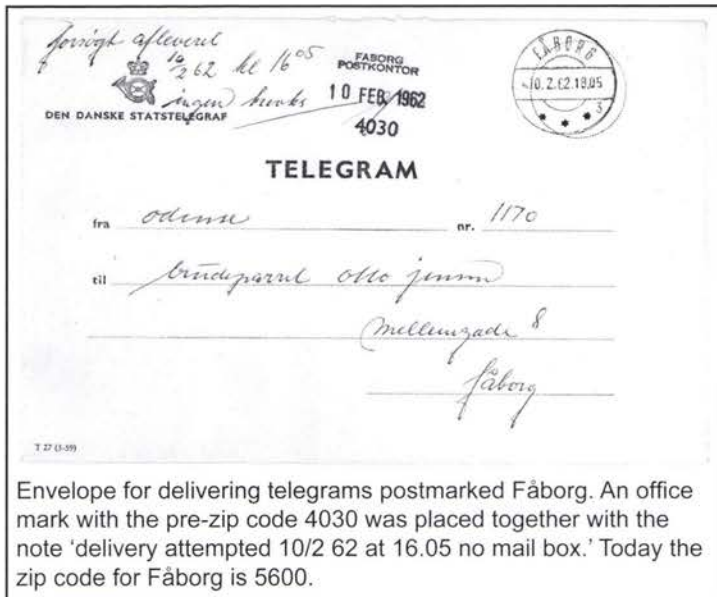


The Danish Pre-Zip Code

By Kim Widén

The accompanying illustration shows a June 24, 1967, office mark of 3910 from Hasle on the island of Bornholm. But 3910 is the zip code for Sønder Strømfjord in Greenland while Hasle's zip code is 3790. What is going on here?

The answer is that the office mark is a "pre-zip code" used in Denmark from the middle of 1961 until February 10, 1968. The current postal zip code system was introduced in Denmark on September 20, 1967, overlapping some with the pre-zip system that was devised for financial rather than postal reasons.



Envelope for delivering telegrams postmarked Fåborg. An office mark with the pre-zip code 4030 was placed together with the note 'delivery attempted 10/2 62 at 16.05 no mail box.' Today the zip code for Fåborg is 5600.

I looked into this matter after occasionally seeing these number markings from the 1960s that appeared to be postal codes but predated the zip code system. Eventually, I found the almost-forgotten Post Giro pre-zip code system, "Sorteringskoden" (translation: the sorting code). The pre-zip code is printed in a booklet, *Sorteringskoden for indenlandske posthuse*, first issued in 1958 and again in 1961, 1965, and 1967.

Denmark's Post Giro system, which was established in 1920, provided users the ability to pay bills through the post office. Post Giro proved one of the postal administration's greatest successes.

But its popularity had its drawbacks – the system was turning into a sorting nightmare by the mid-1950s. The Post Giro Department was looking for a way to ease the manual and rather cumbersome sorting work.

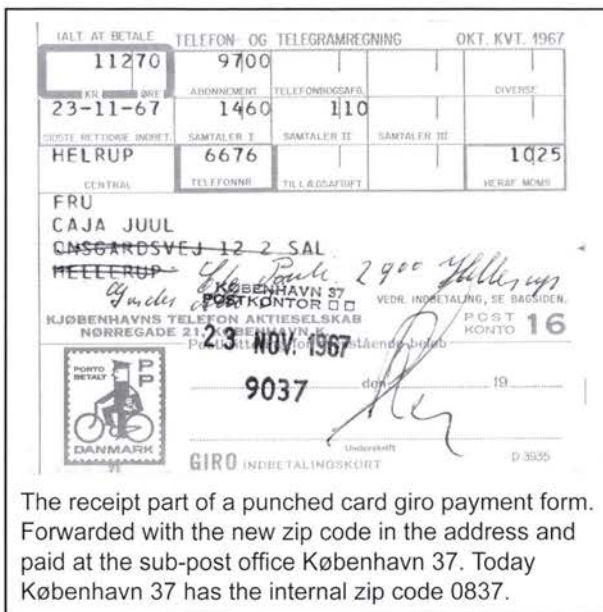
Sorting System Devised

The solution was the punch-card machine. On October 29, 1958, the first 2,000 punch-card payment forms were sorted and sent out. On the part the of the form that went to the Post Giro Department, the following was punched: the amount to be paid, the giro account number of the recipient, the code of the distributing post office, and the payer's client number with the holder of the giro account. The story might have ended there, but in 1961 Post Giro decided to use the punch-card machine for running accounts and audits.

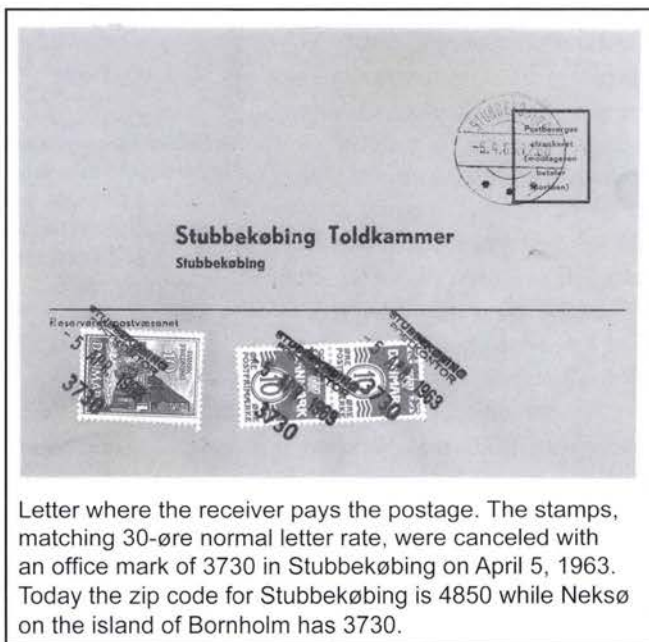
At this time, there were approximately 1,500 post offices with central accounting responsibilities. To simplify matters at Post Giro, a decision was made to use the code on the punch-card to identify these post offices. Around June or July, 1961 four-digit pre-zip code numbers began appearing in the office marks. Danish Post Offices normally have only one or two regular postmarks but may have several office marks. All post offices have office marks at the counter and they are among other things used on giro payment forms. This explains why collectors of Danish philately can find postal forms and also letters with stamps used for various fees and dues that have been canceled with these office hand stamps, or with other kinds of line cancelations.

Size Trumps Geography

The pre-zip codes were not a geographic code; rather, size mattered. (See the abbreviated list in Table 1.) The code was constructed in a way that giro forms being sent to post offices with the largest amount of mail were sorted first. The cards were sorted in four stages. First the two major post offices in Copenhagen with numbers beginning with 8 and 9. The second sort took care of all the major post offices in Denmark with numbers beginning from 4 to 7 (except for the medium sized post offices on Fuen with numbers from 4000 to 4190). The third sort included the remainder of the medium sized post offices with numbers beginning with 2 and 3. Finally, the fourth sort covered the remaining small post offices that had numbers beginning with 0 and



The receipt part of a punched card giro payment form. Forwarded with the new zip code in the address and paid at the sub-post office København 37. Today København 37 has the internal zip code 0837.



Letter where the receiver pays the postage. The stamps, matching 30-øre normal letter rate, were canceled with an office mark of 3730 in Stubbekøbing on April 5, 1963. Today the zip code for Stubbekøbing is 4850 while Nexø on the island of Bornholm has 3730.



1. These numbers often corresponded with the postal routes, such as railway lines.

Numbers from 20 to 41 ended with 0 with the exception of 3511 Sorø 1 (present zip code 4181). Numbers 42 and higher ended with 00 except for sub-offices, e.g., 6602 Randers 2 (8902) and 9012 København 12 (0812). (Note: numbers in parentheses below and in the tables are the current zip codes used in Denmark.)

In Copenhagen, four special post offices were also given special numbers:

9990 København Lufthavn Postkontor	(0980)	9992 Københavns Toldpostkontor	(0970)
9991 Københavns Pakkepostkontor	(0960)	9993 Postgirokontoret	(0800)

It was apparent during the planning phase for the postal zip code (early 1966) that the non-geographic construct of the giro would not do the job. It also became apparent that having two zip codes was one too many. A study had shown that a conversion to the new zip code would increase the sorting work at Post Giro by more than 50 percent. (In 1966, more than nine million giro payment forms had gone through the system and the number was increasing rapidly.) There was concern that postponing a conversion might at some point make it impossible to convert.

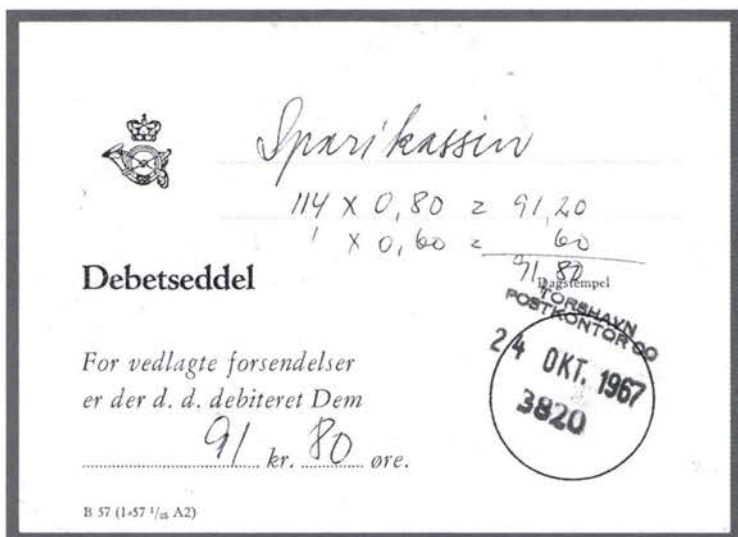
Consequently, a time of year with the fewest number of giro payments was selected for the conversion. Saturday, February 10, 1968 became the last day the pre-zip code was used. On, Monday, February 12, 1968, all post offices began using the new office marks.

The pre-zip code was used in the office marks from mid-1961 through February 10, 1968, less than seven years. But from this period, it is possible to find a range of different postal items and even some where the stamps have been canceled with these office marks. These items are, with the exception of giro receipts, quite rare. ■

(Note: A complete list of Denmark's pre-zip codes is available on the Danish Philatelic Federation's Website, www.danfil.dk. Go to the section "Sorteringskroder fra Navnestempel med dato" to download the list in Microsoft Word format.

Reference:

"Sorteringskoden," by Kim Widén, *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, No. 7/2005, pages 281-285.



Office mark from Torshavn in the Faroe Islands with the pre-zip code 3820 on a postage collect note used when the receiver paid the postage. Sparrikassen, a bank in Torshavn, has been debited 91 kroner and 80 øre for 114 second weight class letters and one first weight class letter.

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Table 1. An abbreviated list of the pre-zip codes.

English / Danish Faroe Islands / Færøerne Fuen / Fyn Jutland / Jylland Zealand / Sjælland

Small post offices.

Jutland

0001-0099 Railway stations in Middle and West Jutland
 0100-0152 Railway stations in South Jutland
 0200-0295 Southern Jutland and Als
 0300-0399 West Jutland
 0400-0586 East Jutland
 1600-0699 Northeast Jutland
 0700-0774 North Jutland

Zealand, Møn, Lolland, and Falster

1000-1255 Zealand and Møn
 1300-1364 Lolland and Falster
 1560-1769 Fuen

Samsø, Tunø, Anholt, Faroe Islands, and Bornholm

1400-1414 Bornholm
 1420-1425 Samsø and Tunø
 1430-1431 Anholt
 1440-1443 Faroe Islands

Fuen

1500-1524 All the small post offices on Fyn
 1530-1558 All the small islands south of Svendborg (Thuro, Strynø, Æro, Tåsinge, and Langeland)
 1560-1769 Fuen

Medium sized post offices

2000-2970 in Jutland
 3000-3790 on Zealand, Møn, Lolland, and Falster
 3800-3960 on Samsø, Faroe Islands, and Bornholm
 4000-4190 on Fuen and Langeland

Major post offices (today's zip code in parentheses)

4200	Odense	(5000)	6000	Esbjerg	(6700)
4300	Svendborg	(5700)	6100	Fredericia	(7000)
4400	Århus	(8000)	6200	Haderslev	(6100)
4500	Ålborg	(9000)	6300	Herning	(7400)
4600	København F	(2000)	6400	Horsens	(8700)
4700	København N	(2200)	6500	Kolding	(6000)
4800	København S	(2300)	6600	Randers	(8900)
4900	København Ø	(2100)	6700	Silkeborg	(8600)
			6800	Vejle	(7100)
			6900	Viborg	(8800)
5000	Helsingør	(3000)			
5100	Hillerød	(3400)	7000	Brønshøj	(2700)
5200	Hjørring	(9800)	7100	Charlottenlund	(2920)
5300	Holbæk	(4300)	7200	Gentofte	(2820)
5400	Holstebro	(7500)	7300	Hellerup	(2900)
5500	Nykøbing Falster	(4800)	7400	Lyngby	(2800)
5600	Næstved	(4700)	7500	København NV	(2400)
5700	Roskilde	(4000)	7600	København SV	(2450)
5800	Slagelse	(4200)	7700	Søborg	(2860)
5900	Åbenrå	(6200)	7800	Valby	(2500)
			7900	Vanløse	(2720)

Copenhagen largest post offices

8000 København V (1500)
 9000 København K (1000)

Table 2. Pre-zip codes for Bornholm and the Faroe Islands (today's zip code in parentheses.)

Bornholm

3900 Ronne (3700)
 3910 Hasle (3790)
 3920 Åkirkeby (3720)
 3930 Neksø (3730)
 3940 Gudhjem (3750)
 3950 Svaneke (3740)
 3960 Allinge (3770)
 1400 Kolleregård (3711)
 1401 Lobbæk (3712)
 1402 Pedersker (3713)
 1403 Bodilsker (3714)
 1404 Øster-Marie (3751)
 1405 Østerlars (3752)
 1410 Nyker (3781)
 1411 Klemensker (3782)
 1412 Rø (3783)
 1413 Tejn (3784)
 1414 Sandvig (3785)

Samsø and Tunø

3800 Kolby Kås (8792)
 3810 Tranebjerg Samsø (8791)
 1420 Brundby (8793)
 1421 Pillemark (closed, 1966)
 1422 Onsbjerg (closed, 1967)
 1423 Nordby Samsø (8795)
 1424 Tunø Kattegat (8799)
 1425 Ballen Samsø (8794)

Anholt

1430 Anholt Havn (8591)
 1431 Anholt By (8592)

Faroe Islands

3820 Torshavn (3800) or Thorshavn
 1440 Vestmanna (3860) or Vestmanhavn
 1441 Klaksvik (3870) or Klaksvig
 1442 Trangisváð (3880) or Tvøroyri
 1443 Vág (3890) or Vágur

Aurar Disappearing (Again) From Iceland's Stamps

The aurar designations are disappearing entirely from Iceland's stamps, beginning with the 2006 issues. That was revealed recently with the announcement of the 2006 stamp program in which all of the stamps are shown in full krónur without any aurar shown. Iceland dropped the use of aurar from its monetary system on October 1, 2003, but aurar remained symbolically on stamps through 2005.

In recent years, Iceland printed the aurar as "00" following the krónur amount on its stamps. The "00" is being dropped with the first 2006 issues to be released on February 2. (See illustrations.)

The modern-day progression on the use of krónur and aurar on stamps is as follows:

- Until 1969, krónur and aurar shown;
- 1970-1980, no aurar, only krónur;
- 1981, currency re-evaluation with a new króna, but stamps listed amounts as aurar until September 10, 1985;
- 1985 (October 15) through 2005, krónur and aurar;
- 2006, only krónur shown. ■

(Acknowledgements: Thanks to Þór Þorsteins, Vilhjalmur Sigurdsson, and Jan Prygoda for information that made this article possible.)

— Paul Albright



Figure 1. A 2005 stamp shows aurar as "00" after the amount of krónur.



Figure 2. A 2006 stamp design without the "00."

Forged Icelandic Bridge Cancels

By Þór Þorsteins

In recent years, there have appeared a number of stamps, cards and covers bearing faked bridge cancels. These are cancels that have not been used by or prepared for the Icelandic postal authorities. This article deals only with forged cancels and not CTO or favor cancels where genuine postal cancelers have been used on older mint stamps to increase their value.

With increased knowledge of bridge-type date cancels, it becomes easier to detect such forged cancels and to reduce the possibility of their sale to collectors.

Forging of bridge cancels seems to have come in waves. A quantity of old maximum card postcards (picture postcards with the stamp and cancel on the picture side) from around 1913 exist bearing type B1b and B1d bridge cancels. (See accompanying article on bridge cancel types.) Where written text is included on the card, the French language is used and the cards are addressed to recipients in Belgium. The same handwriting seems to be on most of them.

The accompanying illustrations show (slightly reduced in size) known forged bridge cancels. The chart with numbers corresponding to the illustration describes the particular "problem" indicating a forgery. This

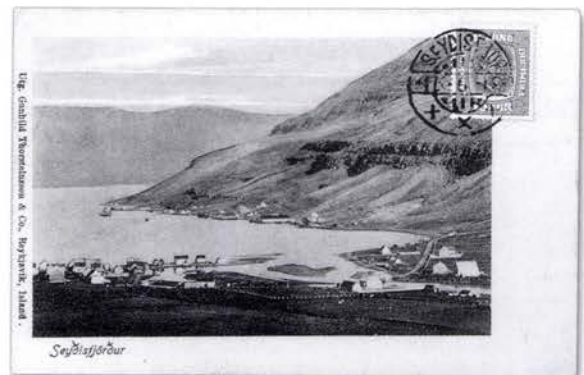


chart also shows the cancel type from the 2005 *Facit* Specialized catalog of Scandinavia.

In any situation where the value of a mint stamp is significantly less than a used version, collectors must be cautious to avoid buying a fake. ■

Acknowledgments: Many collectors have lent a hand in gathering this information. Special thanks to the following for their invaluable help: Arne Fahnö, Don Brandt, Johnny Pernerfors, Jörgen S. Larsen, Kim R. Mortensen, Hans C. Mogensen and Ólafur Eliasson, and to Viggo Warmboe, who assisted with translating this article from Frimerkjablaðið, No. 11, 2005.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 16



Figure 14



Figure 15

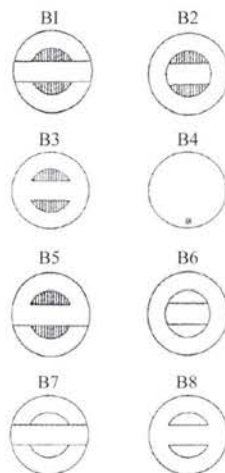


Figure 17

Types of Icelandic Bridge Cancels

The cancel types referenced in the accompanying article by Þór Þorsteins are found in the 2005 *Facit* Special catalog. The designation is made up of three parts, e.g. B1a, with the letter “B” designating a bridge cancel, the number “1” being the basic design type and the letter “a” being the style of the date.

The basic design types are as shown here:



The date styles are as follows:

- a. 1.6.94
- b. 1.6.1899
- c. 20.V.09
- d. 20.III.10.11
- e. 15.III.1945

The *Facit* catalog is a good resource for basic information on these cancels. Þór Þorsteins' excellent compendium, *Icelandic Cancelers – Bridge, Roller, and Machine Cancelers, 1894 – 2003*, is comprehensive and a “must-have” for anyone interested in Icelandic cancels.

— Viggo Warmboe



Figure 18



Figure 19



Illustration Number	Cancel Type	Indication of forgery
1	B1a	Incorrect spelling "REYKJAVIE" should be REYKJAVIK.
2	B1a	Letters too low and small, non-existent font.
3	B1b	Town name misspelled (should be FÁSKRÚÐSFJÖRÐUR) and use of 3 crosses not known. Found on maximum card addressed to France and Tunis from ca. 1913.
4	B1b	Patreksfjörður misspelled. Crosses not known. Same as number 3 above.
5	B1b	Seyðisfjörður misspelled. Crosses not known. Same as number 3 above.
6	B1b	Typeface of the letter "K" in Reykjavík is incorrect. Incorrect font used in date.
7	B1b	Incorrect font used in date.
8	B1b	Typeface of the letters "E", "K", and "J" is incorrect. Found on maximum card from ca. 1913.
9	B1d	Akranes has never used a B1d type cancel.
10	B1d	Egilsstaðir misspelled and no B1d type cancel known from there.
11	B1d	Numbers in date too tall. Incorrect font used for "I" (in date, for January); it does not exist with lines on top and bottom. The airmail envelope used did not exist in 1930. This fake cancel found on FDCs of all values of the 1930 Parliament issue.
12	B1d	Numbers in date too tall.
13	B1d	Reykjavík misspelled.
14	B1d	Typeface of the letter "K" in Reykjavík is incorrect. Type B1d was not used in Reykjavík after 1912.
15	B1d	Typeface of the letter "K" in Reykjavík is incorrect as is the number 2 in the date. Similar to Reykjavík B1a and B1b, but both were taken out of use 1912-1913.
16	B2c	Akureyri - Scroll is incorrect. Town name sitting too low in ring. Found on maximum card from ca. 1913.
17	B2c	"REYKJAVÍK POST" does not exist. Used on top of TOLLUR revenue cancel. Stamp has been re-perforated on right side.
18	B5c	Reykjavík cancel using Roman numeral for month non-existent. Very similar to B5a but town name too low in ring. This forged cancel is most commonly found on high denomination stamps to produce a higher value as a used stamp. In addition to those shown it is found on the 10kr. o/p on 50aur., Frederick VIII, Balbo flight, and 2kr New York World Fair 1940 issue. Known dates: 15.VIII.30, 16.VI.33, 14.V.37, 15.V.37, 17.X.38, 26.VII.39, and 26.V.40.
19	B7	Incorrect circumference. Oversized lettering narrow date line, without date.

Forged Swedish Stamps Surface *

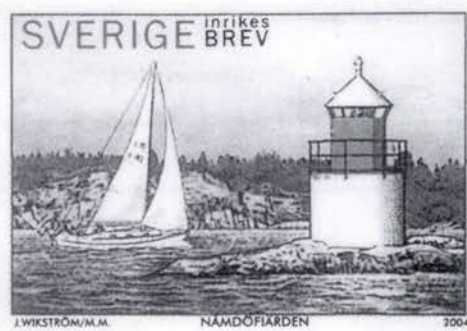
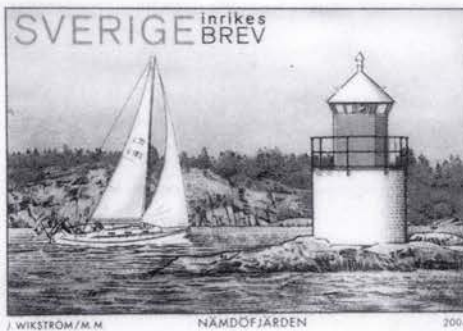
By Ingvar Larsson

(Translation by Peter Bergh, with assistance by Per Erik Nilsson and Paul Nelson)

During 2005, an increase in offerings of forged modern Swedish stamps has been noticed. The forgeries are so well done that one must use a magnifying glass to discover them. As yet, it isn't known where they are printed, but they probably are printed abroad since certain words containing å, ä, and ö sometimes are misspelled. For example, text in the accompanying illustration has been reset – “SVERIGE” and “inrikes BREV.” The same font has been used but certain differences in the shapes of the letters can be seen. It is not known how the copying was done; an enlargement of the images shows a lack of sharpness. The perforations normally differ from that of the originals.

In Stockholm, the following stamps have been found:

1. Fredrik Blom's pavilion, 2-sided perforation. Entirely new design.
2. Harvest time, block of four. “Skördetid” is misspelled [as] “Skordetid.”
3. Spring flowers, block of ten. Darker paper. Strong perforations. Viscous gum.
4. The forest's pantry, block of four. Different shades. Vertical marks at bottom.
5. Ditto in block of 10. Thin limp paper. The word “inrikes” is printed in red.
6. Stockholm's archipelago (see illustration). “Nämndöfjärden” is misspelled as “Nämndöfiärden.”
7. Summer at the “colony”, block of 10. Wrong text on seven of the 10 stamps.



(Editor's Note: The fake stamp is on the right in the accompanying illustration. The forgery is nowhere near as crisp as the genuine stamp. The text is heavier on the forgery. Many other details differ; in particular, look at the water in the foreground and the rocks behind the boat. See other examples on the front cover of this issue.)

In Gothenburg, the following stamps have been reported:

8. Dag Hammarskjöld, 2-sided perforation. Red and blue stamps appear to be photocopied.
9. The Alvar (heath area) on Öland, four-stamp booklet. Sundry color spots in the margin.
10. Same as No. 4, above.

Editor's note: The Swedish National Economic Crimes Bureau reported November 23 that one person was arrested in possession of a large quantity of counterfeit stamps with a total value of SEK 3.8 million. There have been about 70 reports to police concern-ing tobacconists and small shops having sold counterfeit stamps. Sweden Posten said it had tightened checks on the sales of stamps from retail outlets. Images of some of the differences between counterfeit and genuine stamps were posted at www.posten.se. ■

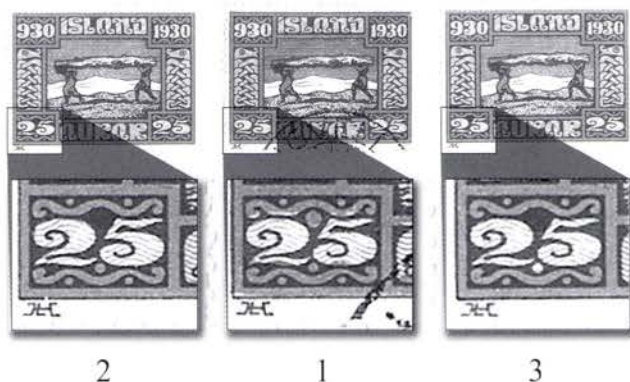
*Article translated from *Hembygdsfilatelisten*, No. 4/2005.

New Icelandic Varieties

Ralph Sandorff, a keen-eyed member of Golden Gate Chapter 21, found two varieties of Iceland's 1930 Parliament set (*Facit* 179). The standard issue of the 25-aurar stamp is shown as Number 1, and the listed variety has a small white dot between the bottoms of the numbers of the lower left "25" (Number 2).

Sandorff's findings are of stamps with no large dots between the tops of the lower left "25." One of them is on a stamp with a normal color-filled lower dot (2) and the other is on the listed variety with a white dot (Number 3).

Check your own collection to see if there are similar sorts of varieties on any of the other stamps in this series.. ■



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Use of Stamps on Comeback in Iceland

By Þór Þorsteins

Exciting possibilities are afoot for collectors of used Iceland stamps because of a policy change announced by the country's post office. Islandspostur recently declared that during the coming year, all mail where postage is paid for in cash will have a postage stamp applied. The formal date of the change is not yet known.

In recent years, there has been a sharp drop in the use of Iceland's postage stamps, which were replaced by square, rubber Post Paye (PP) hand cancels applied by post office workers, or by date strikes from postage meters. Commercial mail paid for by business accounts will not be affected by the new policy, but non-commercial mail should see an upsurge in the use of stamps.

This is a very important change for Iceland. Used stamps will become much more common and probably much more collected. ■

Early Mail Delivery Has a Price in Denmark

For about a dollar a day, postal patrons in Denmark's urban areas will be able to have their letters and newspapers delivered by 10 a.m. beginning in February. Danmark Post will begin a pay-for-early-delivery service on February 6 for businesses and private households in urban areas. The normal delivery service does not guarantee delivery before 2:30 p.m. in urban areas and 1 p.m. in rural areas.

The extra charge for home delivery before 10 a.m. is DKK 1,800 per year plus valued added tax (VAT) for a total of DKK 2,250, or approximately \$365. Since Danmark Post delivers 300 days a year, the cost is about \$1.20 per day. If delivery is not made by 10 a.m., DKK7.50 (including VAT) is credited to the customer.

The post office said renters of some 62,000 post office boxes can have their letters and newspapers delivered by 8 a.m. with the possibility of parcels and registered mail available by 9 a.m. The rates for early service to boxes range from DKK750 to DKK1,400 (VAT included). The 10 a.m. delivery service is not available in rural areas of Denmark. ■

Iceland Gastronomy Stamp Wins Europa Design Award

The best gastronomy in Europe is to be found in Iceland – at least gastronomy as portrayed on stamps. So says Posteurop, the Association of European Public Postal Operators, which oversees the regular Europa series. Gastronomy and the art of good eating was the Europa theme in 2005.

Posteurop delegates voted Iceland's circular ISK70 stamp issued May 26 as the best design from among 52 stamps in competition. The stamp is divided into four sections resembling a plate. One section shows a main dish and the others a knife and fork, an Icelandic water scene, and fish hanging to dry. In a press release, Posteurop said the geometric pattern of the illustrations and multiple positions of text provided a "very dynamic and modern touch."

The stamp, as well as its ISK90 companion, was designed by Hany Hadaya and Thorsten Henn. ■



President's Letter

John DuBois



Promotion at Washington 2006

The SCC needs an individual or small group to prepare a single frame showing a bit about our history and current activities for the WASHINGTON 2006 international show to be held next May. This is an excellent opportunity to advertise the SCC to a sizable group of potential members from around the world, as well as to polish our image at no cost beyond the effort of preparing a few pages of graphics.

This is not a difficult task but, so far, no one has stepped forward to volunteer. If we end up with a blank frame at the show, it will be embarrassing. So, *please* contact me *soon* if you are willing to organize or help with this important job: (jld@thlogic.com, Thermalogic Corporation, 22 Kane Industrial Drive, Hudson, MA 01749).

Finding Help

It may seem odd to say, but one of the advantages of an organization such as the SCC is that it has a lot of members. What I mean is this: Apart from physically collecting, the essence of philately is information – collecting, organizing, studying, and spreading information about postal objects, procedures, and institutions. Books, libraries, and cyberspace are excellent sources for information. But people and what they know are just as good, if not better, sources for specialized knowledge.

This is where our club comes into the picture. For every question, no matter how obscure, there are probably several SCC members who know the answer (or have an opinion!). The trick is to find them. There are at least three ways within the SCC to find people to answer philatelic questions: attending chapter meetings, emailing the Cyber Chapter (edbode@juno.com), or contacting the “Helpers List” (geokuhh@starfishnet.com, George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC, 28594).

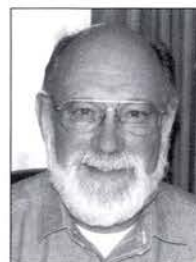
The “Helpers List” may be the least known – but most potent – service offered by the SCC. George Kuhhorn has an extensive roster of people specializing in all areas of Scandinavian philately who are willing to communicate and assist with questions from beginning to advanced subjects. The List is not well used because, I suspect, we just haven't advertised it enough. Nevertheless, it is a valuable resource and I urge you to make use of it. Just contact George and he will put you in touch with help. ■

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News from the Home Office

Don Brent



Membership

Dues renewals for 2006 have been distributed, and by now many, if not most, will have sent in their renewal. If you have not taken care of this, why not take a minute now and get it out of the way. Unfortunately, it seems that some of the same members year- after-year wait to get a follow-up reminder before sending in their dues. Please break the cycle and handle it now. If renewals are not paid by the end of the year, we have the extra expense of sending out a follow-up.

Over the past couple of years, we have added payment options for our growing number of overseas members in an effort to make the SCC more accessible. Overseas members can pay their dues through the use PayPal or major credit cards. Those who are Life members or those who have renewed for more than a single year will not receive a notice.

New members are joining at a steady pace with nine the past quarter plus three reinstatements. We welcome our new members and hope to meet many of you in person at one of our future meetings. If I may be of any assistance with membership-related questions or problems please let me know.

SANDICAL 2006

Our expanded regional event at SANDICAL 2006 is coming up the weekend of January, 27-29, 2006. The show theme this year is "150th Anniversary of the First Issues of Sweden, Norway & Finland." (I don't know why DWI was left off the list.) There will be a special show theme award in addition to the WPS show awards and SCC medals. In addition to Scandinavia-related exhibits, SCC will have a general membership meeting with a presentation by Herb Volin on Finnish World War I censored covers. I look forward to greeting you in San Diego.

Mailing *The Posthorn*

This will be the third issue of *The Posthorn* mailed from Denver through our new printer and mailing house. We have worked out most of the glitches in the change-over from Iowa. I would like to thank Bruce Newman of Kendall Printing for his assistance. It has been a pleasure to work with him. He has a serious but friendly manner and takes care of business in a professional manner. The change seems to be working very well, but if there are any problems with delivery let me know. ■

Membership Statistics for the Third Quarter, 2005

New Members

4038 Flyman, Frank Nels, 12509 99A Ave., Surrey, BC V3V 2R6, Canada
4039 Twain, Roderick S., 21 Leisure Lane, Apt. 4, El Sobrante, CA 94803-3322
4040 Campbell, John, 1c Haumoana Rd., Haumoana, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand
4041 Nowakowski, Edward F., 235 Carlin Rd., Conklin, NY 13748-1431
4042 Unger, Verner B., 67 Purdy Lane, Amityville, NY 11701
4043 Lehman, Douglas, 507 Sumac Field Ct., Ellisville, MO 63021-5974
4044 Olsson, Tomas, Multrågatan 62, 2 TR. S-16255 Vällingby, Sweden
4045 Caldwell, Jim, PO Box 1541, Lemon Grove, CA 91946
4046 DeHaer, Christopher, 3 Cameron Way, Kardinya, WA 6163, Australia

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

1462 George Deisz
L89/2573 John R. Sabin
L96/3611 Herbert R. Volin
L37/1341 James Burgeson
3598 Paul Albright
1808 Ellis Glatt
2888 Roger Quinby
1087 Alan Warren
3345 Roger Cichorz
3980 Roger Byrne
Chicago, Chapter 4
Postiljonen AB
Thomas Høiland Auctions, Ltd.
Posten på Åland Filateliserivern
Lars Jørgensen (non-member)
Harlan L. Miller (non-member)

Reinstated

1462 Deisz, George
800 Johnson, Vernon A.
3340 Hake, Stephen D.

Deceased

3803 Felt, Jeremy P.
3849 Howard, L.A.
1161 Erik, Dr. DeWitt
1418 Schaad, John W.

Resigned

3251 Miller, Willard F.

Change of Address

067 Running, The Rev. Joseph M., Jr., 2211 Sunset Dr., Duncan, OK 73533
0242GL Hansen, Kai H., 2520 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, #216, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
L62/2034 Reeves, James J., PO Box 407, Huntingdon, PA 16652 0407
3802 Cokelet, Giles, 101 E. Hodgeman Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718
L72/2946 Margard, Erik, 1800 NE 114th St., Apt 905, Miami, FL 33181-3418
4017 Lamontagne, Jacques, 87 Rue Maurice Aveline, Apt. 6, Sainte Adele, QC Canada J8B 2M8

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



The trip to already-remote Greenland is getting even longer. The February, 2005, *Posthorn* included an article titled "It's a Long Way to Tasiilaq" concerning mail service in eastern Greenland, specifically to and from the village of Tasiilaq where Greenland's philatelic offices are located. It seems now, however, that the way to Tasiilaq has just gotten a bit longer. Recent news reports indicate that flights from Iceland to Greenland's sparsely populated eastern coast have been delayed by up to nine hours, apparently because of contractual and political squabbling. Mail for the east coast is routed from Copenhagen, Denmark, through Reykjavik, Iceland, while mail for the more populated west coast goes directly to and from Copenhagen. There are only two weekly flights from Tasiilaq during the winter and they can be canceled because of the weather.

Perti Frandsen of Greenland Post reported that, "Only 6-7 percent of our entire population inhabits the east coast of Greenland. Consequently, flight delays from Iceland to Greenland (and vice versa) would not upset the overall picture of our mail deliveries."



Two Norwegian philatelic libraries have merged, and this should benefit researchers. Rolf Scharning reported in the September, 2005 issue of *Scandinavian Contact* that an agreement has been reached to incorporate the Norway Postal History Society's (NPS) library into that of the Oslo Filatelistklubb (OFK). Members of both organizations will have access to the library. The NPS library had been warehoused after the national postal museum was moved from Oslo to near Lillehammer.



It happens everywhere. Reuters news agency recently reported that a Sweden postal card bearing a lottery number arrived 50 years late at a retirement home on Gotland. The card was mailed from the Swedish mainland in October, 1955. Reuters quoted a spokesperson for Sweden Posten as saying: "Now and again a letter that has gone astray like this surfaces somewhere...but it is very unusual."



The postal administration for the Faroe Islands, Postverk Føroya, is doing a good job of providing fascinating historical background when it issues new stamps. The most recent example concerns two stamps issued September 19 concerning the "friendly occupation" of the islands by the British during 1940-45. Postverk Føroya customers received a short essay concerning the World War II occupation. In addition, considerably more historical information was posted at www.faroestamps.fo.



Your monolingual (English only) SCC Library volunteers have a short shelf of dictionaries of Scandinavian languages when they need rough translations to determine the subject matter of philatelic literature arriving at the library. There is no general Norwegian-English dictionary available, however. If you have an extra Norwegian-English dictionary to donate to the library, it would be used and greatly appreciated. Send donations for the library to SCC Library, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224.





Speaking of foreign languages, Finland's postal administration prepares some of its products in Japanese since Finland is host to many visitors from Japan and has some philatelic customers in that country. For example, a series of seven collector "elf" post cards were issued in 2003 and 2004 with Swedish and Finnish on one set and English and Japanese on a second set. The rhyming text is illustrated with drawings of elves in various settings, such as in a stable, house, sauna, cow shed, drying barn, a mill, or in the woods. For more information on Finnish stamps and other collectibles, go to www.posti.fi/stamps.



Iceland's Christmas stamps for 2005 show an apple (ISK 50) and an evergreen tree (ISK 70). The water-adhesive stamps have been infused with fragrance so that they have they give forth a slight hint of pine, apple, and cinnamon when applied to holiday mail. Norway's two Christmas stamps for 2005 gave off the slight scent of cinnamon when rubbed gently. ■

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke



Thomas Høiland, September 15-17 (Auction 87)

In 1978, Domus Philateliae Jutlandica (Philatelic Museum in the Old Town of Aarhus) received a rather spectacular donation from Aarhus Frimærkehandel – an

Icelandic letter franked with an 8-skilling stamp and mailed to the Faroe Islands. This is the only known letter with an Icelandic skilling stamp sent to the Faroes and is one of 13 similar letters known in private hands.

The letter appeared in Høiland's September auction (Lot 2367) with a starting price of DKK100,000. It sold for DKK250,000 or \$51,000 to the same buyer who also bought another famous Iceland skilling letter (Lot 2363) with Reykjavík numeral cancel "236" on it. Only five letters with numeral 236 are known in private hands. This letter cost the buyer \$52,000, but it now has a resting place after some years of unknown ownership.



Rare cover to the Faroes sold for \$51,000.

There were three letters from Sweden franked with 3-sk. banco stamps that drew interest. A letter to Denmark franked with four, 3-sk. bancos (Lot 2554) brought \$63,000. A letter to St. Petersburg franked with 3-, 6-, and 24-sk. stamps (Lot 2555) was sold for \$80,000. A less attractive letter to Berlin with 3-, 4-, 6-, and 8-sk. franking (Lot 2556) sold for \$16,000 (all costs included).

Postiljonen, October 8 (Auction 186)

Postiljonen's Iceland section offered Þór Þorstein's collection of Icelandic *tollur* and other fiscal stamps. Many parcel cards sold for between \$400 and \$600 per item. It was quite an impressive collection. A Hopflug overprint set with tollur cancels (Lot 500) sold for \$1,200.



In the Swedish section, a 3-sk. banco, viewed by many as the most beautiful such stamp with excellent centering but without gum (Lot 608), sold for \$7,800. Years ago it sold for a fantastic high price, but since has been damaged by a small tear. That certainly affected the price.

The Sleswig-Holstein section included a 2S postschilling stamp on letter (Lot 1019) that went for \$33,000. It has been seen in the last few years circulating among German auctions and dealers. Another letter with a Danish 2-sk. 1855 (Lot 997) used locally in Haderslev in 1864 sold for an impressive \$7,200, the highest price ever paid for a 2-sk. local use. But it is the only recorded use in the Danish part of Sonderjylland. So, for the connoisseur, it is truly a gem worth the money.

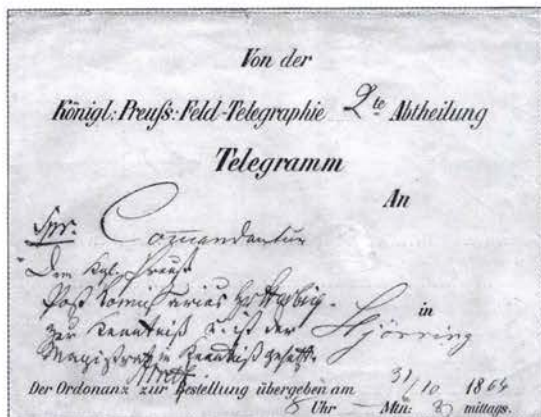


This beautiful 3-sk. banco brought \$7,800 at auction.

Köhler-Berlin, September 9 (Auction 28)

An impressive collection promoted as the “Rendsburg” collection with 200 lots of Sleswig-Holstein material came under the hammer. A full range of philatelic material influenced by the turbulent years of rebellion and war was on sale. This included the 1850 postschilling stamps, Danish stamps, Sleswig’s own stamps issued from 1864, and also interesting and rare field post and military mail.

A telegram envelope (Lot 156) used by the Prussian troops sent to Hjerring in Jutland, sold for a fantastic price of \$4,000. This is possibly the only such item that is known. A pair of 1S postschilling on letter (Lot 3) sold for \$29,000. A bisected 1 1/4 Sch. 1864 stamp on stationery envelope (Lot 28) sold for \$11,700, despite having been extensively repaired. ■



Telegram from a Prussian in Jutland brings \$4,000.

Scandinavian Literature Notes

Alan Warren

News from Denmark

Ulrik Kobbernagel presents a nice profile of the late Czeslaw Slania in the August issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift (DFT)*. Peter Schweizer continues his column on newly discovered varieties of Danish stamps from all periods. The September issue of *DFT* carries an article by John Denborg on cataloged varieties of Danish stamps that possibly cannot be found. A supplement to this issue is devoted to a listing of the clubs in Denmark that are members of the Danish Philatelic Federation with contact information and meeting place and time.

In the September *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Erling Berger illustrates Danish covers from 1833 to 1850 to France and Prussia bearing “AL” designations for the Danish portion of the required postage. Kurt Hansen shows some early covers returned to Denmark with “Ubekjendt” or “Unknown” labels and markings.

News from Finland (with thanks to Kauko Aro)

Abophil: In *Abophil* 1/2005, a series of articles on the cancelations of Soviet-Karelia ends with a short listing of present-day cancelations of the region.

Issue 2/2005 has a short article about a plate flaw in the 10-penni stamp of the 1889 issue where the last letter in “SUOMI” is covered by red ink and not visible.



Issue 3/2005 shows a World War II cover with a large green Kenttäposti label, not perforated. Apparently 10 such stamps are known. The cover is canceled "Turku 20.IV.44.14." and sent to "K.p.k. 7." **Filatelisti:** In issue 1/2005 of *Filatelisti* Max von Schantz writes about the 1963 issue in order to make the studies and cataloging easier to understand. *Norma* and *LaPe* divide the issue into sub-groups using different systems. *Norma* lists them as value/type/paper which is simple even for a beginner. *LaPe* on the other hand is very extensive and almost handbook-like with emphasis on types of paper. In the same issue Reijo Nummela writes about the 1901 issue and how the identifying differences still prevail 80 years after publication of E.A. Hellman's research paper on this topic. Mikael Erickson writes about the set-up of rural postal deliveries after 1775 based on a postal administration circular. Matti Sipari continues his series on Finnish registration labels, which has been published in a book form as well.

Issue 2/2005 describes the work of the editors who are working on a book celebrating 150 years of Finnish stamps in 2006. The team is looking for about a dozen specific covers, including one sent in 1908 to Finnish immigrants in the United States.

A short article describes books published recently by Petteri Hannula in collaboration with others. Topics include the 1890/1910 Russification period, meter stamps of Finland, and postal rates of Finland from 1954 onward. Lasse Nortesus writes about the birth of the military camp in 1915 in Holstein, which was used to train Finnish officers of what became later known as the White Guard in 1918. Jukka Sarkki writes about the receipts and special labels used by the postal savings bank.

In Issue 3/2005 Jeffrey Stone gives some basic ideas and pitfalls to avoid in building an exhibit of the Finnish 1875 issue. Kalevi Mäkinen tells of mail received at Santa's post office. He should be familiar with this as he is the auctioneer for Lapland Philatelists, which auctions such mail with proceeds going to UNICEF. Toivo Kempfi describes an "older secret protocol" about the control of Estonia, this one dating back to 1710 between the Russian czar and Germans in control of the Baltics.

In issue 4/2005 Cyril Schwenson writes about the clichés found in Finland's postal museum (following up an earlier article in *Filatelisti* 2/2003). He went back to improve his list, especially from the first years to Independence in 1917. The Postal Museum intends to provide his list to any researcher free of charge. Jukka Sarkki reports new findings of postal savings bank labels which were a follow-up from his article in *Filatelisti* 2/2005.

News from Great Britain

Scandinavian Contact for June carried an article by Alan Totten about the Greenland mail of the Thor Solberg flight of 1935. Mike Tuttle provided the third and fourth parts in his series on Iceland and World War I in the June and September issues. Also in June, Lars Jørgensen presented postal rates for Danish newspapers, 1848-1919, and Peter Hellberg continued his series on TPO cancels of Sweden.

In the September issue, Eric Keefe lists most of the known straight line railway station postmarks of Finland. Rolf Scharning began a new series on Scandinavian Airlines System and philately, covering 1946-1951. Norway expert Olga Ellis takes a fresh look at the London stamps of Norway in World War II.

News from Norway

In issue 2/2005 of *Frimerke Forum* Birger Løvland takes us on a tour of parts of Norway using 50-year-old picture post cards. In the same issue Anders Langangen continues his series on Hasler meter stamps of 1926-1928. In issue 3/2005 of Oslo Filatelistklubb's *Info*, Sven Andersen continues his series on determining the amount of insufficient postage required on postage-due mail coming into Norway.

Torbjørn Larsson-Fedde writes about the Norwegian consular-fee stamps in issue 5/2005 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. In the same issue Tore Gjelsvik, an authority on Norway No. 1, illustrates some newly recorded 3-ring numeral cancels found on this issue. In the September *Tidsskrift for Krigs-og Feldpost*, John Torstad shows Red Cross formular stationery sent in 1944 from Bergen via the Norwegian, German, Swiss, and American Red Cross to New York. It was returned to Bergen the same route bearing a return message from the recipient.

News from Sweden

Mikael Erickson discusses 17th and 18th century crown post and sexton mail in Sweden and Finland in

the August issue of *filatelisten*. Anker Jönsson illustrates steamship mail between Stockholm and Stettin around the turn of the 20th century, and Lars Lindblad describes fieldpost mail of the Swedish United Nations contingent in Liberia. Lennart Ivarsson describes Signilskär, the western outpost of Åland in the September *filatelisten*.

News from the United States

Jim Burgeson writes about combination covers in Sweden in the November issue of *American Philatelist*. Roger Hosking, specialist in paquebot markings, provides some updates on Helsinki and Åbo marks in the May-June *Seaposter*, published by the Maritime Postmark Society. The August issue of *The Finnish Philatelist* features articles on the Golden Ear (Kultatähkä) postal stationery cards, and the third part in a series on the definitive stamp series commonly known as M/30 Series.

William Benfield has written a series of articles in recent issues of *Ice Cap News*, published by the American Society of Polar Philatelists, on the subject of the *Maud* Expedition, 1918-1925. The explorer Roald Amundsen sold a variety of post cards to help raise funds for the expedition and these cards are the focus of Benfield's multi-part study.

Jason Manchester, the new president of the Germany Philatelic Society, writes about sending mail from Munich to Denmark in 1941 in the September issue of the *German Postal Specialist*. He shows some correspondence between two collectors that were trying to exchange stamps. The German censors inspected the letters and inserted a printed warning that exchange of stamps was not allowed.

The July-September issue of *Close-Up* published by the Czeslaw Slania Study Group describes the Swedish revenue 35-Kr radio license stamps designed by Slania in 1956, and shows some usage of the stamp on documents. The use of picture postcards hinting at Finnish patriotism is described by Charles Fricke and Roger Quinby in the June 20 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

Fred Wexler writes a column for *Global Stamp News* with the heading of "Have You Ever Considered Collecting 'X'?" In the September issue, he discussed the challenges of collecting the prolific posthorn issues of Norway. He describes the changes in the appearance of this series over the years. ■

Scandinavian Area Awards

Two Nordic exhibits were in the Champion-of-Champions competition in the World Series of Philately at the APS Stampshow in Grand Rapids, MI, in August. Both received prix d'Honneur—John DuBois for "Danish West Indies Mails 1748-1879," and Mark Lorentzen for "Across the Danish Border."

In the APS literature competition, the Swedish Post Museum annual *Postryttaren* won a gold medal. This year's issue, edited by Jan Billgren, focused on the 150th anniversary of Swedish stamps. A vermeil went to F.C. Moldenhauer for *Bernt Fossum: International Grand Prix Collection Norway, the First Two Issues*. In the catalog section, Tom Sarpaneva received a silver for *About Variations in the Åland Island Stamps*. In the periodicals section, *The Posthorn* won a vermeil.

At the BALPEX show in September, Harold E. Peter won a gold and the Germany Philatelic Society's president's award for his "Fieldpost Schleswig-Holstein/Denmark Wars 1848-1851 and 1864." Mark Lorentzen won a gold and the American Philatelic Congress award at SESCAL in Los Angeles in October with his "Across the Danish Border."

Kurt Hansen received a gold in the championship class at Mare Balticum in Mariehamn, Åland, in August for his "Ship Mail to and from Denmark." At the same show Jeffrey Stone received a large vermeil for "Finland: The Arms Type of 1875." ■

— Alan Warren

Transfers and Re-Entries

By Alan Warren

There have been some administrative changes at the top of Sweden's Postiljonen Auction House International. Founder **Claes Arnrup** has moved to chairman of the board and **Lars-Olow Carlsson** is the new managing director. Carlsson was 20 years old when he started at Postiljonen as an office assistant. That was 23 years ago.

At NORDIA 2005 this past May, the Nordic Federations made tentative plans for future NORDIA shows. The NORDIA 2006 in Helsinki, Finland, is firmly in place. The plan is to hold NORDIA 2007 in Denmark and NORDIA 2008 in Norway.

Swedish writer-editor **Christer Brunström** comments in the July 29 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine* on Norway Post's practice of selling mint Norwegian stamps from the archives. Norway Post advertises sales of mint stamps from 1863-1945 at what Brunström believes are higher than dealer retail. He argues, in addition, that the offer raises questions about such practices by postal administrations.

Former SCC President **Paul Nelson**, recently elected to the board of directors of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, AZ, will also be serving as archivist and preparing an inventory of their holdings.

The Albertino de Figueiredo Foundation for Philately, based in Madrid, Spain, presented three awards for philatelic excellence for 2005. Two of the awards went to specialists in the postal history of Spain, and the third award went to the International Association of Philatelic Experts (AIEP). The award was accepted by expert **Carl Aage Møller**, president of AIEP.

Two Nordic authorities signed the prestigious Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain this past July. Norway's **Tore Gjelsvik** has written articles and books about classic stamps of that country, especially Norway #1, and **Jussi Tuori** of Finland is an exhibitor and writer about classic issues of Finland and Denmark. Both honorees have also held leadership positions in their country's philatelic federations.

After the death of the author **Arne J. Bay**, his family is now selling the last copies of his "Postal History of Svalbard," published in 2003. The book consists of 261 pages loaded with illustrations, postmarks, registration labels, money letters, post office savings bank stamps, local share certificates, and other materials, some previously not known or published! For more information and prices, go to www.arnepolar.com or contact Sjur Jensen Bay at sjurjbay@gmail.com. ■

Chapter Reports

Edward Bode, Vice President, Chapters

COLORADO CHAPTER 27

Ten of 16 members met at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May for their annual business meeting. Current officers were re-elected. The SCC national booth provided an opportunity to display and to sell some of the SCC Library's and Chapter 27's excess literature and philatelic material. At the June meeting, Greg Frantz reported on NORDIA 2005 where he was a judge.

Most of the monthly meetings include show-and-tell segments and "mini-auctions" of excess material or donated lots. Recent examples included a Danish postcard with Frederick VIII posted in the U.S. in 1914, an Iceland Letter Card mailed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa; a cover from the Danish consulate to a probate court in Des Moines, IA, with a letter indicating a Danish soldier had died in San Francisco; and a collection of postal stationery, covers, wrappers, and postcards, all used from 1895-1920 with various "Kjøbenhavn" cancelations and postmarks.



At the October meeting, members watched a SCC slide program, *The Maritime Postal History of Norwegian Steamships*, with commentary by Greg Frantz, an expert on the subject. The Library Committee reported progress in organizing and integrating new material into the national collection.

CYBER WORLD CHAPTER 28

The 50 members continue to share postal history items. One interesting recent submission showed a World War II letter from Sweden, censored in Great Britain, and then sent on to the U.S. The letter was from a Jewish refugee.

DELAWARE CHAPTER 13

Several summer meetings were devoted to the review of SCC Library slide programs that are being converted to digital formats. The chapter is coordinating and financing the conversion process. Alan Warren showed some postal history of Denmark's Christian X issues of the 1940s at the September meeting. The October meeting was devoted to reviewing the results of the chapter auction. In November, Mark Manno planned to show a Canadian video on "Iceland and Newfoundland after the War."

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER 21

Monthly meetings continue at members' homes to view collections, peruse Mart books, and enjoy the friendships. Some meetings have been held at the Western Philatelic Library in Sunnyvale and at local shows.

MANITOBA CHAPTER 24

At the October meeting, 10 members gathered to re-elect chapter officers for the coming year and to plan a Christmas smorgasbord. As usual, the members traded stamps.

NEW YORK CHAPTER 7

At the first meeting of the new season, members searched Mart books and conversed about summer activities. They also viewed proofs and essays of the design for the 1914 MacDonald-Cartier issue of Canada. The stamps were not issued due to Canada's entry into World War I.

NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER 9

Chapter 9 met to discuss recent acquisitions, including some from the Mega Show in New York City. The recent additions included a used 24-block of DWI #2, a mint block of four of DWI #3, and a skilling banco stamp postmarked four weeks after these stamps were demonetized.

TWIN CITIES MINNESOTA CHAPTER 14

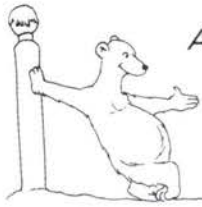
In July, members and spouses gathered for their second annual Bob Frigstad Memorial Dinner, which his widow and grandson attended. The September meeting highlighted accounts of trips to NORDIA 2005 in Göteborg and the Sweden Postal Museum in Stockholm. The October meeting was joined with the Minnehaha Stamp Club for a combined auction. ■

Back Issues of *The Posthorn* for Sale!

Do you need long runs or selected copies of *The Posthorn* to fill out your reference collection of SCC's journal? If so, contact the SCC Library to see what is available.

Cost is 50 cents per copy (plus mailing). Proceeds go to improve the library and its services to members.

Send your want lists to: SCC Library, 2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224, or email palbright@wiche.edu.



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www.polarphilatelists.org

Swedish Local Postal History and Philatelic Club

By Gustaf Ankarcrona, President, RHF

SCC members interested in Sweden's local postal history, cancels, and postcards will find like-minded collectors through the Swedish Local Postal History and Philatelic Club, or RHF (Riksföreningen för Hembygdspilately). For RHF, the local area means a province, county, city, rural district, or village.

The most common area for collecting is by province, county, or rural district. Many members publish articles and books and take active part in philatelic exhibitions. The club is open to all members in Swedish Philatelic Federation.

RHF was founded in 1983 and now has more than 500 members, most in Sweden. We have regular meetings at the Sweden Postal Museum in Stockholm and at exhibitions and local clubs. Our publication is *Hembygdspilatelyn*, published four issues a year.

A very important catalog to RHF is *Facit Postal VII* where our members can find all post offices over the years in their area of collecting. A post office may have used many different postmarks. The members document every postmark in detail from their area. Some have published the documentation from their province.

RHF has published a list of the so-called TUR-cancellations and will soon publish a complete list of normal cancel 16. Ongoing projects involve normal cancels 39, 58, and 64, and on colored postmarks.

Membership in RHF is \$10 per year. Membership is handled by Hans von Euler, Skiljevaegen 11, S-182 56 Danderyd, Sweden; email hans.euler@telia.com. RHF information in English is available on the Internet at <http://w1.864.telia.com/~u86406029>. If Swedish is preferred, go to <http://www.sff.r.se/sffmeny.htm> and then click on Riksföreningar. ■

Scandinavian Stamp Mart Needs Material

By Eric Roberts

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

The Mart wants to encourage books containing covers. The USPS now has a "Flat Rate Box" that will hold up to 40 Mart books with no weight limit for a flat \$8.10 rate. This allows the Mart to include more books and heavier books in each shipment. We can use all types of covers but have specific requests for vintage covers and postal stationery.

The Mart also needs all types of Scandinavian material. Recent used material always sells well, so hopefully some of our kiloware "soakers" will fill some books with their duplicates. Non-Scott material such as locals, railways, and revenues are always in short supply. Following is a list of the types of material that sells well and is in short supply. Those at the top of the list are the most needed.

1. Faroes, Greenland, Åland, especially used
2. Scandinavian railroads (except Finland where we have a nice supply)
3. Scandinavian locals
4. 19th century Denmark, mint and used
5. 19th century Finland, mint and used
6. 19th century Norway, mint and used
7. Used Scandinavian postal stationery
8. Used Scandinavian from last 10 years
9. Scandinavia MNH – yes, our members want NH
10. Scandinavian stampless covers
11. Interesting cancels – star numerals, SON, etc.

Blank Mart books are available at \$7.50 for 10. Specify either the blue standard books or the green "pocket" books, or they can be mixed. The Mart address is Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056, email, eric.roberts@halliburton.com. ■

APS Can Use Expert Examiners for Nordic Areas

By Don Brent, SCC Executive Secretary

The American Philatelic Society (APS) has contacted me looking for collectors who have enough expertise in their area of interest to become candidates for Sales Examiners. They would typically have a good reference collection of stamps and corresponding literature for their area of specialization. It would be expected that they have most of the items in their collection to compare with items sent for examination.

In addition to Sales Examiners for the Sales Division, the APS Expert Service is also looking for qualified experts in a few fields. The areas that relate to Nordic collections that are needed are listed below.

Danish West Indies	Scott #s 1-28	Normal vs. inverted frame misidentifications
Denmark	Scott #s 1-24	Normal vs. inverted frame misidentifications
Finland	Scott #s 1-58	Forgeries and #46-58, confused with Russia of the same design
Iceland	Scott #s 1-68	Forgeries, reprints, and misidentifications
Karelia	All	Forgeries
Norway	Scott #s 1-63	Forgeries and misidentifications
Sweden	Scott #s 1-38	Forgeries and misidentifications (#17-27 perf 14, #28-38 perf 13)

If you feel you might be able to assist the APS in this project, please contact me or Thomas Horn at the APS Sales Division, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823. ■

SCC Member Services

Stamp Mart (USA)	Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056	eric.roberts@halliburton.com
Stamp Mart (Canada)	Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB,RXJ 1H9, Canada	stampman@mts.net
Website (www.scc-online.org)	John DuBois or Toke Nørby	jld@thlogic.com toke.norby@norbyhus.dk
Helpers' List	George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594	geokuhh@starfishnet.com
Traders' List	George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594	geokuhh@starfishnet.com
Member Classified Ads	Paul Albright, 4615 Hampshire St., Boulder, CO 80301-4210	palbright@wiche.edu
Library Services	Paul Albright, 4615 Hampshire St., Boulder, CO 80301-4210	palbright@wiche.edu
Cyber Chapter	Ed Bode, 829 Western Air Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0615	edbode@juno.com
Study Groups	See final page of each <i>Posthorn</i>	See final page of each <i>Posthorn</i>

Nordia 2006 in Helsinki: an Update

Finland marks the 150th anniversary of its first postage stamp in 2006, just a step behind a similar observance in Sweden during 2005. Nordia 2006, which will be held October 27-29 in Helsinki, will provide a capstone to the anniversary year.

In May and September, 2005, Finland issued the first two of six postal cards depicting different conveyances of mail in Finland. The remaining four cards will be released in 2006 with the last one released at Nordia 2006.

Nordia 2006 also marks another anniversary. According to the Finnish postal agency, the first stamp exhibition arranged through a collaboration of Nordic philatelic organizations was held in Helsinki 40 years ago. That 1966 exhibition is featured at the Nordia Web site, www.nordia2006.fi. A slate of events related to the jubilee year can be found on the Web site of the Finnish postal museum at <http://www.posti.fi/english/postmuseum/>.

John L. DuBois, SCC's president, is SCC's Commissioner to Nordia 2006, and Roger P. Quinby, immediate past president, will serve on the jury. Applicants are being notified in January whether their entries are accepted for exhibition. ■



SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

2006

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

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.

Nordia 2006, October 27-29, Helsinki, Finland. Contact www.nordia2006.fi/, John DuBois (jld@thlogic.com), or Roger Quinby, (rpquinby@aol.com).

2007

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

Nordia 2007, Denmark.

2008

CHICAGOPEX (SCC National Meeting), November 18-20, Contact www.chicagogex.com.

Nordia 2008, Norway.

2010

WESTPEX (SCC National Meeting), November, San Francisco area.

Scandinavia's First Issues Honored at SANDICAL

SCC's expanded regional meeting will be held in San Diego, CA, in conjunction with SANDICAL, January 27-29. The theme of the show, in fact, is the 150th anniversary of the first issues of Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

The SCC will have a general membership meeting that includes a presentation by Herbert R. Volin on censored Finnish mail during World War I. Scandinavian-related exhibits will be among more than 1,000 pages of exhibits, and the SCC will give awards in several exhibit categories.

For accommodations at the show hotel, telephone the Hampton Inn at 858-292-1482, or obtain further information at the SANDICAL Web site, www.sandical.org. ■

Corrections

The article on the 100th anniversary of the Danish wavy line stamps (August, 2005 *Posthorn*, page 11) stated that the "stamp is the second-oldest circulating stamp in the world..." Not quite. Sudan began its "running camel" (or "camel postman") definitive series in 1898. The stamp has remained in circulation since then despite a shaky postal service in the poor African country, according to Kjell Åge Johansen of Norway, who has written about the African stamp. The Danish wavy line series began in 1905. Shown here is one of the redesigned wavy line stamps released in 2005 along with one of Sudan's running camel stamps. For more on the Sudan stamp, see *Linn's Stamp News*, December 19, 2005, page 32.



The editor's mistake resulted in typographical errors in the August, 2005 article on "The Danish East Indies: They Once Existed." The dates on the fourth line of page 5 should read "1801-1802 and again in 1807-1814..." ■

S.C.C. Library Auction #5 (Closing Date February 27, 2006)

This is the fifth auction of items being offered to SCC members. These 36 lots are duplicates of current SCC Library holdings. Realizations will go to help the SCC Library, especially for literature acquisitions. Place bids with Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305-7233, USA; telephone 303-494-8361, or e-mail reichorz@comcast.net. This auction closes on February 27, 2006.

Terms of the Sale are identical to those published on page 26, May 2004 issue of *The Posthorn*. To conserve space, the terms are not repeated here (refer to the May 2004 issue).

The minimum bid accepted for a lot is the starting bid. Wherever possible, the auctioneer's estimated market value (EMV) or current market value from dealers' pricelists (CMV) for the lot is included in the description as a guideline for bidders. The highest (successful) bid will be placed at one bidding increment over the second-place bid. Bidding increments are: \$0.50 to \$5 = \$0.50, \$5 to \$25 = \$1, \$25 to \$50 = \$2, and >\$50 = \$3. Bids are in U.S. currency.

Lot Numbers and Descriptions:

Sweden: *Postryttaren – Postmusei Årsbok*. The first 12 lots of this auction comprise yearbooks published annually by the Swedish Postal Museum. Profusely illustrated, informative handbooks analogous to the annual *Philatelic Congress Books*, each contains a mélange of well researched philatelic articles, entirely in Swedish, generally about Swedish postal history, stamps, and postal services, many about specialized subjects.

1. ***Postryttaren 1972***: 266 pages, softbound, with feature articles on Swedish postal markings of 1843-74 (131 pages) and the history of postal service of the "SMS. Albatross" during 1915-18 (50 pages), plus seven other briefer articles, excellent condition except for minor cover wear. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
2. ***Postryttaren 1983***: 200 pages, softbound, with feature articles on motifs of Swedish stamps (54 pages), chess in philately (38 pages), and postmark and canceling devices now housed in the museum, plus four other briefer articles, excellent condition. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
3. ***Postryttaren 1984***: 148 pages, softbound, eight articles, including Swedish music in philately (12 pages) and Swedish parcel cards (23 pages), excellent condition except for minor marks. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
4. ***Postryttaren 1985***: 198 pages, softbound, with a feature article on 350 years of the Swedish postal service (52 pages) and seven briefer articles, including 100 years of Swedish Kings' portraits on stamps, production of Swedish stamp booklets, and 1870 weight/postal rate reforms, pristine condition except for cover marks. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
5. ***Postryttaren 1986***: 224 pages, softbound, with a feature article on Swedish 1886 parcel and postal cards (41 pages) and Swedish franking machines (37 pages), plus seven briefer articles, pristine condition except for cover marks. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
6. ***Postryttaren 1989***: 168 pages, softbound, with a feature article on Swedish foreign mails, 1874-1924 (35 pages), plus eight briefer articles, pristine condition. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
7. ***Postryttaren 1990***: 192 pages, softbound, with feature articles on the history and use of Swedish postal cards, 1872-1925 (21 pages) and of Swedish parcel cards (66 pages), plus seven briefer articles, pristine condition except for cover mark. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
8. ***Postryttaren 1994***: 152 pages, softbound, 10 brief articles, including the Swedish Post Office in Hamburg and Swedish military detachments in Åland during 1918, excellent condition except for spine damage and page separations. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
9. ***Postryttaren 1995***: 152 pages, softbound, feature articles about the printing of Swedish stamps during the period 1920-94 (33 pages) and Swedish military mail, 1939-45 (18 pages) and five briefer articles, pristine condition. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
10. ***Postryttaren 1996***: 157 pages, softbound, nine articles, including forged Swedish stamps, postal history of Gustav V definitives, UPU rates and manuscript postal markings, and Swedish military detachments in Åland during 1919, pristine condition except for writing on cover and title page. EMV = \$25, Starting Bid = \$6.
11. ***Postryttaren 2001***: 199 pages, profusely illustrated throughout in color, hardbound, gorgeous, nine articles, including the design and production of Sweden's coat-of-arms stamps, the Lauson H. Stone collection, mail from Otto Nordenskjöld's Antarctic expedition, and the work of Sweden stamp engraver Piotr Naszarkowski, pristine condition except for slight cover wear. EMV = \$30, Starting Bid = \$10.
12. ***Postryttaren 2004***: 159 pages, profusely illustrated throughout in color, hardbound, gorgeous, seven articles, including the career of Stockholm stamp dealer Harry Wennberg, 100 years of Sweden stamp booklets, 100 years of Stockholm's Philatelic Society, Wenden (Latvia) Local Post, and Gustav II Adolf in historic stamp motifs, pristine condition. EMV = \$30, Starting Bid = \$10.
13. **Sweden: *Sweden Illustrated – Parts I and II***, in English. Difficult to describe briefly, these are two *Life*-magazine-sized, profusely illustrated slick periodicals of 64 and 60 pages, respectively, published circa 1962, that may provide hours of enjoyable reading with their mix of philatelic articles, articles relating stamp motifs to industry and culture, stamp catalog listings, stamp album pages, and non-philatelic articles primarily about Sweden, but with some philatelic information about other Nordic countries. EMV = \$20, Starting Bid = \$4.
14. **Sweden/Finland: *Stamps of Sweden and Finland – the Earlier Issues***, by Ernest H. Wise, in English, Heinemann, London, 1975, 168 pages, hardbound, pristine condition. A classic of modern Scandinavian literature, this is a useful advanced guidebook for pre-1911 stamps, plate flaws, die and overprint varieties, etc. EMV = \$50, Starting Bid = \$16.
15. **Sweden/General: *Remarkable! On stamps, postcards and collecting***, by Pia Bäckström, Marianne Larsson, and Björn Sylwan, in English, Sweden Postal Museum Publication No. 46, circa 2002, 76 pages, softbound, profusely illustrated in color. Wonderful little book about the Museum's permanent exhibition, *Remarkable!* consists of five articles about stamps and collecting, a fun read. EMV = \$12, Starting Bid = \$4.
16. **Finland: *The Serpentine Rouletted Stamps of Finland – Issues of 1860 and 1866, Volume 2***, by Mikko Ossa, English translation by Kauko I. Aro, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, 1985, 113 pages, softbound, profusely illustrated, good condition (cover wear). EMV = \$15, Starting Bid = \$5.



17. **Denmark:** *I øverste højre hjørne – danske frimærker 150 år (In the upper right-hand corner. 150 years of Danish stamps)*, in Danish, published by Post Danmark, Copenhagen, 2001, 155 pages, hardbound, profusely illustrated in color. Text about Denmark's first stamp and evolution of stamp designs in Denmark; gorgeous clothbound book with slip cover; includes mounted the Denmark 4/1/01 issue marking the 150th anniversary of the first Danish stamp se-tenant block of four stamps and a "black-print" sheetlet of four of just the steel engraved portraits by Martin Mörck—a modern, limited-issue rarity from the Danish Post. CMV = \$60+, Starting Bid = \$30.
18. **Denmark:** *Dansk Luftpost*, by Mats Hedelius, in Danish, Forlaget Skilling, Skibby, Denmark, 1992, 208 pages, hardbound, profusely illustrated. Definitive handbook on Danish airmail covers with numerous rate tables to foreign destinations, a must for airmail cover specialists. CMV = \$57.50, Starting Bid = \$17.
19. **Denmark/Postal History/Covers:** Two-book set: *Danske Breve 1851-1979, Bind I. Forsendelsesarter og Portotakste*, and *Bind II. Vurderingsprincipper og Katalogisering*, by Jørgen Gotfredsen and Jesper Haff, in Danish, AFA (Aarhus Frimærkehandel), Aarhus, Denmark, 1979, 224 and 176 pages, respectively, hard-bound, profusely illustrated (several color plates in Book II). Definitive handbooks on Danish postal history and covers to foreign destinations, a must for Denmark postal historians. EMV = \$80, Starting Bid = \$35.
20. **Denmark:** *AFA (Aarhus Frimærkehandel)*, seven (five different) paperback specialized catalogs, all in Danish: *Marginalnummerkatalog 1964 and 1970 (2)*, and *Danmark Fireblokke 1975 (2), 1977, and 1986-87*. EMV = \$14, Starting Bid = \$3.
21. **Denmark:** *Det Dansk Postvæsen 1624-1924*, by Jørgen Bergsøe (Ed.), in Danish, J. H. Schultz A/S, København, 1924, photocopy, 524 loose-leaf pages, illustrated. Treatise on the first 300 years of the Danish Post—a definitive postal-history book. EMV = \$50, Starting Bid = \$10.
22. **Denmark/D.W.I.:** *Danmarks og Dansk Vestindiens Frimærker*, Volume 2, Parts 1 + 2, by G. A. Hagemann, in Danish, J. H. Schultz A/S, København, 1942, 135 pages, hardbound, regular edition without stamp reprints, some cover wear. Part 1 records Denmark's 1864-70 issues; Part 2 chronicles DWI's classic issue of 1855-73. CMV = \$110, Starting Bid = \$30.
23. **Greenland:** Three different Greenland catalogs (five staple-bound paperback books), in English, all by Eric v. Wøwern: *GF1 – Pakke Porto Stamps 1905-1938* (1980, 1982, 1988 Editions), *GF4 – The Thule Locals* (1985 Edition), and *Greenland Expeditions and Flights Before 1938 Including North Pole Expeditions and Trans-Arctic Flights* (1976). Great trio of Greenland catalogs. EMV = \$50, Starting Bid = \$15.
24. **Greenland:** *Grønland set gennem 50 års frimærker, 1938-1988 (Greenland Seen Through 50 Years of Stamps)*, in Danish, published by Grønlands Postvæsen, København, 1988, softbound, 128 pages, profusely illustrated. History of the Greenland Post and Greenland postage stamps, informative, with three-page index. CMV = \$45, Starting Bid = \$13.
25. **Greenland:** *Greenland, Parts 1 and 2*, by Karlo Lindskog and Eric v. Wøwern, 1970 English edition, 169 loose-leaf pages in binder, profusely illustrated. Part 1 covers the period before 1938 and lists in detail Pakke-Porto stamps, expeditions to Greenland and the Arctic, airmail, and Thule district stamps; Part 2 covers the period after 1938 and includes stamps, postmarks, expeditions, airmail, and charity stamps/seals. Forerunner catalog to the "GF" series. EMV = \$20, Starting Bid = \$5.
26. **Iceland:** *Postal Service in Iceland, 1776 – May 13th – 1951*, in English, issued for the 175th Anniversary of the Icelandic Postal Service, 1951, 52 pages, softbound, pristine condition. Monograph on the origin and development of the Icelandic Postal Service, with useful postal history information. EMV = \$10, Starting Bid = \$3.
27. **Iceland:** *Islands Frimærker En Kortfattet Oversigt*, by Carl A. Pihl, in Norwegian, published/issued by Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift as Handbook #3. Oslo, 1946, 27 pages, paperback, good condition. Classic monograph on Iceland stamps and cancellations, with detailed specialist information about the "3/pri" and "1 GILDI/02-03" overprint issues. EMV = \$10, Starting Bid = \$3.
28. **Norway:** *Skip og post i lokale ruter i Trøndelag (Ships and Mail of the Local Routes in the Trøndelag District)*, by Tore Gjelsvik, in Norwegian, Filatelistisk Forlag A/G, Bergen, 1986, 144 pages, hardbound, profusely illustrated, pristine condition with slipcover. An extensive reference section and 19 brief articles on various aspects of Norwegian ship mail and postal history from classic stamp period to the present—useful research for ship mail specialists. CMV = \$27.50, Starting Bid = \$10.
29. **Norway:** *Norske skipsstempler og reise post-ekspedisjoner på skip*, First Edition, by Per Eirik Danielsen, in Norwegian, Filatelistisk Forlag A/S, Bergen, 1984, 270 pages, softbound, excellent condition. Catalog listings and illustrations of Norwegian ship postmarks. EMV = \$30 (2nd Ed. CMV = \$65), Starting Bid = \$10.
30. **Norway:** *Håndbok over Norske 4-Ringsnummerstempler*, by Bjørn E. Bunæs and Anders Langangen, in Norwegian + two-page introduction in English, Norsk Filatelistforbund, Oslo, 1987, 394 pages, softbound, pristine condition. Catalog listings and illustrations of Norwegian rural post offices' "four-ring numeral" markings—an essential reference on this subject. CMV = \$59.50, Starting Bid = \$20.
31. **Norway:** *Norske masknstempler med tekst, 1903-1978*, in Norwegian, Norsk Filatelistforbund, 1978, 173 pages, softbound, good condition. Catalog listings and illustrations of Norway's machine slogan cancels—an essential reference on this subject. CMV = \$26, Starting Bid = \$8.
32. **Norway:** *Norsk eksilpost, 1940-1945*, by Karl U. Sanne, in Norwegian, Norsk Filatelistforbund, 1981, 139 pages, softbound, profusely illustrated excellent condition. Authoritative postal history presentation of postal services created to serve Norwegians in exile during WWII—an essential reference on this interesting subject. CMV = \$22, Starting Bid = \$6.
33. **Norway:** *Norwegian Exile Mail, 1940-1945*, by Karl U. Sanne, English Translation by Sigmund Meireran, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, 1986, 219 pages, softbound, profusely illustrated, good condition. English-language version of *Norsk eksilpost, 1940-1945* in same format. CMV = \$24.50, Starting Bid = \$10.
34. **Norway:** *Norsk Helpostkatalog, 1872-1992, 1996/97 Edition*, by Finn Aune (Ed.), in Norwegian, OFK (Oslo Filatelistklubb), Oslo, 96 pages, profusely illustrated in color, softbound, excellent condition except stamped "review copy" on title page. The primary catalog for Norwegian postal stationery, postal cards, and aerogrammes with detail on die types, includes pricing for mint, used, and used with additional stamps—an essential reference. CMV = \$48, Starting Bid = \$16.
35. **Norway:** *Norway Number One, The 4 Sk Lion of 1855*, by V. Tufts, in English, European Philately #13, J. Barefoot Ltd., York, England, 1983, 52 pages, spiral-bound paperback, profusely illustrated, good condition except for cover marks. Classic treatise of Norway's first stamp, including early postal services, printing, varieties, plating guide, multiples, postmarks, reprints, and forgeries. CMV = \$20, Starting Bid = \$7.
36. **Norway:** *Håndbok over Norske Filatelistika*, Volume 3, in Norwegian, Norsk Filatelistforbund, 1969, 312 pages, hardbound, profusely illustrated, good condition (slight spotting on cover). Informative handbook comprising 12 articles by various authors, with great strength in bypost stamps, postal cards, ship mail, and postmarks. CMV = \$45, Starting Bid = \$15.

New Catalog on Denmark's Encased Postage

Frimærkepenge i Danmark – Anvendelse, Beskrivelse og Udbredelse – anskuet ud fra historiske, topografiske, filatelistiske og numismatiske synsvinkler – 1. del – Ældre emissioner og københavnskes erieudgaver. (Encased postage in Denmark – use, description and dissemination – as seen from historical, typographic, philatelic and numismatic viewpoints – Part 1 – Older issues and issues from Copenhagen), by Jørgen Sømød, 2005, 168 pages, hard-bound in A4 format, DKK 300 (approximately \$50) plus postage, available from the author, Hollændervej 20, 1855 Frederiksberg C, Denmark.

By John R. Sabin

During World War II in Denmark, as in the USA, there was a shortage of metal, especially copper, due to the war effort. As the value of the metal in small copper coins became greater than the face value of the coins, the small value coins were withdrawn from service by speculators. Thus, there arose a shortage of small copper coins (skillemønt). For commerce to continue, a substitute was necessary. The first solution of the Danish government¹ was to authorize issuing the small coins in a cheaper metal, namely aluminum. However, there were not enough of these to solve the problem. One approach taken up by the populace was to use small value stamps (the bølgelinie or wavy line series of 1937-1939) as small change. This was, however, unhygienic and impractical.

The solution came with a newspaper announcement in the Copenhagen newspaper *Ekstrabladet*,² where it was announced that the Danish packaging industry (Dansk Emballage Industri), prompted by radio companies Johnsen-Radio and Magnavox Radio, would release 100,000 1-øre frimærkepenge (stamp-coins). These 1-øre stamps were packaged with a stamp-sized bit of cardboard that contained an advertisement, and wrapped in cellophane. An early example, from Johnsen-Radio (issued May 13, 1941), is shown here.

This was not the first time that encased postage had been used as small change,³ nor even the first time it had been used in Denmark. But the cardboard- and cellophane-encased postage of the early Second World War in Denmark is certainly the largest and most varied issue extant. These are the subject of Jørgen Sømød's book.

Sømød's book has its antecedents in a catalog assembled by Carl Lund-Jensen,⁴ dated September 15, 1941, just four months after the earliest encased 1-øre stamps were issued and long before the last encased stamps were issued. In November, 1941, Lund-Jensen issued a supplement⁵ to his catalog containing additional varieties of the frimærkepenge noted in the original catalog and subsequently issued examples. Finally, in 1975, well after frimærkepenge had passed out of use, Carl Lund-Jensen and Jørgen Sømød published a new edition of *Fortegnelse over Frimærkepenge*,⁶ which included a second supplement. Now we have the newest and most complete book on the Danish frimærkepenge from Jørgen Sømød.

This is the most complete of the catalogs of Danish frimærkepenge. The catalog, in Danish, is published in two parts. This first part covers the earliest issues of frimærkepenge and frimærkepenge issued in Copenhagen. The second part is scheduled to be released in 2007.⁷

Sømød is the right person to write this book. His collection of Danish frimærkepenge is certainly the most complete in the world, and the book is derivative of it. This book is a real *tour de force*. The first 50 pages describe the origin and usage of encased postage, from the first use in the U.S. in the mid-19th century, up through World War II. The exposition is interesting and instructive. Following the text is the catalog.

The catalog is certainly the most complete Danish frimærkepenge catalog extant. Each entry gives a catalog number, a short description, and, where appropriate, the cross-numbering connection with the earlier⁴⁻⁶ catalogs. The book is lavishly illustrated with examples.

There are only two possible criticisms of this book. First, it is unfortunate that the book is printed in black and white as there are many color nuances and variants that distinguish among the various issues. Neither is there a color standard included with the book. While printing in color would have increased the cost of the book considerably, it is regrettable nonetheless. Second, the book lacks an index. Thus, if one were to acquire a frimærkepenge that has *K. Kjersgaard – Slagterforretningen – Haraldsgade 3 – Taga*



3701 printed on it, it would be difficult to find it in the catalog. This problem would be easily solved if a searchable CD-ROM were included with the book for a modest increase in price.

In any case, this is an excellent, "must-have" book for anyone with an interest in Danish frimærkepenge. It is recommended most highly. ■

(Editor's Note: Illustration supplied by the author and by Jay Smith.)

Endnotes

¹ Act of parliament (Folketing) on December 11, 1940.

² *Ekstrabladet*, Tuesday, May 13, 1941.

³ Arleigh Slabaugh, "Encased Postage Stamps, U.S. and Foreign," Hewett's Numismatic Information Series, Chicago, 1967.

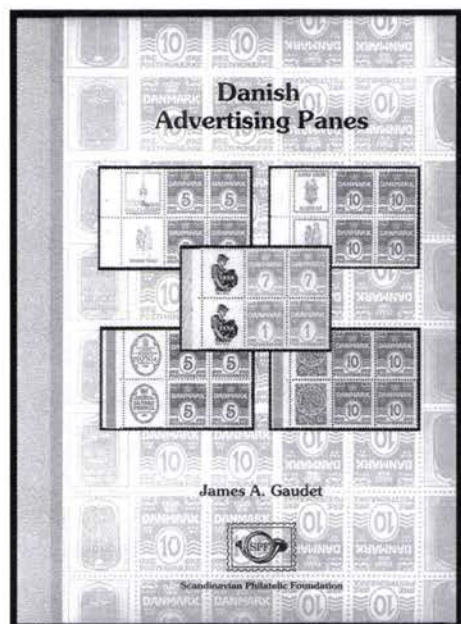
⁴ Carl Lund-Jensen, *Fortegnelse over Frimærkepenge*, København, Danatex Forlag, 1941.

⁵ Carl Lund-Jensen, *Supplement til Frimærkepenge*, København, 1941.

⁶ Carl Lund-Jensen and Jørgen Sømod, *Fortegnelse over Frimærkepenge*, København, 1975. This includes the original Lund-Jensen book, as well as supplements 1 and 2.

⁷ Jørgen Sømod, private communication.

Foundation Publishes Book on Danish Advertising Panes



The Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation (SPF) has released its latest book. James Gaudet's *Danish Advertising Panes* brings new research to this fascinating area of Denmark philately. Between 1927 and 1934, Denmark issued booklets containing stamps that were se-tenant with advertising labels. Collectors have long sought pairs and larger multiples on cover as well as collecting the recorded varieties.

These stamps were the subject of earlier studies by Niels Finn Olsen and Frode Vesterby Knudsen. Gaudet takes the information to new levels with the addition of his own personal study of the panes. He has exhibited this material and received gold medals and research awards.

The advertising firms that took advantage of this stamp booklet format included the Hafnia and Phoenix insurance companies, General Motors, Mohawk Tires, the popular Danish newspaper *Berlingske Tidende*, the Copenhagen Coal and Coke Company (KKKK), and many others.

Each stamp denomination is studied in great detail with illustrations of plate flaws and newly discovered varieties. The flaws and their positions are clearly depicted and recorded with many close-up images and tables of data.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation. For cost and ordering information, contact the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, c/o Alan Warren, PO Box 39, Exton PA 19341-0039, or go to www.JaySmith.com and click on "Literature," then "Denmark."

The SPF was established in 1978 for the purpose of translating important works in Nordic philately into English and publishing them in order to reach a wider audience. Several of the monographs, including Gaudet's book, are original works. Further information about the foundation and a list of its publications is available by sending a stamped and addressed #10 envelope to SPF at the above address. ■

— Alan Warren

SCC Chapter Meeting & Contacts

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Mon. at Maple Leaf Evangelical Church, 1059 NE 96th, 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 Collin, 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, Reykjavik. 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: Rossmer V. Olson, P.O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVOle@aol.com.
15. ROCHESTER: 1st Mon. at Robert Gustafson's home. CONTACT: Robert Gustafson, 877 Helendale Road, Rochester, NY 14609-2908.
17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wed. at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or email: gerjerry@sbcglobal.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, (510) 522-3242, 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: raytran1@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 Nørby: toke.norby@norbyhus.dk.

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

SCC Website: www.scc-online.org

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