

FEBRUARY 2008

The  
POSTHORN

*Lonely  
But Strong*



# A Danish Refugee Camp

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# The Story of Iceland's 80-Stamp Fish Sheet

By Þór Þorsteins  
(Translation by Viggo Warmboe)

The year is 1945 and World War II continues in Europe. At the Thomas De La Rue stamp printing works in London there is a big shortage of skilled workers, pressmen, and others. Most of the machinery is out of order due to wear and tear and there is a scarcity of appropriate paper for stamps.

On November 15, 1942, in Iceland, the domestic postage rate for common letters was raised to 50-aur, triggering a large increase in use of this denomination. By early 1945, there was a good supply of the 50-aur codfish stamp (Iceland *Facit* 251). However, to ensure supplies, on March 13, 1945, the Icelandic postal administration ordered 15,000 sheets reprinted. In previous printings of 1943 and 1944, the printer used plate number 1 with minor touchups and delivered the stamps without significant delay.

During the 1945 printing, the plate cracked and it was only possible to print part of the total, i.e. 3,000 sheets, without significant defects. Notwithstanding, a horizontal plate crack can be seen on the stamps. In order to deliver the remainder of the order, 15,000 additional sheets were printed with the defective top two rows of each sheet overprinted to void them. The grand total from these sheets is therefore counted at 1,200,000 stamps. On the printers' invoice, payment was requested for 80 stamps from each sheet of 100 stamps. The stamps were sent to Iceland June 11, 1945.



In a Post and Telephone Administration telegram of July 31, Hlíðdal says: "As stamps are sold out in sheets of 100 pieces each and cancelled stamps cannot be delivered to customers, 12,000 sheets need to be replaced and (the) aforesaid 15,000 sheets will be destroyed."

De La Rue answered a day later saying the reason for delivery of the defective sheets was to meet the request in late May requiring immediate delivery, which otherwise would have been greatly delayed. For this reason, it was possible to get the full

*Continued on page 18*



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# Ry – a Refugee Camp in Denmark, 1945-1949

By Birthe King

Growing up in Silkeborg in Denmark not very far from Ry, I was aware that there had been a refugee camp, and I remember as a child being taken to see the then-overgrown landing strip at the German airport. As an adult I have visited the local museum in Gammel Rye<sup>1</sup>, which has a very interesting section on the Ry refugee camp beginning with the development of the local air strip in the 1930s, continuing with the takeover by the Germans at the occupation of Denmark April 9, 1940, and ending with detailed information from the camp including a reconstruction of a room in a wooden barracks with original artifacts and a painting by one of the refugees.

The material for this article has been collected over a number of years, and I was lucky to be offered the Maak items as a “collection.” It provides a human take on life from the inside for this family but also, through the contents of the letters, of the young and old – mainly women – in another camp, as well as life in Germany for the family trying to survive in the aftermath of the war.

From the beginning of 1945 until the end of World War II in Europe in May, refugees of many nationalities fled to Denmark, mainly Germans, Poles, and Russians, including nationals from the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania with whom Scandinavia has a special historic relationship. At the end of the war, the Allied powers in Germany (Great Britain, France, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R) did not want immediately to accept the return of approximately 250,000 refugees from Denmark.

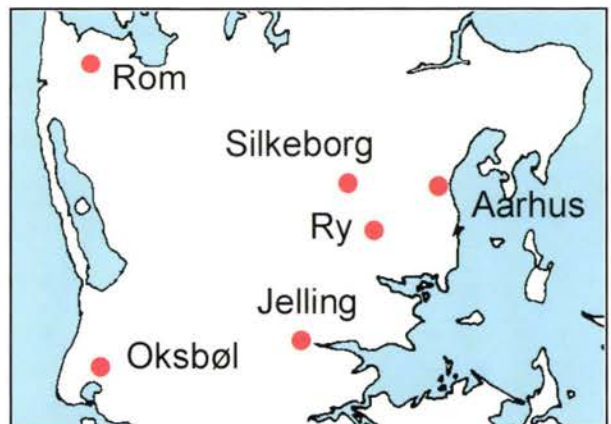
These refugees were spread all over Denmark, and the Danish Government set up a special organization, the Refugee Administration (*Flygtningeadministration*) to oversee all aspects of the administration of the refugee camps. The 1950 publication, *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949*, is the official account of the period. During the summer of 1945 all refugees were registered to distinguish the different categories to be dispersed among the smaller or larger camps. Camps for German refugees were administered by the National Civil Defense (*Statens Civile Luftværn*), while camps for allied refugees or displaced persons were administered by the Danish Red Cross (*Dansk Røde Kors*).

Many families had been split up during the war and the flight towards the west, and letter writing among the refugees was permitted at an early stage, that is “inter-camp” correspondence, and censorship took place in the camps. Letters abroad were permitted from December, 1945, although postal arrangements to Germany were not reopened until April, 1946. As the refugees were not allowed Danish money, the mail from many of the Jutland refugee camps was franked by the Danish authorities with the Esbjerg machine franking.

Ry, which is located southeast of Silkeborg between Århus and Jelling, had been a German air field, and just after the war the buildings and barracks were used to house 1,100 German refugees. The camp population increased as many other smaller camps were closed. According to the National Civil Defense official list of June 1, 1946, there were 6,132 inhabitants. At its largest, the Ry camp had a capacity of 10,500, including two hospital buildings.

## The German Family Maak

The Maak family<sup>2</sup>, a father and his daughter, were interned at the refugee camp at Ry Flyveplads. From the material available, they stayed there from at least June 6, 1946 to December, 1948, when they spent some further weeks at the transit camp at Kolding, before returning to Germany, presumably to the British Zone.



Herman Maak, born May 17, 1886, and his daughter Lisbeth, born January 14, 1925, were in the Ry camp together with Elsa Maak, whose relationship with Herman and Lisbeth cannot be established. Gertrud Maak was Lisbeth's sister and was in Berlin in May, 1946. It appears from the correspondence that their mother might have been somewhere in the Russian Zone. Their cousin, Gerhard Maak, married to Minni, originates from the east, but was then in Cologne, whereas their niece, Annedore Wesel, lived in Essen with her mother.

During June, 1945, Danish health authorities undertook the vaccination of all German refugees against typhoid, paratyphoid, and dysentery. Everybody under 18 years of age was also vaccinated against diphtheria, and this was later extended to everybody between 18 and 50 years. Tests regarding tuberculosis were carried out, and all persons with negative results were immunized. The vaccination card (Fig. 1) shows that Herman Mack (sic) was vaccinated for paratyphoid in June, 1945 and again in 1946 by Statens Seruminstitut, while he was checked for tuberculosis in October, 1945 (Fig. 2).

A child's drawing (Fig. 3) illustrates refugees collecting branches near the barracks. A permit allowing Lisbeth and Elsa Maack (sic) to collect fir branches at the back of Barracks 9 and at Blidso Lake is shown. The August 29 permit (Fig. 4) carries the two-line hand-stamp, *Flygtningelejren Rye Flyveplads*, and a signature.

Refugee mail was only permitted to other camps in Denmark until December, 1945, and it was not until April, 1946 that mail was permitted

**Vaccination card.  
Vakinations Karte.**

---

Name: *Mack Hermann*  
 born (geboren) *17.5.1886*

Tyf. Paratyf. I	<i>18 JUNI 1945</i>
Tyf. Paratyf. II	<i>14 JUNI 1946</i>
Tyf. Paratyf. III	<i>20 JUNI 1946</i>

300.000-5-48. III-2.

Figure 1. Paratyphoid vaccination card.

Diese Karte dient als Schein für die Untersuchung. Die Karte muss sorgfältig aufbewahrt werden, da die Untersuchung sonst wiederholt wird.

---

Name: *Maack Hermann*  
 geboren: *17.5.1886*

Mantoux *22 OKT. 1945*  
 3 T. E.

Mantoux *24 OKT. 1945*  
 100 T. E.

Calmette  
 Vaccination

Figure 2. Tuberculosis card.



Figure 3. Drawing by a German refugee child. (From *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949*).

*Lisbeth Maack  
 Elsa Maack  
 har tilladelse til DD at tage  
 Granegrene bag Barak 9 og to  
 ved Blidso 29. Aug  
 Flygtningelejren  
 Rye Flyveplads  
*Ally Borg**

Figure 4. Permit to collect wood.

to Germany. Lisbeth had many friends in the refugee camp at Rom near Lemvig in northwest Jutland. Their letters tell what they are up to. One friend, Meta, writes about their mutual friends in the camp. There had been a dance in the camp the previous Sunday, and there would be a film another evening.

“Do you also go through the barbed wire?” Meta inquires. “Mia and Dora were caught. They are now both in the prison barracks. Do you also have a prison barracks?” Refugees were not allowed outside the camps and fraternization with the local population, or the young Danish guards patrolling the camps, was forbidden. The letter (Fig. 5) from Rom was machine franked in Esbjerg August 3, 1946, at the inland rate 20 øre and has the three-line camp censor mark, *CENSURERET Flygtningelejren Rom Lemvig*, on the reverse.

Lisbeth received a number of letters from her relative, Annedore, in Essen in the British Zone (Fig. 6). They tell about the daily hardship of surviving in the aftermath of Germany’s collapse and how family members search to find if relatives are still alive and where they might be. The sister Gertrud, who was in Berlin, has traveled into the East to look for their mother, and the Wesel family would like to offer accommodation for Gerhard and Minni, but the Essen authorities are allowing no more refugees. Many Germans from the eastern part of the country, which was now part of Russia and Poland, wanted to settle in the zones occupied by Britain and the U.S. Annedore writes that there is hardly any food, just bread and potatoes, and everything is very expensive and only available on the black market. In a later letter she has heard from friends in Poland, who are being treated terribly by the Poles. “Be glad, that you are treated well and have good food ...even if you are behind barbed wire.” It is very cold in the office, and they have to keep their coats on. The good news is that despite much difficulty Gerhard and Minni have obtained a housing permit to come to Essen.

### Family News – Good and Sad

Many of the refugee camps had different censor handstamps using different colors. The illustration (Fig. 7) is an example from the Rom camp dated January 7, 1947. This letter also has lots of family news, good and sad. A son had returned from the Russian Zone to join his father in the British Zone, but the son

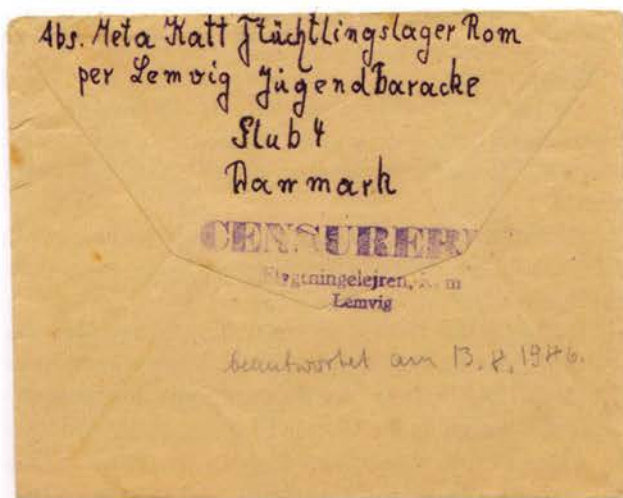


Figure 5. Inter-camp letter from Rom to Ry with three-line violet censor handstamp.



Figure 6. Letter canceled in Essen August, 17, 1946, with torn Deutsche Post 75 Pfennig stamp, foreign-letter rate, first-weight class, issued April 25, 1946 jointly by the Allied occupying powers, and canceled ESSEN STADT WALD 17.8.46 – 19 a. Opened and resealed with British censor strip, “OPENED BY EXAMINER 5727 P.C.90.” and with circular censor mark “MILITARY CENSORSHIP CIVIL MAILS.” As it had already been censored, there is no camp censor stamp.

died four weeks later from typhoid. There is also good news about relatives having babies. The girls in the Rom camp had a good Christmas and received parcels with food and toys. They hope “that 47 will bring us better luck.”

On January 27, 1947, Lisbeth received a letter from Gerhard, who is now in Cologne, also in the British Zone. He is hoping to get his mother to join him there, but “the City does not want to admit refugees.” He continues that the weather is very cold; there is no coal and no food, so things can only get better.

By November 15, 1947, having been in the Ry camp for almost 2½ years, Herman Maak is unwell, and he gets a prescription (Fig. 8) signed by the camp doctor (Lagerartz) with the two-line handstamp, *Flygtningehospitalet Rye Flyveplads*.

It appears that Herr Maak has sent an inquiry about the whereabouts of his wife, Therese Maak, as the Search Service Liaison secretary (*Suchdienstverbindungssekretär in Lg. 37-09 Rye*) has received a letter March 12, 1947 (Fig. 9) from Flygtningeadministratjonen with information to be passed to him that the Registry is searching for Therese Maak, and they will be contacting him in due course.

Lisbeth continues her correspondence with her friends in Rom where new refugees have just arrived as of March 19, 1947, including a family that Lisbeth knows. The friend Gertrud hopes to return to Schleswig-Holstein that year and Agathe, also in Rom, has learned that her son is a prisoner of war in England.

Easter greetings April 6, 1947, from Annedore includes the bad news that an aunt has died in a Russian camp leaving her two sons behind; they were on their way to join her husband, and there is still not much food in Essen – “Wait until you see how slim we all are.”



Figure 7. Inter-camp envelope from Rom to Ry, now with four-line red handstamp.



Figure 8. Prescription for Herr Maak.



Figure 9. Letter from Flygtningeadministratjonen (no envelope).





Figure 11. Letter from Hanover, August 22, 1947 (no envelope).

Another letter June 26, 1947, from Gertrud in Rom, confirms that many refugees want to return to the part of Germany that was in the British Zone, and many new refugees have arrived in the camp. Although the authorities in the Russian and American Zones appear to allow refugees back, the British are not yet doing so. There was a debate among the Allied occupying powers aimed at achieving some sort of proportional parity in the numbers of refugees permitted to return to the different zones. Gertrud expects to have to wait a while longer to be allowed into the British Zone, and writes, "I can see myself sit here yet another winter." This letter has another three-line camp handstamp, *Postkontoret Flygtningelejren Rom pr. Lemvig Telf 312* (Fig. 10). On August 22, 1947, Lisbeth's sister, Gertrud, writes from Hanover to "Meine Liebes Lieschen u. Vati!" (Fig. 11). She has written many letters and sent tobacco and cigarettes and even a photo, but she has had no acknowledgment and wonders if they have received anything. The gossip is that apparently somebody has spread a rumor that she is expecting a baby, but "Thank God, that is not true." A glimpse of normality is that she is looking forward to a visit from a friend from Berlin. So, some travel must have been possible at that time.

Although almost all inter-camp letters have a censor handstamp from the sender's camp, a few have none. Figure 12 is one such example from the Oksbøl camp near Esbjerg to Lisbeth in Ry in June, 1948. It has no censor markings from either the sending or receiving camp.

## Conclusion – Leaving Denmark

The negotiations about when and where to return the refugees had begun in earnest during 1946. A number of criteria were drawn up to decide to which of the four occupied zones, including Berlin. A deciding factor was *Angehörigkeit* ("where they belonged"), that is, where they had family, property, or other connections. Approximately 116,000 refugees could thus be returned to the appropriate zone, but the remaining 74,000 were declared stateless. To facilitate the return, a number of camps were designated as collection points – for example, in Ålborg, Århus, Rom, Grove-Gedhus, Oksbøl, Kolding, Skrydstrup Tønder, and Kløvermarken in Copenhagen. These places had housed the largest camps, or they were strategically placed on railway routes to Germany.



Figure 10. Rom letter from June, 1947 machine franked 20 øre, first canceled Lemvig and then at Esbjerg. It has a three-line red camp censor stamp on the reverse.



Figure 12. Letter from the Oksbøl camp to Liesbeth Maak at Lager-Rye with machine franking 20 øre canceled ESBJERG 10-11 /? JUN / 1948.

We know that Lisbeth, and presumably her father, were in the transit camp at Kolding because they needed permission in writing to attend a hospital outside the transit camp. Lisbeth Maak and one other person received a pass on December 19, 1948, from Camp No 30-1, and again on January 9, and February 6, 1949, from Camp 34-01, both Kolding transit camps (Fig. 13). All the passes had three-line handstamps (Gennemgangslejren Kolding LEJR IV) and were signed by the camp supervisor.

The last refugee left Denmark on February 15, 1949. Lisbeth and her father were definitely among the last. The photo (Fig. 14) shows refugees on their way to board a train in Kolding.

We do not know whether the family was reunited with Therese or with the families in Essen and Cologne, or where they returned to in Germany, but for tens of thousands of displaced persons in Europe, the Maak family's experience was shared by a generation now in their 70s or long since dead. There will soon be no oral evidence, leaving only their postal history and associated ephemera to speak for them. ■

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The spelling of the place-name Rye/Ry varies. Rye is used when referring to illustrations or the village of Gammel Rye. Otherwise, the modern spelling of Ry is preferred.

<sup>2</sup> The text uses the most common spelling of the family names, e.g., Herman Maak and Lisbeth Maak. When referring to illustrations, the spelling on the item is used.

#### References:

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- Hansen, Peder, *Flygtningelejren i Rom* (The Refugee camp in Rom), Hardsyssels Årbog 1985, Historisk Samfund for Ringkøbing Amt, 1985.

**Passerseddel.** No 318697  
(Passierschein)

Obs: Bei der Ausfüllung dürfen nur lateinische Buchstaben verwendet werden.

Navn (Name): Lisbeth Maak og 1 Per  
Født den (geboren am): i (in)  
Lejr Nr.: 34-01 Adresse: Rye IV  
har Tilladelse til at forlade Lejren 1 Gang Dags Dato (erhält die Erlaubnis zum einmaligen verlassen des Lagers am heutigen Tage)  
mellem Kl. 14<sup>00</sup> og Kl. 19<sup>00</sup> for at (zwischen) (Uhr: und) (Uhr: zwecks) Rye IV  
Dato: 6-2 1949 Kolding LEJR IV  
Udfyldes af den danske Vagt i Flygtningefortagningen: Udfyldes af den danske Vagt ved Sygehus, Klinik etc.  
Udgaet Kl. 14<sup>00</sup> Ind Kl. 19<sup>00</sup>  
Hjemkommet Kl. Underskrift: [Signature] Ud Kl. 981 [Signature] 1840 [Signature] 939 [Signature]

Figure 13. Pass for Lisbeth Maak and one person.



Figure 14. Refugees at Kolding railway station. (From *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949*).

## Åland Changes “Denominations” with 2008 Issues

Åland is dropping the first class and second class designations on its stamps in favor of the wording Inrikes (domestic rate), Europa (European rate) and Världen (worldwide). The change is effective with the 2008 issues and designed to “make posting easier for the customers,” Åland Post said in a news release. In addition, stamps will be issued in Euro denominations to pay rates for Priority (the former first class) and Economy (the former second class) handling within Åland.

The Inrikes stamps are for Priority mail of up to 50 grams to mainland Finland; Europa stamps will pay for letters and cards up to 20 grams to destinations in Europe; and the Världen denomination is for letters and cards up to 20 grams to other parts of the world.

Older stamps marked first and second class remain postally valid with their tariff equivalent to the rate for a 50-gram letter within Åland (either Priority or Economy). ■



Åland's first and second class stamps are being replaced with stamps pegged for domestic use, European distribution, or worldwide mail. Shown are a 2008 “Europa” issue and one of the older “1 Klass” stamps.

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## Station Nord – Lonely but Strong

*By Rolf Dörnbach*

“*Ensom men stærk*” – lonely but strong – is the motto of Greenland’s remotest inhabited place, the military outpost of Station Nord in the desolate northeastern-most corner of the country only 933 kms from the North Pole (at 81°36’09”N, 16°40’12”W). Next to Station Alert on Canada’s Ellesmere Island (at 82°30’N), it is the most northerly permanent human habitation in the world. Its postal arrangements and communications have often been unusual and hence seem well worth a look by philatelists.

Station Nord came into existence in 1952-1953, with the simultaneous construction of the important U.S. Thule Air Force Base in northwestern Greenland, about 1,150 kms away. Nord’s function was to serve as a weather station for Thule and as an advanced emergency landing strip for Thule-based aircraft. Its 2,400-meter gravel runway (some sources put it at 3 kms) would have spared disabled B-47 or B-52 bombers limping home to Thule from missions over Russia more than a critical one hour’s flight. (Those were Cold War times when Thule-based atomic bombers were continuously aloft in this area – until January, 1968, when a B-52 with its load of four hydrogen bombs crashed on the sea ice and sank off Thule AFB, contaminating the area for many years. (See *The Posthorn*, August, 2007, pp.43-44.)

The construction of Station Nord was a challenging operation due to the remoteness of the site. Although the location is close to the sea shore, the sea



Aerial view of the station with the gravel runway cleared of snow, June 26, 1995. (All photos by Rolf Dörnbach.)



C-130 “Hercules” transport aircraft of the Royal Danish Air Force at Station Nord.



The main administrative building where the mail is handled (June 26, 1995).



is permanently frozen there, making the spot inaccessible to freight ships. Consequently, thousands of tons of building materials, machinery, supplies, and manpower had to be flown in from Thule by heavy transport aircraft. The actual construction work was done by Danish contractors and paid for by the Danish government. While the station was eventually manned by 30 Danish servicemen, the U.S. military remained in charge of supplying the facility with equipment, provisions and fuel, providing air transport, and contributing financially to its upkeep.

When Station Nord was completed in 1956, it consisted of 44 buildings of various sizes scattered over a wide area to reduce fire hazard. There was a fuel storage capacity of 1.5 million liters, a power plant with several diesel generators, 7 kilometers of gravel roads, 28 radio masts 40-80 meters high, and 5 hectares of taxiways and parking areas for aircraft, in addition to the actual runway of 2,400x80 meters. (The construction of a second runway at right angles to the existing one had failed due to the difficult terrain.)

Apart from meteorological, geophysical, and other scientific observations, a number of military monitoring projects were carried out at or from Station Nord during the Cold War (and partly continue to this day), such as sonar surveillance by a U.S. team of the activities of Soviet nuclear submarines under the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean, as well as seismic observations and regular checks on atmospheric radioactivity to detect nuclear tests in arctic Russia.

### Temporary closure and resumed activity

After the B-52 crash in early 1968, the U.S. Air Force discontinued its permanent routine flights of H-bomb-laden aircraft in the region and gradually lost interest in Station Nord. The U.S. withdrew financial support in 1971 on the grounds that the station was no longer needed for Thule AFB. The Danish government saw no point in continuing the costly facility entirely on its own and closed it down in the summer of 1972, leaving an unmanned automatic weather station there.

This caused a storm of protest not only among "old Greenland hands" and in nationally-minded circles ("surrender of Danish presence and sovereignty in that part of Greenland") but also in the scientific community, because the station with its airstrip and its storage and accommodation facilities had become an indispensable logistic base for the many scientific research expeditions (and also for the military dog-



A 24-8-1954 cover dropped at Station Nord from a Catalina flying boat, canceled at Station Nord 24.8.1954 with Wowern No. 34.01 and date stamped there again 8.9.1954 before being returned to sender in Denmark via Dundas (Thule).



24-11-1956 registered cover from Station Nord to Canada, canceled with Wowern No. 34.01 with transit marks of Winnipeg (17 Jan 1957) and Vancouver (20 and 21 Jan 1957) on the back.

sledge patrol "Sirius") active each year in north and northeast Greenland. The Danish military voiced concerns on strategic grounds over the closure of the station. Meanwhile, the airstrip had gained some significance as an emergency landing strip for civilian aircraft on polar routes and had proved its worth on two occasions.

In 1974, the Danish armed forces investigated a possible alternative base in the area but concluded that Station Nord really was the optimum location. Hence, on August 5, 1975, the station was reactivated and manned with five Danish servicemen on a tentative basis. The experiment proved successful, and the station has been in operation on that reduced scale ever since.

Station Nord's chief purpose is to help maintain Danish sovereignty in this remote and uninhabited part of Greenland, to exercise police authority on behalf of Greenland's police vis-à-vis visitors (expeditions) to this area, and to provide logistic support for the Danish armed forces in Greenland, especially for the Sirius dog-sledge patrol and for Luftgruppe West (the Danish air force units based at Sønder Strømfjord/Kangerlussuak).

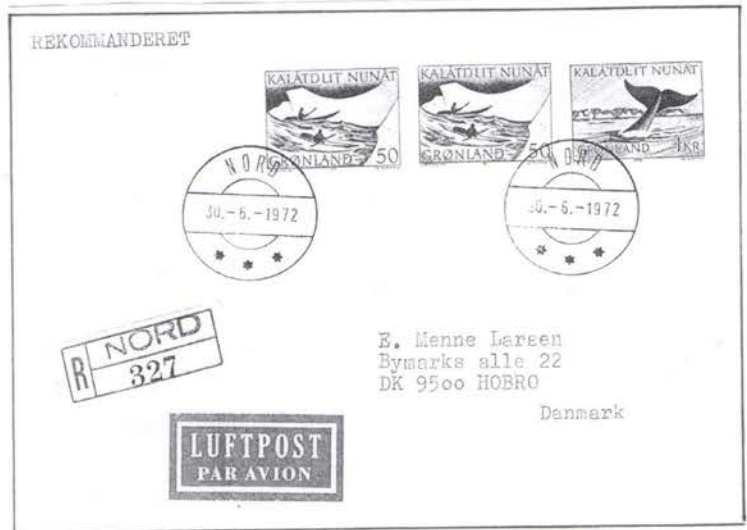
To these ends, it is the small crew's foremost tasks to keep the runway (now reduced to about 1,700 meters) free of snow, and keep accommodation facilities intact and operative the year round. Meteorological and geophysical data continue to be collected several times a day, and weather data are radioed to Danmarkshavn weather station 500 kms down the east coast. The station also takes part in search and rescue operations in the region.

The staff of the station, usually a lieutenant and four or five non-commissioned officers, is hand-picked for a 1 to 2-year voluntary assignment. They have been trained in various crafts and technical functions to be able to perform the necessary maintenance and repair work; often they have had previous Greenland experience with the Sirius dog-sledge patrol. They must be physically robust and emotionally balanced to withstand the isolation and solitude during the long polar night, which at this latitude lasts from mid-October to late February, with temperatures down to minus 22-40° F. In some summers, the staff is augmented by up to 10 additional men to perform more extensive renovation and maintenance work.

The main building with its control tower is where incoming and outgoing mail is handled in the station commander's office. Only 10 of the 44 buildings are still used with some of them rented out as accommodations and storage space for scientific expeditions as a kind of "transit hotel." This helps to cover the costs of the station. Aviation fuel is also sold for expedition aircraft. Serving the needs of civilian expeditions has, meanwhile, become the major task for the station's crew during summer and has by far outweighed their military functions.

Although primarily a military facility, Station Nord during its 1952-1972 period had been under the jurisdiction of the former Danish Greenland Ministry, a civilian body, and hence under regular Greenlandic territorial administration. This among other things accounted for the fact that the station was given a civilian Greenlandic post office (albeit operated by Danish soldiers).

Since the station's resurrection in 1975, its administrative status has been quite different. Its area is no longer part of Greenland's administrative territory under Home Rule control but a military enclave, which, initially, came directly under the Danish prime minister's office. It came under the Danish Defense



30-6-1972 registered Last Day Cover from Station Nord to Denmark, canceled with Wowern No. 34.03. (Post office was closed on that day).

Command in 1994 and was run by the tactical command of the Royal Danish Air Force. Since January 1, 2006, it has been the responsibility of Greenland Command (Grønlands Kommando), which is in charge of all Danish military facilities and operations in Greenland.

### Postal arrangements

When Station Nord became operational in 1953, it was granted a regular Greenlandic post office that opened October 1, 1953. This was placed under the responsibility of the Danish station commander, who no doubt delegated the routine chores to one of his men. In view of the rather infrequent air communications with the outside world, it is unlikely that the counter was open at fixed hours every workday, but rather for a few hours well before and shortly after each mail flight. Mail was transported every one to three months in conjunction with other routine supply flights – more often in summer (perhaps monthly) and fewer during winter (every two or three months). Urgent messages could always be sent or received by telegraph.

All incoming and outgoing mail was routed via the Greenland post office at Dundas (Thule AFB), which had regular monthly air connections with Copenhagen, and (like all Greenland mail to this day) via the Greenland post office in Copenhagen. In the early years, incoming mail was occasionally dropped over the station from Catalina flying boats of the Danish Air Force (see cover from 1954). The station was assigned its distinct postcode number “DK-3972” within the Greenland section (“39..”) of the Danish postcode system introduced in 1967. All outgoing private mail had to be franked with Greenland stamps available from the local post office.

Despite its infrequent hours, the post office at Station Nord offered all the usual postal services normally available at a “poststation” – the senior category of postal facility in Greenland, normally reserved for the larger settlements, but also for the various weather stations with their Danish staff.



9-4-1984 cover sent from Station Nord (see cachet) via Dundas (Thule AFB) instead of directly to Denmark, hence franked with a Greenland stamp canceled at Dundas.



17- 07-95 philatelic cover to Hamburg, Germany, franked with Danish stamp and handed in at Station Nord (two cachets) on June 26, 1995. Carried by Danish Air Force transport plane to Værløse Air Base near Copenhagen and transferred to nearby Nordsjællands Postcenter where it was canceled on July 17, 1995, and arrived in Hamburg on July 19.

---

The post office had the current Greenland stamps on sale and wielded a circular date stamp with the inscription "Station Nord" of which three very similar versions were used in succession: 01.10.1953 – 04.06.1968 (with a variety "abbreviated year number" in 1963-1965); 04.06.1968 – 12.10.1970; and 12.10.1970 – 30.06.1972, respectively. All three cancellers were of contemporary Greenlandic (Danish) design and differed only slightly in their measurements. Registration labels had no imprinted place name – this was applied with a rubber stamp of which there were several types in use. (See illustrations for examples of cancels and registration labels.)

The post office primarily was to serve the 30 or so incumbents of Station Nord but also the increasing number of scientific expeditions passing through the station each summer. By far the largest volume of outgoing mail to be processed, however, came from stamp collectors from all over the world. When Station Nord was abandoned in 1972, its post office naturally enough joined the same fate. It was closed June 30, 1972, having serviced an avalanche of philatelic last day covers during its final hours. (See 1972 cover.)

As mentioned earlier, Station Nord was resurrected in 1975 under conditions entirely different from the prior arrangements. No longer under Greenlandic authority, there was no possibility for a Greenland post office. Its Greenland postcode number was withdrawn. Outgoing mail must be franked with Danish stamps (available from the souvenir shop run intermittently by one of the soldiers) and can be dropped into a post box in the mess hall. It then is carried by transport planes of the Royal Danish Air Force (see photo) to Denmark and handed over to a Danish post office for cancelation and further distribution. Until the end of 2005, this happened via Værlose Air Base near Copenhagen and the nearby Vedbæk post office, and from 1992 until the end of 2005 to the Nordsjællands Postcenter near Tåstrup (see cover from 1995).

There were exceptions, though. A philatelic cover from 1984, stamped with the station's cachet and franked with a Greenland stamp, was carried on a chance flight from Station Nord to Thule AFB and canceled by the local Greenlandic post office of Dundas before continuing to its destination in Denmark (see illustration).

Since January, 2006, when Greenland Command took over Station Nord from the tactical command of the Danish Air Force, the mail has been routed via Aalborg Air Base in northern Jutland and Nordjyllands Postcenter near Aalborg. Mail destined to someone at Station Nord has to be addressed now as follows:

(Name of person)  
Station Nord  
Flyvestation Aalborg  
Thited Landevej 53  
DK-9430 Vadum  
Denmark

The officer in charge at Station Nord usually has a few cachets of the station available in his office. Without such cachets, mail from Station Nord would look like ordinary Danish inland mail. ■

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Personal email communication from Grønlands Kommando.

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## Finnish Tax Stamp: A Follow-Up

By Paul Nelson, coordinator, SCC Scandinavian Revenues Study Group

The Finnish taxpaid stamp shown in the November, 2007, of *The Posthorn* (pp. 31) is similar to one shown by Björn-Eric Saarinen in his book, *Finland and Åland Revenue Stamp... Catalog*, 1998 (pp. 125). Saarinen's section on tobacco taxes was not comprehensive, largely because of the large number of different types of these taxpays and limited interest in the subject among philatelists. However, he described and illustrated the general design used in 1919-1923 when this card seems to have been used.

The red banderole in the illustration surrounded the cigarette box in such a way that it was destroyed when the box was opened. There are four separate boxed areas on these stamps. One area is reserved for the manufacturer for placement of the company name or logo and usually the number of cigarettes in the package. One is for the retail price of the product, which includes the tax. Another is for the price per 1,000 pieces (of cigarettes) or per kilogram (of loose tobacco). The last area is for the tax, which was 30 percent during that period. The text in each area is usually bilingual – Finnish and Swedish.

In this example of a tobacco box used as a postcard, the last three areas are visible. "Hinta – Pris" is the area with the retail price for this box of 25 cigarettes. It seems to allow a range between 3:75 and 4:50 Fmk. "Savukkeita – Cigaretter" in the next area describes the product and the price range per 1,000 pieces; here, it's apparently between 150 and 180 Finnish marks. Since quality levels varied from brand to brand, these ranges define the tax rate. The last area shown illustrates the amount of tax that is included in the selling price; here, 1:35 Fmk is the tax. ■



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# Demise of the Danish Postage Labels

By John R. Sabin

On October 5, 1990, the Danish Postal authorities introduced automatic postal label machines, whose purpose was to support, and eventually replace, the postal booklet machines located outside post offices around Denmark.<sup>1</sup> The time has now come that the postal label machines have run their lifetime and are being retired, although previously printed labels are still valid.<sup>2,3</sup>

The postal labels known as *frankeringsetiketter*; *postmærker*; or *frankingsmærker* in Danish (postage labels, vending machine stamps, or automatic teller machine in English), were available from an automat in all values that could be selected from 25 øre to 99.75 kr., in steps of 25 øre. The franking machines were manufactured by FRAMA, which produced postal machinery. The first labels consisted simply of the words *Danmark Post*, two posthorns with crown, and the denomination, printed in red on gray background paper with a small Danish crown and posthorn. They were designed by Morten Stürup, measure 32x40 mm, are imperforate, and have matte, water-activated gum. Examples are shown in Figure 1.

The FRAMA machines were originally set up at the Købmagergade post office in central Copenhagen and at the main post office in Århus. Later one was installed at the post office in Næstved.

The FRAMA labels of Type A<sup>4</sup> were available until 1995. On January 26, 1995, a new issue was released consisting of three different designs in color, arranged in a vertical strip on white paper, again denominated 25 øre to 99.75 kr., in steps of 25 øre. The value was printed in black. The size of the label was also changed to 29x40 mm. and, again, they were gummed with matte water-activated glue. Each year from 1995 through 2002, the Post Office issued a new series of three labels, the designs of which were connected vertically and represented postal themes. Examples of these are shown in Figure 2.

Starting in 2003, the Danish Postal Service continued to issue three postage labels per year, but the designs were three stand-alone scenes with a common theme, and were no longer vertically connected. The first of these, *AFA* Type H, was a cartoon of postal modes of transportation, and is illustrated (Figure 3).

From 2004 to 2007, the Danish Post Office continued to issue postage labels in design triplets, but containing photographed common scenes from Denmark. An example, *AFA* Type M (2007) with photographs of Viking burial sites (*stenhøj*), is shown in Figure 4.

## Franking Labels Initiated

During the years leading up to 2006, the FRAMA machines were vandalized frequently, and most were removed. There are only a few still in service. However, on September 6, 2006, the Danish postal



Figure 1. First postage labels issued by Post Danmark on October 5, 1999 (AFA Type A), in the four standard cost levels: 3.25, 3.50, 3.75, and 4.75 kronor. Postmarked on the first day of issue.

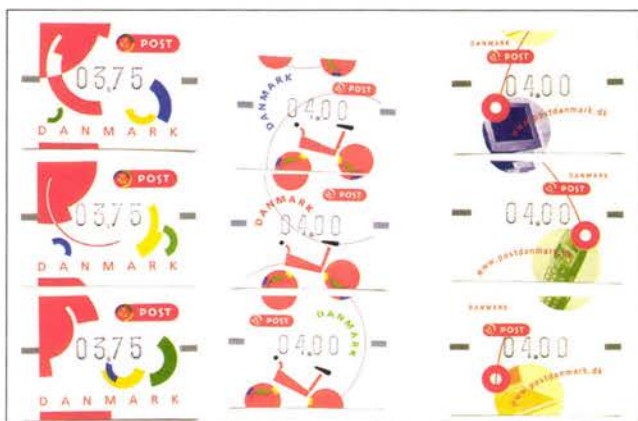


Figure 2. AFA Type B (1995), AFA Type D (1999), and AFA Type F (2001) postage labels.



Figure 3. AFA Type H (2003) postage labels.



Figure 4. AFA Type M (2007) postage labels.



Figure 5. AFA Type L (2006) franking labels (*frankeringsmærker*).



Figure 6. AFA Type N (2007) franking labels.

service announced that they would install new, experimental *PostSelv Automater* (post self-service automats) in Falkoner Posthus in Frederiksberg, Brandts Posthus in Odense, and Horsens Posthus, with the intention of opening other such facilities in Prestø and Ry. The automats were capable of weighing and calculating domestic and foreign postage for letters and packages, which could then be deposited in a specified place at the post office. In addition, it was also possible to buy stamps at the automat, again from 25 øre to 99.75 kr., in steps of 25 øre, and to pay with a credit card and obtain a receipt. These labels (*AFA Type L*, 2006) were first issued June

7, 2006, and were self-adhesive,<sup>5</sup> printed separately, and measured 22.50x50.00 mm. They are called *frankeringsmærker* (franking labels) rather than *postmærker* (postage labels), as the earlier labels were called.<sup>6</sup> (See Figure 5.)

The labels are obtainable directly from the automat, and are imperforate on top and bottom, but perforated on the ends at 11½. The perforations serve no useful purpose, as the labels were never interconnected.

This experiment was so successful that the post announced on August 22, 2007, that the *PostSelv Automater* would become permanent. In connection with this announcement, four new franking labels (*AFA Type N*, 2007) were released showing scenes of Danish bridges. (See Figure 6.) The new franking labels are printed in 55x22.5 mm. format and are self-adhesive on a single sheet of backing paper. Again, they are available from 25 øre to 99.75 kr., in steps of 25 øre, and may be purchased with a credit card. The labels are perforated at 11½ around the vignette, but the label is imperforate around the right end of the stamp where the value is imprinted; again, the perforations are decorative rather than functional.

With the advent of the new self-adhesive franking labels and the automatic self-service automats, the Danish postage labels are a thing of the past. December 31, 2007, marked the last sales date for postage labels and the machines are no longer in operation. ■

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## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The booklet machines have also recently been retired – see P. Albright and J.R. Sabin, *The Posthorn* 64/2, 36 (2007).

<sup>2</sup> *Journal*, from the Danish Postal Service, 1/08, 16 (2008).

<sup>3</sup> T. Lethrabort, *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* 68/8, 23 (2007).

<sup>4</sup> These labels are listed in the *AFSA* catalog at Type A, B, C..... The different designs in a type are designated B1, B2, B3, etc. As the individual members of each type are not of concern here, we identify only the type designation.

<sup>5</sup> These labels are the first self-adhesive “stamps” issued by the Danish Post.

<sup>6</sup> The difference between “postal labels” and “franking labels” is semantic at best. The purpose of the difference is to highlight the distinction between the older and newer label designs.

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(Continued from page 2)

quantity of stamps without delay. A subsequent letter explains that awaiting the manufacture of a new plate would have caused a delay of many weeks in delivery.

In addition, wrote De La Rue: “[I]n these days of serious paper shortages, the Crown Agents for the Colonies not only accept half and even quarter sheets, but advise all Stamp Dealers that their requirements will not necessarily be met with full size sheets. May we suggest therefore that a similar policy be adopted by supplying half sheets to Dealers where necessary, retaining the other half sheets containing 30 good stamps for Postal use.”

At this time, it is known that 50 to 80 sheets were delivered (to post offices) but nothing is known of any sheets with 20 stamps overprinted for cancellation having come on the market. ■

(Editor’s Note: This article is translated and adapted from *Frimarkjblaðið*, the Iceland philatelic magazine, No. 13, 1/2006).

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## Albums Closed

### Erin Gunter Was SCC Member 49 Years

Erin R. Gunter of Baton Rouge, LA, who was a member of SCC for 49 years, died November 26 at the age of 87. He spent more than 70 years of his life as an avid philatelist, including helping to assemble two sets of the complete series of the Danish 1870 bicolor series perf. 14x13½ øre on cover. That included 75 printings of the 4-skilling and 79 printings of the 8-skilling.

Gunter also was a serious researcher, collector, and exhibitor of Louisiana and Confederate postal history. Between the 1970s and the 1990s, he helped edit catalogs on American stampless covers and Confederate States mail. He was co-author of *Confederate Post Offices, Postmasters and Postmarks of the Trans-Mississippi Department*, published in 2007. Gunter was a retired forester with the Louisiana Forestry Commission.

– Gordon Hughmark

### Early SCC Leader Art Lind

Arthur L. Lind of Long Island, NY, one of SCC’s early leaders, passed away January 6 at the age of 89. He joined the SCC in 1953 as member #724. A regular attendee and active contributor to the New York Chapter, he also was part of the group that participated from the beginning of the Northern New Jersey Chapter that became an SCC innovator with mart books and a chapter magazine. Lind was the North Jersey mart manager for several years until the national SCC assumed operation of the stamp mart.



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Art Lind collected many aspects of Scandinavian philately, including Finnish postal stationery, but probably his most serious pursuit became Iceland's cancels and varieties. He did a number of English translations from Swedish and German and had a scholar's understanding of Swedish and its local variations back into the 19th Century. He applied his photography skills to photograph the Scandinavian forgery reference collections of the Philatelic Foundation for the SCC.

Lind was born in Manhattan, NY August 18, 1918, and raised in Öland, Sweden. He returned to the U.S. in the 1930s and served in the Pacific during World War II as a navigator lieutenant with the Third Air Sea Rescue unit. He earned physics degrees at Columbia University and New York University. He worked on the Matterhorn Project for Thermonuclear Fusion at Princeton University, at Grumman Aviation as a research physicist, and held a Professional Engineer's license in New York. Lind also taught physics at the NY Institute of Technology, was a member of American Men of Science, the American Physical Society, and the Sigma Xi scientific research society.

— Ed Fraser and Carl Probst

## Arthur Quarles, Faroe Islands Specialist

Arthur L. Th. Quarles, a well-known Faroe Islands philatelist, died suddenly on December 26, 2007, following a brief walk near his home in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. Quarles was internationally regarded as a preeminent figure in Faroese philately, serving as mentor and adviser to collectors and professionals in the field. After selling his Danish-era Faroes collection 20 years ago, he focused on the post-1975, postal independence period. Recently, he had started building anew a collection of earlier postal history. Quarles was part of an international group working on a new edition of the DAKA/GF Faroe Islands catalog.



Quarles was born July 8, 1937, in Indonesia where he lived until the end of World War II. He then returned with his parents to their native Holland. A member of the Dutch nobility, he officially was Baron Quarles de Quarles, Arthur Louis Theodore.

In the late 1950s, he emigrated to Canada and settled in Vancouver where he worked for Macmillan Bloedel for 30 years, retiring in 1990. During retirement, he enjoyed not only stamp collecting but also gardening, and trips to Holland and the Faroe Islands.

— Gerald Strauss

## Norway Philatelist Oddbjørn Solli

Noted Norwegian philatelist Oddbjørn Solli died late last year at age 71. He had award-winning exhibits of postal communications in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century between Norway and Sweden, as well as a Norway parcel post exhibit covering 1786-1925.

Solli was former secretary of the Norwegian Philatelic Federation and a member of its expert committee. He was an avid writer, contributing many articles to Norwegian philatelic journals for more than 25 years. He served on the Oslo Philatelist Club's catalog committee for *Norgeskatalogen* for 11 years and was past treasurer and editor for the Norwegian Postal History Society. ■

— Alan Warren

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## Check the Back of Your Stamps

By George Kuhhorn

Have you looked at the back of your stamps? *Facit* lists all of the Sweden ring-type stamps as having been found with inking offsets on the back. There is only one exception, *Facit* 37, 1 riksdaler, perf 13. The offsets, also called set-offs, are the result of one of three different circumstances.

The most distinct is usually the result of the sheet not being in place when the inked plate comes down. The lower base plate receives the inked imprint. When the next sheet does get in the proper place, both sides of the sheet are printed. Offsets on subsequent sheets become less vivid in color.

A second way an offset occurs is that a sheet is over-inked and before it dries properly the next sheet is placed on top.

The third method for set-offs can be seen on many of the third series of ring stamps (*Facit* 40-49). Here, the paper used was porous. The ink penetrated the paper and the design can be seen lightly on the back side. This condition involving porous paper was pointed out to me by member Sten Eriksson of Sweden. These conditions may occur on stamps of other countries beyond Sweden, of course.

*(Editor's Note: George Kuhhorn coordinates SCC's Sweden Ring study group. Members interested in learning more about these ring-type stamps may contact him at [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com), or at PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC, 28594.)*



Examples of inking offsets on the back of Sweden ring-type stamps. The stamp with the upside down posthorn could be a bleed-through as the cancel is also visible, or it might be the result of a sheet being placed upside down on top of a wet sheet. (Illustrations from the collection of Diether Pascher.)

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## Ship Stamps Available on Sweden-Åland Ferry



**ECKERÖ LINJEN**

**ÅLAND 1 KLASS**

Modern-day ship stamps are available on ferries traveling between Grisslehamn in Sweden and Eckerö in Åland. The ferry line Eckerö Linjen had the first class stamps prepared through Åland's personalized stamp program and began selling them on board their ships last summer.

The stamps showing the ferry, "M/S Eckerö," sell for €0.70 each, which is the current rate for cards and letters within Åland and throughout Europe. The stamps are sold only on board the ship and cannot be ordered from the Åland Post. If you are planning a trip to acquire these stamps and mail some postcards,

the ship's timetable can be found at [www.eckerolinjen.fi](http://www.eckerolinjen.fi). Åland Post said it was not aware of any other commercial firms that sell personalized stamps in this way. ■

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# The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

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

## Elected Officers

**President:** Mats Roing, 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; [mr22841@gmail.com](mailto:mr22841@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Herbert R. Volin, 2726 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2750; [HRVolin@aol.com](mailto:HRVolin@aol.com)

**Vice President, Chapters:** Edward L. Bode, 829 Western Air Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109; [edobed@embarqmail.com](mailto:edobed@embarqmail.com)

**Secretary:** Roger Quinby, 12425 Dancliff Trace, Alpharetta, GA 30004; [rpquinby@aol.com](mailto:rpquinby@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Kauko Aro, 325 Riverwood Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117; [kiaro@adelphia.net](mailto:kiaro@adelphia.net)

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

**Directors:** Jerry F. Eggleston, PO Box 829, Breckenridge, CO 80424; [jfe3@mindspring.com](mailto:jfe3@mindspring.com)

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## Appointed Officers

**Executive Secretary:** Donald B. Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022; [dbrent47@sprynet.com](mailto:dbrent47@sprynet.com)

**Library Committee:** Paul Albright, Howard Benson, Roger Cichorz, Greg Frantz, Jim Kilbane, Jeff Modesitt. Contact: SCC Library, c/o RMPL, 2038 Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224; [palbright@wiche.edu](mailto:palbright@wiche.edu)

**Membership Chairman:** George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com)

**Exhibition Coordinators:** Warren Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 97470; [warren@Derma-Safe.com](mailto:warren@Derma-Safe.com); and Mark Lorentzen, 2910 Nelson Way #603, Santa Monica, CA 90405; [permamarco@roadrunner.com](mailto:permamarco@roadrunner.com)

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**Sweden Ring:** George A. Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com)

**Finnish Study Group:** Roger Quinby, 12425 Dancliff Trace, Alpharetta, GA 30004; [rpquinby@aol.com](mailto:rpquinby@aol.com)

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**Scandinavian Revenues:** Paul Nelson, Tucson, AZ; [pnels1@comcast.net](mailto:pnels1@comcast.net)

# New record Sale in our last Auction

Total Turnover of more than NOK 14.000.000.-

The most expensive  
Norwegian skilling cover sold for  
NOK 2.655.000.-



48 skilling from Bergen to Königsberg

You will find a complete list of prices realized  
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E-mail : [frimerke@online.no](mailto:frimerke@online.no)

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# President's Letter

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Mats Roing



The state of the SCC treasury at year-end is very good due to a significant contribution from the estate of longtime officer Don Halpern. Increased membership dues are expected to bring in additional revenues for 2008. There is some increase in advertising in *The Posthorn*, as well. At the same time, we are dealing with increased printing costs for our journal. These increased revenues and expenditures are expected to more or less offset each other.

## Revenues

Membership dues were expected to increase from 2006 since dues were set to increase on January 1, 2008. Proportionately, the increase should have been more, but we had more lifetime memberships in 2006 than 2007, which made the increase smaller. Interest revenues grew due to higher rates and more funds invested.

The Stamp Mart had a good year although the value of the mart books has decreased by about 30 percent, and the outlook for 2008 is down. Please consider selling your excess inventories of Scandinavian material through the Stamp Mart. (See page 39 for more on this.) In 2007, we saw the largest single-year revenue stream from *Posthorn* advertisers, and more prospective advertisers are being approached this year.

Obviously, the biggest positive financial impact was Don Halpern's bequest. These types of bequests have an extraordinary positive impact on our organization and our ability to move forward spreading the joy of philately to the next generation. I encourage our members to consider doing something in line with what Don Halpern did for our society.

## Expenses

At the annual membership meeting at NAPEX and elsewhere, there were long discussions about the pros and cons of additional color in *The Posthorn*. The consensus was to proceed with additional color since it was deemed to benefit the membership. Printing costs went up about 9 percent from 2006. Increased membership dues and increased advertising revenues more than offset the increased printing costs. Since the decision to go with more color came halfway through the year, we expect additional printing costs in 2008. It is expected that the dues and advertising revenues will closely match the increased printing costs.

## Scandinavian Judge at Annual Meetings

Paying stipends for a foreign judge to come to our annual meeting is something we have been doing for a number of years. There have been discussions about the cost/benefits of this. It is good for our SCC exhibitors to have at least one member of the panel who is knowledgeable about Scandinavian philately. Another advantage of hosting a judge is to retain the connection with the philatelic community in Scandinavia — an investment in goodwill, so to speak. Our members at the annual meeting also benefit from the personal interaction with the judge. At NAPEX for example, Henrik Mouritsen burned the midnight oil in the hotel lobby talking to our members about his approach to judging exhibits and other topics.

Officials for CHICAGOPEX, where our 2008 annual meeting will take place November 21-23, were fine with adding a Scandinavia judge as a sixth juror on the panel. We are happy to welcome back Ivar Sundsbø of Norway as visiting judge at our annual meeting. He was the visiting judge at our annual meeting in 1999.

## Monthly Email Newsletter

Make sure to update me (mr22841@gmail.com) or Executive Secretary Don Brent (dbrent47@sprynet.com) with your current email address if you wish to receive the monthly electronic newsletter that I have sent out since last summer. I still receive more than 100 returned emails because the recipient is unknown. ■

# From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



**Fakes and Robbery.** Sweden's post office recently found itself linked to criminal matters. In December, there were news reports that routine security checks had turned up forged stamps on more than 600 letters examined at sorting offices. Some 70 stamp distributors were being investigated to find the source of the forgeries. Mail users were advised to purchase stamps only from post offices or "registered stamp dealers." Posten reported that most of the fakes were of the 2005 "Summer at the Allotment" lithographed stamps, which

were issued as 10-stamp booklets with four motifs (Sweden *Facit* 2487-2490, booklet SH19.) The *Facit* 2008 catalog includes a warning that forgeries of these stamps exist.



In January, there was a spectacular robbery at Gothenburg's main postal depot, which handles about two million letters and package daily. Eleven postal workers were forced to lie on the floor as robbers scooped up their loot and fled. The thieves left bomb-like devices in the building, set fire to five cars, and spread metal devices to puncture the tires of pursuing vehicles. No one was hurt in the robbery, and there was no immediate announcement as to what was stolen. "There are obviously some valuable packages that pass through (the terminal), but it's a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Per Ljungberg, Posten's press chief. Three men were arrested soon afterward as accessories.



**Postal Paraphernalia.** Those who like to collect postal paraphernalia might want to acquire the 2007 and 2008 set of exhibition cards from Åland Post. The 2007 set of 11 exhibition cards featured letterboxes and is now available for €16.50. The exhibition cards for 2008 have the theme of postal uniforms from various countries. In addition for 2008, special exhibition stamps on the same theme as the cards will be issued, but they will only be available at the particular exhibition — not before or after. The first class stamps will be valid for mail in Åland, but they will be sold only at the exhibition. The set of 2008 cards, which will be available at about 10 exhibitions, will be available at the end of this year, apparently without exhibition stamps affixed (unless there is a change from the initial announcement). Almost immediately after the exhibition stamps were announced, Åland Post began receiving inquiries from dealers interested in acquiring the exhibition stamps for later resale to collectors.



A 2007 Åland exhibition card showing a letterbox.



Exhibition card showing a female postal worker from previous years. This card will be released March 1-2 at an exhibition in Turku, Finland. The special exhibition stamp will be available only at this show, according to the initial announcement by Åland Post.





**Visiting the Postmuseum.** The media in Sweden reports that visitations to Swedish museums tumbled in 2007 after entrance fees were reinstated. A spin-off of this has been the development of a lively gallery scene in the Vasastan section of Stockholm. Meanwhile, in the Gamla Stan (old town) section, the Sweden Postmuseum is still pulling in visitors even though it has charged entrance fees for many years. "We saw no big changes when other museums took the entrance fees away," says Erik Hamberg of the Postmuseum Library. "People did not go to other museums instead." In 2007, the Postmuseum recorded 142,000 visitors compared with 144,000 in 2006.



**Chunky Plus Sign.** Finland's Post continues to issue unusual stamps. Stamps that appear to be in motion or have electronic codes embedded in them were released in January (see *The Posthorn*, November, 2007, page 2 for details). Also released in January were several €0.05 and €0.10 self-adhesive stamps cut in the shape of a chunky plus sign.



**New Office in the Faroes.** The philatelic office of the Faroese Post has moved to a consolidated location. The office was housed at Argir for 25 years but is now located in the main post office in Óðinshædd. All departments of Postverk Føroya in Tórshavn are now housed in the same building. The new mailing address is: Postverk Føroya, Philatelic Office, Óðinshædd 2, FO-100 Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. Telephone, fax, and email are unchanged.



**Keeping Count.** Newly issued sheets in Denmark are being marked with the quantity to help sales clerks keep track of the number of stamps on each sheet. The sheets will be marked 20, 40, or 50 for the number of stamps in the sheet. The numbers are to be printed in the bottom left-hand corner of each sheet next to the bar code. ■

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## News from the Home Office

Don Brent

### Membership

Dues renewals are just about wrapped up for the year. If for some reason you have missed the renewal notice or the reminder post card, send in your renewal now. I understand some things get set aside during the Holiday season, and after the New Year they get cleaned up. If this sounds like you now is the time to take care of your renewal.

**This is the last copy of *The Posthorn* for members who have not renewed for 2008.**

We would like to thank all those members who have added donations along with their renewals. These donations, of any size, help the SCC stay financially strong. Again, thank you for your support.

This year we have one member entering the Golden Life category with six others reaching the Quarter Century level. One member who passed away recently was Erin Gunter, who had been a member for 49 years. Another was Arthur Lind, a member for 55 years.



Our membership decreased again slightly last quarter. We had seven new members join plus three reinstatements. We welcome our new members and hope to meet many of them in person at one of our future meetings. There were 12 resignations during the last quarter of the year. This is not unusual as during dues renewal period there are always some who decide not to renew and let me know their wishes. In many cases, the resignations are for age or failing health. We regret losing any members, but I really appreciate the little note that lets us know your wishes. Also it is helpful to hear from members with your concerns. That is what the SCC needs. This should be an organization that reflects all of our members.

### **The Posthorn Mailing**

How are your copies of *The Posthorn* arriving? Usually, overseas delivery is considerably after domestic issues are delivered. But a delivery quirk had the November, 2007, issue reaching a member in Australia just two days after copies reached me here in California. *The Posthorn* is delivered as periodical mail in the U.S. and generally is distributed promptly from the USPS regional center in Denver. Let me know if there are any problems with your delivery.

### **Spring Cleaning (continued from last year)**

I mentioned some time ago that I had boxes of extra covers. Several members responded that they had homes for them. Included was the Stamps for the Wounded program. It was a "duh" moment for me, as I am a regular user of the VA and they have a program at the facility in La Jolla. Following my donations to a few members and my drops at the VA here, I still have a couple shoe boxes of covers left. If anyone wants a donation, or another box for those who received one last year, let me know and I will get it to you as long as they last.

Also there are quite a few old copies of *The Posthorn* here. Most are from the last few years but some go back to the 1970s. These are not complete runs as some issues are out of stock. I would be happy to clear them out for 25 cents each plus mailing. Let me know what you are missing; I will see what I can do. For those of you on show committees, if you would like a few free copies to pass out at your shows with an inserted application, let me know. ■

## **Membership Statistics for the Fourth Quarter, 2007**

### **New Members**

4110 Partain, Sam, DNP  
4111 Sør-Reime, Geir, DNP  
4112 Akin, John B. Sr., 147 Forest View Circle, Hot Springs, AR 71913-6557  
4113 Hoeniger, Fred David, 17 Anderson Avenue, Toronto, ON M5P 1H2 Canada  
4114 Sadko, Lauri, RR #1 Gus Wuori Road, Kaministiquia, ON P0T 1X0 Canada  
4115 Janssen, Franz-Volker, P.O. Box 404, Simon's Town, 7995 South Africa  
4116 Farber, Martin, P.O. Box 579, Lady Lake, FL 32158

### **Reinstated**

1982 Guyer, John O.  
3884 Monk, Graham C.  
3432 Kurki, Don

### **Resigned**

3965 Stein, Michael  
3490 Hicks, William T.  
3374 Ahlstedt, Hans  
3806 Nyberg, Edward J. Jr.  
2285 Conrad, Roan  
3420 Teramo, Kari  
3906 Piscione, Joe  
3837 Johnson, Leo  
3953 Pedersen, Sven  
1787 Simson, James P.  
4104 Don's Stamps  
3639 Zatka, Mirko

### **Change of Address**

3858 Grandahl, Roland L., Heritage Drive 8A, Windsor, CT 06095  
3875 Krulla, J. H., P.O. Box 350430, Brooklyn, NY 11235-0430  
3494 Warfel, David R., 122 Evans Drive, McMurray, PA 15317-2704  
1921 Bell, Jonathan, 201 Missallie Dr., Clinton, SC 29325  
3921 Martin, Phillip S., 109 Saint Andrews Pl., Enterprise, AL 36330-2385

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

973 William H. Littlewood  
3833 John E. Moffatt  
4022 Darryl L. Templar  
1995 Thomas S. Clark  
3053 Karl P. Klaus  
1545 George W. Sickels  
3294 Dr. E. D. Svensson  
3980 Roger Byrne  
3397 No Limits Stamps  
3673 John Hollenkamp  
4034 J. D. Eklund  
3846 Frank A. Hacker  
2773 Fred Bateman  
3226 David R. Bennett  
3647 Rabbi L. L. Tann  
2252 Charles R. Carlson  
3835 Ray W. Lawrence  
3015 Svein Arne Hansen  
2739 Michael R. Robinson  
1604 Norman C. Seastedt  
3864 Michael P. Cohen  
3687 Jerry E. Angus  
3242 Gordon C. Morison  
3899 Richard A. Nelson  
1087 Alan Warren  
1416 Jack Isaacson  
954 Ed Fraser  
2888 Roger P. Quinby  
2816 Roger K. Schnell  
1132 Ronald Collin  
L89/2573 John R. Sabien  
American Philatelic Research Library



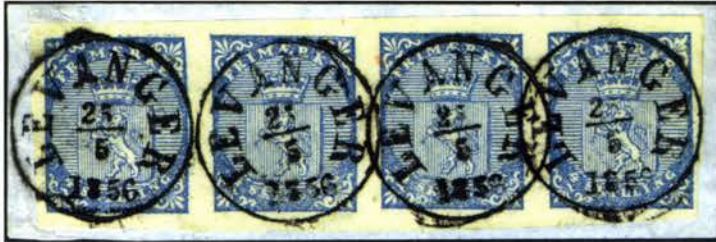
# Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke \*



## Kjell Germeten, November 30-December 1, 2007

The 73rd auction by Germeten had nearly 700 lots of general Norwegian material. There was a good selection of the 4-sk. 1855 issues and a beautiful 4-strip canceled with Stavanger CDS (#1208), which sold for \$11,300 after starting at \$6,850. A well-margined 6-strip (#1213) with grid cancel (one of the stamps with “retouched corner”) sold for the estimate of \$18,250. Unsold was a 6-strip on cover to Leipzig. An accumulation with 355 plated stamps (#1232) went for \$54,000, nearly \$20,000 more the estimate. A telegraf-Depeche cover franked with 4-sk. Oscar (#1264) started at \$3,400 and sold for \$5,250 while a nearly complete 4-sk. Oscar plate re-construction (#1299) sold for \$3,500, nearly five times the estimate.



Norwegian material brings strong prices.

denominations was a surprise at \$9,125 for a four-color franking to Transvaal (#1423). A 3-øre orange NK51-I, 21mm posthorn MNH block of four (#1519) and off-centered (only two other blocks known) brought \$9,400.

The London World War II overprint in a block of six with corner margin (#1640) sold for \$8,800, some \$3,000 more than the estimate. A lovely local mail letter bearing a 2-sk. Drammen local stamp (#1759) sold for \$1,800.

## F. C. Moldenhauer, November 16-17, 2007

This sale featured an unrivaled collection of Norwegian letters to foreign destinations formed by Pieter Ahl – a result of more than 20 years of dedication to form the finest collection of Norwegian letters sent abroad. There was an electric atmosphere in the auction room as some of the early expensive items came up for sale. When the first two, #16 at \$23,000 and #17 at nearly \$70,000, went unsold, the atmosphere abruptly shifted to a somber mood and affected the remaining session of the Ahl collection. The conclusion must be that the starting prices were set too high. Some of the strong buyers retracted bids and focused on the truly important items on buying lists.

Nearly \$800,000 of material went unsold, including the famous cover to Mauritius (#260) estimated at \$115,000. The most appealing Norway cover, the “Königsberg” cover (#108) with 12 copies of the 4-sk. 1855, sold for \$515,000 on the book. It was later reported that a Swiss auctioneer purchased this fantastic letter.

The other large collection was “Incoming Mail to Norway” formed by Svein Arne Hansen. This collection with many rare items attracted interest from many buyers worldwide. Although some items were unsold, the general auction was quite good. A 2-sk.



One-half million dollars for Norway's Königsberg cover.

Oscar mint block of 12 (#1821) sold for \$18,250, just above the estimate, but a newly discovered 4-sk. Oscar bisected on cover (#1863) did not fetch the estimate of \$34,200. A FDC with a complete set of the Holberg 1934 issue (#618) sold for \$7,100, or more than four times the estimate.

### Thomas Høiland, November-December, 2007

Parts II of the Jussi Tuori gold medal collection of Denmark and the Jacob Engel collection of the Schleswig-Holstein duchies was the major attraction at Høiland's auction. The most expensive item from the Engel collection was the 1¼-Sch. blue Mi.5I with wide wavy-lines on a letter to Denmark (#69). It sold for a stunning \$360,000, nearly four times the estimate. A rare bisect of the 1¼-Sch. Mi.5I H, and one of only two letters recorded (#62), sold for \$132,000 with the price taking off from \$72,000. A scarce combination on cover (#109) originating as a result of the 1864 Prussian-Austrian war and franked with a 1¼-Sch. and a Danish 4-sk. 1864 sold for \$67,200.



Combination Cover brings \$67,200.



A weak multiple in the marketplace (Høiland Lot 695).

In the Tuori sale, the famous and renowned large multiple of the 8-sk. 1858-issue block of 10 on piece (#695) sold for just a fraction of the estimate at

\$19,200. The appealing Heyn covers to Germany, a combination on cover with a 2-rigsbank skilling stamp and one of the brown 4-sk. stamps (#636), sold for \$54,000 or 10 percent less than the estimate. A rare local stamp from Kolding on cover (#2763), estimated at only \$240, sold for \$3,600, being only one of three covers recorded.

A good cover from the Faroes (#2903) on stationery envelope with a bisected 4-øre 1919 provisional went for \$11,000, or six times the estimate. Greenland was quite in demand with a World War II cover with a combination Greenland/Canada stamps (#3090) selling for \$2,500 against an estimate of \$480. In Iceland, a rare black proof (#3652) of the 8-aur Brjefspilad (single post card) from 1883 sold for \$3,500, some 20 percent more than the estimate.

### Kaj Hellman, October 6, 2007

Hellman reached another record in his fall auction when 1,895 lots sold for \$970,000 before commissions. Ninety-six percent of the lots sold, including after-sales. Some 660 lots were foreign with 282 lots involving Russian material; this has been the normal percentage in recent auctions.

Some of the bidding was mind-boggling: single stamps were sometimes raised 13 times from starting bids and certain numismatic items sold for 35 or even 60 times their starting prices. Specifically, one Russian stamp from 1924 sold for \$18,850, some 13 times above its \$1,450 start and twice its catalog value. The identical stamp sold at another Hellman auction four years ago for \$5,800 (at the present exchange rate).

One of the more unusual lots (#26) – 32 essays for the 1940 Olympics scheduled for Helsinki but canceled because of World War II – started at \$7,250 and sold to a foreign bidder for \$9,280 (plus 15 percent commission). The reviewer lamented that this should have been bought by the Finnish Postal Museum rather than by a foreign bidder. The highest price paid for a Finnish item went to lot #1083, a very

nice 1882 money letter with 1875 issues, such as 1-mk Senate Printing and three 20-pen stamps of Charta printing (two different shades!) as well as a 5-pen Charta stamp. It sold at its starting bid of \$10,875 (plus commission). A strip of three 5-kopek oval stamps canceled in Helsingfors sold at its starting bid of \$3,625. All lots are pictured on Hellman's website [www.kajhellman.fi](http://www.kajhellman.fi), with their prices realized.

### Merkki – Albert, November 10, 2007

This company held a public auction in November with 1,520 lots of stamps, groups, collections, postcards, and other philatelic items. Sales reached \$174,000 and 70 percent of all lots; 18 percent were foreign items with the balance representing Finnish material. The highest price by far was for a North Ingermanland cover to Paris, France (#812). With a starting price of \$2,900, it sold for \$4,570. The second highest winning bid was for a vertical pair of Zeppelin stamps with '1830' error that sold for \$2,260 (#746). ■



A North Ingermanland cover to Paris sells for \$4,570.

\* *Kauko Aro contributed the reports on the Hellman and Merkki-Albert auctions.*

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## Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren

### News from Denmark

Erik Torbensen discusses Iceland's postal history during 1776-1872 in the December issue of *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*. In the December *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Leif Brinch Hansen illustrates many of the plate flaws of the 1890 series of Denmark's bicolor issues, and Holger Carstensen shows mail censored by the Danish post office in Hamburg during the Napoleonic wars.

Bruno Nørdam continues his articles on essays of Danish stamps in the issues 6 and 7/2007 of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. Steen Mielec describes his postal history collection of Holsteinsborg in the 8/2007 issue of *DFT*, and Jan Læby Petersen shows a much-traveled postal card of 1902 from Danish West Indies to Denmark and returned to the sender with many cancels and handstamp markings. Jørgen Poulsen illustrates plate varieties of the 20-øre 1920 Reunion issue of Denmark.



### News from the Faroes

Issue 3/2007 of *News from the Faroes* continues the discussion of the mail in Fugloy, in particular at Hattarvik.

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

An article in 3/2007 of *Filatelisti* explains why the 1922 Red Cross stamp was not valid for postage on letters sent abroad. The permit centered on international practice where semi-postal stamps were just beginning to be recognized in foreign mail. However, the Finnish postal administration stated that this stamp would be only valid within Finland. Heikki Reinikainen writes about a 5-pen black/yellow color error of the 1866 issue (sold at auction in 2005), explaining how the stamp had been extensively repaired. A new figure cancel – numbered 317A Ekenäs – has been found on an 1877 letter from Ekenäs to Karis. Veijo Heiskanen continues with the second part on the Finnish ATM labels. Part 25 of the Finnish registration labels by Matti Sipari and the subject of maxiphilately close out this issue.



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In issue 4/2007, Bjørn Hinnerichsen writes about the 1922 Red Cross stamp used to England as follow-up of the article in the previous issue. The invalid use of this stamp is noted by both postal administrations with postage-due charge to the recipient. The third installment in the series on “thunder” cards and their impact in philately is written by Sven-Erik Hjelt. As no postage was required, the cancelations appear quite legible. The formula cards are pre-addressed to the Central Meteorology Institute or the Finnish Scientific Society. Jorma Keturi is coordinating a research project involving the ruble/mark exchange rates in fall, 1917, and is looking for help from readers. Matti Sipari continues his treatise on Finnish registry labels, this time with labels used from 1963-1978.

In issue 5/2007, Martti Lepola writes about the scarce postmarks found on mail canceled in railway cars. The fourth installment on “thunder” cards covers their use in Finland and other European countries.

Kari Lehtonen writes about the use of stamps for payment of the entertainment tax during 1915-1920 in issue 6/2007 of *Filatelisti*. Initially this “war tax” was 10 percent of the ticket price starting January 1, 1915, but was increased later on. As the available revenue stamps were too large to fit on the tickets without covering other information, postage stamps were used. Heikki Reinikainen describes a roulette forgery on the 40-penni, 1866 stamp in which roulettes were cut from a common B-roulette to a much scarcer A-roulette. He shows how side-by-side comparisons will safely identify the correct and original roulettes. Matti Sipari adds another installment to his series on Finnish registry labels.

In issue 7/2007, Risto-Matti Kauhanen discusses the imperforate stamps of the 1930 issue. Such stamps surfaced in 1972 when a law firm requested permission to auction off the stamps in settling an estate. While two sets of each imperforate sheet remain at the postal museum, one or two of each value were kept by the Finnish stamp office in its color and proof collection. This practice was discontinued in 1939. When the office moved to a new location, it was found that these stamps were missing.

Kari Lehtonen writes in 7/2007 about imperforate stamps of the 1917 Saarinen issue that have come to market without proper permits. Due to chaotic conditions, especially in 1918, there was very limited inspection or control, giving rise to thefts. He concludes that any stamp not printed on the proper stamp paper has reached the market illegally. On the other hand, there are also wholly or partly imperforate stamps printed on the proper stamp paper and are true errors. This issue also contains an article by the late Don Halpern, “Danish and Norwegian Mail Abroad during the Napoleonic Period.” His research appeared originally in the catalog for NORDIA-2001. The illustrations were from a single-frame exhibit that Halpern showed at NORDIA-2006.

Also in 7/2007, Reijo Nummela explored Russian newspapers to see how Russians were told of the use of stamps in Finland. The article ends with a discussion of the Mourning Stamp, which the Russians deemed to be a political demonstration against the rulers. The Internal Affairs Minister prohibited its use on any mail.

## News from Germany

In the August issue of *Philatelistische Nachrichten*, published by the Nordic Country Study Group, Bernd Fielder contributes the second part in a series on early registered mail of the Faroes. He illustrates the large letter “R” registered labels with a black number used from 1912-1920. In his series on Greenland’s post offices, Rolf Dörnbach discusses Savissivik and shows various cancels and their periods of use.

## News from Great Britain

In the May issue of 238, journal of the Faroe Islands Study Circle, editor Norman Hudson describes the closing of three more Faroes post offices in January, 2007—Skálavík, Porkeri, and Sumba. He shows examples of early and recent postmarks from these locations. Gert Wihlborg delves into the star and star-removed cancels of the Faroes in the same issue. He presents a nice table of the letter collecting offices and the type of canceler used, the opening date of the office, the earliest and latest known uses, date when the cancelation was returned, and other data.

In the same issue of 238, Rolf Dörnbach reviews the Faroese fishing stations in Greenland and their postal history. The second part appears in the November issue. Peter Sondhelm reports two new types of British censor resealing tapes used on mail to and from the Faroe Islands in World War II. They are recognized as previously unreported imprints on the tapes, presumably identifying the printers of the labels.



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Marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greenland airmail, *Scandinavian Contact* editor Peter Hellberg describes the so-called Rockwell Kent semi-official prepared by the German pilot Udet for air use during the Franck Expedition. In the same December, 2007 issue, Bob Johnson analyzes the special markings found on greater Copenhagen mail during the 1950s to 1970s for improved efficiency of delivery. The marks are a series of 3, 4, or 5 stripes at the bottom edge of the envelope front and were designed to ensure prompt delivery of mail.

Also in this issue, Peter Williams shows a piece of mail from what is possibly the last cruise to Spitsbergen before World War I. The postal card was addressed to Magdeburg, Germany, in July, 1914, and is additionally franked with Norwegian stamps and a Spitsbergen label and canceled at Nordcap and Magdalenabay, and also bears a ship cachet. The message on the card, in German, reads, "Because of the war, we shall have to go straight back to Bremen."

### **News from Iceland**

In issue No. 16 of *Frimerkjablaðið*, Rolf Dörnbach lists the various post offices located in Reykjavík over the years. Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson discusses the steel-engraved printing of stamps. Þór Þorsteins describes the preparation and printing of the 1930 Parliament issues of Iceland and shows some essays of those stamps.

### **News from the Netherlands**

2007 was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Sweden's Carl Linnaeus. In the October issue of *Het Noorderlicht*, J. M. Vroom reviews the botanist's life and the Swedish stamps issued over the years to commemorate him. Ton Steenbakkers illustrates some World War II period mail of the Faroes. Henk Fiolet presents the concluding part of his series on Finland's Gustaf Mannerheim. In the December issue of the same journal, Henk Fiolet gives a brief overview of Finland's stamps and cancels, including the Mourning Stamp.

### **News from Norway**

Tore Gjelsvik shows two different examples of straight-line handstamps of the cutter, "Globetrotter II" in the October issue of *NFF-Varianten*. Christer Brunström discusses Denmark's postal ferry stamps in the issue 3/2007 of *Frimerke Forum*.

Peer-Christian Ånensen presents the second part of a series on the King Olav 2-kr issues of Norway, with illustrations of plate flaws, in issue 6/2007 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. In the following issue, he addresses the similar details of the Olav V 5-kr stamp. In issue 7/2007, Hans Peter Sandberg describes the Frederik VIII issues of Denmark, 1906-1912. The Olav V 10-kr issue is treated with respect to plate flaws in issue 8/2007. Peer-Christian Ånensen also reviews the 30-øre gray posthorn issue (NK 81) on its centenary.

Erik Lørdahl examines the SS (Schutzstaffel) censorship of interned students' mail during World War II in the December issue of *Norwegian War and Fieldpost Journal*. University students from many countries, including Norway, were felt to have political leanings that were anti-German, and so they were interned in various camps in Germany. An amazing amount of the correspondence survives. In the same issue, Sören Eklöw shows two letters written in Norway to an addressee in Sweden. They were smuggled to the destination country by fishing boats.

### **News from Sweden**

In the 6/2007 issue of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Jan Billgren continues his series on mail to and from famous Swedes, this time showing some items related to the Swedish artist Carl Larsson. Sigge Anders presents installment 15 of his series on local post cancels, this time for the Jönköping express and local post in 1945, and the Kalmar local post of the same year.

Harry Hohndorf describes plate varieties of Sweden's military reply stamp (*Facit* M2) in issue 7/2007. Karl-Erik Samuelsson begins a series on the large 10-öre red official stamp of Sweden, which was printed with three different plates. This initial installment deals with Plate I. He concludes the series in issue



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8/2007. In that issue, Sigge Anders focuses on the cancels of the Karlstad local post, 1944-1946. Anders also writes about the first local post postal card of Göteborg.

Leif Bergman describes privately printed airmail labels and shows five different varieties of those made by Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) in the issue 2/2007 of *Bältespännaren*, the Cinderella collectors group based in Sweden. In the same issue, Bjarne Fahlmann tabulates number-imprinted parcel etiquettes used in Sweden with earliest and latest known dates.

### News from the United States

In the November-December issue of the *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Henrik Mouritsen discusses the scarce Danish covers to foreign destinations paid in øre currency and sent before the rates adopted by the UPU. The reason for the scarcity is that Danish postage was paid in rigsdaler, mark, and skilling until the country converted to kroner and øre January 1, 1875. The UPU rates came into effect July 1 that year so there was only a six-month window for such covers.

*The Finnish Philatelist* continues to be an important resource for Finland collectors. It is highly regarded by collectors in Finland and elsewhere with an interest in this country's stamps and postal history. The August, 2006, issue shows examples of Russian kopek issues mixed with various Finnish stamps on cover in two articles by Morten Nørstad and Leonard Tann, assisted by Roger Quinby.

The November, 2006, issue continues with discussions of Finland's registered mail labels and an article by editor Quinby on double censoring in Finland during 1916-1917. The February, 2007, issue features another article by Nørstad, this time on Russian post cards of 1890-1909 used in Finland. Highlighting the May, 2007 issue is an article by Veijo Heiskanen on the history of the Frama labels of Finland.

Jorma Keturi reviews the early use of censorship in Finland, particularly early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, in the August, 2007, issue of *TFP*. Each issue of this journal also carries an article on early first day covers of Finland in the late 1930s and early 1940s. In the November, 2007, issue, Jorma Keturi describes the interference and control of mail by Russia during its period of Finland autonomy. Additional short research items in this issue bear on railway TPOs, censorship devices, and the unusual "Iz Finlandii" markings. *TFP* is available online at SCC's Website, [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org). ■

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## Member Advertisements

**Chapter Auction:** SCC's Delaware Chapter 13 has prepared its latest auction with a closing date of April 28. This auction is strong in minor varieties and cancels. All the major Nordic countries are represented. For a copy of the catalog, contact Dewey Smith, PO Box 325, Rockland DE, 19732, or email [86910@udel.edu](mailto:86910@udel.edu).

**For Sale:** *Island, posalt set i perioden 1939-1945*, Kristian Hopballe, etc., 352p, \$30; *Gronland, Censurpost under anden verdenskrig*, Kristian Hopballe, 192p, \$30; *Norge, postveier og sensur under den annen verdenskrig*, Svein Andreassen, 262p, \$30; *Færoernes, postale forhold under andeen verdenskrig*, 224p, \$30. All like new. Postage additional. Email [rkschoss@mindspring.com](mailto:rkschoss@mindspring.com).

**Want to Buy:** Scandinavian specialized collection that can be expanded. Airmail preferred. Send photocopies, or email [rkschoss@mindspring.com](mailto:rkschoss@mindspring.com).

**Library Want List:** The SCC Library would like to fill gaps in its reference collection of Carl Pelander auction catalogs from the 1940s into the 1960s. The Library also needs a copy of the 2003 and 2004 *Facit* catalogs. For donations to the Library (or to borrow materials), contact Paul Albright at [palbright@wiche.edu](mailto:palbright@wiche.edu).

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# Chapter Reports

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*Edward Bode, Vice President, Chapters*

For two years, I have enjoyed corresponding with chapter representatives to report local activities. In the spirit of my Viking ancestors, I am expanding my boutique vineyard. So, I pass on my role as vice president of chapters. Thanks again to all who have contributed to the chapter reports. Thanks also to *The Posthorn* editor.



## **CHICAGO CHAPTER 4**

A recent meeting was Mixture Night – Scandinavian mixtures ordered from ads in *Linn's*. Members socialize while selecting items wanted for their collections. The remainders are donated to youth booths' at local shows.

## **COLORADO CHAPTER 27**

The chapter has started a series on "Technical Issues of Stamp Collecting" with talks on techniques of detecting watermarks, methods of printing, and stamp paper varieties. The chapter is planning a reference manual of postal markings for the SCC Library. The manual will include explanations of specialty postal markings, many of which are not documented or difficult to locate. Recent show-and-tell items included an 1886 registered cover to Norway franked with USA 15¢ "banknote" definitive (5¢ for the foreign rate and 10¢ for the registry fee).

The SCC Library has received the donation of the Donald F. Halpern Library consisting of 148 philatelic books and catalogs and numerous philatelic periodicals/auction catalogs. Of the books and catalogs, 65 will be retained by the SCC Library, but more than 50 duplicates are being made available to SCC members through auctions advertised in *The Posthorn*. About 30 non-Scandinavian books were donated by the SCC to philatelic libraries in Denver, CO, Tucson, AZ, and Sunnyvale, CA.

## **CYBER WORLD CHAPTER 28**

Members viewed and commented on a Danish 1926 cover with 1904 stamps.

## **DELAWARE CHAPTER 13**

Members and spouses enjoyed a post-holiday luncheon in January. The chapter is planning a mail bid auction to be held April 28 (see Member Advertisement on page 32).

## **GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER 21**

Members met each month at a local show and at members' houses to hear programs and to buy from Mart books. The members and their wives also had a nice New Year's party in lieu of the January meeting.

## **MANITOBA CHAPTER 24**

The chapter re-elected their current officers and increased annual dues to \$10. The chapter newsletter, *The Gnome News*, includes links to the post office websites of the Scandinavian countries. The chapter is studying completeness of catalogs of Finnish revenues. The October meeting featured show-and-tell covers and cancels, including a Norwegian cancel on a Swedish stamp. Members in November viewed enlarged color reproductions of Swedish ring-type stamps. The Christmas dinner featured a Scandinavian buffet and a live auction that netted \$388 to benefit the club.

## **NEW YORK CHAPTER 7**

Long-time member Art Lind has died. He was the first manager of what developed into the SCC Mart books. (See his obituary in the Albums Closed section.) Swedish blackprints were brought for show and tell.

## **NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER 9**

In September, Warren Grosjean detailed his Denmark exhibit. He preserves chapter archives in his home. ■



## Book Reviews

*Norgeskatalogen 2008* (Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Norway), 60<sup>th</sup> edition. 6¾x9½ inches, 480 pages, stiff covers, perfect bound, in Norwegian, Oslo Filatelistklubb, 2007. ISBN 978-82-997618-0-2, approximately \$70 plus postage from Oslo Filatelistklubb, Frydenlundgata 14, 0169 Oslo, Norway. Also available in the U.S. from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349, www.jaysmith.com.

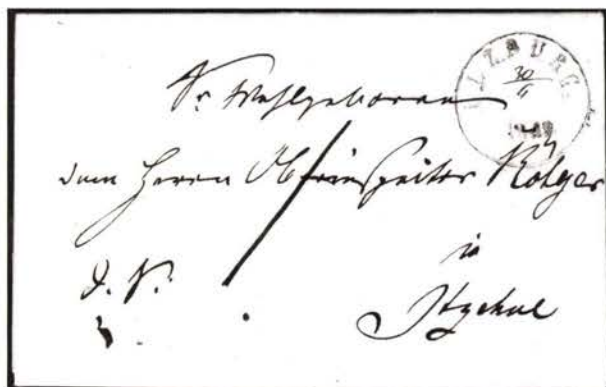
This venerable specialized catalog of Norway stamps has reached a milestone with this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. Although the descriptions are in Norwegian, there are sidebar discussions in English, and the introductory pages on how to use the catalog are bilingual.

The catalog committee has again made corrections and additions to the listings and all stamps are shown in color. Some catalog number changes from recent editions are listed with the old and new numbers. The depth of coverage is revealed with the treatment of not only the regular stamp issues but also vending machine booklets, Frama labels, officials, postage dues, souvenir sheets, and personalized stamps among others.

Each edition of this catalog brings within its pages one or two new articles that treat a topic of interest to collectors in some depth. This is a great marketing scheme to encourage one to buy the catalog every year. One 25-page article this year is a guide to the complexities of Norway's popular posthorn issues. The other article, by Peer-Christian Anensen, the chairman of the catalog committee, examines the official stamps of Norway.

A selected bibliography, postal rate tables, and a listing of plate numbers and other markings that appear in sheet margins reveal the extent to which the committee has gone to provide collectors with information. Colored tabs on the edges of the pages help the user to locate specific areas within the catalog. The committee has again set a high benchmark for specialized country catalogs.

— Alan Warren



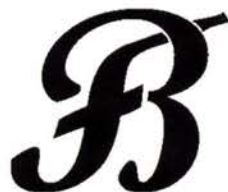
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**FRANK BANKE PHILATELISTS**



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*AFA Specialkatalog 2008: Danmark, Færøerne, Grønland, Dansk Vestindien og Slesvig* (specialized catalog of Denmark and related areas), ed. E. Daugaard. 6x8½ inches, 912 pages, casebound, in Danish, AFA-Forlaget, Otterup, Denmark, 2007. ISBN 10:87-7012-316-0, approximately \$90 plus shipping from Nordfrim, Kvindevadet 42, 5450 Otterup, Denmark; www.nordfrim.dk. Also available in the USA from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349, www.jaysmith.com.

Every five years or so this specialized catalog appears with detailed listings of not only Denmark but also the related areas of the Faroes, Greenland, Danish West Indies and Schleswig. It is the major reference work for the stamps of these countries, listing varieties; values for mint, used, and on cover; and values for first day covers and plate blocks (from the 1940s on).

The first day cancels are shown beginning with the 1940 stamps; many later issues have interesting pictorial cancels. Stamp illustrations are in color. However, the plate flaws of the bicolor issues are old black and white illustrations that are so worn that the details cannot be discerned. The publisher needs to update those with new images.

For Denmark the usual back of the book items are listed, such as Christmas seals, officials, postage dues, postal ferry stamps, newspaper stamps, booklets, Fram labels, year sets, souvenir cards, and more. A little over 500 pages are devoted to Denmark alone. The Faroes and Greenland receive similar treatment in their value listings. However, the Danish West Indies stamps are examined in greater depth with respect to plate flaws of the early issues.

Lasse Nielsen, an expert on the classic issues of Denmark, devotes nearly 100 pages of this catalog to the various printings of the skilling issues and early øre bicolor issues of Denmark. Nielsen also describes the essays and proofs of Denmark from 1849 to 1900.

The catalog begins with definitions of terms and near the end is a Danish-English vocabulary listing. For thematic collectors, there is a nice alphabetical listing of stamp subjects with their catalog numbers. The 2002 edition was 800 pages and this one is just over 900; so, contents have grown considerably. For serious collectors of the Danish area stamps, this is the catalog to own.

— Alan Warren

*Stjernestempler* (Star Cancels) by Jan Bendix and Jerry Kern. 256 pages, 5¾x8¼ inches, perfect bound, card covers, in Danish, Forlaget Skilling/DAKA, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2006. ISBN 87-91932-02-5, \$56.50 plus postage from Jay Smith & Associates, PO Box 650, Snow Camp NC 27349, www.jaysmith.com.

“Star” cancels were introduced in Denmark in the 1860s and continued into the 1950s. They typically consist of a double ring with a star-like symbol in the center ring, and the town name between the rings. There are three types of these cancels. Type I, also called Taarbæk type, consists of a double ring with a simple star design and the name of the letter collection office. Type II, also known as the Faarevejle type, is similar in design but of larger diameter. The third type is known as Udslebene, or starless cancel, as the star-like symbol in the center ring is missing. These marks do not carry time or date of the cancel but simply designate the name of the letter collection office.

This is a priced catalog with values shown in Danish kroner on a stamp by itself and on a complete cover. The most desirable quality is a bulls-eye strike or socked-on-the-nose cancel. These demand higher values than the catalog shows. The listings are alphabetical by town name and include the earliest and latest known usage dates. Some entries also show a side cancel, sometimes found with the star cancel, which has a city name and the cancel date.

The collecting of Danish star cancels is quite popular and the introductory pages of the catalog include an illustrated discussion of fake cancels. Abbreviations used in the book are explained in both Danish and English. A number of the marks are illustrated throughout the catalog, including some on covers that are shown in color. ■

— Alan Warren

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## Looking for a Trade? Need some Expert Help?

SCC members need not feel alone when they are looking for expert advice or trying to figure out what to do with duplicate material that is filling up stockbooks or piling up in storage cartons. SCC offers both a Helpers' List and a Traders' List.

Members who have questions about Scandinavian philately may contact George Kuhhorn, SCC's membership chairman, and he will pass the inquiry along to a helper in the area in question. "I give the helper the question and name and address of the person," reports Kuhhorn. "I've had many calls of thanks for this."

Members have not been as forthcoming in setting up stamp trades, however. Currently, one member in Iowa is trading material with another in Washington state. "If members contact me and state their general needs and what they have to trade, I will try to match them up as I do have people waiting to be matched," says Kuhhorn.

Kuhhorn may be contacted at PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; email [geokuhh@starfishnet.com](mailto:geokuhh@starfishnet.com). ■

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## 1943 Finnish Auction Featured in 2008

The February, 2008, issue of *The Finnish Philatelist* features an article concerning the 1943 auction sale of what is considered the finest Finnish collection ever assembled in the U.S. The sale of the Arthur Linz Finland collection was conducted on May 21-22, 1943, in New York City by Carl E. Pelander, one of SCC's founders.

The auction was advertised as from a "well-known American collector," and Linz's name was not associated with the collection at the time. "[W]e can say that it is the largest collection ever amassed and sold in the United States," Pelander wrote in the 79-page catalog.

*The Finnish Philatelist* is available online at SCC's website, [www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org). Those without Internet access should contact *TFP* editor Roger Quinby for a copy. A copy of the 1943 Pelander auction catalog on CD-ROM is available on loan to SCC members through the SCC Library. ■

### SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

**2008**

NORDIA 2008, October 23-26, Stavanger, Norway; [www.nordia2008.com](http://www.nordia2008.com).

CHICAGOPEX (SCC National Meeting), November 21-23; general information, [www.chicago.com](http://www.chicago.com); philatelic exhibitor's prospectus, [www.chicagopex.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2008pprospectus.pdf](http://www.chicagopex.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2008pprospectus.pdf); philatelic exhibition entry form, [www.chicagopex.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2008papplication.pdf](http://www.chicagopex.com/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2008papplication.pdf).

**2009**

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

NORDIA 2009, May, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.

**2010**

WESTPEX (SCC National Meeting), April 23-25, San Francisco airport area; [www.westpex.com](http://www.westpex.com).

NORDIA 2010, Finland.

**2011**

NORDIA 2011, Stockholm, Sweden.

**2012**

NORDIA 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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# SCC's Mart Needs More Material

By Eric Roberts

The SCC Stamp Mart needs more members to submit filled Mart books. Presently, we are not able to send Mart shipments to chapters for every monthly meeting. The Stamp Mart requires over 350 new Mart books a year to effectively satisfy our chapters and individual participants in the circuits.

The SCC Stamp Mart is the easiest way to sell your unwanted duplicates. We charge a commission of \$3.00, or 20 percent of all sales, whichever is greater. There is no insurance fee to sellers and we do not charge sellers postage fees for return shipments of retired sales books.

All material to be sold through the Mart must be mounted in special sales books, which are available from the Mart Manager for 75 cents each, with a minimum of \$3.00. Currently there are two types of books available: Type F, 16-page, 192-space blue cover book; and Type H, 16-page "pocket" green cover book with each page having a small pocket (approx. 4x5 inches) adequate to use for small covers, booklets, and sets.

## Special Sale

For the remainder of 2008, the Mart will send five free Mart books for every 10 ordered.

Mart address is: Eric Roberts, P.O. Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056. Telephone 713-963-0485; email, [eric.roberts@kbr.com](mailto:eric.roberts@kbr.com). ■

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## Poetry Promotes Iceland's Kissing Stamps

Poetry was used to help promote four stamps issued on Valentine's Day (February 14) and characterized by Iceland Post as "occasional" stamps appropriate for Valentine greetings, birthdays, and weddings. Iceland Post introduced the stamps by quoting a 1937 poem entitled "On kissing":

*Respect kisses the forehead.  
Humility touches the lips by hand.  
Admiration chooses the cheek.  
Friendship kisses all over.  
While love is well known for kissing  
Straight on the mouth.*

Some – but not all – of these types of kisses are shown on the 65, 75, and 85 ISK stamps. ■



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## Correction

An article in the August, 2007 issue of *The Posthorn* ("Unofficial Aerogrammes from Greenland," pp. 3) stated that the U.S. Postal Service was the first to issue aerogrammes for civilian (non-military) use. Aerogramme specialist Jerome Kasper lists a number of countries that preceded the U.S. in issuing aerogrammes for civilian use. Even the military aerogrammes issued by the U.S. and Great Britain during World War II were preceded by civilian aerogrammes of a few countries issues in the 1920s and 1930s. Not all Scandinavian countries issued their first aerogrammes in October, 1949, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. Only Denmark and Iceland did so (both on October 10, 1949), whereas Norway had preceded them on April 13, 1948, and Finland and Sweden followed no earlier than April 14, 1951, and June 4, 1968, respectively. Thanks to Jerome Kasper for pointing out these facts.

## Scandinavian Collectors Club

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities 12/31/07

	2007		2006
<b>Checking, Money Mkt and CD Accounts</b>			
Citizens Checking	\$ 32,948.12	1)	\$ 7,103.21
Citizens Checking Restricted (Stamp-Mart Transit Loss Fund)	988.00		417.00
Citizens Money Mkt	17,815.28		17,717.43
Countrywide CD	39,996.93	2)	38,201.14
California Credit Union Savings	116.21		115.06
California Credit Union Checking	10,202.23		10,053.90
PayPal Account	416.65		-
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Stamp Mart, net worth	6,530.69		5,856.28
Capital Adjustments (Stamp-Mart)	(211.82)		(211.82)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 108,802.29</b>		<b>\$ 79,252.20</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Account to off-set Citizens Checking Restricted (Stamp-Mart Transit Loss Fund)	\$ 988.00		\$ 0.00
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$ 988.00</b>		<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 107,814.29</b>		<b>\$ 79,252.20</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 28,562.09</b>		<b>\$ 2,388.74</b>

### SCC Operating Statement 2007

	2007		2006
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Dues	\$ 14,639.33		\$ 13,218.74
Interest	2,641.97		1,724.14
Donations	30,129.00	3)	1,003.00
Stamp-Mart Net Worth Increase	674.41		507.50
Misc	6.00		40.00
Posthorn Advertising	7,103.00		6,724.00
2006 Income Adjustment (Trans. Ins. Prem. \$417 should not have been income)	(417.00)	4)	417.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 54,776.71</b>		<b>\$ 23,634.38</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Posthorn</b>			
Editor Stipend	\$ 2,250.00	5)	\$ 1,500.00
Production Editor Stipend	2,625.00	5)	1,750.00
Business Manager Stipend	375.00	5)	250.00
Printing	11,546.00		10,432.00
Domestic Mailing	1,100.00		1,000.00
Other PH Mailing	28.00		-
Foreign Mailing	1,960.99		2,287.70
Posthorn Supplies	538.00		-
Executive Secretary stipend	2,250.00	5)	1,500.00
Donation, RMPL	500.00		500.00
Foreign Judging Program	1,500.00		-
Awards	544.09		543.70
Office Supplies and Postage	110.84		-
Membership Postage and Supplies	731.75		913.70
Bank Fees	26.73		460.50
Promotion Postage and Supplies	128.22		108.04
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 26,214.62</b>		<b>\$ 21,245.64</b>
<b>Net change in Funds</b>	<b>\$ 28,562.09</b>		<b>\$ 2,388.74</b>

*Notes:*

- 1) Includes Margo Nelson Memorial Library Fund.
- 2) The Richter Library Fund has a 20.32% stake in the Countrywide CD.
- 3) Includes Don Halpern's bequest.
- 4) The official 2006 Financial Statements published in the February 2007 PH overstated Income and understated Liabilities by \$417. This was corrected in 2007 with a corresponding deduction to income.
- 5) Stipends had a "time shift" in 2005 and 2006 where the checks for the second stipend in December were cashed in January. This was corrected in 2007 when the second stipend was sent out earlier and therefore cashed before year-end. Normally the stipends for 2007 should have been \$2,500 less and the Net Change in Funds would have been \$31,062.99 for the year.

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