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Unusual Stamps from Finland

By Paul Albright

Finland continues to produce unusual stamps that hold interest for collectors. In February, Finland and seven other countries released mini-sheets with two stamps marking the International Polar Year (IPY). (See *The Posthorn*, November, 2006, pages 41-44.) The Finnish sheet is atypical because the two, 0.70€ stamps have overlapping perforations.

To obtain a single stamp, the user must tear into the second stamp in the mini-sheet, leaving one stamp with four sides and the other with six sides – three vertical and three horizontal. The stamp with four sides would have perforations inside the design surrounding a glittering snowflake hologram. A user could remove the perforated hologram, of course, and create two six-sided IPY stamps. The hologram could either be discarded, or used as a sticker. Disconnected from either stamp, however, the hologram does not appear to be valid as postage. One stamp also has four uncommonly long perforations, each about the length of four normal perforations.



All of this apparently was calculated to make a point. Explained Marja Pihlman, information manager of Finland's Posti: "The designers want to emphasize that decisions and acts have effects. Here the size of the stamps is determined by the decisions and acts you make. Equally, the changes in the environment are caused by many different – small and big – elements and even the smallest one can make a huge influence."



One of Finland's Easter stamps issued March 7 appears to be an embossed image showing flowers, an Easter basket, and the Easter rabbit. But the self-adhesive first class stamp was produced through the use of thermography rather than embossing.

Finland Post explained that thermography involves placing transparent powders on sheets of stamp paper or a card. The powder adheres to the wet ink. "The sheets are then passed through heating and cooling chambers where the grains of powder rapidly melt, fuse together, and cool (within seconds)." This coating adopts the color of the base ink but the layers remain above the paper, providing a raised image similar to embossing. Thermography "provides a new dimension to the graphic designer's skill as it does to the printer's," according to a statement from Posti.

Another Finnish stamp design that combines perforations and a rounded edge is described on page 15 of this issue. These stamps follow on the heels of other unusual designs and printing innovations released by Finland in September, 2006 (and described in *The Posthorn*, November, 2006, page 17.) ■



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Fifty Years in the Service of Peace

By Arne Rasmussen, Denmark



DKK 4.75 Blue Beret stamp commemorates 50 years in the service of peace.

Denmark issued a stamp on January 10, 2007 with the inscription “50 år i fredens tjeneste” (50 years in the service of peace). This stamp became a reality after a proposal from the Danish organization, “The Blue Berets.” This name refers to the blue beret worn by all soldiers serving in one of the United Nations operations established to restore and to maintain peace in a specific area. The Blue Berets are now also open for personnel who have served in similar operations under the authority of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), or the European Union (EU).

It was the initial intent of this stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Danish contingent formed on November 7, 1956, and arrived in the operational theater (Egypt, later Gaza) on November 15, 1956.

After negotiations with Post Danmark, which was extremely cooperative, it was decided that the stamp should recognize *all* the soldiers and civilians who have served in the world’s trouble spots in the past half-century. Although a small country, Denmark has made about 92,000 persons available for these operations. It should be noted that Finland, Norway, and Sweden have taken part in many of the peacekeeping operations in different parts of the world.

This is the third stamp designed for Post Danmark by Ole Zøfting-Larsen. He states that the motif of the stamp is to communicate the foundation of peacekeeping forces: professionalism, attention and alertness, humanity, and credibility. All of this is through a close-up of a typical soldier wearing the blue beret with the United Nations symbol. The name of the country on the stamp is made by using the actual red strip embroidered with DANMARK that is worn by all Danish soldiers on the shoulders of their uniforms. Zøfting-Larsen also designed the



Arne Rasmussen, then a staff officer at SHAPE headquarters in Belgium, lifts a welcoming toast at the opening reception to mark a Belgian stamp commemorating NATO’s 30th anniversary in 1979. Note the uniform patch worn by all Danish soldiers. Now retired from the military, Rasmussen is president of the Danish club for collectors of U.S. stamps and edits that club’s publication.



Special postmarks honoring the Danish-Norwegian (DANOR) units. The circular DANOR stamp is often used on official letters.

first-day postmark with another symbol used on uniforms until a few years ago when it was replaced with a small Danish flag.

Danish and Norwegian Peacekeepers

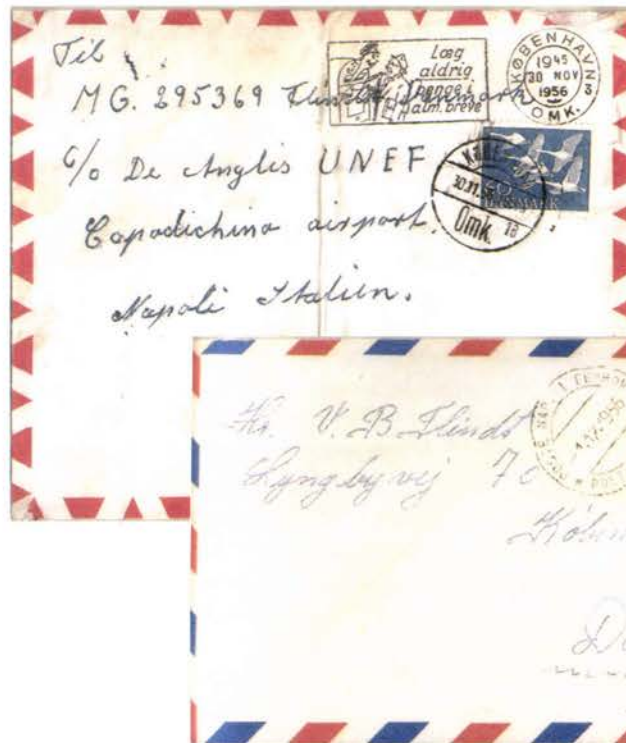
The Middle East was filled with conflict and war after World War II. In 1956, the extremely dangerous situation prompted the U.N. to intervene. The General Assembly decided on November 5, 1956, to establish a peacekeeping force to secure peace in the area after the war between Egypt and Israel had been stopped. A number of nations, including Denmark and Norway, were asked to provide troops for this force, which they agreed to on the following day. By November 7, the Danish contingent of about 400 soldiers was assembled and ready.

It is remarkable that after only a few days the first Danish advanced unit was dispatched to the Capodichino Air Base near Naples, Italy, and on November 15 they proceeded to Abu Suweir in Egypt. The Danish group was the first United Nations soldiers to arrive, followed shortly thereafter by a Norwegian unit.* On November 28, it was decided by the respective governments that the units should be united in a Danish-Norwegian battalion, called DANOR. The first commander of DANOR was Danish Lieutenant Colonel Carl Engholm. The position as commander of DANOR alternated between the two nations during the existence of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) (1956–1967).

Postal Services to/from Soldiers

Communication by postal service between the soldiers and their homelands was a completely new field for everyone; new systems and procedures had to be established. The Danish postal authorities issued orders by telegram to all post offices about handling mail to and from the soldiers. In the beginning, letters to the soldiers were to be addressed to: *De Angelis UNEF, Capodichino Airport, Naples, Italy*, where the U.N. had established a Post Office (Canadian) that forwarded all letters by U.N. aircraft to Abu Suweir for further dispatch. Letters from the soldiers were collected and forwarded to Capodichino where the Canadian postmen franked the letters with Italian stamps and delivered them to the Post Office in Naples. Letters from the first month with Italian stamps and a Napoli postmark are quite difficult to find.

Rare 1956 covers to and from Danish soldiers in Egypt transiting Italy.



Different free-mail hand stamps used over a 10-year period. Types 3a, 3b, and 4 exist with different numbers beneath the dateline.



UNEF air letter with free mail postmark.



Examples of damaged hand-stamps. One was broken but repaired using a rubber band.



In December, 1956, the U.N. established a free mail service and created special postmarks that were to be used on letters from the soldiers instead of regular stamps. In the 10 years that UNEF existed, several types of free mail postmarks were created. These postmarks were distributed to different units and locations. It has been possible to make a register showing where a specific postmark was used and the period it was in use at a certain location. These hand stamps were made of rubber, and the hot climate resulted in a fairly short span of life for some of the devices.

On February 4, 1957, a mechanical postmark was introduced, existing in two types. Also special Air Letters (aerogrammes) were produced for the soldiers' free mail.



Mechanical postmark used on a UNEF air letter.

Danes Establish New System

The U.N. postal system was initially a bit slow. A Danish mail system was therefore established at the end of March, 1957. The Danes could buy Danish stamps (domestic rate) and place them on their letters. The Danish Post Office collected the letters and placed a special hand-stamp on the front of the envelope but *not* on the stamp (see illustration). The Danish mailbags were transported by the U.N. to a base in Italy where a Danish supply plane picked them up and brought them to Denmark. After arrival in Denmark the mail was delivered to a special



Two-line hand-stamp used on official letter.



Circular hand-stamp used on letter to Denmark, with stamps canceled in Denmark and placed into the mail.

Further information can be found in an American catalog, *United Nations Philately*, edited by Arleigh Gaines (R&D Publications, New York, c. 1980-1997, three volumes). Anyone interested in more information or letters from Danish soldiers may contact Arne Rasmussen, Pilevej 9, DK 2740 Skovlunde, Denmark; email, avr@tdcadsl.dk. ■

*Information concerning deployment and postal services for Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish forces in Egypt can be found in *Scandinavian Contact*, March, 1957, June, 1957, and September, 1957.

Danish Post Office. Here the letters received a regular Danish cancel and were delivered as other mail.

Following UNEF, Danish soldiers have served in numerous operations: the Congo, Cyprus, Namibia, Kuwait, Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan. In all these operations there is a very interesting postal history to be told and many different postmarks and special postal meters that were used. It is more difficult today to find actual letters to and from the soldiers because the use of mobile telephones and the Internet has made it much easier to communicate compared with writing an old-fashioned letter!

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Philatelic Printed Matter from the Danish West Indies

By Arnold Sorensen

Printed matter mail was carefully defined by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) when it was formed in the 1870s. It was intended to provide cheaper rates for business mail that was sent in large volumes, and that did not include written messages. The UPU stipulated the postal authorities had to be able to inspect such mail if they were suspicious that the lower postal rates were being abused. Consequently, printed matter mail had to be sent unsealed.

Many countries had long allowed newspapers to be sent at a lower rate as long it was clearly visible that it was a newspaper, and newspaper wrappers were available or made by the sender for such mail. Other examples from this period include "printed circulars" and "priced current" that advertised goods for sale. Many merchants sent such circulars twice monthly; these are greatly prized by specialists.

The savings was significant. Shortly after the Danish West Indies joined the UPU, the foreign first class letter rate became 10 cents for a letter weighing up to 15 grams, while the foreign printed matter rate was only 2 cents for the first 50 grams. In 1902 the DWI postal rates changed, and the foreign printed matter rate was decreased to 1 cent.

Card Club Use Special Rate

About this time several international postal card clubs were active, and the members exchanged picture or photo postcards. Each member was assigned a membership number, and it typically shows on the postcards. Such mail is philatelic in nature, but interesting nonetheless. The members could use the printed-matter postal rate to lower the cost, but that excluded the ability to include personal messages longer than five words. A rubber imprint stamp could be used to include a fair amount of information about the sender, but most members included the essential information in manuscript form.

In 1905 the DWI coinage changed from the cent to the bit with five bit equaling one cent. From 1905 to 1914 the post cards invariably have a green 5 bit stamp. The regular foreign post card rate was 10 bit.

The UPU handwritten notations were restricted to (1) mailing location, (2) the date, (3) a signature, and (4) five additional words. There was one additional restriction when postcards were used – the word "postcard" was not allowed. The correspondents solved this problem by crossing out "postcard", and sometimes would add "Printed Matter" or the Danish equivalent, "Tryksag." Interestingly, I have seen postcards used that instead of having the word "postcard" had the Danish equivalent "Postkort" or "Brevkort." The post offices incorrectly accepted these cards even when the word was not crossed out.

Illustrated Examples

The illustrated postcards provide a glimpse of the postcard collector's operation. The card in Figure 1 was sent from Russia (present day Poland) to the DWI. The sender belonged to at least two clubs

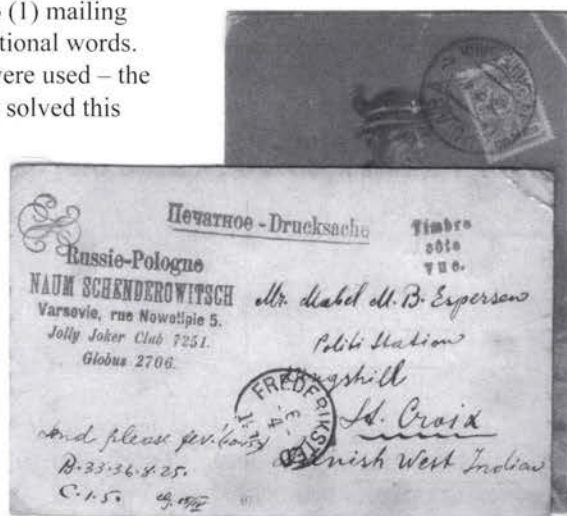


Figure 1. A 1911 card to DWI.

– the Jolly Joker Club from Nashville, TN (member number 7251) and Globus Club (member number 2768). I have no explanation for the handwritten numbers “B.33.36.8.25.”

Figure 2 is a postcard sent from St. Thomas. It has five hand-written words plus Jolly Joker member 1072’s mark to qualify for the printed-matter rate. This is the common format for post cards sent from the DWI. They were sent to virtually any foreign destination, and dealers now advertise some as being addressed to rare destinations. The Fredrik VIII stamps are more common than cards bearing the Christian IX stamp.

Figure 3 is unusual in that the sender carefully observed the UPU rules but was able to mail his Christmas cards with a personal greeting using the 5-bit printed matter rate. This definitely was not within the scope of the UPU intentions, but he met the rules as follows: He crossed out “Brevkort.” He then added the five permissible words that in Danish say “Merry Christmas Happy Newyear Yours.” Finally, the date and signature completed the manuscript entry. I have only seen a few postcards like this one. They are rarities, and definitely not philatelic. The sender likely had an extensive mailing list and saved five bit per card (the equivalent of one cent U.S.).

During World War I, DWI mail volume dropped by close to 50 percent. I suspect that the cryptic nature of numbers and initials and no messages could have triggered added censor scrutiny.

I would be very interested in knowing of any such cards having the Christian X stamp. Its use period was from late 1915 to 1917. Contact Arnold Sorensen at Therapy Service Corp., 706 N. Burkhardt Rd., Evansville, IN 47715; email, valbydwi@hotmail.com. ■



Figure 2. From St. Thomas to New York State.



Figure 3. Unusual Christmas card mailed with printed matter rate.

Mörck Engraves 100th Stamp for Danmark Post

Freelance engraver Martin Mörck has recorded a milestone in his productive career. Mörck, 51, has engraved 100 stamps for the Danish Post and more than 500 in total since his first stamp in 1977. He has engraved stamps for more than a dozen countries. More information and a portfolio of his work is available at his Web site, www.martinmorck.com. ■

President's Letter

Mats Roing



It was with considerable hesitation and deliberation that I decided to take over the reins of SCC from such a capable president as John DuBois. John talked me into becoming treasurer in 2004, and this turned out to be a positive experience. A lot of it had to do with the pleasure of meeting interesting SCC members at our annual meetings. We have the great hobby of philately as the centerpiece of our activities, with our outstanding publication, *The Posthorn*, as our face to the world.

In order for us to function as an organization devoted to this hobby, we need passionate and involved people to carry out the ground work. I've been involved in many organizations from the Swedish Oak Society to the American Alpine Institute, and I've never experienced a higher level of commitment and support from our members than in SCC. So we have a strong backbone to carry out our activities. I am looking forward to working with all of you for the next two years to make our organization the best we can be for our members.

Annual Meeting at NAPEX 2007

It is exciting to attend our annual meetings to meet our members. This year, we will be meeting at NAPEX in McLean, Virginia, June 1-3. One of the most important activities an SCC member can do is to participate in exhibitions. It's a great way of giving publicity to our organization. An outstanding opportunity to exhibit is at NAPEX. We have a number of frames set aside for SCC exhibitors. Please contact Roger Quinby (rpquinby@aol.com) or me (matsroing@yahoo.com) for a prospectus and more information.

My long-time collecting friend from Sweden, Sten Eriksson, is coming to NAPEX and will give us a philatelic presentation in conjunction with the membership meeting on June 2. SCC is also sponsoring a Scandinavian judge at NAPEX, Henrik Mouritsen of Denmark. Last but not the least, our membership dinner on June 1 will highlight the weekend and should not be missed.

NAPEX (www.napex.org) will be held at the McLean Hilton at Tyson's Corner (703-761-5111, www.mclean.hilton.com), which is located fairly near to both Ronald Reagan National and Dulles International airports. Join us at NAPEX!

On-Line Stamp Mart

The idea of creating an on-line stamp mart-auction service on our website (www.scc-online.org) has been circulating among members lately. Since this is a service for members only, there are incentives to become a member in order to sell or to purchase items. While there is high interest in implementing this, we are looking forward to receiving feedback and ideas. Eric Roberts, our stamp-mart guru, has several ideas of how to handle this on-line mart. Increased web-site maintenance to accommodate the auctions is one of issues we need to resolve. If there is a will, there is a way!

SCC Financial Situation

SCC raised membership fees in 2005. Subsequently, we have seen an improved financial situation with a slight increase in funds for both 2005 and 2006. An increased inflow from advertising in *The Posthorn* has also contributed to the positive results the last two years. A healthy financial situation for SCC is key to running a strong organization. I want to thank all of you who have become new members, renewed your membership, and those who have contributed by giving your time and additional donations of money.

Gift of Membership

One tip that we should encourage is to give memberships as a gift to collector friends. Once they receive *The Posthorn* and read this high quality publication, they are likely to renew their memberships.

My own goal is to give one membership per year to someone suitable. The person I gave it to last year is coming to NAPEX for our annual meeting! ■

Danish Royal Commemorative Upholds Tradition

The first Danish commemorative of 2007, issued on January 10, follows a tradition that began more than six decades earlier. The DKK 4.75+.50 stamp shows Crown Prince Frederik, Crown Princess Mary, and their infant son, who was born October 15, 2005, and christened Christian Valdemar Henri John on January 21, 2006.

The stamp follows the tradition that the Crown Prince's first-born is depicted on a charity stamp: Queen Margrethe II in 1941 (*Facit Denmark* 292-293), and Crown Prince Frederik in 1969 (*Facit Denmark* 514-515). The 2007 stamp was engraved by Lars Sjöblom from a photograph by Steen Evald.

The surcharge realized through sales of the stamp will go to the Crown Prince pair's charitable fund, supporting social and humanitarian causes. ■

— Jack Sabin



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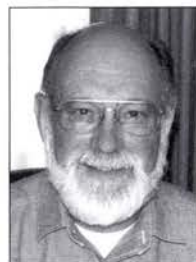
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News from the Home Office

Don Brent



Membership

Dues renewals are just about wrapped up for the year. A few trickle in each week. This year we will only have one member entering the Golden Life category for 50 years as a member. But there are quite a few new Quarter Century members. If for some reason you have missed the renewal notice or the reminder postcard, send in your renewal now. It is your last chance. **This is the last copy of *The Posthorn* for members who have not renewed for 2007.**

We really appreciate the kind comments that many of you make. This year has been a banner year for positive comments about *The Posthorn*. Thank You.

Our membership decreased slightly last quarter with eight new members plus three reinstatements. We welcome our new members and hope to meet many of you in person at one of our future meetings. Unfortunately, three members passed on and we had 10 resignations during the same period. In many cases, the resignations are for age or failing health. We regret losing any member, but I really appreciate the little note that lets us know your wishes. It is helpful to hear from members and that is what the SCC needs. This should be an organization of all the members.

The Posthorn Mailing

How are your copies of *The Posthorn* arriving? Are they in good condition? Is your address correct on the envelope? We are using a new mailer, and I would like to know if you experience any problems. We are trying to keep the database information as current as possible. There should be fewer missed copies due to someone moving and the address change not getting in before the labels are prepared. This seems to be working very well but let me know if there are any problems with delivery.

Spring Cleaning

I have started to clean up the office and notice that there are quite a few old *Posthorn* copies boxed up. Most are in the last few years, but some go back to the 1970s. I would be happy to clear them out for 25 cents each plus mailing. If you would like a few to pass out at shows with an inserted application we can work something out and possibly pick up a new member or two. There are also boxes of dues renewal covers with U.S. commemorative or older stamps that I would like to clear out. I didn't save the covers with definitives but could just not make myself throw away the commemoratives. Let me know if you are aware of a youth group (or anyone else) who might like them.

On a personal note, I purchased the philatelic estate of a local Scandinavian collector and have some of that for sale. I don't collect anything after 1965 so there is newer material (some hinged and some MNH) from all the Scandinavian countries plus a great deal of earlier material that duplicates my collections. There are collections of U.S. U.N., Canada, and Austria, plus boxes of U.S. and foreign covers and postcards. I don't think there is anything special, but if these are areas you might be interested in let me know. ■

Exhibits and publications @ www.scc-online.org

Membership Statistics for the Fourth Quarter, 2006

New Members

4086 Lawler, John F., 862 NE Fleming Ave., Gresham, OH 97030
 4087 Eriksson, Sten, Hasselvägen 1, SE-51444 Långhem, Sweden
 4088 Stein, Dr. Henry, DNP
 4089 Kirstensen, Nelly, Valborg Alle 3, 2th, DK-25 Valby, Denmark
 4090 Larsen, Freddy, P.O. Box 1650 (Jernbane alle 94), DK-2720 Vanløese, Denmark
 4091 Butler, Peter, 143 Glenmore Rd., Toronto, Ontario M4L 3M2 Canada
 4092 Sewell, Trevor, 194 Kane Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 2P2 Canada
 4093 Jamil, Arshad, 38 Renee Ln., Newark, DE 19711

Deceased

045GL Blinn, Christine
 952 Anderson, Barbara J.
 1275 Lyons, A.B.

Reinstated

3897 Perdomo, Guillermo Jr.
 3785 Fridthorsson, Steinar
 3835 Lawrence, Ray W.

Resigned

2077 Schryver, Herbert F.	1473 Meyers, Stephen J.	3566 Hansen, James F.	3221 Roberts, Richard E.
3753 Henderson, George D.	2784 Zeitler, Arthur W.	3970 Dirks, George A.	3636 VanDijk, J.A.J.
4021 Richman, Joel	1405 Prestrud, Stuart H.		

Change of Address

3798 Wang, Kristian, 491 Lyndhurst Dr., North Salt Lake, UT 84054
 3820 Hansen, Henry W., 12627 Biscuit Hill, San Antonio, TX 78253-5560
 1881 Hatch, Robert D., 3295 Essex Rd., Willsboro, NY 12996-0712
 3475 Oliver, Adolph, 4445 Sargent Ave., Casto Valley, CA 94546-3648
 2270 Montello, Lawrence J., 2541 E. La Costa Dr., Chandler, AZ 85249-4179
 4072 Voss, Robert T., 1114 Silver Run Pl., Knoxville, MD 21758-1038

Lost Contact (last known address)

2970 Lucas, William R., 8912 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85255
 3607 Deter, Dwight D., 13602 W. Oak Glen Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375-5521

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WANTED: Copies, offerings, or information about Iceland covers, related mail, censor slips, etc., of WWII Undercover Mail involving the Thomas Cook mail schemes. Ed Fraser, 195 Marine St., Farmingdale, NY 11735; email, edfraser@gmail.com

SCANS WANTED: For a study of color shades, please send me scans of Swedish "ring type" stamps that were canceled in 1872 (Sweden *Facit* 17-27). Diether Pascher, dietherp@hotmail.com.

COLLECTOR LOOKING for Scandinavian collection in some specialized area, with stamps and postal history, which has room to expand into an exhibit. Send details and price to Roger G. Schnell, 4800 NE 20th Terrace, Suite 201, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308; email, rkschoss@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE: "Raytech" ultraviolet light with both light bands in its original box from factory. Includes *Story of Florescence* book, rock samples, invisible ink, tracing powder, and fluorescent color crayons. Asking \$225 (U.S.), or best offer, plus shipping cost. Contact Roger Fontaine, stampman@mts.net, or telephone 204-254.4900.

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From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



Increasing the color content in *The Posthorn* (with the November, 2006, issue) has resulted in one unanticipated but positive development. I have been contacted by two writers who now plan to submit their articles for consideration since their stamps and covers can be printed in color. That can only lead to improving the scope of philatelic material that we will be able to publish in the future.

In addition, I have been able to resurrect an unpublished article dealing with color shades since those subtleties can now be displayed in our pages. Still another example is Jeff Mondesitt's astonishing find in a batch of Danish kiloware. We could not have shown the fluorescence in the fraudulent block without full-color capability. His article begins on page 35.



Corrective

In the May, 2006, issue, we showed one of Finland's message-in-a-bottle collector items that was mailed to the U.S. I wrote that the plastic container had passed through a machine canceller. Wrong! Rolf Dörnback of Germany points out correctly that a roller cancel most likely was applied to one of the oval-shaped surfaces.



Murder Brings Attention to Stamp

This modest Danish stamp gained a bit of notoriety 60 years ago because of the murder of a parson's wife. The 10-öre stamp from 1944 shows the church at Ejby in Sjælland (*Facit* 311). In July, 1947 the 45-year-old wife of the pastor at Ejby church was found shot to death in a grain field three days after she disappeared. She was last seen bicycling home during a thunderstorm after attending a movie in the village of Koge. All of this was reported in some detail in the July 29, 1947 edition of *Western Stamp Collector* with the Danish columnist, K. Blum, noting that the "mysterious murder has made the Ejby church stamp actual with us."



Andersen Stamp Gains Honor

A 2005 Danish stamp showing famed storyteller Hans Christian Andersen has won honors as the best intaglio stamp submitted for judging by the government printers of postage stamps. The award was made at the biennial gathering of the Government Postage Stamp Printers' Conference held in Beijing, China, last June. There were six categories judged with Austria taking three prizes, host China two, and one to Denmark for the best engraved stamp design.



An interesting aspect of the conference is that these meetings are confidential. The representatives of government postage stamp printers share their experience and knowledge regarding stamp-printing processes and technology. "For this reason, the meetings take place in secret, and are not attended by, for example, commercial printers," reported Denmark Post.





Trawler Linked to Saving Lives at Sea

Iceland has issued a stamp that ties in nicely with Bob Lang's article on "Saving Shipwrecked Sailors" that appeared in the November, 2006, issue of *The Posthorn*. On February 15, Iceland released a ISK 65 stamp showing the fishing trawler, "Jón Forseti," which represented a turning point for Iceland's fishing industry after its arrival in 1907. The grounding of the trawler off Stafnes two decades later "contributed greatly towards the founding of Iceland's Life-Saving Association (in 1928)." The inscription on the stamp is, "The first trawler built for Icelanders." On the same theme, Sweden (on March 22) is issuing three stamps, a souvenir sheet, maximum cards, and a collector's sheet to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Swedish Sea Rescue Society.



Finland Stamp Emulates Soccer Ball

Collectors are familiar with straight edges on stamps, but what about rounded edges? Now, they have an opportunity to collect such a format with a €0.70 stamp released February 7 by Finland. The self-adhesive commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Football Association, the country's largest sports association with more than 1,000 clubs and 112,000 registered soccer players. The stamp is perforated vertically on the left side but the right-hand edge of the stamp follows the rounded shape of the ball.



Newspaper Distribution Costs Danish Post

Post Danmark's brief venture into distributing a free newspaper has come to an abrupt and money-losing conclusion. The Danish Post decided to sell its 49-percent ownership in Morgendistribution Danmark A/S to the newspaper's publisher, 365 Media Scandinavia A/S. In 2006, the Post had "committed itself" to establishing Morgendistribution Danmark, which employed 700 persons to distribute the newspaper, *Nyhedsavisen*, on weekday mornings mostly in the larger cities of Copenhagen, Odense, and Aarhus.

In an announcement February 8, Post Danmark estimated it lost about DKK 10 million as part of its involvement with Morgendistribution, and added: "We must conclude that our expectations for this market cannot be fulfilled." The newspaper is expected to continue with a different distribution arrangement. ■

Åland's Airmail Service Recalled

Two stamps issued by Åland in March call to mind airmail service to the archipelago in the Baltic Sea. Åland Post reported that regular airmail service between Turku, Finland, and Stockholm, Sweden, began in 1929 with a stop en route at Mariehamn in Åland – at least between July and mid-September. Service gradually increased until there were two daily departures to Stockholm by 1938. Today's mail is transported by Turku Air and Air Åland.

A Junkers F13 used in the 1930s by Aero (presently Finnair) is shown on the second-class stamp. One of Air Åland's Saab 340 aircraft is on the first-class stamp. ■



Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren



News from Denmark

In the October *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Bruno Nørdam continues his series of articles on the essays of Denmark, this time exploring those from 1980-1982. The November issue features an article by Steffen Riis and Lars Engelbrecht on Danish lettercards to foreign destinations, 1871-1875. Nørdam continues his series in the December issue with the 1983 essays, and Steen Christensen continues his series on Danish Nobel prize winners on stamps. This Danish journal also carries occasional articles on Danish perfin by Thomas Sørensen of the Danish Perfin Collectors Club.

Ole Steen Jacobsen identifies the various aircraft used by Det Danske Luftfartsselskab (DDL) airlines to carry mail during 1919-1946 in the December issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, published by the Copenhagen Philatelic Club. In the same issue, Kurt Hansen continues his discussion of parcel sendings in Denmark immediately after the postal regulations of 1851.

News from Germany

In the August issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten*, journal of the Nordic Countries Study Group in Germany, Jürgen Tiemer continues his series on the fieldpost offices of Norway, this time focusing on No. 24 at Løkken Verk and No. 25 at Saude I Ryfylke. In the August and November issues, L. Skrehot continues his fine series on feather letters of Åland. Also in the November issue Jürgen Tiemer presents an analysis of the TUR cancels of Norway.

News from Great Britain

In the December issue of *Scandinavian Contact*, Peter Williams describes the special lettercards of 1900 available to tourists to Spitsbergen. They include caricatures of well-known Arctic explorers. The same issue has an article by Anthony Sheehan that focuses on mails from the treaty states on the 1930 Baltic flight of the Zeppelin. This issue also continues a series on *från* postal markings on mail to Sweden.

The November issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* features an article on the 1875 Arms type issue of Finland by Jeffrey Stone. He describes each value of the series and shows some examples of usage.

In the November issue of *238*, journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle, Rolf Dörnbach examines the town cancels of the Faroes that have appeared with and without stars and discusses why and when the stars were removed. He presents a nice table of town cancels that records the last day a cancel appeared with a star, the first day it was used without the star, and the last day of the starless use (in 1952-1953). In the same issue Karsten Hagsten provides details of the fire at the Strænder post office in 1932.

News from Iceland

Olafur Eliasson briefly reviews the early journals on Iceland philately in issue No. 14 of *Frimerkjabláðið*. There also is a short, unsigned article on the various handstamp markings and etiquettes (labels) used for airmail in Iceland over the years.

News from Norway

Arne Thune-Larsen illustrates some letters and post cards from well-known people in the 4/2006 issue of *Info*, quarterly journal of the Oslo Filatelistklubb. He shows mail from Edvard Grieg, Knut Hamsun, Edvard Munch, Henrik Ibsen, and Liv Ullmann.



Tore Gjelsvik illustrates a manuscript ship cancel on a posthorn issue for the D/S "Værdalen" in the December *NFF Varianten*, published by the Nordenfjeldske Filatelistforening. Trygve Karlsen begins a series on the postal history of outer Namdals.

In issue 7/2006 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, H. Kristensen shows a well-traveled cover sent from Norway in 1880 addressed to Dane County, Wisconsin. With many transit marks at Christiania, Chicago, Lacrosse, Wisconsin, and elsewhere, it was returned to the sender with a handstamp marking "Returned for Better Directions." In the same issue Peer-Christian Ånensen shows several covers that met the 5-gram special airmail rate to North and Central America established after SAS opened its Oslo-New York route in 1946.

Øivind Rojahn Karlsen presents his second installment on Norway's field post locations after 1950 in the December *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*. His table shows field post numbers 46 to 403 as well as some without numbers in the cancels. Data in the table includes location by year and examples of postmarks.

News from Sweden

Harry Hohndorf describes some of the varieties found on Sweden's M2 military reply stamps in the October *filatelisten*, and Sigge Anders continues his series on the local postmarks, this time for those in Göteborg, 1928-1951. In the December issue, Jukka Mäkinen and Per Sundberg illustrate proof impressions of embossed and handstamp revenue markings used on 19th Century Swedish documents. Sigge Anders focuses on the local post markings of Halmstad and Hälsingborg.

News from the United States

Mark Lorentzen wrote about 19th Century Danish mail in the November-December issue of *Collectors Club Philatelist*. He delved into the mail sent from Denmark to the old German States during 1854-1865 wherein the rates were determined by distance using the "Rayon" system (see illustration).

Anatoly Osatinski describes the Red Army field post during the Soviet-Finnish (Winter) War of 1939-1940 in the fall issue of *Rossica*, journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately. Topics include postmarks, military sorting points, organizational structure of field communications, and a nine-page table of Red Army units, locations, postal stations, and unit designations.

David A. Norris gives a brief overview of the Christmas seals of the Danish West Indies in the November 27 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. The October-December issue of *Close-Up*, the journal of the Czeslaw Slania Study Group, features an article by Meng Cheng on the Gustaf VI definitive stamps of Sweden. The first two sets were designed by Sven Ewert and appeared 1951-1957. The third type was designed by Slania and appeared 1961-1971. Cheng describes the coil stamps, booklet stamps, and the slot machine booklets. ■



Entire letter sent from Altona (113) to Dresden in Saxony on August 25, 1861. Four skilling rate for Danish rayon 1 to Hamburg; 3 silbergroschen rate to German rayon 3 from Hamburg (12 pfenninge = 1 silbergroschen). Only recorded mixed franking with this combination.

Chapter Reports

Edward Bode, Vice President, Chapters



CHICAGO CHAPTER 4

In January, chapter members in January viewed a collection of Iceland photo post cards of towns and ships. The members also viewed a collection of Danish star cancels and town cancels.

COLORADO CHAPTER 27

Don Halpern reported on NORDIA 2006, which he attended in Helsinki. He commented that there is better emphasis on youth exhibits and more enthusiasm about philately in the Nordic countries than in the United States. Members also studied censorship of mail during World War II. A holiday party featuring various Scandinavian dishes (including lutefisk) was hosted by Halpern at his home.

January featured a presentation by Greg Frantz on Spitzbergen/Svalbard philately with a selection of early 20th century covers franked with Spitzbergen stamps. Books on Spitzbergen mail are available from the SCC Library. The Norwegian government encouraged local and steamship stamps usage in Spitzbergen because it helped Norway with its claim to this archipelago. The first steamship issues for Spitzbergen paid for mail transit within Norway, but generally covers from Spitzbergen have additional Norway stamps as franking.

The annual chapter auction in February was very successful with 58 lots sold and the chapter treasury benefitting by \$145.

The chapter lost one of its earliest members when Barbara J. Anderson passed away. She previously had donated her collections to Chapter 27 and the SCC Library. Their sale in 2006 provided a solid financial basis for the chapter's treasury.

CYBER WORLD CHAPTER 28

The 49 members from three continents have viewed some Swedish postal history and have answered questions from members about color and size of stamps. To participate, contact Ed Bode at edbode@juno.com.

DELAWARE CHAPTER 13

The chapter searched for a member to coordinate the chapter auction while welcoming the New Year with a holiday party.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER 21

Members attended the Penpex show in December after going through circuit books. At the chapter's New Year's party, members saw a PowerPoint presentation of a Swedish stamp collection. The annual report noted that purchases from mart books had qualified for enough SCC discount so that almost all the return postage on the books had been saved.

MANITOBA CHAPTER 24

Chapter president John Salmi has named the chapter newsletter, "The Gnome News." John explains the title: "Gnomes are legendary creatures of small stature who are common throughout Scandinavia. They live underground and if exposed to sunlight turn to stone. They are known to hoard secret knowledge and treasure. If that doesn't sound like a stamp collector, I don't know what is."



A November meeting featured a guest speaker on airmail beyond Canada, 1929 to 1939, with a focus on the Caribbean and South America. Pan American Airways hired Charles Lindbergh and secured the U.S. postal contracts to fly all U.S. mail south. Members also took part in a hands-on experience in buying and selling stamps on the Internet. The Christmas party and auction completed activities for the year. January focused on preparation of exhibits for a forthcoming show in Toronto.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER 5

The chapter is putting together a one-frame exhibit for the Boxborough, MA exhibition in May. Members have all contributed to this frame, which is called, "Transportation of Mail: Showing Principal Methods on Stamps and Covers."

NEW YORK CHAPTER 7

The October meeting had to contend with the crash of the airplane piloted by a New York Yankees baseball player. In January, members looked over the mart books and examined a large box of 1960s and 1970s commercial mail. Members resolved to continue to provide valet long-boat parking and to request that battle axes be turned in to the helmet check-girl during meetings.

NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER 9

At the January meeting, members investigated mart books and discussed their collecting interests. A member made a presentation on the Denmark 1904/1912 4-öre overprints with attention to printing varieties and how to identify 1912 overprints from the 1904 ones.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER 15

Two members remain and meet to peruse SCC circuit books to add to their collections.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 17

Mark Lorentzen presented two single-frame exhibits at the February meeting. Members greatly appreciated the exhibits, "Price Circulars from Great Britain to Denmark 1850 to UPU" and "Letters from Denmark to old German States: the Rayon System." Members also enjoy mart books. Mart Manager Eric Roberts deserves accolades for his many years of tireless work on the circuits.

TIDEWATER VIRGINIA CHAPTER 26

George Kuhhorn presented at the January meeting on Swedish ship cancellations on Swedish ring-type stamps. Many stamps and covers illustrated his talk.

TWIN CITIES MINNESOTA CHAPTER 14

November was a donation auction, with the proceeds given to the Lynnhurst Community Center in appreciation for the use of their facilities. In December, the chapter held a Christmas party with members bringing good things to eat, although no lutefisk was to be found. The January meeting included a presentation on "Collecting Cancels on Swedish Stamps."

AUSTRALIA REPORT

Roger Byrne reports that the Australian SCC Club has taken its first steps to becoming a reality. Of the seven Aussie members of SCC, three are interested in contacting each other. Two live in New South Wales while Byrne is in South Australia. All are interested in the early stamps of Sweden. Because of the great distance between Sydney and Adelaide, contact will be by mail. It is hoped that the SCC members in Perth and Melbourne will also join us. ■

Scandinavian Area Awards

SCC member Mark Lorentzen has had an outstanding run in recent exhibitions. At Djurs 20, a Danish national show held last September, he won the Grand Award for the Championship Class with his "Across the Danish Border" exhibit. This exhibit captured the Grand Prix Nordique at NORDIA 2006 in October. He took the Grand Award at SESCAL in October in Los Angeles for his single-frame, "Price Circulars from Great Britain to Denmark 1850-UPU." This exhibit received the Reserve Grand Award in December in a single-frame competition among members of the Collectors Club of New York.

Lorentzen won the Postal History Society award and the show Grand at the Sandical Expo in San Diego in January, again for his "Across the Danish Border" that was expanded from six to eight frames. His exhibit begins in 1851 when Denmark introduced uniform postage rates and shows mail that was sent out of Denmark to other destinations. Because Denmark had only the 4 RBS stamp for such mail, covers abroad were frequently overpaid, or underpaid, or partly paid with cash. Rates were based on distance using the system of "rayons."

He had two entries in the single-frame Champion of Champions competition at the APS AmeriStamp Expo show in Riverside, CA in February. Both received a prix d'honneur: "Denmark to the Old German States: The Rayon System," and "Price Circulars from Great Britain to Denmark 1850-UPU."

Other Recent Show Awards

Also at the APS winter show in California, Alfred Kugel received a prix d'honneur with his entry of

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“Scandinavian Volunteers in Finland during the Winter War” which he wrote about in the August, 2006, *Posthorn*. In the same show in the most popular exhibit champion of champions, David Hill received a prix d’honneur for “The Iceland Flight of the Graf Zeppelin.”

At the ARIPEX show in Tucson, AZ in January, Harold E. Peter received a gold, the APS pre-1900 medal of excellence, and the SCC Paul Jensen award for Scandinavian postal history for his “Fieldpost Schleswig-Holstein/Denmark Wars 1848-1851 and 1852 Occupation, 1864 War and 1865-1866 Occupation.” Paul Nelson won a silver and two special awards for his “Scandinavian Revenues in Three Dimensions” (see special mention on this page).

At Chicagopex in November, Harold E. Peter won a gold, the Herman L. Halle award for best German exhibit research, and the best military postal history award for his “Fieldpost Schleswig-Holstein in the Denmark Wars 1848-51, Occupation 1852, 1864, and 1865-66.” In the literature section of Chicagopex, Bjorn Kristian Wang won a gold for *The Revenue Stamps of Norway and Related Non-Fiscal Issues*; a vermeil went to *The Posthorn*; and Peter M. Jangaard took a bronze for *Mail Censorship and Postal History 1935-1948*.

Roger Quinby won a vermeil and the UPSS Marcus White award for “The Russian Type Penni Postal Cards of the Grand Duchy of Finland 1901-1911” at Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose, CA, in October. Alan Warren received a silver and the AFDCS award at the FLOREX show in Orlando in December for his “Denmark: The Christian X Issues of the 1940s on First Day Covers.”

The River City show last August in Brisbane, Australia, was devoted to single-frame exhibits. This is still an experimental class without the familiar medal levels; prizes are designated diamond, ruby, emerald, sapphire, and topaz. Hans von Strokirch received a ruby for his “Danish West Indies: Private Ship Letters.” ■

– Alan Warren

Exhibiting Revenue Stamps in 3-D

Past SCC president Paul Nelson has an unusual Scandinavian exhibit that he has shown at national exhibitions where he is able to drive to the show. The reason is that the material is not on typical exhibit pages but consists of three-dimensional objects that need to be displayed in a special case that he also transports to the show site.

Nelson collects revenue stamps of the Nordic countries. Most revenue collectors seek such material on government obligations such as stock certificates, deeds, licenses, checks, bonds, and similar documents. The challenge for those exhibitors is to arrange these, often oversized, 2-dimensional materials in the exhibit frames.

However, Nelson has taken this challenge to an even higher level by exhibiting three-dimensional objects bearing revenue stamps. Items bearing revenue stamps include playing card boxes, cigarette packages, beverage containers for beer, wine, or liquor, phonograph records and other objects. To display these objects, he adapted a special frame similar to the A-type frame but with shelves instead of mounting boards.

At the recent ARIPEX show in Tucson in January, Nelson was awarded a silver for his exhibit. More importantly, he also garnered the Creativity Award of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and the best revenue exhibit award of the American Revenue Association. A couple other national exhibitors have used similar techniques, one of whom shows United States Revenues on objects, and another exhibit with wartime V-mail containers that carried original film for such mail along with a two-dimensional exhibit of V-mail.

– Alan Warren

Prices Realized – SCC Library Auction #9 (Closing Date February 16, 2007) — #1 = \$6.50, #2 = \$7, #3 = \$16, #4 = \$27, #5 = \$24, #6 = \$32, #7 = \$5, #8 = \$4.50, #9 = \$1, #10 = \$10, #11 = \$10, #12 = \$13, #13 = \$10, and #14 = \$19. Summary: all 14 lots in this auction sold, with realizations totaling \$185 against cumulative starting bids of \$139.

Transfers and Re-Entries

By Alan Warren

The late **Paul H. Jensen**, a noted Norwegian philatelist, has been inducted into the American Philatelic Society's Hall of Fame. Jensen, who died in 2004, was a founder of the Norwegian Postal History Society and served as its president from 1977-1991. He was president of the Norwegian Philatelic Federation from 1981-1987, the FIP Postal History Commission from 1987-1996, and received numerous national and international honors for his service to the hobby.

Past SCC president **Paul Nelson** was the featured speaker on November 12 at the Postal History Foundation in Tucson AZ. He talked about Norway's history as seen through its postage stamps. He also spoke about the pending publication of a new Norwegian revenue stamp catalog.

Søren Rose has resigned after seven years as philatelic manager of Post Greenland and been succeeded by **Pertti Frandsen**. Frandsen joined Post Greenland in 1997 and has been deputy manager and head of administration and logistics in the philatelic department in Tasiilaq since 2000.

For many years Denmark has honored outstanding individuals in the field of philately with the Robert Bechsgaard Memorial Cup. This award is now administered by the Danske Filatelisters Fællesfond and consists of a small stamp box and a check in the amount of DKK 10,000. The 2006 grant winner was **Hans Jørgen Høy**, who was honored for his specialized study collections, his work with the Århus Philatelist Klub and the Danish Philatelic Federation.

Tore Gjelsvik, the Norwegian author best known for his two editions on Norway's No. 1 and the Oscar skilling issues, has published privately a booklet that lists his technical (vocational) publications and his extensive list of philatelic articles and books. The booklet runs 48 pages with more than one-half of the entries devoted to his philatelic works. A limited number of copies of the booklet are available from Tore Gjelsvik, Ranheimsliv 29, 7054 Ranheim, Norway.

Knut Knutzen steps down as president of the Oslofilatelistklubb (OFK) and is replaced by **Bjørn Mugerud**. Mugerud has long been active in organized philately of Norway and served on the editorial committee of *Norgeskatalogen*, published by OFK. He also is president of the Norwegian War and Field Post Society and a member of *The Posthorn* Editorial Board.

A new editor took over the Swedish Philatelic Federation's journal *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift (SFT)* in January. **Bo Grendal** is editor of another Swedish journal *Skillingstrycket*. Grendal replaces **Gösta Karlsson** as *SFT*'s editor.

The Scandinavia Philatelic Society of Great Britain has distributed a 52-page listing of the holdings of the society's library to its members. Information about the society can be obtained from Secretary **Brian Hague**, 5 Westminster Gate, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4LN, United Kingdom, or e-mail him at secretary@scandps.org.uk.

Torben Lethrabort joins **Ib Krarup Rasmussen** as co-editor of the Danish Philatelic Federation's journal, *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. Lethrabort has been active in youth philately and formerly edited the youth pages in the magazine. Issue 5/2006 of the Norwegian journal *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* reports that **Arvid Jørgensen** received this year's Richter Prize. The fund was established by the late Jed Richter, a past president of SCC. Jørgensen was recognized for his new book *De postede i Troms*.

Noted Iceland philatelist **Jón Aðalsteinn Jónsson** died July 29, 2006, at the age of 86. He was best known as the author of the popular book *One Hundred Years of Icelandic Stamps*, published in both Icelandic and English. Jónsson collected and exhibited the bicolor issues of Denmark 1870-1905 and served as a NORDIA judge and commissioner. ■

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SCC Chapter Meeting & Contacts

1. SEATTLE/NW: inactive

4. CHICAGO: 4th Thursday of January-June and September, October; 1st Thursday of December, 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 Wednesday 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: Mats Roing, (781) 424-2183; 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; email: matsroing@yahoo.com.

7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wednesday (except July & August) 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 Wednesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156, email: warren@Derma-Safe.com.

11. REYKJAVÍK: inactive

12. WASHINGTON DC: CONTACT: Peter Alten, 9300 Main St., Manassas, VA 22110.

13. DELAWARE: Last Tuesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Alan Warren, alanwar@att.net.

14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thursday (except July & August) 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: semi-active

17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wednesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or email: gerjer@sbcglobal.net.

21. GOLDEN GATE: 1st Saturday, 11 a.m., at members' homes and at various shows (WESTPEX, COALPEX, PENPEX, etc.). CONTACT: Herb Volin, (510) 522-3242, HRVolin@aol.com.

22. HOUSTON: inactive

23. PAULSON-SEAMAN [Southeast Florida]: inactive

24. MANITOBA: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays September through May 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: inactive

26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Saturday, 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 Saturday September-June, 10 a.m., at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. CONTACT: Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80305-7233, email: rcichorz@comcast.net.

28. CYBER: Members connected by email to exchange ideas & scans, plus an electronic newsletter. CONTACT: Edward L. Bode, email: edbode@juno.com.

AUSTRALIAN COORDINATOR: Roger Byrne, email: byrnefam@internode.on.net

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

SCC Website: www.scc-online.org

Elected Officers

President: Mats Roing, 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; matsroing@yahoo.com

Vice President: Herbert R. Volin, 2726 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2750; HRVolin@aol.com

Vice President, Chapters: Edward L. Bode, 829 Western Air Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109; edbode@juno.com

Secretary: Donald Halpern, 980 Sage St., Broomfield, CO 80020-1791; don2halpern@yahoo.com

Interim Treasurer: Mats Roing, 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; matsroing@yahoo.com

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

Directors: Kauko Aro, 325 Riverwood Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117; kiaro@adelphia.net

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

Appointed Officers

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

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

Membership Chairman: George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com

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

Sweden Ring: George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; geokuhh@starfishnet.com

Finnish Study Group: Roger Quinby, 12425 Dancliff Trace, Alpharetta, GA 30004; rpquinby@aol.com

Danish Wavy Line: Donald B. Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022; dbrent47@sprynet.com

Scandinavian Revenues: Paul Nelson, Tucson, AZ; pnels@att.net

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke



Germeten, November, 24-25, 2006

Almost 1,500 lots went under the hammer with more than 400 of them foreign. Superbly canceled skilling issues proved to be in great demand. The most expensive was an 8-sk. Oscar (Lot #1219) with a Kvindherred cancel that sold for \$5,700 against the starting price of \$1,000. A rare letter sent to Mexico in 1883 bearing a total franking of 38 øre (#1369) sold for \$5,700. An unusual First Day Cover with the 1937 air mail stamp (#1705) sold for \$9,600, more than twice the estimate.

In the section with small lots and collections, one lot in particular was impressive and the description, "Some old Norwegian stamps in an album" did not shed much light on what it contained. Estimated at about \$300, the collection sold for \$16,800, including commission.



From Norway to Mexico for 38 øre (Lot 1369).

Thomas Høiland Auction, November, 1-4, 2006

Nearly 5,300 lots were offered over four days with the Scandinavian section representing nearly 2,400 single lots and 900 small lots, collections, and boxes. The entire auction brought in some \$4,800,000, including commission, according to Høiland's announcement. This largely was due to a Swedish section of skilling banco and other early issues with estimated starting prices of \$1,120,000 that was almost tripled with \$3,200,000 realized.

In the Denmark section, a rare pair of 2-rigsbank skilling Thiele printing on cover to Flensburg, the only known to the Duchy of Slesvig (#129), sold for 10 percent below the estimate of \$14,500, a bargain price. The most expensive DWI item (#1695) was the used, 4-cent, 1872 block of eight that went for \$15,300, just below the estimate; it previously had sold for nearly \$30,000. A large collection of mint and used Danish stamps in 10 volumes (#2695) sold for \$60,000, starting at \$21,500. A specialized collection of the Norwegian posthorn issues (#3444) sold for more than four times the estimate and a total of \$27,000.



Rare cover sells below estimate (Lot 129).

Frimærkskompaniet, LTE, November, 25-26, 2006

The auction was made up of 3,600 lots, of which nearly 2,000 were Swedish and another 800 from elsewhere in Scandinavia. The most expensive Sweden lot was a specialized Swedish collection (#1547) in six volumes estimated at \$12,400 and selling for \$22,000. A rare, 6-öre bluish-lilac stamp described as perhaps unique (Sweden *Facit* 31h) sold for \$5,000 against the estimate of \$650. Some of the more expensive letters all sold for their estimates of around \$5,000, such as Lot #69, a letter with 4-sk and 6-sk banco to Finland via Haparanda.



Rarity auctioned for \$5,000.

Frimärkshuset Skandinavisk Filateli, December 9, 2006

Almost 1,600 Sweden lots were in this sale, including hundreds being Swedish coins, medals, notes and stocks. A very attractive copy of the 8-sk. banco unused without gum (*Facit* Sweden 4f) sold for \$12,400 against the estimate of \$4,100. A lovely canceled 5-kr Official stamp (*Facit* Sweden TJ39), sold for more than 20 times the estimate of \$110 and the buyer had to pay \$2,500 for the stamp; but beautiful it is.



Sells for 20 times estimate.

Bruun Rasmussen Acquires Jan Holding Auctions

Bruun Rasmussen Auctioneers of Bredgade, Denmark, has completed the acquisition of Jan Holding Auctions and established a foothold in the auction of stamps and postcards. Holding, 49, who has operated his auction company in Frederiksberg for the past 10 years, has joined Bruun Rasmussen as part of the sale and will lead the newly established department of stamps and postcards. Holding said he plans to increase his efforts "to create stamp auctions that are clearly focused on the international market." ■

Top Norwegian Honor Goes to Frederick Brofos



Frederick A. Brofos was presented with Norway's highest philatelic honor, the Anderssen-Dethloff Medal, in December, 2006. The award bestowed by the Oslo Filatelistklubb (OFK) has been awarded only 26 times since its inception in 1944 and presented only every five years. Brofos was honored for his life-long study and reporting of Norwegian philately.

Brofos has authored hundreds of articles in many different journals. Two large volumes of many of his collected articles can be found at www.scc-online.org, or through the SCC Library.

He has written significant monographs on postmarking machines and the local posts of Norway, as well as the railway and steamship carrier stamps of Norway. He has provided expertise to many other authors working on Norwegian philatelic and postal history publications. Brofos has served SCC as librarian, secretary, and editor of *The Posthorn*, and has been a member of SCC for 60 years.

Norway's award is named for Justus Anderssen (1867-1938) and Henrik Dethloff (1867-1925), both of whom were instrumental in the publication of the early Norwegian handbooks. ■

— Alan Warren

Work Underway on New GF Catalog

Members of the Faroes Islands Study Circle (FISC) are working with Høiland Auctions of Denmark to produce a new edition of the GF10 series of catalogs on Faroese stamps and postal history. No new catalog has been produced since 1999 and there have been a number of changes to the postal services within the Faroes. Research on earlier periods has unearthed new facts or suggested re-interpretation of earlier material, w said Brian Hague, chairman of FISC.

The new edition, which will have English and Danish text, is expected to be published in autumn, 2007. Groups of volunteers from the FISC membership are working on revising and updating various sections of the catalog. Høiland holds to the copyright to the *GF* series, as well as to the former *Daka* and *Skilling* line of publications.

Further information on the FISC is available at www.faroesislandsesc.org or by contacting Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 8BY, United Kingdom; email, jntropics@hotmail.com. ■

Scandinavian Collectors Club Statement of Assets 12/31/06

	2006	2005
Citizens Checking	\$7,103.21	\$6,046.25
Citizens Checking Restricted (Stamp-Mart Transit Loss Fund)	\$417.00	-
Citizens Money Market	\$17,717.43	\$17,758.15
Countrywide CD	\$38,201.14	\$36,643.58
California Credit Union Savings	\$115.06	\$113.91
California Credit Union Checking	\$10,053.90	\$11,174.11
Stamp Mart, net worth	\$5,856.28	\$5,340.02
Capital Adjustments	\$(211.82)	\$(212.56)
Total Assets	\$79,252.20	\$76,863.46
Net change	\$2,388.74	\$783.68

SCC Operating Statement 2006

Income	2006 Detail
Membership Dues	\$13,218.74
Donations	\$1,003.00
Interest	\$1,724.14
Posthorn advertising	\$6,724.00
Stamp-Mart Net Worth Increase	\$507.50
Stamp-Mart Transit Insurance Premiums	\$417.00
Miscellaneous	\$40.00
Total Income	\$23,634.38
Expenses	
<u>Posthorn</u>	
Editor Stipend	\$1,500.00
Production Editor Stipend	\$1,750.00
Business Manager Stipend	\$250.00
Printing	\$10,432.00
Domestic mailing	\$1,000.00
Foreign mailing	\$2,287.70
Executive Secretary stipend	\$1,500.00
Annual Donation Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library	\$500.00
Awards	\$543.70
Membership Postage and Supplies	\$913.70
Bank fees and discounts	\$460.50
Promotion Postage and Supplies	\$108.04
Total Expenses	\$21,245.64
Net change in Funds	\$2,388.74

Canadian Stamp Mart

By Roger Fontaine

The Canadian Stamp Mart is alive and doing well. The Canadian mart was created in 1996 by the late Glenn Hanson and me with help and encouragement from the members of SCC in Chapter 24, Manitoba. At that time, the Canadian government introduced a new taxation system called the "Goods and Services Tax" (GST). This tax system is based on the transactional value of various goods and services. Inadvertently, it



killed most approval-based sales from outside the country. Tax had to be paid at the border on the full value of the shipment. A refund would then have to be applied for upon export minus the tax owed on the value of the stamps that were purchased. Needless to say, we had a problem. Hence, we created the Canadian version of the Stamp Mart that is well known to members in the U.S.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the Canadian Mart has handled some 350 different circuit books with about 65 books now on hand. That's well over \$10,000 in stamps to pick from. Over the years, I've seen books with material from every area of Scandinavia and then some. I had never heard of Karelia until I had a circuit book of Finland with three pages of stamps from this area. I've handled an entire 16-page book with nothing but mint and used stamps from the Slesvig plebiscites.

More Growth Projected

Mint and used – from early classic to new releases – it's all here. The circuit system has grown to become, without a doubt, Canada's best Scandinavian Stamp Circuit System. SCC Canada boasts about 45 members, many of whom either submit or receive mart books. Our sales average more than \$2,700 annually, and I can only project more growth.

U.S. or overseas members can have access to the books too, but only if they are in Canada. So plan your trip accordingly. We can meet here in Winnipeg, or I can mail the books to your address while you are in Canada. I cannot ship the books out of country for the very same reasons that we don't import the books — too much bureaucracy, plus we are not here to compete with the U.S. circuit system but rather to complement a service and make it available to Canadian members of SCC.

A complete list of mart books on hand and other information is available by contacting the mart manager, Roger Fontaine, at 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R2J 1H9; telephone, 204-245-4900; email, stampman@mts.net. ■

Early Customs House Seals of Denmark

Claus Rafner of Copenhagen has been commissioned to write one in a series of books about Danish tax history for the Told-og Skattemuseum (Customs and Tax History Organization) in Denmark. His manuscript, which includes the period when stamped revenue paper was first introduced in Denmark, was originally too large to be accepted. However, he has published a well-illustrated, 17-page abstract of the manuscript in *ZISE*, a journal of this organization.*

Rafner's new book, Volume 4 in the series, is entitled *Enevælde og skattefinansieret stat 1660-1818* and is expected to be available in 2007. It will cost DKK 348 for non-members, plus postage. Prepublication orders are encouraged so that a sufficient quantity is printed.

Rafner made many tracings from these seals, which he found in Riksarkivet, the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen. Shown here (from the cover of *ZISE*) are a few of these ornate seals that were used to validate customs and tax documents from that period. They also are occasionally found on stampless letters from the period to indicate that no postage was to be charged for that mailed item. This was well before postage stamps were introduced in Denmark, of course.

For further information (in Danish) about the organization and to order copies of *ZISE* check <http://www.zise.dk/zise.shtml>. ■

— Paul Nelson, *Scandinavian Revenues Study Group*

Endnote

* "Embedsseglene inden for told-og skattevæsenet ca. 1650-1750," *ZISE*, Vol. 29, No.2, 2006.



SCC Library Net-Price Clearance Sale

The SCC Library is conducting a net-price clearance sale of remaining unsold lots from previous auctions #1 through #8. Lots are priced at their original minimum bids, and duplicates of lots that previously sold are priced at their auction realizations in order not to penalize the auction buyers. The estimated market value (EMV) or current market value (CMV) from dealers' price lists is included in the description. In most instances, only one item remains for sale.

Do not send payment with your order; you will be invoiced the cost of the items plus postage and packing. Orders are on a first-come, first-served basis and will be accepted by mail, telephone, or email to Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80305-7233, 303-494-8361, rcichorz@comcast.net.

Item Numbers and Descriptions:

1. **Denmark:** HAFNIA 76 Packet #1 comprises reprint 16-page postal history booklet, reproductions (two with wax seals) of four 1808 letters (with additional printed Danish text and English translation), and presentation sheet of Danish commemoratives cancelled 10/9/74. EMV = \$30, **Net Price = \$10.**
2. **Denmark:** *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift (Postal History Journal)*, in Danish, eight 1981-82 issues (complete), in library hardback binding, and six loose staple-bound issues (1977 #3, 1979 #3, and 1984 #1-4 complete), 432 pages of text. Well-researched and illustrated articles about Danish postal history, ranging across pre-philately, classic stamps, WWII, and into the 1960s. EMV = \$28, **Net Price = \$3.50.**
3. **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, Copenhagen, 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, **Net Price = \$30.**
4. **Greenland:** 11 different unused postcards, published by Grønlands Postvæsen 1985-88, six depicting native birds, pristine condition. EMV = \$5, **Net Price = \$4.**
5. **Norway:** *Norsk eksilpost, 1940-1945*, by Karl U. Sanne, in Norwegian, Norsk Filatelistforbund, 1981, 139 pages, softbound, illustrated, excellent condition. Authoritative postal history presentation of postal services created to serve Norwegians in exile during WWII. CMV = \$22, **Net Price = \$6.**
6. **Norway:** *The Stamps of Norway: Part I. A Contribution Towards the Study of the Issues of 1877-78 (Shaded Posthorn)*, by Justus Anderssen, and *Part II, The Stamps of Norway 1894-1900 Issues*, by Justus Anderssen and Gunnar Kjos, English translation by Benjamin Goodfellow, *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* Series of Studies in Philately, 1923, 37 pages (8.5x11-inch loose-leaf photocopy pages, including four plates of illustrations). Two excellent monographs on these Norwegian stamp issues. EMV = \$4, **Net Price = \$1.**
7. **Norway:** *Filatelistisk Årbok 1989*, in Norwegian, 26 articles, including Hammerfest, pictorial/topical postmarks, "M/K Mulegga," Tromsø-Svalbard airmail covers, polar philately, ship mail, Amundsen, Bouvet Ova, Trygve Sommerfeldt's library index (in English), and catalog of franking machine/meter imprints. CMV = \$14, **Net Price = \$3.**
8. **Sweden:** *Postryttaren - Postmusei Årsbok 1972*, in Swedish, 266 pages, profusely illustrated, 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, **Net Price = \$6.**
9. **Sweden:** *Svensk Losen/Swedish Postage Dues*, by Curt Haij, in Swedish, Special Handbook #1 by Sveriges Filatelist-Forbund, 1973, 51 pages, staple-bound paperback, good condition. Well-illustrated monograph on various aspects of Swedish postage-due history, postal markings, handstamps, and labels, but not regular postage due stamps themselves. CMV = \$16, **Net Price = \$4.**
10. **Sweden:** *En Studie av de Svenska Lösenstämplarna 1843-1874*, by Ulf Ivarsson, in Swedish, Special Handbook #4 by Sveriges Filatelist-Forbund, 1974, 136 pages, softbound, good condition. Well-illustrated monograph on Swedish postal rates, postal markings, and handstamps of Sweden covers addressed to foreign countries. EMV = \$30, **Net Price = \$7.**
11. **Sweden:** *Handbok över Svenska Tillfällighetspostämplarna 1866-1942 (Handbook of Swedish Commemorative Postmarks)*, by H. Schultz-Steinheil, in Swedish, Sveriges Filatelist Förening, Stockholm, 1943, 90 pages, illustrated, hardback, good condition. Revised 1943 edition of the first major handbook for Swedish post-marks, with six tables that classify and list 215 illustrated postmarks by jubilees and congresses, exhibitions and fairs, sporting events, marine expeditions, first flights, and temporary and mobile post offices; highly collectible, usable reference. EMV = \$40, **Net Price = \$10. ■**

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Book Reviews

Key 19th Century Post Office in Norway Examined

The Nordland Post Office on Land and at Sea by Tore Gjelsvik. 6¾x9¾ inches, casebound, in English, self-published 2005. Available from the author for approximately \$85 and shipped via surface mail, Tore Gjelsvik, Ranheimsliv. 29, 7054 Ranheim, Norway.

Tore Gjelsvik's contributions to the philatelic literature of Norway are extensive and of high quality. His previous contributions focused on Norway No. 1 and the skilling Oscar stamps.

Now he turns to an in-depth study of a key office in northern Norway and its activities in the 1850s and 1860s. He draws on the earlier work of others but provides many missing pieces to this updated story.

The Nordland post office was established in 1805 in the Bin Valley and served as a control center for mail moving between north and south Norway. As background, the author first describes the main postal routes in Norway in the 17th and 18th centuries. The first circular datestamp at Nordland was introduced in 1848. This and six subsequent types are illustrated. Gjelsvik details the services of the Nordland post office over the years and mentions the postmasters.

In addition to being a land post office, Nordland was also key to the handling of maritime mail. The author illustrates and describes the steamers that plied the Norwegian coast and he provides tables of their sailings. Seven types of CDS were used onboard ships. Each type of CDS canceller is identified with specific vessels and their various trips. The discussions of ship's mail are quite detailed. Illustrations of manuscript and handstamp markings such as ships' names are nicely shown.

The Nordland post office was moved to Namsos in 1866 and assumed that name. However, it continued to handle ship mail during 1867-1868 when it was closed (1868).

The illustrations are excellent, whether they are old black and white prints of people and ships, or images of stamps and covers in full color. An extensive bibliography and a subject index provide useful tools. This is the definitive work on the subject and the author's fondness for his subject leaps from every page.

– Alan Warren

The Revenue Stamps of Norway

By Paul Nelson *

This new publication, available on CD and in hard-copy formats, is the result of several years of study and research by Bjørn Kristian Wang and a strong team of participating collectors in several countries.

Wang, a specialist in Norwegian philately, builds upon the research and publications of Thomle, Røsholm, Hannevig, Soot-Ryen, Brofos, Nelson, and Aune. About 50 collaborators are credited; many of the stamps described in this new work were first seen when these generous people shared their collections for study.

The CD contains true color scans of most of the stamps that are described; the length of the book if printed is 1,090 pages! The decision to provide this information on CD was made for the obvious cost reasons; a black and white hard copy includes a CD so that a desk reference can be used with the computer for



more information. The scope of this work does not include stamped revenue paper nor tobacco tax stamps. Further study and research need to be done on these areas.

A new catalog numbering system was developed, based upon Soot-Ryen's system for the fee, adjustment, and documentary stamps; and upon the Brofos-Nelson numbers for other previously documented Norwegian revenues. Each listing has cross references to previous catalog numbers.

Norway does not use any revenue or tax-paid stamps at this time. So, the years from 1873 through 1988 fully encompass the project. However, the team expects that new discoveries will come to light as this book comes into use by collectors. Updates and correction of the inevitable errata will be provided.

The text is in English, with a small Norwegian-English translation overview, and there is a well-illustrated glossary of terms to assist understanding some of the more technical philatelic terms.

An order blank is available by email from bjornwang@msn.com or by post from him at 491 Lyndhurst Drive, North Salt Lake City, Utah 84054. The CD costs \$30; the black and white hard copy, \$60 (including the CD); and a full color hard copy can be made by special arrangement with the author. These prices include domestic postage; overseas shipping is extra, and dealer quantity discounts are available.

(* Paul Nelson is coordinator of the Scandinavian Revenue Study Group and was an editor of this publication.)

World War I Internees and POWS in Norway

Prisoners of War and Internees in Norway in World War I 1914-1919 by John Thiesen. 8x11½ inches, card covers, 120 pages, perfect bound, War and Philabooks Ltd, Oslo, Norway 2006. ISBN-10: 82-92826-00-9, \$55 postpaid by air from War and Philabooks Ltd., Gydas v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway.

Although the Scandinavian countries were neutral in World War I, Norway lost one-half its fleet and more than 2,000 seamen due to German submarine activity. The author examines the mail to and from POWs and internees that resided in camps in Norway. These people ended up in Norway due to several specific incidents.

The German auxiliary cruiser SMH "Berlin" entered the Trondheim fjord in November, 1914, where the ship and its crew were interned. In August, 1915, the British auxiliary cruiser HMS "India" was torpedoed off the coast of Norway and the survivors were interned. The German naval airship "L 20" crash-landed in Norway in May, 1916, and the crew was interned.

In 1917-1918 semi-invalid (sick and wounded) POWs from Russia, Germany, and Austro-Hungary were transferred to Norway. Twelve crew members of the British trawler "Lord Alverstone" were interned in 1917; and lastly there was a little-known camp in Harstad where Finnish soldiers were interned.

After providing some statistics on the vessels mentioned above and some details about the semi-invalid POWs transferred to Norway, the author launches into a study of the postal history of camp mail. He first examines the types of mail (letters, post cards, parcels, insured, registered, stationery including cards and envelopes) and then the markings or handstamps found on much of this mail.

The censorship devices are illustrated and described, including adhesive labels, sealing tapes, handstamps, and one manuscript marking. There were 23 camps in Norway that are listed along with some details about how mail was handled at each location.

Many pieces of mail are shown that reveal specific marks used at the camps. There are quite a few picture post cards of the cruiser "Berlin" and photo cards of interned crew members. For each camp there is an indication of the number of censored pieces of mail from and to the camp, any special markings, and various types of stationery or picture post cards known. There is some discussion for each location that includes any unusual events that took place and their dates.

There is a chapter that describes the role of relief organizations such as the Red Cross, the Central

Bank of Norway for conveying funds to internees, and private organizations with examples of their forms. Several appendices list the crew members of the vessels cited above. There are lists of sick and wounded internees with an indication concerning known mail to these men. A bibliography concludes the book.

With so much literature available on the Second World War, it is nice to have this study of WW I censored mail. ■

– Alan Warren

Pre-Printed Paper Folds on Sweden Rings

By George Kuhhorn, Coordinator, Sweden Ring Study Group

A pre-printed paper fold is a condition that can be found on any stamp. What the collector should look for are stamps that appear to be creased. Normally, a creased stamp has little or no value and is discarded. A stamp with a pre-printed paper fold is a little different. The way to tell the difference is that the pre-printed paper fold has a skip or a small white area where the ink did not adhere (the area beneath the fold).

When looking at a Swedish auction catalog some years ago, I noted that these are collectable and bring a premium. They have been overlooked for many years.

Members might take a look at their Sweden ring-type stamps and share descriptions of any of your stamps with this condition. Currently I have 22 “rings” with this condition. There are 14 perf. 14s; 5 perf. 13s; and 3 perf. 13s with posthorn on the back. The most interesting is a 12-öre provisional (*Facit* Sweden 50). The pre-printed paper fold occurred prior to the overprint. The white line appears only on the overprint and not on the blue ink of the original stamp. It would be nice to hear of anyone else collecting these.



Contact me at PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; email, geokuhh@starfishnet.com. ■

SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

2007

NAPEX (SCC National Meeting), June 1-3, Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner, McLean, VA. Contact Mats Roing, SCC President, and www.napex.org.

2008

CHICAGOPEX (SCC National Meeting), November 21-23; www.chicagopex.com.

NORDIA 2008, October 23-26, Stavanger, Norway.

2009

St. Louis Stamp Expo (SCC National Meeting), February 27-March 1; www.stlstampexpo.org.

2010

WESTPEX (SCC National Meeting), April 23-25, San Francisco area; www.westpex.com.

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Kiloware Reveals Danish Postal Fraud

By Jeff Mondesitt

Part of being a stamp collector is expecting the unexpected. It may come in the form of a ratty cover that has been passed over for years and demoted to the dollar box at a local bourse, only to be spotted by an expert as a rare printing of an otherwise common stamp, or from first seeing a beautiful new issue that takes you back to some fond memory. Variety is the spice of philately.

My unexpected find came from a package of Danish kiloware that I purchased at an annual fund-raising auction conducted by SCC Chapter 27 in Colorado. My interest was stirred because the packet contained several high value blocks of the Danish “lille Rigsvåben” issue, including the 25-kroner green (AFA 402, 402F).

More important to me than the stamps, however, was the fact that all the material in this package was from a Danish Post program that allowed postal patrons to return older, unused postage in exchange for current values. I thought one or two of the “sheets” might make an interesting postal history display. That turned out to be true, but not as anticipated.

Defrauding the Exchange Program

The Danish postal compensation program allows those who hold unused postage or postal stationery to return unwanted items to the post office and receive 95 percent of the face value. Stamps cannot be returned for cash, only exchanged for current issues. Surcharges for “beneficial” (health or charity) stamps are not compensated. Exchanges can be made at any post office with the returned material typically sold by the Danish Post as kiloware. The 25-kroner block pictured here is one such return.

A closer inspection of this block, however, revealed something quite startling. What initially appears to be twenty-five, 25-kroner stamps turns out to be a classic example of fraud.

Because this stamp was issued in two paper types with significantly different values — one with phosphor and the original printing on plain paper — I first checked the stamps to determine the paper variety with a long-wave UV light. Much to my surprise, I saw a patchwork of bright yellows interspersed with dull gray-white on each stamp. Under a magnifying glass, it was discernable that an enterprising crook had very carefully sliced portions of 25-kroner stamps that did not show postmarks and meticulously patched them together to form a block of seemingly unused stamps — an effort that is not readily apparent to the naked eye of even a not-so-casual viewer.

Obviously, the effort paid off as the submitter received about \$100 in negotiable stamps for this bogus block of stamps, which was then canceled and ultimately sold for kiloware. The two individual



Sheet as it appears to the naked eye.

stamps shown here illustrate how carefully the splices were made. Even enlarged images fail to make the fraud evident.

Questions for Post Danmark

Here, indeed, was an interesting twist for my postal history display. Was this a common fraud practice? Was the Danish Post even aware of the problem? To find the answers to these questions, emails were sent to both the postal authorities and to Erik Jensen, deputy chief and senior curator of the Post and Telegraph Museum in Copenhagen. Once he saw pictures of the block verifying its fraudulent nature, Jensen reported the scam to the Danish Post and requested information, on my behalf, about their stamp compensation policies, record-keeping, and frequency of this kind of scam.

After several months, postal authorities reported back to Mr. Jensen that they were aware of this scam. Because detailed return records are kept for a period of time, it was easy to track down the culprit once the fake blocks were spotted. According to the report made to Mr. Jensen, the scam was “an old one...from the 1970’s. The post office tried to capture all the forms with the manipulated stamps but some of them were never found. The person responsible for this was arrested very quickly since his name and address appeared from each of the forms, and he was later sentenced to prison for a period.” Ouch!

Jensen acknowledges that the information was difficult to obtain and he was told that nothing was kept in the archives.

While the records may be swept from the official records, there is still the sheet of 25-kroner stamps adding interest to the album page. There also is the tantalizing knowledge that the postmark on the fraudulent sheet dates its acceptance for exchange at the Århus post office during November, 1992. ■

Acknowledgements: I cannot thank Erik Jensen enough for his persistence on my behalf. Appreciation also to Roger Ryberg who suggested a successful method of photographing the block of stamps so that the fluorescence was displayed.



A close-up under UV light.



Two of many stamps that were pieced together.

Joint Issue Aimed at 160,000 Collectors

By Paul Albright

Eleven small postal administrations, including four in Scandinavia, are hoping to attract 160,000 collectors to purchase the first joint issue from SEPAC, a consortium that will begin issuing stamps in October. Greenland, Iceland, The Faroes, and Åland are active in the Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation.* Svanbjörg Manai of Faroes Post chaired SEPAC in 2006 and Anita Häggblom, philatelic manager at Åland Post Stamps, is chairing the group in 2007.

Ms. Häggblom said the first joint issue is expected to interest 160,000 collectors and provide a boost to the customer base of the small postal administrations. A mock-up of the first SEPAC folder showing pictures of the various stamps will be unveiled on May 3 at an exhibition in Essen, Germany.

“Exactly like everybody else in this business, even the small postal administrations are today experiencing a decline in interest in stamp collecting,” she said in response to inquiries from *The Posthorn*. “We are probably more vulnerable in this situation than the larger European postal administrations.”

Hope for Increased Collector Interest

The SEPAC issue, with its theme of scenery and nature, is aimed at reaching new collectors, especially in Europe. “First and

foremost, we cater to a circle of customers within Europe, but we are convinced that our information reaches collectors in more than 100 countries in the world,” she said.

While Ms. Häggblom would not speculate on how many new collectors might “discover” the smaller countries, “We are hoping for considerable interest.”

The SEPAC issues will be biennial with each member free to interpret the theme as it wishes, as is done with the Europa series. The SEPAC stamps are to be valid for first weight postage within Europe and have the SEPAC logo printed on them. New SEPAC issues will follow in 2009 and 2011.

One criterion for membership in SEPAC is that the postal administration must have more than 50 percent of its philatelic customers living outside its own country. While many administrations keep the number and location of their customers confidential, Ms. Häggblom did say, “The number of collectors living outside each of our countries varies from 50 percent to 99.5 percent.”

The small European posts have been cooperating since 1994. In addition to the four participants in Scandinavia, others issuing SEPAC stamps October 1 will be Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Malta, and Monaco. San Marino is a twelfth member but will not take part in 2007. “We know for certain that several other postal administrations are interested in joining the SEPAC cooperation,” Ms. Häggblom added. ■

Endnote

* See “Small Countries Enlist for Joint Issues,” *The Posthorn*, November, 2006, pp. 34.



Officials of small postal administrations met in Brussels, Belgium, last November to map plans for the first SEPAC joint issue. The group included Anita Häggblom from Åland (far left, front row), Svanbjörg Manai from the Faroe Islands (third from right, front row), Vilhjalmur Sigurdsson from Iceland (second from right, second row), Pertti Frandsen from Greenland (second from right, second row), and Søren Rose from Greenland (far right, front row). Others in the photo were from Liechtenstein, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, Monaco, Malta, and Gibraltar.

Scandinavia and the Hanseatic League

By Dick Harrison

Professor of History, Lund University, Sweden

Although few Scandinavians react when it is mentioned today, the Hanseatic League was once a very controversial topic. In the 14th, 15th, and 16th Centuries, the League was deeply involved in Scandinavian economy and politics, even to the extent of waging war against the kingdoms of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. In those days, the very thought of celebrating the League with jubilee stamps would have been perceived as incomprehensible, or even treasonous.

Originally, the Old German word *hansa* simply meant “a group of merchants doing business abroad.” The specific groups of hansas that evolved into the Hanseatic League developed in the 12th Century. Germans from both the Rhineland and the southern Baltic coast began to trade in England and Flanders in the west and in Russia and the Baltic area in the east. The League served as both a means of protection and a social fraternity, not unlike that of other medieval guilds, but on a much larger scale.

While the Italian merchants of the Mediterranean prospered due to the buying and selling of expensive items from far away, such as spices and silk, the German merchants of the Baltic and the North Sea grew rich by trading with cheap, ordinary items. They bought cod in Norway, wool in England, cloth in Flanders, herring in Scania, iron and copper in mid-Sweden, hides in Finland, wood, furs and tar in Russia, beer and

salt in Germany, and so on. The key to their success was quantity.

In their big vessels, the cogs, they could transport large quantities of every item and sell them for relatively cheap prices elsewhere, while still making a considerable profit. In the process they also supplied various ports of Northern Europe with information. In the age of illiteracy, traveling merchants were indispensable as carriers of mail and correspondence.



Germany's single stamp as part of the joint issue.

Conflict Gives Way to Peace

Initially, the League was composed of individual merchants, but in 1356, when it was about to reach the height of its influence and power, it was transformed into a League of cities. When threatened by greedy monarchs, pirates and commercial rivals (such as the English and the Dutch), the members of the Hanseatic League joined forces and employed weapons such as blockade and outright warfare. This tactic made the organization powerful and feared. It took the Scandinavian monarchies centuries to gather sufficient strength to finally defeat the League and its main city, Lübeck, in the 1530s.

Yet, the influence exerted by the German merchants was first and foremost of a peaceful kind, especially in Sweden (and Finland, which was a part of medieval Sweden). In the 13th Century, cities such as Visby, Kalmar, Nyköping, and Stockholm developed into flourishing ports due to Hanseatic immigration. For centuries to come, German remained widely spoken in all the main Swedish towns, as is apparent in the





Sweden's Hanseatic League commemoratives released as a booklet in September, 2006.

numerous German words in Swedish. For example, the medieval Swedes discarded their own word *vindöga* ("an eye for the wind," literally the same word as the English *window*) in favor of the German *Fenster* (Sw. *fönster*). Town councils, merchant guilds, architecture, commercial and ecclesiastical culture – virtually all aspects of life – were influenced the by presence of the Hanseatic League.

The situation was similar in certain parts of Denmark and Norway. The Norwegian port of Bergen contained one of the four most important Hanseatic establishments. The other three were located in Bruges, London, and Novgorod.

Sweden-German Joint Issue

Accordingly, the influence wielded by the Hanseatic League in medieval Sweden is today regarded as one of the cornerstones of Swedish culture. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the 650th anniversary of the creation of the Hanseatic City League in 1356 was the object of a joint issue of stamps by both Sweden and Germany on September 7, 2006.

One stamp, issued jointly by Sweden and Germany, displays a cog in a late medieval port. The port setting with merchants belongs to a manuscript from 1480. The other two stamps, issued by Sweden, are focused on the two principal Hanseatic cities in the medieval kingdom of Sweden: Visby, on the island of Gotland, and the Swedish capital Stockholm. The Visby stamp shows the old apothecary shop, one of the best preserved houses in the city, as well as a detail of the city as depicted



Professor Dick Harrison, Ulrike Bohm from Germany's Federal Ministry of Finance, and Britt Inger Hahne, manager of Sweden Post Stamps, right, at the first day ceremony for the joint issue. (Photo from Sweden Post.)

in the work *Urbiium precipuarum mundi theatrum*, c. 1580. The Stockholm motif shows a characteristic small shop of the late Middle Ages, originally a decoration of a 15th Century manuscript of a Swedish legal code ("The Book of Law of King Magnus Eriksson"). The adjacent seal is one of the seals of the city of Stockholm, showing the crowned head of Saint Erik, the patron saint of Sweden. ■

(Professor Harrison, a stamp collector since childhood, was a consultant to Sweden Posten when the two Swedish stamps with motifs from Stockholm and Visby were designed.)

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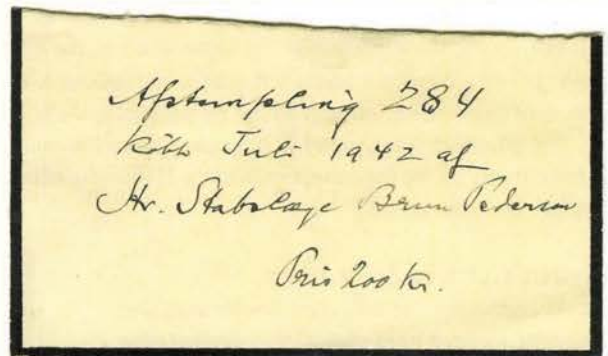
Faroese '284' Cancel Known but Forgotten

By Peter Sondhelm

The November, 2006, issue of *The Posthorn* reported that a second example of the rare "284" cancel used briefly at Trangisvaag in the Faroe Islands had been found in the archives of the Danish Post & Telegraph Museum (page 34). Although little appears to have been written about this second example, readers may be interested to learn that both this copy and the example sold at Postiljonen's October, 2004 sale were reported in philatelic literature as early as 1947.

During 1944 and 1945, Rowland King-Farlow, a well-known British collector and researcher of Faroese philately, wrote a series of three articles in the *Philatelic Journal* of Great Britain. In the second of these articles, he wrote he had "never seen or heard of" examples of the 284 cancel. However, the position had changed by the time King-Farlow wrote a follow-up article in 1947: "I now learn that a couple of obviously genuine examples of this postmark were discovered not long ago by Hr. Brun-Pedersen, President of the København Philatelist Klub."* This coincides with the information provided in the November *Posthorn*.

Interestingly, his article goes on to say that while one example of the 284 cancel was retained by its finder, the other "was presented to the official post office collection." This appears to be at odds with information reported in *The Posthorn* that the canceled stamp at the P&T was purchased from Mads Brun-Pedersen for DKK 200 (see illustration). ■



Internal notice concerning purchase of "284" canceled stamp in 1942. (Courtesy of Danish Post & Telegraph Museum)

Endnote

* "The Postmarks and Provisional Stamps of the Faroe Islands," R. King-Farlow, *Philatelic Journal*, April-June, 1947.

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