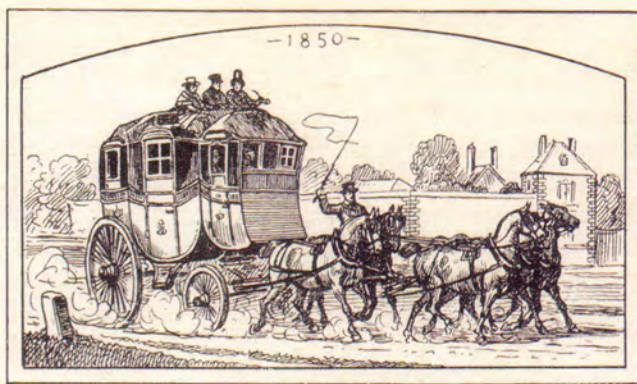


The POST HORN



Undercover Mail to Norwegian Seamen

A Danish Post Coach Robbery



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JOURNAL OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB
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Table of Contents

Undercover Mail Service between Canada and Norway	Ed Fraser	3
Norway Withdraws Ski Stamp		2
The Great Danish Postal Robbery of 1845	John R. Sabin	12
Danish Cigarette Stamps Include Single Pack	Paul Nelson	14
From Norway to the Orient	Frederick A. Brofos	15
Book Reviews		
Greenland – Island of the Arctic	Rolf Dörnbach	16
LAPE Special Stamp Catalog	Alan Warren	16
Bridge, roller, and machine cancels of Iceland	Paul Nelson	17
Norske Studenter Internert, 1943-1945	Alan Warren	17
The Return Post of the Danish Postal Service	Alan Warren	18
SCC News		
Information Needed for the SCC Archives	Roberta Palen	27
Look to Chicago for SCC's 2008 Annual Meeting		36
1,000 Frames Fill NORDIA 2008		37
Looking Ahead to NORDIA 2009		37
Library Auction #12		42
Prices Realized, Auction #11		44
Iceland Honors School of Education		34
Greenland Post Helps Fight TB for 50 Years	Paul Albright	35
Cover Corner: Puzzling Censor Mark on Greenland Letter	Kim Widén	39
Sweden Post Turns to Students for Stamp Designs		39
Misperforated Swedish Coil Stamp Surfaces	Paul Albright	40
Post Office Move in Åland Brings Protests		41
Correction		10

DEPARTMENTS

Albums Closed	40	President's Letter	20
Auction Marketplace	32	Scandinavian Area Awards	30
Chapter Meetings & Contacts	23	Scandinavian Literature Notes	28
Chapter Reports	26	SCC Calendar	36
Editor's Notes	25	SCC Member Services	37
Member Advertisements	44	SCC Officers	22
Membership Statistics	24	Transfers and Re-Entries	31
News from the Home Office	21		

Norway Withdraws Ski Stamp for Copyright Issue

By Paul Albright

Norway Post delayed issuing a coil roll that marked the centenary of the Norwegian Ski Federation when copyright clearance was not available for one of the four stamp images. The questionable stamp showed two young skiers coming down the slopes "but since it became clear no one could find out who these children are, the decision was made to withdraw it," said a spokesman for Norway Post.

Some "sample" stamps were sent to dealers, however, and Norway Post attempted to have them returned. As of mid-May, there were no reports of any of the withdrawn stamps reaching the philatelic marketplace. The spokesman said if the withdrawn stamps appear in the marketplace, "Norway Post will take action to stop the sale, as we consider the stamps property of Norway Post."

The withdrawn stamp was replaced by another similar image (shown here) of two similarly dressed but slightly older children skiing downhill. The other three stamps on the 100-stamp roll showed a cross-country skier, a ski jumper, and a slalom racer. All three of the adult skiers are identified by name in the promotional sales material.

Norway Post said there were more than five million of each of the four stamps produced. They are not denominated but are marked as "A Innland" to pay Norway's domestic postage rate. All of the stamps had been printed when the decision was made to withdraw the one stamp. All of the discarded stamps were destroyed, according to Norge Post. The delay postponed the release date for the coils from February 21 to March 14.

Typically, postal authorities provide some dealers with advance copies of stamps so that they can do their marketing, prepare first day covers, and arrange sales to collectors. It was reported in this case that dealers who received the skiing stamps had them for several days before receiving the return request. ■



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The World War II “Thomas Cook” Undercover Mail Service between Canada and Norway

- A Link for Norwegian Seamen -

By Ed Fraser

Only in recent decades has there been much focus on details of the World War II civilian wartime mail service between Canada and Germany, or Axis Occupied Countries. These details have been elusive to find, unlike the more-documented London-based Thomas Cook undercover mail service that was widely used and openly advertised in the British press. Initially, the London service used Amsterdam, Holland, as the neutral place for sending mail into Germany and receiving mail replies from Germany. When Holland fell in May, 1940, London changed the service to neutral Portugal. That service, principally using Box 506 in Lisbon, handled a large volume of mail for the first few years of the war. The Axis tolerated allowing such mail, or did not enforce harsh laws that they had against anyone sending letters using undercover mail schemes.

Great Britain and France declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, and Canada did so a week later, September 10. In a much lower profile way, Canada took steps to initiate an undercover mail service through the still-neutral United States. By November 24, 1939, an agreement had been finalized with Thomas Cook & Son in Toronto to

Montreal Gazette Nov. 25 1939

Thomas Cook Handles All Letters to Reich

Ottawa, November 24.—(P)—Justice Minister Lapointe, in his capacity as Acting Secretary of State, and Postmaster General Power announced tonight that Thomas Cook and Son, Limited, Toronto, have been appointed licensed intermediary for the forwarding of harmless social messages to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

Private letters to enemy or enemy-occupied territory sent through a neutral country are now allowed to be forwarded at the sender's risk as to delivery in the country of destination, subject to the usual conditions of censorship when sent through the intermediary of Thomas Cook and Son.

Letters cannot, however, be forwarded direct to enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

British subjects and others in Canada wishing to communicate with relatives or friends in enemy or enemy occupied countries should forward such letters to Thomas Cook and Son, accompanied by a remittance of 50 cents to cover the expense of transmitting the letter to a neutral country, the transmission from there to the enemy territory, and the transmission of the reply to the sender in Canada.

Letters intended for transmission to enemy or enemy-occupied countries should be as brief as possible, and should in all cases have the inner cover left open in accordance with the enemy censorship regulations, and should be confined entirely to private and family notes, without any reference whatever to military or naval movements, or to political and economic conditions.

The text of the November 25, 1939, *Montreal Gazette* article reads:

Thomas Cook Handles All Letters to Reich (Headline)

“Ottawa, November 24 – CP[?] – Justice Minister Lapointe, in his capacity as Acting Secretary of State, and Postmaster General Power announced tonight that Thomas Cook and Son, Limited, Toronto, have been appointed licensed intermediary for the forwarding of harmless social messages to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

Private letters to enemy or enemy-occupied territory sent through a neutral country are now allowed to be forwarded at the sender's risk as to the delivery in the country of destination, subject to the usual conditions of censorship when sent through the intermediary of Thomas Cook and Son.

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Figure 1. Newspaper Notice about initiation of Thomas Cook's service in Canada.

do the job. This can be confirmed by the newspaper article from the *Montreal Gazette* of November 25, 1939, shown as Figure 1. (Author's note: The author would appreciate knowing of other concurrent public announcements or newspaper articles about this service.)

Why Thomas Cook & Son?

When World War II started, apparently as both a humanitarian service and a modest revenue generation effort to offset lost travel agency business, Thomas Cook & Son proposed to the British government to be allowed to offer a forwarding service for civilian mail between England and Germany via a mail drop in Holland. The same reasoning probably applied to Thomas Cook & Son in Canada, except that using the United States was more convenient than Holland.

Information about this service apparently was available through post offices and by writing to Thomas Cook in Toronto, but copies of such information has eluded the philatelic community. Nothing has been found in print showing what address – or even what city or cities – were used as undercover addresses in the United States.

The information has been deduced from fewer than 1,000 covers and some enclosed slips from Thomas Cook in Toronto occasionally found in surviving mail. The bulk of covers, regardless of what country they are from, are basically all addressed to "Care of Post Box 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A." They typically have Axis censorship, are addressed to different names, and also have Canadian censorship indicating they somehow went from New York to Canada as it would not make sense to have come *from* occupied Europe to Canada, and then onward to neutral New York.

Unfortunately, neither Canada nor the United States routinely postmarked any of this mail on arrival or in transit. Additionally, most known covers are without contents. I believe that many of these covers probably were retained by Thomas Cook and only the contents were passed along from Cook's Office. At some point Thomas Cook's empty covers then wound up in the philatelic community.

While much of the functioning of this service is discussed in correspondence that can be found in official Canadian microfilm records in scattered places – and more needs to be found – one such letter involving Norwegian seamen would seem of particular interest to the collector community. That is shown as Figure 2, and is a most interesting complaint. This fortuitous letter conveys a story easily lost in history. This letter describes the situation quite well, but it does not appear that any accommodation was ever made for these seamen. The related correspondence that followed took a typical bureaucratic approach, offering nothing.

Historical Background

To review the history of the time, Germany attacked Denmark and Norway on April 9, 1940, forcing Denmark to surrender almost immediately. The Germans were unable to seize the Norwegian government, which then fought on. By early May, German control covered most of Norway, but fighting continued into June in northern areas while the Norwegian government then fled to England.

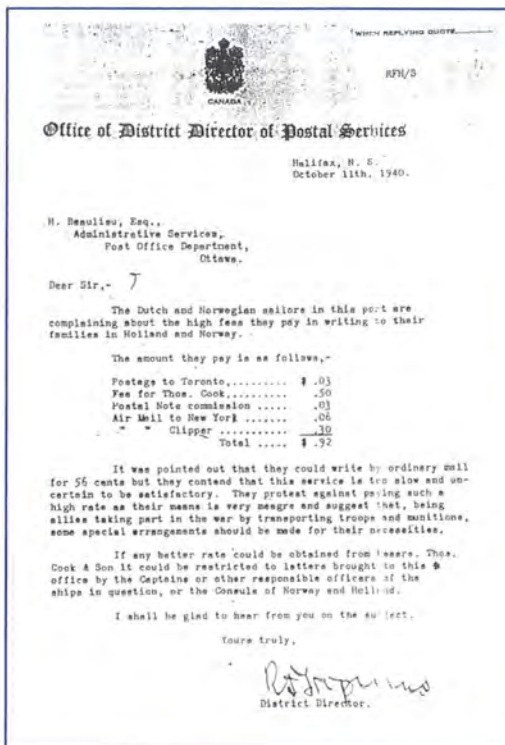
There was an effort by the Norwegian merchant fleet to get to or stay at sea to avoid the Germans. Many subsequently helped the Allied war effort. Halifax, Nova Scotia, was an important seaport in that effort.

Discussed here are several covers directed through Box 252 in New York to Norwegian seamen and others in Canada. These were all from the summer of 1940, and from the towns listed in Table 1. Other covers from Norway that may or may not have been to seamen are listed in Table 2.

It is not known where in Canada any of these addressees actually were, but Halifax was probably a popular location for seamen. Usually "letters home" during wartime survive better, but here no "letters home" are known or identified, and we only have these letters "from home" to work with. Hopefully a little publicity – such as this article – will result in some of the "letters home" turning up, even after all these years.

This forwarding service through the United States obviously came to an end when the U.S. entered the war against Germany in December, 1941. So did many other ways to contact Canadians one way or another





[On letterhead: Office of District Director of Postal Services]

RFH/S [probably sender's initials]
Halifax, N.S.
October 11, 1940

H. Beaulieu, Esq.,
Administrative Services,
Post Office Department,
Ottawa

Dear Sir,-

The Dutch and Norwegian sailors in this port are complaining about the high fees they pay in writing to their families in Holland and Norway.

The amount they pay is as follows:

Postage to Toronto.....	\$.03
Fee to Thos. Cook.....	.50
Postal Note commission.....	.03
Air Mail to New York.....	.08
" " Clipper.....	.30
Total.....	\$.92

It was pointed out that they could write by ordinary mail for 56 cents but they contend that this service is too slow and uncertain to be satisfactory. They protest against paying such a high rate as their means is very meagre and suggest that, being allies taking part in the war by transporting troops and munitions, some special arrangements should be made for their necessities.

If any better rate could be obtained from Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son it could be restricted to letters brought to this office by the Captains or other responsible officers of the ships in question, or the Consuls of Norway and Holland.

I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject.

Yours truly,
(signed)
District Director

Figure 2. Letter dated October 11, 1940, from Office of District Director of Postal Services, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Table 1. Seamen's Mail

Postmarks on a total of 25 covers seen by the writer of places in Norway to Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York.

- Haugesund
- Helgeroa
- Hem (unclear - possibly Sem)
- Nøtterøy
- Onsøy*
- Sandefjord
- Sysle*
- Torød*
- Tønsberg

*These towns are included in five covers to names of known seamen connected with the same three ships, but no ship name is in the address. The cover from Sysle has been positively confirmed as to a seaman who was with the "Pelagos."

Table 2. Some Seamen's mail possible

Postmarks of additional five places known from Norway to Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Bergen | Oslo |
| Fredrikstad | Vestrefjord |
| Myrvoll | |

through the U.S. There were proposals for Thomas Cook to offer a service to Americans after December, 1941. That apparently never materialized. Some mail routing between Canada and Portugal, and also between the United States and Portugal, did continue in various ways through the war, but on a smaller scale.

Covers shown here as Figures 3 through 8 are all dated before the District Director of Postal Services' letter of October, 1940 (shown in Figure 2) was sent, although I believe apparently no accommodation was made as a result of that letter. The cover shown in Figures 6 and 7 has no indication of involving seamen's mail. However, checking out additional Norwegian Box 252 covers proved interesting. Additional information was obtained with the help of Siri Lawson, who maintains a scholarly website about Norwegian seamen in general and their involvement in World War II in particular.

The Norwegian covers discussed here happen to include seamen's mail to just three ships - the "Suderøy," the "Pelagos" and the "Sir James Clark Ross." Is that a coincidence? Is there a common thread between the three ships? My guess is that someone advised these three about the Thomas Cook service, or they saw a notice about it, and the information was passed on to the crews of these three ships.

Figures 3 and 4 show a cover addressed to a seaman on the "Pelagos." The records indicate he was captured with the ship by the Germans, and later in 1941 apparently was returned to and released in Norway. Figures 5 and 8 show two covers addressed to seamen on the "Sir James Ross Clark."

The history is that when the thousands of Norwegian ships at sea heard of the German invasion of Norway on April 9, 1940, most sought to avoid returning to Norway. Three such ships were off England, and when they decided to contact British authorities, the "Suderøy," the "Pelagos," and the "Sir James Clark Ross," – "whale factories" apparently along with "whale catchers" – were directed to go to Halifax for further orders.



Figure 3. An example of a cover from Tønsberg from August, 1940, to a seaman on the "Pelagos."



Figure 4. Reverse of August, 1940, cover in Figure 3 showing Nazi and Canadian censor tapes.



Examining Norway Examples

The evidence from known covers suggests that Thomas Cook maintained books with the names and addresses of the Canadian senders, as well as the names and possibly the addresses of where the mail was sent in occupied Europe. A 50-cent fee covered receiving one reply. Of course, the addressee in occupied Europe would have no way to know that, so surely additional replies were sent, sometimes from other family members and friends who might conclude that the addressee was actually in New York. (How would they really know they were writing to an official "undercover" address?)

These additional replies from Europe may have been either held or sent onward by Thomas Cook, which requested payment from the Canadian addressee of an additional 25-cent fee. They may have been held when the addressee still owed 25 cents from a previous "extra delivery." A nice example suggesting this case is shown by the pencil annotation added to the August

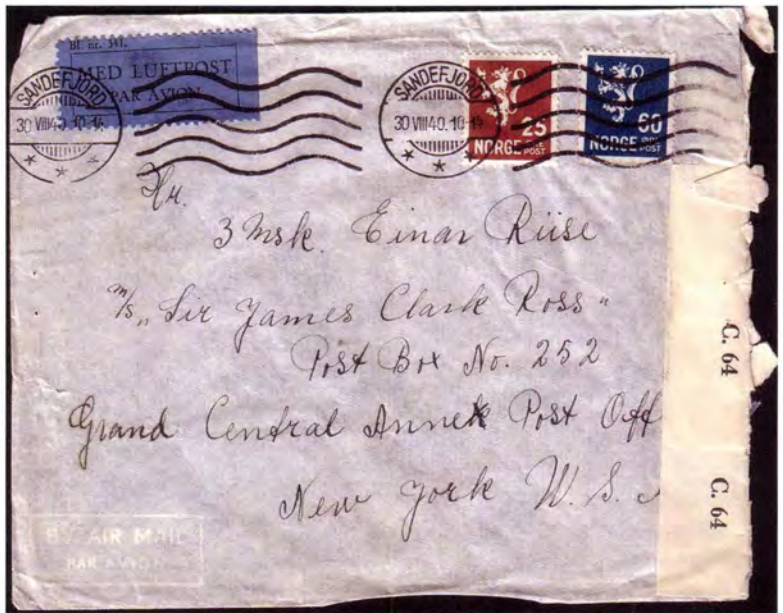


Figure 5. An example of a cover from Sandefjord from August 30, 1940, to a seaman on the "Sir James Clark Ross."



▲ Figure 6. A typical air mail cover from Fredrikstad, August 19, 1940, to Box 252. For an unknown reason it happened to receive a backstamp, as shown in Figure 7.

◀ Figure 7. The cover in Figure 6, backstamped in New York before getting Canadian censorship (Tape C.64). There is no Nazi censorship tape or handstamp.



19, 1940, seaman cover shown in Figure 8. That annotation apparently reads “Sent to Halifax Sept 26 – 25¢ to collect.” (I read this as meaning the contents were sent to Halifax with a note to return payment to Thomas Cook, and only this envelope was held at Thomas Cook.) It is especially interesting as it indicates the addressee’s address was in Halifax.

A few other annotated Box 252 addressed covers are known. Again, though, even with known slips requesting 25-cent payments to Thomas Cook in Toronto, there is no official paperwork linking Box 252 in New York and Thomas Cook. The firm has maintained that this information, and any records, did not survive the war.



Figure 8. Cover of August 19, 1940, with added pencil annotation, “Forwarded to Halifax Sept 26 - 25¢ to collect.”

Mail Censorship

The censorship of Box 252 mail is often somewhat distinctive because it usually had both Axis and Canadian censor tapes. In a quick review of 100 non-Norwegian covers addressed to Box 252, the following was noted: Three-quarters were from Germany, and all but one from Germany had Nazi censorship, and all had Allied Censorship, almost always being Canadian censorship. The ones from France and two from Italy only had Canadian censorship. Ones from Allied or neutral countries, e.g., Sweden, Russia, had only Canadian censorship. Overall, a few had PC 90 censorship, e.g., two from Denmark, but all the rest had Canadian censorship. None had PC 90 and Canadian censorship together. In total, only three covers were without Axis censorship where it might have been expected, perhaps suggesting a 3 percent pass-through rate of uncensored mail. (“P.C. 90” refers to the form number on many censor sealing tapes. “P.C.” was a fairly standard prefix used to identify the forms used throughout the British Empire by the “Postal Censorship,” and this is thought to be what P.C. stands for. Whether the number is “90” can depend on when and where it was used. An attempt was made, beginning in the spring of 1942, to have P.C. 90 throughout the entire Imperial Censorship operation, i.e., the British Empire and its Dominions.)

It is noteworthy, therefore, that the undercover mail from Norway is often without Nazi censorship. Looking at the small sample here, it seems only about one in six or ~17 percent show Nazi censorship. It is known that the Nazis appealed to the merchant seamen to return home to Norway and perhaps took minimal action against them when they were on a ship seized by the Germans. Could it be that they wanted it to appear that there was no real repression and censorship in Norway? Were letters to seamen required to be mailed unsealed at Norwegian post offices so they did not have to be cut open and show censorship? In any event, it seems curious how few show Nazi censorship. Can any reader add detail to this?

Also, very few covers addressed to Box 252, regardless of origin, have the usual Allied censorship – for example, P.C. 90 censorship. The first suggestion here is that the Allied censors were aware that Box 252 mail was for Canada and that it would receive Canadian censorship down the line. The Allied censors, therefore, may not have bothered to censor this mail. The Canadian censorship for this time period is shown by the “C.64” or the “C.53” on the censor tapes used on all of these covers from Norway. (Typical Canadian censor tapes found on other Box 252 covers include C.18, 22, 24, 42, 50, 54, 57, & 73, and others.) Other censorship on some covers was sometimes American, done in New York City. For those with

the P.C. 90 censorship tapes, it is more complicated to know if this was done in Bermuda, or elsewhere, before arriving in New York.

Speculation on Addresses and Handling

Instructions provided by Thomas Cook were likely printed on a slip of paper or handstamped, in English, and enclosed in mail into occupied Europe. It may have stated that, "Your reply to this letter should be addressed to me care of post box No. 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A." I say this because covers are known from Europe with this entire text written on them as the address! It is odd that Thomas Cook's instructions might be given that way to a recipient who might not read English, but perhaps this happened where the seaman or other person sending those instructions from Canada didn't know English either. Were instructions available in Canada in different languages? We do not know. It is also odd that they did not use the proper American form for the address, which would have been "Post Office Box 252" or "P.O. Box 252" and the city and state "New York, N.Y." and not just the city and "U.S.A." I have seen only a few covers addressed to "New York, N.Y." or specifying "New York City." The rest have the same poorly constructed address format.

As further speculation, I wonder if the address might originally have been proposed as a post office box in Buffalo, New York, which would have been most convenient for Thomas Cook in Toronto. It could have been that U.S. postal authorities objected and advised that a New York City address would be better for them. A late change in the address might cause the sloppy address directive.

Additionally, it is possible that mail to Box 252 at the Grand Central Annex post office was never picked up by the local Thomas Cook office people in New York but simply bundled at the U.S. post office and sent on to Canadian censorship. This is based on personal conversations years ago with Thomas Cook office personnel that used the Grand Central Annex post office for their mail and with conversations with their then-retired mail clerk who picked up their mail daily from that post office during the war. He was

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quite certain he never saw quantity of mail that was then passed on to Canada, and did not remember having seen any such mail, although specific box number information was not remembered. Business mail would likely have been picked up from a postal clerk rather than out of a lobby post office box.

Of course, how the mail to Occupied Europe, including Norway, was handled is still unknown and different ways may have been used. In summary, there are still mysteries to be revealed regarding World War II undercover mail.

(The author collects WWII Thomas Cook-related undercover mail and would appreciate any additional information, comments, or questions. Contact Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735 (USA), or email edfraser@gmail.com.)

(Acknowledgements: Thanks to Paul Nelson, Alan Warren, Siri Lawson, the late Art Lind, and Paul Albright for their help with this article.)

References:

Articles about the Thomas Cook undercover mail forwarding during WWII generally are about the British service through London. The classic overview article is "Post Box 506, Lisbon – Correspondence in World War II," by A. E. Gilbert, *Stamp Collecting*, December 21, 1978. While he did a diligent job, Gilbert was working with a universe of only 166 reported covers at the time. (No Norwegian, 13 Danish, and 5 Finnish.) There are at least 100 articles in many philatelic publications on undercover mail in the past 30 years.

The original articles reporting Box 252, Grand Central Annex mail as an undercover address for Canada were written by Kenneth Rowe, available online as "The Mystery of Box 252, a World War II Accommodation Address" *BNA Topics*, March-April, 1976, and "Post Box 252, New York" *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 30, No 6: Nov-Dec, 1979. At that time, no Norwegian covers were reported.

A.E. Gilbert and Jim Lewis co-authored an article on Box 252 covers in the *Third Reich Study Group Bulletin* #47, in 1978. A follow-up article is "Box 252," *TRSG Bulletin* #58, by Art Hecker.

References to covers involving Norway are rare. The comprehensive treatise by Svein Andreassen "*Norge – Postveier og sensur under den annen verdenskrig*" (Utgitt av Norsk Filatelistforbund og Filatelistisk Forlag a/s, Bergen 1995, 259 pages) shows one Box 252 cover from Bergen on June 16, 1941, and references the Thomas Cook Lisbon service. In addition, he discusses some Thomas Cook history and illustrates some Box 506 Lisbon covers, including one Norwegian example. He also discusses several other mail schemes used during the war. The book is only in Norwegian.

Siri Lawson maintains a Web site on Norwegian seamen at <http://www.warsailors.com/oddsvar/frameoddlinks.html>. Information on the "Suderøy," "Pelagos" and "Sir James Clark Ross" can be found at <http://www.warsailors.com/singleships/suderoy.html> and at <http://www.warsailors.com/freefleet/nortraship.html>. There is also a review of how the Norwegian government in exile arranged for control of the huge Norwegian shipping industry in the war and assisted the Allied war effort. Crew lists are apparently incomplete, but some like the "Pelagos," which was captured by the Germans in Antarctica in January, 1941, list captured Norwegian seamen in fair detail. It is also not clear which seamen were officially the crew of the whale factory, or may have been strictly whale chaser ship crew, or if this changed back and forth.

A Box 506 cover is discussed in "Gertrude van Tijn and the Rescue of Dutch Jews" by Larry Nelson, *American Philatelist*, September, 2006.

Correction

An incorrect caption was attached to Figure 12 in the article, "Ry – a Refugee Camp in Denmark, 1945-1949" (February, 2008, *Posthorn*, page 12). The caption should read:

Figure 12. Lisbeth became ill with a flu infection, and a sick note, dated August 27, 1947, was stamped with a rare rectangular camp stamp "Flygtningelejren Rye," as well as a two-line stamp "Arbeitseinsatz/ Abt Krankmeldung."

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The Great Danish Postal Robbery of 1845

By John R. Sabin



Figure 1a. Banner from Fyens Stifts.

The January, 16, 1845, issue of the Royally Privileged Address and Advertisement Newspaper for the Diocese of Fynen (*Fyens Stifts Kongelig ene privilegerede Adresse- samt Avertissementstidene*) (see Figure 1a) reported in its national news section (*Fædrelandet*=the fatherland) that there had been a postal robbery the previous week on the route from Helsingør to Copenhagen (see Figure 1b).

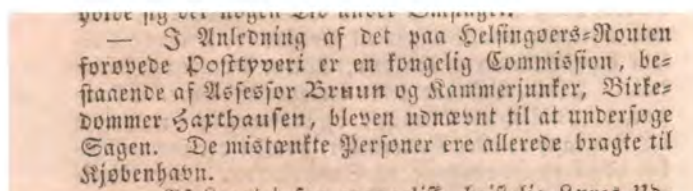


Figure 1b. The clipping reporting the postal robbery.

The news clipping reads: "In regard to the postal robbery on the Helsingør route, a Royal Commission, consisting of Assessor Brun and Royal Attendant, District Judge Harthausen, was constituted to investigate the case. The suspects have already been brought to Copenhagen."

A Stealthy Night Robbery

What was this all about?

According to the Royal Archives,¹ and an account in the 200-year anniversary booklet issued by the Hirschholm (now Hørsholm) Post Office,² the nighttime robbery took place between January 9-10, 1845, apparently in Rudeskov, north of Holte, on the route from Copenhagen (via Lyngby and Hørsholm) to Helsingør.

The mail was carried on a diligence (= stagecoach,³ see Fig. 2⁴), which was manned by a postillion on the box and a conductor. After 1840, when the package post from Kiel and Eckernförde was robbed and the postillion killed, it was common practice to have two men aboard if the transported postal bags had value of more than 2000 Rdl.⁵ Passengers could also fulfill the requirement of having more than one person aboard.

During this trip, neither the postillion nor the conductor noticed anything amiss, but when the locked mail compartment was opened in Hirschholm (Hørsholm), the bag was missing. The police were summoned and the matter referred to the postal authorities.

The royal commission mentioned earlier was appointed to investigate the matter and find the thieves. They found that the guilty parties were two stable boys who worked at the Hirschholm postal way station. The hostler, one Niels Larsen, was also found to be complicit. Larsen was accused of fabricating a copy of the key that the two stable boys used to open the coach's locked mail compartment.

Apparently, the robbery occurred as the coach drove slowly up a hill in Rudeskov. The thieves had heard that there would be a shipment of money on this particular coach, and had hidden themselves on the road with the intention of burgling the coach. Luckily, the conductor had taken the valuables into the coach with him. Since the money was not in the locked compartment, it was safe. The rest of the stolen postal objects were later found under a bridge near the south entrance to Hørsholm.



Diligence fra 1850.

Figure 2: A diligence from 1850

Postmaster Reprimanded, Released

The investigation did not leave the postmaster in Hørsholm, Jens Madsen Hvidberg,⁶ in a favorable light. He apparently was seldom in the Post Office in the evenings, even though his instructions were that he should personally open incoming mailbags. He apparently had asked the postal administration to be excused from night duty, but his request had been denied.

Hvidberg apparently made the decision to turn the key to the stagecoach's mail locker over to his assistant, Larsen, who handled the post from his bed, whenever the post conductor brought him post from the incoming stagecoach at night. Hostler Larsen, who was also a porter at the post office, was known as an unreliable person who was not averse to taking a shady advantage of a situation. Despite this, Postmaster Hvidberg had given him the keys to the postal locker in the stagecoach. It was also known to Hvidberg, that when Larsen had the locker key in his possession he occasionally gave it to the stable boys. The investigation also showed that Hvidberg occasionally let Larsen keep possession of the mailbags overnight, as they frequently came to the county offices when it was too late to deliver them. The mailbags contained no trivial amount; frequently 10,000 to 12,000 Rdl.

Why was Postmaster Hvidberg so apparently cavalier in his treatment of the keys to mailbags containing currency and other valuables? As well as being postmaster, he owned the local inn and attached farm(s), comprising 100 tdr.⁷ land. He had a manager of the inn, one Regina Reinhard, who saw to the inn's operation. Hvidberg thus seems to have been most interested in the operations of the farms and their animals, leaving operation of the inn to Reinhard and the functions of the post office to Larsen.

Hvidberg received a royal reprimand for the incident and a suggested fine of 50-100 Rdl. The King, after taking the circumstances of the case into account, and following some correspondence between the General Administration of the Post and the Royal Finance Commission, allowed the situation to be resolved with Hvidberg being honorably dismissed. On October 3, 1845, Hvidberg left his position, effective January 1, 1846, with a yearly pension of 217 Rdl.

At the time, the case took on overwhelming proportions. In all, 21 people were prosecuted for the theft. The two stable boys were sentenced to 7 and 10 years at hard labor, and Larsen was sentenced to five years of hospital community service.

Postmaster Hvidberg took the matter very much to heart and could not avoid the many mean-spirited rumors that circulated. The investigative commission's chairman, Assessor Brun, was sympathetic to Hvidberg's difficult position and tried his best to get to the bottom of the case. Even though Hvidberg had been negligent in his duty as postmaster, he apparently managed to get out of the case with his honor (and his pension) intact.

It might be noted that the Hirschholm Post Office enjoys the, perhaps, singular distinction of being the subject of a poem by nationally recognized poet Henrik Herz (1797-1870), who wrote "Posthuset i Hirschholm" as a part of the cycle "Erindringer fra Hirschholm" (Memories from Hirschholm) in 1832.⁸ ■

(Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Toke Nørby, as usual, for information and interest.)

Endnotes

¹ Toke Nørby, *Den Danske Postetat 1 – 1624-1927 (1983) DDPE-I*, Forlag Nørbyhus (not yet issued).

² N.A.L. Christensen, red., *Hirschholm Postkontor 200 År*, p.24-25, (1972). Although this piece is written with modern Danish spelling and capitalization rules, the language seems to be somewhat archaic. Thus, the article probably has older antecedents. A history of the Hørsholm post office can be found in H. Hjorth-Nielsen, red., *Det Danske Post- og Telegraf-Væsen*, Bind III, Selskabet "Vort Samfund," p.105 (1933).

³ The word "diligence" comes from the French word connoting speed, dispatch, or haste, and is used, although somewhat rarely, in Danish today. The word existed in English as well, but is now obsolete. In Denmark at this time, the coach seated either 9 or 11, and was pulled by a team of four.

⁴ From: J. Madsen, red., *Dansk Portrætgalleri – Det Kgl. Danske Postvæsen*, A. Christiansens Forlag, p.79 (1904).

⁵ Rbd is the abbreviation for Rigsbankdaler, the basic unit of Danish currency after February 1, 1813. Each Rbd was divided into 96 Rigsbankskillings (Rbs). On May 24, 1854, the currency was renamed Rigmønt, and the units were renamed Rigsdaler (Rdl) and Skilling Rigmønt (sk). Later, Denmark and Sweden formed a monetary union and, on January 1, 1875, converted to kroner (kr.) and øre (ø) at the rate of 2 kr. equivalent to 1 Rdl. [1 krone = 100 øre]. See D. Cornelius, *An Introduction of the Postal History of Denmark 1624 – 1950*, Bath Press, p. 321 ff. (2004).

⁶ Jens Madsen Hvidberg, baptized 06.07.1801, law degree 1829, postmaster in Hirschholm 01.10.1829 – 31.12.1845, when he was dismissed with royal clemency and allowed to keep his pension.¹

⁷ Farmland areas in Denmark were traditionally, and to some extent are still, measured in barrels (*tonde, tdr.*); The area of land that could be planted with one barrel of seed. One tdr. is approximately 1.36 acres.

⁸ See <http://www.kalliope.org/digt.pl?longdid=hertz2001122801>.

Danish Cigarette Stamps Include Single Pack

By Paul Nelson, coordinator, Scandinavia Revenues Study Group

A Web site for a particularly amusing product of cigarette papers is located at http://rollingsupreme.com/Products/Rolling_Papers/Rolling_Card/. Claus Rafner of Copenhagen sent me a pack of these papers, complete with the Danish control stamp for cigarette papers.

European Union regulations no longer allow the papers to be taxed as they previously were in Denmark. Instead, the Danish government places a control stamp on the packs. These control stamps look exactly like the former cigarette tax stamps, except for minor varieties in text. This one says "Cigaretpapir" and in this case "20 stk," meaning 20 pieces.



Nearby is a scan of both sides of this pack. The entire thing, packaged to resemble a credit card, is enclosed in a stiff plastic envelope, which is sealed with the control stamp. Prominent on the package is the phrase "DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT EM," which is an obvious play on the phrase used by a credit card company in the U.S. The paper is made in Spain and packaged in China.

Another item from Rafner shown nearby is a similar stamp but for "1 stk," or one piece. Imagine a package containing one cigarette paper, and which bears a control stamp for one cigarette paper! Consider the cost involved in packaging and stamping a single cigarette paper.

Claus Rafner's Web site at www.rafner.dk contains further information about Danish revenue stamps in general. ■

From Norway to the Orient

By Frederick A. Brofos

I suppose there have always been restless young men looking around for adventure. Indeed, such a fellow was my maternal grandfather, Peter Michael Vosgraf Hauff of Arendal, Norway. After a stint at his father's business in London, he boarded a ship and headed for the Far East.

Eventually, he came to Saigon in the French colony of Indo-China (now Vietnam). There, he joined a shipping firm, which among other things supplied the Imperial Russian Asiatic Fleet. In November, 1905, the Russian battleship "Diana" arrived in Saigon, with its commander Prince Alexandre Lieven. In the course of business, he appointed French businessman Marc Mottet as Honorary Vice Consul. He was to take charge of the affairs in that area on behalf of the Russian government. Mottet did this until he became seriously ill in April, 1910, and had to move to Switzerland. Mottet turned over the job of Imperial Russian Vice Consul to his friend and business partner, the Norwegian Peter Hauff. Hauff continued matters for several years until he moved to the south of France, where he died in 1951.

Pictured here is a fine example of revenue-stamped paper with a documentary tax stamp imprinted in red along the left side. This officially confirmed the transfer of the consulate to the man who became my grandfather.

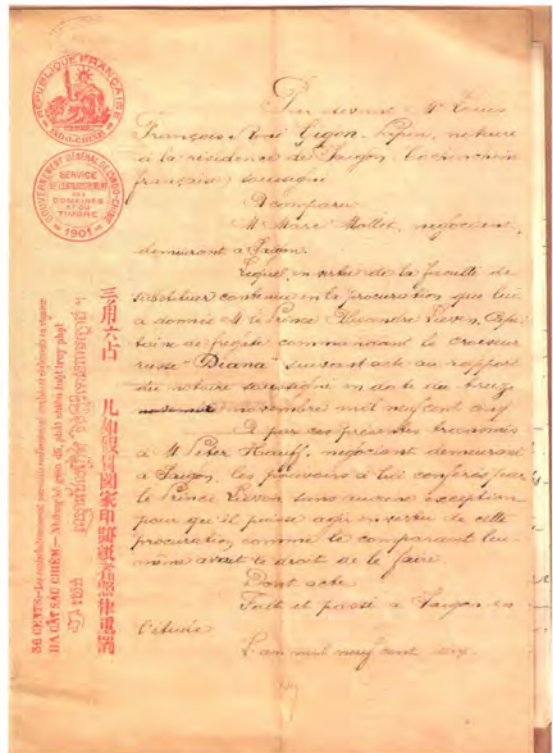
Hauff also did some explorations along the Mekong River, at Angkor Wat, and elsewhere. He was awarded the order of the Dragon of Cambodia by the French President, the Order of the Parasol and Million Elephants by the King of Laos and was made a Mandarin by the Emperor Bao Dai of Annam. Along the way, he married a Laotian woman who became my maternal grandmother.

Altogether a remarkable man. I am proud to have his medals and diplomas safely preserved. ■

(Editor's Note: The author, who is three-fourths Norwegian heritage and one-fourth Laotian, attributes his patience in more than 50 years of philatelic writing to his genetic link with the Orient.)



Vice Consul Hauff wearing some of his medals from foreign nations.



Book Reviews

Grönland – Insel der Arktis (Greenland – Island of the Arctic) by Gerhard Müller. 5¾x8¾ inches, 150 pages, softbound, in German, with brief English introduction. Published by Forschungsgemeinschaft “Nordische Staaten,” price, including postage, to U.S. (in euros): 14.00 (printed matter surface rate), or 19.00 (airmail letter), or 21.00 (registered airmail letter), from the secretary Roland Daebel, Stolzenhagener Weg 4, D-16515 Oranienburg, Germany, e-mail: info@nordische-staaten.de. PayPal accepted (contact secretary Daebel for details).

The book is a presentation of Gerhard Müller’s former exhibit of Greenland postal history which reaped, among other distinctions, five gold medals at important international events. Its purpose is to preserve a complete record of what must have been one of the more important Greenland postal history collections of our time by making black-and-white images of this unique material accessible for philatelic research after the collection was sold in 2006 and subsequently dispersed by an auction house.

The exquisite material reflects and documents, by way of postal items, many aspects of Greenland’s historical development, from early colonial times (remarkable pre-philatelic letters from 1784 and 1824), exploration (expedition mail), the disruptions of World War II (censored mail, devious postal routes), to the early post-war period with its beginnings of a modern postal service. It features a wide range of unique postal arrangements and modes of postal transport peculiar to Greenland, such as mail by dog-sled and kayak, and illustrates the difficulties imposed on mail distribution by the country’s geography and climate.

Due emphasis is given to the American presence in Greenland, with mail from pioneering flights (Byrd, Lindbergh, MacGregor), research activities (Ice Island T-3), and a special chapter devoted to fieldpost to and from U.S. bases during and after World War II, with a number of rarities. Following an introduction, 143 exhibition pages are presented, all written up succinctly (to comply with exhibition rules) but adequately to bring home the significance and special aspects of each item presented.

– Rolf Dörnbach



LAPE Special Stamp Catalog of Finland. 784 pages, 6¾x9¾ inches, perfect bound, stiff covers, color illustrations, Philatelic Service of Finland, Turku, Finland, 2007. ISSN 1797-0644, about \$85 plus postage from philatelic book dealers.

This specialized catalog of Finland is not published every year but it remains an important resource for collectors of this country. The previous edition in 2004 was smaller in size (dimensions) and fewer pages. The larger size improves utility. The text is still mostly Finnish and Swedish although each stamp subject is identified in English as well. Parts of the introductory material are also in all three languages.

Following a short description of pre-stamp mail, the early cancels are valued for the straight line, boxed, single and double ring postmarks. Then, 19th Century stamped covers are listed for both domestic and foreign destinations.

The stamp listings begin with the oval issues and the serpentine roulettes. The 19th Century stamps are dealt with in some detail in all three languages. The stamp listing proceeds chronologically with significant descriptions of the major definitive series that touch on paper, watermarks, perforations, sheet layout, gum, etc. Values are shown for mint, used, on cover, and first-day covers. Issues through 2007 are included.



Following the stamp listings are personal stamps, official yearbooks and maximum cards, bus parcel stamps, field post, East Karelia, North Ingermanland, Aunus, stamp booklets, including slot machine types, Frama labels for both Finland and Åland, Christmas seals, shipping company stamps, Helsinki and Tampere local post, railway stamps, revenues, perfins, postal stationery, rate tables (1875-2000), and commemorative cancels from 1920 to 1979.

The stamps of Åland (1984-2007) are then listed, including booklets, official year sets, and maximum cards. All items are shown in color. The LAPE catalogs have been published for more than 70 years and this latest one will serve the collector of Finland and related areas extremely well.

– Alan Warren



Íslenskir Stimplar Íslandspóstis HF, Brúar, Rúllu og Vélstimplar 1998-2007 (Bridge, roller, and machine cancels of Iceland Post), by Gestur Baldursson and Þór Þorsteins, 40 pages, A4 size, spiral-bound, in Icelandic and English, Félag frimerkjasafnara, 2007, ISBN 978-9979-70-347-1, \$20.00 (U.S.) postpaid, prepayment required, from Gestur Baldursson, Arnartange 52, 270 Mosfellsbaer, Iceland; email, sturi@mi.is.

This recently published book from Félag frimerkjasafnara (The Stamp Collectors Club) in Reykjavik deals with all date cancels by Íslandspóstur hf. – bridge-, roller- and machine-cancels – from 1998-2007. It is published in A4 form size (about 8x11½”), 40 pages in length, and shows reduced-sized pictures of all the cancels. The text is in Icelandic and English.

Íslandspóstur hf. was established January 1, 1998, and all cancelers and other devices from the former authorities were taken over by the new administration of the Post. These are now described or illustrated in the new book by authors Gestur Baldursson and Þór Þorsteins. By 1999, new cancelers were introduced to include the name of the new authority in the bridge and some of the machine cancels. This book provides the earliest known usage of each of these cancels, information about any post office closing dates, and similar data.

One point that is stressed is that many of the cancels were used for philatelic favor cancels at the Post center at Stórhöfði Reykjavík beginning March 10, 2005. These are indicated by an asterisk in the tabular data.

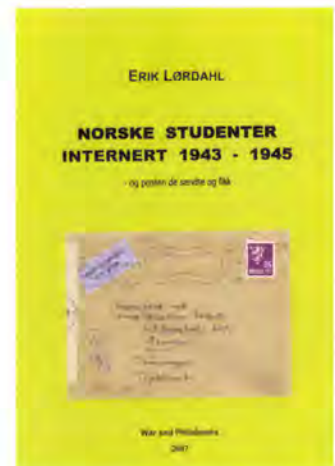
– Paul Nelson



Norske Studenter Internert 1943-1945, by Erik Lørdahl. 94 pages, 6 ½x9 ½ inches, card covers, perfect bound, in Norwegian, War and Philabooks, Tårnåsen, Norway, 2007. ISBN 978-82-92826-01-0, available from War and Philabooks, Gydass v. 52, 1413 Tårnåsen, Norway, or www.warandfieldpost.com.

As Germany occupied Nordic countries in the early months of World War II, it sought to control the political unrest and activity of groups of university students opposed to the occupation. This book examines the treatment of Norwegian students who were interned at camps in Norway, Germany, and elsewhere, with a special focus on the handling of mail to and from the student internees.

A few students were sent to Norwegian camps at Berg and Stavern, and examples of mail to and from Stavern are shown. A list of postal regulations at Berg is reproduced. The first student group sent out of Norway was interned at Sennheim, Germany near the Swiss border. Examples of incoming and outgoing mail for Sennheim are shown including letters, covers, postal cards, a parcel receipt, and related items.



There are also many photos of student groups, camp officers, buildings, and work details that convey the reality of the camp's atmosphere. The second group of students went to Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar. Others went to Neuengamme near Hamburg. In addition to these major camps, others were identified as holding Norwegian students.

Much of the postal material illustrated in this handbook shows a variety of censorship devices including resealing tapes, handstamps, and chemical treatment to detect secret writing. The book concludes with a listing of several hundred students by name and the dates they were sent to the various camps or transferred between camps. A brief list of abbreviations and bibliographic references appear near the end of the book.

This fascinating study of student internees and the handling of their mail reflects considerable research on the part of author Erik Lørdahl and several other postal historians whom he acknowledges.

– Alan Warren



The Return Post of the Danish Postal Service, by Kurt Hansen and John R. Sabin. 96 pages, 5 ½x8 ½ inches, perfect bound, card covers, JRS Publishing, Gainesville FL, 2007. \$35 postpaid to U.S. addresses, \$45 elsewhere, from John R. Sabin, 415 NW 23rd St., Gainesville FL 32607-2618 (USA).

This book is essentially the translation from Danish to English of five articles by Kurt Hansen that originally appeared in *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, published by the Copenhagen Philatelic Club, in 2004-2005. John R. Sabin translated the articles and added some comments and end notes, making this subject matter more widely available to collectors.

Hansen studied the handling of mail returned to the sender by the Danish postal service. He found little information in the literature and so he compiled this record of the return labels or vignettes, the return resealing labels, and special return envelopes used by Denmark Post.

The first resealing label was issued in 1878 and was to be used only on returned domestic mail. The 1890 issue had four printings and thus more errors and varieties. The authors also show proofs that exist. The labels were printed in sheets of eight and the varieties can be identified by position. Each printing is also identified by perforations and color shade.

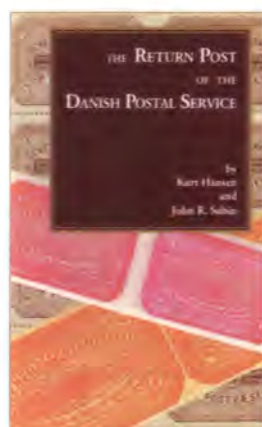
Similar detailed treatment is offered for the redesigned labels issued in 1915, 1930, 1934, 1935, and 1964. Further designs were released in the latter part of the 20th Century, but there is insufficient information to date them accurately. An international resealing label also was used to return mail from the dead letter office to the sender abroad, but, again, the period of use is uncertain.

Readers will see a number of covers in fine color showing use of these resealing labels. Also illustrated are several examples of special return envelopes in which the original letter was enclosed and addressed to the sender, often without additional postage required. The final chapters describe various labels with specific instructions such as Unknown, Not Collected, Forbidden, Deceased, and Insufficient Address used for the return of international mail. The authors describe the printing of such labels in sheets and strips.

An appendix illustrates multiples of the domestic labels in blocks and strips. Some attempts at cataloging were done by *AEA* and *Facit*, but the most complete listing is that of Scandinavian dealer Jay Smith. A table relates the three numbering systems to one another. The book ends with a glossary and reference notes.

Postal historians of Danish philately will gain a better understanding of the special treatment of mail described in this book. The color illustrations are excellent. ■

– Alan Warren





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(\$11'700)



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President's Letter

Mats Roing



Thoughts of Spring

In the spring, philately sometimes takes the backseat to other activities, especially those out of doors. As an accountant, the end of tax season signals the beginning of springtime for me. This spring has been busy with training and planning for an attempt to climb Denali in Alaska. This peak is the highest point in North America (20,320 feet) and one of the mountains I have wanted to climb for years. By the time you read this, I am probably somewhere on the mountain. Our party has set aside 18 days on the mountain. Good weather is the key, as usual.

One of the many benefits of philately is stress relief. There is additional stress for me during tax season, but I managed to spend a couple weekends organizing Swedish early coils stamps of 1920-1936. Can life be much better than having some nice music in the background, a good cup of tea, and a few thousand coils stamps to organize? Perhaps we should lobby for a national philatelic stress-relief holiday!

Annual Meeting at Chicagopex

Ivar Sundsbø of Norway will be the SCC visiting judge this year. He also will make a presentation in conjunction with our annual meeting on November 22. There still is time to enter exhibits to this exhibition. Warren Grosjean is the primary SCC exhibit contact for Chicagopex. Mark Lorentzen is his back-up. For NORDIA 2008, the roles are reversed. You will find their contact information on the Officers' Page.

John DuBois will represent SCC in the Court of Honor with his DWI postal history exhibit, which won the Grand Award at NORDIA 2006 in Helsinki. You can read more about SCC activities at Chicagopex elsewhere in this issue. I look forward to seeing many of you in Chicago, and I can assure you that you will not regret taking part.

Welcoming Randy Tuuri to the Board

Edward Bode has stepped down as Vice President for Chapters. We are very grateful for his contribution to the society and are pleased that he will continue to lead our Cyber Chapter. Randy Turri of California is taking over the chapter vice presidency, and we welcome him to the board. (See Chapter Reports for more information.)

As you might know, 2008 is an election year for certain positions. If you are interested in becoming more involved on a broader level with the SCC, please contact any of us on the board and we will seek out a good fit.

Stimulating the next generation of collectors

Something we should think about is creating a "Youth Coordinator" position, or a similarly named post. The purpose would be to generate interest among the younger generation. It's tough competition to get the attention from kids these days. But we know what a rewarding hobby this is, and, thus, there is hope that others will catch on.

I soon will be visiting two nieces, ages 5 and 7, in Minnesota. I have an action plan for the weekend to introduce them to the world of stamp collecting. In the next issue, I will let you know how it went!

Monthly E-Newsletter

Be sure to update me (mr22841@gmail.com) or Executive Secretary Don Brent (dbrent47@sprynet.com) with your current e-mail address so that you will receive the monthly electronic newsletter that I have sent out since last year. ■

News from the Home Office

Don Brent



Membership Crisis?

As I closed out the membership renewals this year, I counted 38 names on the non-renewed list. Those are the members who do not respond to the renewal notices and not those who inform us they are resigning, or any who we learn are deceased. This year's drops were fewer than the 50 members last year, but still it's not good. Sure, we are going to lose some members for a variety of reasons – age, eyesight, and changing interests. These are all valid and expected, but the result is that every year we lose members. I can remember years when there were 70 non-renewals. The problem is that we aren't gaining new members to replace those leaving.

For more than 10 years as SCC Executive Secretary, I have seen membership drop from 897 to today's total of 661 individual annual and life members. Is this a problem? Is it unexpected? As to the second question, I don't think so. I read in the philatelic press that circulation is down. APS membership is down. Societies are no different. A case in point is the recent shutting down of the Philatelic Computing Study Group and the Trans-Mississippi Philatelic Society.

We are told that there are more stamp collectors today. Where are they? Are they on the Internet? Buying new issues from the USPS? We are told dealers sales and auction results are up. I can believe this. As we get older, we probably spend more on our hobby. But I don't see the new collectors. Go to most shows and you see the same faces. Most of us in the SCC would be classified as adult intermediate or advanced collectors. So, we fall into that group that is losing members. We are the ones reading philatelic publications and belong to the APS and other specialist societies. In short, we are the aging ones whose numbers are dwindling. The decline in numbers, therefore, should not be unexpected.

My first question was whether this is a problem? In the short term, it probably is not too important that membership has diminished. SCC is financially sound. Our journal, *The Posthorn*, has made dramatic improvements and wins awards regularly. It is by far and away our biggest draw. This does not, however, minimize our other services and benefits, which also have improved. Combined, SCC offers a terrific value to our members. So, for the time being, the drop in membership has not been a problem. Perhaps the question should be re-phrased as to whether this slide in membership will be a problem in the future. The answer here is less clear.

As we get older as a group (and we surely are doing that), will we be able to continue to enjoy the same level of success? To continue to succeed, it seems to me that we must attract new, younger members. Our current President is an example of a younger member stepping up. Mats Roing exemplifies the type of member we need to move forward. Promoting youth collecting is a fine ideal and necessary for the general health of the hobby, but specialist societies are built with collectors who have moved beyond the beginning stages of collecting and have selected countries, regions, or specialties on which to concentrate.

A strong society requires energetic young adults to fill the ranks and move up the ladder to take leadership roles. Where will we find them? The quick answer is that new members will be found on the Internet, but that may be only partially correct. The Internet may provide the bulk of new members (as it does now), but will these members be able or have the desire to be directly involved with the running of SCC. Ability to lead the SCC may be a problem. While the Internet provides an international platform to attract new members, the SCC is a national society. We highly value our many overseas members. They are an important asset linking SCC to other Scandinavian collecting groups. Nevertheless, the running of the SCC necessarily is an activity that is based in the U.S.

As for desire to serve, without direct personal contact how will the new members be persuaded to get more involved? I believe some collectors relish the anonymity of the Internet and have no desire to be actively involved. We are all different — in varying degrees introvert or extrovert. Those private individuals will be members, read their *Posthorn*, use the Library and the Stamp Mart, but never meet another member. This is fine and I respect that. An important question becomes how do we develop members to actively participate in the running of SCC? This returns us to the question of the future and where we are headed.

(continued on page 24)

The Scandinavian Collectors Club

Founded November 25, 1935

SCC Website: www.scc-online.org

Elected Officers

President: Mats Roing, 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; mr22841@gmail.com

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

Vice President, Chapters: Randy Tuuri, 29 Cambridge Way, Piedmont, CA 94611; tuurifam@comcast.net

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

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

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

Directors: Jerry F. Eggleston, PO Box 829, Breckenridge, CO 80424; jfe3@mindspring.com

Warren Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470; warren@Derma-Safe.com

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John Salmi, 5907 Betsworth Ave., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3R0J8; jsalmi5@shaw.ca

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

Appointed Officers

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

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

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

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

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Canadian Mart Manager: Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1H9, Canada; stampman@mts.net

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

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

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

Historian: Roberta Palen, PO Box 364, Forbes, MN 55738; toivossa@hotmail.com

SCC Study Groups

DWI: Arnold Sorensen, 7666 Edgedale Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630-3062; valbydwi@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Scandinavian Revenues: Paul Nelson, Tucson, AZ; pnels1@comcast.net

The road to a friend's house is never long

- Danish proverb

SCC Chapter Meeting & Contacts

1. SEATTLE/NW: 2nd Monday, 9 a.m. at members' homes. CONTACT: Dana S. Nielsen, 17428 SR9, PMB#105, Snohomish, WA 98296.
 4. CHICAGO: 4th Thursday of January-June and September, October; 1st Thursday of December, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, IL 60016. CONTACT: Ron Collin, PO Box 63, River Grove, IL 60171-0063; (773) 907-8633, email: collinr@ameritech.net.
 5. NEW ENGLAND: 1st Wednesday at the Scandinavian Living Center, 206 Waltham St., West Newton, MA at 7:30 p.m. in the private dining room. <http://scc5.thlogic.com>. CONTACT: Mats Roing, (781) 424-2183; 39 Englewood Ave., Apt. 6, Brighton, MA 02135; email: mr22841@gmail.com.
 7. NEW YORK: 2nd Wednesday (except July & August) at The Collectors Club, 26 E. 35th St. CONTACT: Carl Probst, 71 Willoughby Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801, email: cwp1941@aol.com.
 9. NORTH NEW JERSEY: 3rd Wednesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Warren J. Grosjean, 32 Juniper Rd., Wayne, NJ 07470-6156, email: warren@Derma-Safe.com.
 12. WASHINGTON DC: CONTACT: Peter Alten, 9300 Main St., Manassas, VA 22110.
 13. DELAWARE: Last Tuesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Alan Warren, alanwar@att.net.
 14. TWIN CITIES: 2nd Thursday (except July & August) at Lynnhurst Community Center, 50th St., & West Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN. CONTACT: Rossmer V. Olson, P.O. Box 23377, Richfield, MN 55423, email: RossVOle@aol.com.
 17. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: 1st Wednesday at members' homes. CONTACT: Jerry Winerman (818) 784-7277, or email: gerjerry@sbcglobal.net.
 21. GOLDEN GATE: 1st Saturday, 11 a.m., at members' homes and at various shows (WESTPEX, COALPEX, PENPEX, etc.). CONTACT: Herb Volin, (510) 522-3242, HRVolin@aol.com.
 22. HOUSTON: Varied meeting times and places. CONTACT: Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056; email eric.roberts @ kbr.com.
 24. MANITOBA: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays September through May at Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 764 Erin St., Winnipeg, MB. CONTACT: Robert Zacharias, 808 Polson Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1M5, Canada, email: robertzacharias@shaw.ca.
 26. TIDEWATER: 3rd Saturday, 3 p.m., at Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library System, 6525 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508, (757) 441-5335, fax: (757) 441-1451, email: gwalker@npl.lib.va.us. CONTACT: Michael Falls, 575 Virginian Dr., Norfolk, VA 23505-4242, email: Mfallsice@aol.com.
 27. COLORADO: 1st Saturday September-June, 10 a.m., at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. CONTACT: Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80305-7233, email: rcichorz@comcast.net.
 28. CYBER: Members connected by email to exchange ideas and scans, plus an electronic newsletter. CONTACT: Edward L. Bode, email: edbode@juno.com.
- AUSTRALIAN COORDINATOR: Roger Byrne, email: byrnefam@internode.on.net.
- NEW ZEALAND COORDINATOR: John Campbell, email: johncampbellnz@hotmail.com

(continued from page 21)

I don't pretend to have an inclusive answer but will summarize with a few thoughts. First, we need to continue to work on gaining new members. The drop in membership is not a huge problem now, but it can not continue unabated. Probably the most promising avenue for new members is through the Internet. We can gain members by working on our Internet presence. The SCC Web site (www.scc-online.org) is a fine site, but we are not actively using its potential to solicit long-term members. It is important to remember that the Internet is a tool but not a panacea. It is only one way to solicit new members.

Always the most effective method to sign up a new member is a personal contact. This direct contact doesn't need to be face-to-face. It can include correspondence with other collectors who may just need a nudge. Perhaps a simple, "Have you considered joining the SCC?" is enough. It is an opening to let someone know more about us. When you buy or sell stamps or covers, do you ask the other party if they are members of SCC? This is an uncomplicated, low-key way to open the conversation and a first step to signing them up. In short, we have ignored the simple solution to acquiring new members – we haven't asked.

Second, we need more members involved with running the SCC. I have heard that some members think that SCC is run by a small group or clique. I strongly disagree with the idea of a clique running the SCC, but I sure agree that it is a small group. It's true. It isn't because they/we few (I include myself, even though I am not an elected officer) want control. It is because we think enough of the Scandinavian Collectors Club to repeatedly stand up and do whatever job needs to be done. There are a few today who have been at it for more than 20 years. I may be wrong, but I think most would happily step aside and give another qualified person a shot. This may not be a huge problem at the moment, but over the years the SCC needs new blood. Neither have we been good at asking members to consider running for elected positions or volunteering for the appointed positions. These duties are important, but they are not necessarily time-consuming. There are some jobs that do not require Internet or email access, although those are important tools for communicating within the leadership. Attendance at the SCC national show is sometimes necessary for some positions but not all. What is needed is your willingness to contribute. Write to me or any of our current officers with some information about yourself and what interests you in SCC. It would be great if we had a long list of potential volunteers. That will ensure the strength of SCC.

Enough for now. My best regards to all. ■

Membership Statistics for the First Quarter, 2008

New Members

4117 *Bednarek, Michael G., P.O. Box 455, Blue Ridge, VA 24064*
4119 *Roas, William Carl, 4809 Overlook Drive, Bloomington, MN 55437*

Reinstated

4118 *Munoz, Lazaro, 138 Collfield Ave., Staten Island, NY 10302-2420*

Deceased

724GL *Arthur L. Lind*
1682 *Walt Jellum*
3647 *Rabbi Leonard L. Tann*

Resigned

3442 *Rasmussen, Karl*
3470 *Thoreson, Rev. Allan R.*
3920 *Dyck, Mark*

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

4098 *Stephen Powell*
3971 *Paul Negline*
3795 *Diether Pascher*
3673 *John Hollenkamp*
1596 *Gordon A. Hughmark*
1389 *Paul A. Nelson*
3748 *bör Borsteins*
3578 *John DuBois*
3598 *Roger Cichorz*
1808 *Ellis Glatt*
1416 *Jack Isaacson*
1087 *Alan Warren*
3969 *Rufus Wilson*
3962 *Mark Lorentzen*
3053 *Karl Klaus*
Mervyn Wood (non-member)
Clark Lyda (non-member)

Change of Address

3820 *Hansen, Henry, 1255 Greenwood Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94566*
L43/2583 *Davies, Paul L., 3697 Mt Diablo Blvd., Ste 205, Lafayette, CA 94549-3754*
1457 *Werner, Arnold G., 514 Kenosia Ave. S, Apt C208, Kent, WA 98030-6080*

Dropped for Non-payment of dues

3811 *Anderson, David N.*
3561 *Bentley, Jane E.*
3834 *Birdsong, Lawrence E.*
4047 *Brady, David*
1749 *Campbell, Frederick H.*
1462 *Deisz, George A.*
4094 *Desmadril, Michel*
2743 *Fader, Michael H.*
3967 *Harden, Thomas L.*
3972 *Herstedt, Thomas H.*
3887 *Hollingshead, Robert*
2319 *Kraft, Rev. Philip H.*
4086 *Lawler, John F.*
3838 *Leason, Herbert A.*
3777 *Lundstedt, Tom*
4055 *Miller, Paul A.*
2270 *Montello, Lawrence J.*
4031 *Moore, Jim*
1377 *Nolte, Myron C.*
3475 *Oliver, Adolph*
4070 *Osmolskis, Tadas A.*
3516 *Peters, Donald J.*
3948 *Przybeck, Thomas R.*
3937 *Quinn, James J.*
4035 *Rasmussen, R. Gary*
4085 *Rene Hillesum Filatelie*
3822 *Ross, Bruce S.*
3645 *Sawyer, David A.*
3239 *Sellnau, George A.*
3929 *Simonetti, Frank*
2196 *Smith, Dewey H.*
4088 *Stein, Dr. Henry*
4039 *Twain, Roderick S.*
3843 *Vikan, David*
2080 *Warrington, Allan E.*
2952 *Weigel, Jack W.*
1606 *Winick, Lester*
4013 *Wynns, John P.*

From the Editor's Stamp Den

Paul Albright



Popularity Polls. I have been struck by the contrast in the number of people who vote for their favorite postage stamps in the U.S. and in some parts of Scandinavia. The annual U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll conducted over several months by *Linn's Stamp News* drew 3,264 ballots from its readers. In contrast the Stamp of the Year 2007 vote in Sweden attracted 47,893 votes and Finland's competition for its Most Beautiful Stamp of the Year 2007 recorded 46,975 votes.

Admittedly, this is a somewhat apples-to-oranges comparison. The public was invited to vote in the Sweden and Finland popularity polls by their country's postal administrations while *Linn's* directed its detailed ballot of best/worst stamps to its subscribers. This difference in responses begs the question of whether collectors are narrowly focused on the minutiae of stamps and postal stationery and less attracted by the broader appeal that these products hold for postal users in general.

Big Postal Merger. Collectors and postal customers in Sweden and Denmark probably will not notice much difference following the announced merger of these two post offices into a mega-operation with \$7.5 billion in revenues. The merger, announced April 1, was triggered by what a Swedish official said is a rapidly changing marketplace of "European deregulation, harder competition, and electronic alternatives." The deal, which will create a pan-Nordic mail and logistics group with more than 50,000 employees, could be in place by the end of 2008 if approved by the Swedish and Danish parliaments.

Sweden will control 58.2 percent of the company, Denmark 38.8 percent, and employees 3 percent. Mail services under the Sweden Posten and Post Danmark brands are expected to continue unchanged in the short-term, but a statement from the trade unions said the merger probably will lead to a "complete liberalization of the Danish letter market" before 2011. The unions claimed they will have four of the 12 seats on the board of the merged company. Post Danmark's 25 percent ownership of Belgium's postal service will become part of the merged company.

Stamps for Scholars. Finnish postage stamps are the focal point for another scholarly article – this time published in *National Identities* (Vol. 10, #1, March, 2008). The article, "Picturing a nation: Finland on postage stamps, 1917-2000," uses Finland's postage stamps to "narrate the evolution of the Finnish state, nation and society, and reflect the changing relationship between the state and its subjects." In their study, co-authors Pauliina Raento of the University of Helsinki and Stanley D. Brunn of the University of Kentucky, examined 1,457 Finnish stamps issued since Finland's independence. This is at least their second paper on this historical sociology topic (see also *The Posthorn*, February, 2006, pp. 29).

Presidents as Judges. Two former presidents of SCC will be judging at the 122nd annual convention of the American Philatelic Society to be held August 14-17 in Hartford, CN. **Alan Warren** is on the exhibition jury, which will be judging approximately 900 frames of exhibits. **Roger Quinby** will be one of three philatelic literature judges.

Definitives Reprinted. There are more reprints of some Norwegian definitives. Reprints of the NOK 50 King Harald V stamps (*NK* 1149) were made on October 1, 2007, and went on sale December 5. Reprints of the NOK 2 posthorn design (*NK* 1422) and NOK 3 posthorn design (*NK* 1564) were made on July 31 and August 1 and went on sale November 26 and November 20, respectively. There are no known (or announced, at any rate) changes in printing or paper since the previous issues of these stamps.





Personalized items: Stop and Go. Iceland has joined the growing list of countries that allow personalized stamps. An “official” stamp to introduce the personalized stamp service was released May 8. Each sheet contains 24 self-adhesive personalized stamps and indicates that they are intended for Iceland’s 50-gram letter rate (ISK 75). Finland, Norway, and Åland already have personalized stamps among the Scandinavian posts.

Meanwhile, Norway Post has ended a six-year-old program of selling personalized postage-paid stationery to companies. Under this program, the stationery was franked with a predetermined design and companies could add their logos or additional text. Anne Christine Olsen of Norway Post said the program ended when “the customers could not decide themselves what stamp they wanted on the envelopes.” The stationery was on sale through Norway Post’s Internet site from 2002 and ended January 7, 2008.

Postage Due Follow-up. Postcard specialist Charles Fricke wrote in the November, 2007, issue of *The Posthorn* (pp. 32-33) about postage due charges on postcards mailed to and from Sweden in the early 1900s. The fees were assessed by U.S. postal authorities because there was writing on the left side of the picture postcards. SCC member André Tulet followed up with Fricke to confirm that three cards mailed in Denmark to the U.S. in 1906 were subject to postage due charges for the same reason. A cropped portion of one of Tulet’s cards is shown.



Hurricanes Delay Mail. The philatelic office of Greenland Post has been having a tough time sending its mail to subscribers this past winter. Tasiilaq, where the philatelic bureau is located, was hit by no fewer than five hurricane-force storms in November and December. Severe storms are not unusual at that time of year and Greenlanders adjust for these. But the frequency of these storms delayed by several weeks the shipping of several thousand standing orders to collectors and customers worldwide. Weather conditions began to improve in January. ■

Chapter Reports

Randy Tuuri, Vice President, Chapters

(Note: This issue introduces Randy Tuuri of California as SCC’s new Vice President for Chapters after Ed Bode stepped down from that position. Tuuri collects Sweden and Finland and dead countries associated with Scandinavia. He also collects the Baltic countries, the U.S., and Canada and their related dead countries.)



Apologies to all of the chapters that I did not get in touch with soon enough for a report in this issue of *The Posthorn*. The next issue will have earlier information requests. If you want to send me a late chapter report to establish e-mail contact, contact me at tuurifam@comcast.net.

Chicago Chapter 4

March and April meetings involved members bringing recent acquisitions from their collections. The May meeting will be part of the COMPEX stamp show held during the Memorial Day weekend. The chapter will break for the summer and reconvene in September. Chapter member Randall Sherman is publicity chairman for Chicagopex where SCC will convene November 21-23 for its 2008 national meeting.



Colorado Chapter 27

The group has completed a series on “technical issues of stamp collecting” with discussions on printing methods, paper types and paper thickness. The March meeting was the members’ auction, which was such a success that more frequent auctions were requested. The chapter met in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May.

Delaware Chapter 13

The February meeting saw photos of Tom Bergendahl’s trips to Norway. In March, show and tell items included an autographed Norway flight cover, a 1938 Sweden FDC to the Canary Islands censored due to the Spanish Civil War, and other interesting items. The April meeting was devoted to settling the chapter’s auction. In May, there will be a viewing of a DVD sent by the Norwegian Philatelic Foundation.

Golden Gate Chapter 21

Meetings were held at members’ homes in Berkeley and Orinda, and then at Westpex at the end of April. Presentations were made and a good time was had by all.

Manitoba Chapter 24

Recent chapter programs have included a presentation on Russian exploration in the Arctic and viewing of audio-visual shows borrowed from the SCC Library. Program chairman Bob Zacharias has been providing tips in articles and in person to collectors interested in exhibiting. John Salmi, editor of the chapter newsletter, *Gnome News*, has started a series of articles on Finland covers from his collection.

New York Chapter 7

The chapter had a quiet meeting going over books and sharing some show and tell items: A Swedish commemorative coin, a Danish export license plate, and Danish slogan cancels.

Southern California Chapter 17

The chapter meets periodically, devouring mart books, and having occasional programs and lively discussions. ■

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE SCC ARCHIVES

Chapters! Do you have boxes of information from your chapter’s activities cluttering up your home? The SCC historian is looking to take that clutter off your hands.

Papers that are older than five years can be contributed to the SCC Archives. (You may need to use anything that is more recent). The papers will be labeled and placed into a filing cabinet.

If you need information that you have sent to the Archives, the SCC Historian will look up the information and send it to you. Once information is included in the Archives, it cannot be returned. Sorry!

So what is needed? Reports, programs from banquets, treasurers’ balance sheets, and whatever. When in doubt, send it to Roberta Palen, PO Box 364, Forbes, MN, 55734. Questions? Her email is toivossa@hotmail.com. If you have nothing to contribute, Palen, who is SCC’s appointed historian, needs to know that, too. Not every chapter may collect materials. It is important that SCC officers know what you have, or what you haven’t saved.

– Roberta Palen

Online Member Directory @ www.scc-online.org

Scandinavian Literature Notes

By Alan Warren



News from Denmark

A century-long run of publishing annual Christmas cards has ended in Denmark. Steffen Riis reports the passing of this 100-year tradition in the January issue of *Dansk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. This issue also carries several articles related to thematic collecting, including one by Jørgen Jørgensen about some of the fine details that can be included in such exhibits. Jørgen Poulsen continues his series on plate flaw varieties of Denmark's 1920-1921 Re-union issue, focusing on the 20-øre value. Ib Krarup Rasmussen provides the fourth part in his series on parcel rates of Denmark, this time the rates to Finland 1895-1991.

In the March issue of the same journal, Frits Jørgensen writes the first in a series on booklets made from the letterpress issues in the early part of the 20th Century. Bruno Nørdam continues his long series on the essays for Danish stamps, this time for 1985, and Ib Krarup Rasmussen presents a table of parcel post rates from Denmark to Belgium during 1881-1991.

In the March issue of *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*, Helge Nehm gives some background on the design and issuance of the Slesvig Plebiscite issue of 1920. Lars Vilhelm Hansen and Bo Sørensen illustrate plate varieties of the tenth printing of the 25-øre bicolor issue of Denmark.

Erik Torbensen gives a history of the handling of boat mail in the Faroes since the early 17th Century in the March issue of *Posthistorisk Tidsskrift*. Another installment in the series on Danish radio letters (radiobreve) by Anker Block Rudbeck and Otto Kjærgaard will be found here, as well as another in the series by Steffen Riis on postal cards of Denmark that are printed and illustrated, primarily for advertising use.

News from the Faroes

In the 1/2008 issue of *News from the Faroes*, A. E. Petersen tells about the life of artist Elinborg Lützen, known for her illustrations of fairy tales. The country recently issued a sheetlet of six, 10-Kr stamps showing some of her artwork. Hans Andrias Sølvará provides a brief summary of the history of the town of Klaksvík.

News from Finland (with thanks to Kauko Aro)

In issue 8-2007 of *Filatelisti*, Kari Lehtonen writes about the Saarinen design that recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. Matti Sipari continues his series on Finnish registry labels, this time covering the 1970s. In issue 9-2007, Ari Muhonen discusses building a research exhibit using the Saarinen design of 1917 and the different messages found on correspondence, and Kari Lehtonen writes about perforation differences found on the Saarinen design issue. Jorma Keturi discusses SS-Waffen mail and its examination by either Finnish or German censors.

Jeffrey Stone provides the readers with a color-photo of an unused 10-kopek oval from 1859 in issue 10-2007 of *Filatelisti*. This stamp was first discussed in *The Posthorn* in August, 1992, by Michael Hvidonov as a new and unique find. Stone tells of the events and correspondence that followed the publication of Hvidonov's article.

Kari Lehtonen continues his treatise on the Saarinen design and how this issue is a real treasure trove for cancelations. Reijo Nummela describes an insured cover using a small 14-kopek ring entire where insurance was paid using penni values of the 1889 design.

News from Germany

Harald Mohr adds some information to the plating of the "Fire RBS" issue of Denmark in the November *Philatelistische Nachrichten* published by the Nordic Countries Group in Germany. Rolf Dörbach discusses the postal station of Siorapaluk in Greenland in his continuing series on these facilities.



Jürgen Tiemer provides another installment in his tabulation of Norwegian railway station postmarks, and L. Skrehot continues his series on prestamp covers of Åland.

News from Great Britain

Christopher King describes some postal consequences of the Danish-Austro-Prussian War of 1864 in the February *London Philatelist*. The routing of mail changed a number of times during the conflicts. The changes are noted with examples of covers and postal markings, including a Prussian fieldpost mark.

Rolf Scharning shows some mail from the *Maud* expedition of Roald Amundsen in the March *Scandinavian Contact*. Peter Williams reports a number of Norway local stamp varieties that are not recorded in the recent catalog of locals by Schøyen and Aune. Peter Hellberg continues his series on Greenland's first air mail connection with the Franck expedition of 1932 and the Rockwell Kent semi-official stamp.

News from Norway

Peer-Christian Ånensen provides a review of the postal collection cards (*postinkassasjon*) of Norway with history and rates, in issue 1/2008 of *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. Ånensen also describes the plate varieties of the King Olav V Krone stamps in his fifth installment in this issue. In the 1/2008 issue of *INFO*, published by Oslo Filatelistklubb, Thorbjørn Larssen shows some of the modern registration labels with bar codes used in Norway. If anyone collects these, he would like to hear from them (Thorbjørn Larssen, Østensjøveien 206, 0690 Oslo, Norway.)

In issue 2/2008 of the same journal, Marius Brinch Gabrielsen illustrates a number of items associated with the Christiania local post (bypost) around 1880. Editor Peer-Christian Ånensen provides an overview of the postgiro system of Norway and the use of payment cards.

Birger Løvland illustrates some of the cancels used over the years by towns on the Hurtigruten in the 4-2007 issue of *Frimerke Forum*. These include Harstad, Finsnes, Tromsø, and Hammerfest, among others. Trygve Karlsen continues his series on postal history of some remote areas of Norway with a look at the cancels of Appelvær (also Abelvær) in the December issue of *NFF-Varianten*. Tor Odd Braseth provides the second part of his series on cancels of Steinkjer. In the March issue of the same journal, Karlsen continues his series with a look at cancels of Bjørø (also Bjørøen and Bjørøya).

Erik Lørdahl reviews German Fieldpost censor stations in Norway during World War II in the March issue of the *Norwegian War and Field Post Journal*. He compares some of his findings on handstamps and resealing tapes with information previously published by Karl Sanne.

News from Sweden

Jan Billgren provides another installment on mail sent to or from famous Swedes in the 1-2008 issue of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. This time his subject is Swedish statesman Axel Oxenstierna. Sigge Anders continues his column on local post cancels of Sweden with a look at those of Katrineholm in 1945-1946.

The 2-2008 issue of the same journal features Peter Lorentzon's research on a variety of the 1-Kr postage due stamp, perf 13, in which position 33 of the sheet shows breaks in the frame lines at the right side of the stamp. Sigge Anders provides part 19 of his long-term series on the cancelations of local post issues, this time those of Kristianstad in 1945-1947.

News from the United States

Hal Vogel describes mail during the Winter War and the Lapland War in the World War II period of Finland in the July-December issue of *Ice Cap News* published by the American Society of Polar Philatelists. In addition to several pieces of censored mail with Finnish and German fieldpost marks, there is also shown a piece of Force 138 Norwegian military mail from Operation Crofter in Finnmark in 1945.

A new catalog was published on the Polish-born engraver who designed so many stamps. *Czeslaw Slania Catalogue of Works* by Janusz Dunst was released last September in Poland, and is reviewed in the October-December issue of *Close-Up*, the journal of the Czeslaw Slania Study Group. That issue also points out the little-known fact that Slania designed "ex libris" labels for several notable book collectors. ➤

The January-February issue of *Seaposter* from the Maritime Postmark Society calls attention to a number of Hurtigruten cruise ships that provide special cancels for collectors who send requests with Norway stamps or international reply coupons.

In its March 28 issue, *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine* reprinted an article on the founding of Sweden's only colony in the New World in what is now Delaware. The article by W. R. Hunter first appeared in *Mekeel's* on March 19, 1983.

Christer Brunström describes some exhibits on display at last fall's BOFILEX national show in Borås, Sweden, in the February 1 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. The show marked the 100th anniversary of the Borås Philatelic Society. Similarly, Frank Correl writes of his visit to the annual Frimærker i Forum show in Denmark in the March 28 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine*. This popular event features the postal services of Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroes and an interesting array of exhibits that Correl describes.

News from Elsewhere

Issue No. 10 of the occasional journal *Fakes Forgeries Experts*, edited by Knud Mohr, was released last year. The articles are written by experts and are about questionable items from many different countries. This issue carries an article by Helena Obermüller Wilén on faked "Steinberg" covers of Sweden. These are 19th Century "classic" covers of Sweden, some domestic and some sent to foreign destinations, which were created by a German fake artist. The author illustrates a number of them and provides information to help detect the fakes.

In the same issue, Iwan Feddersen describes a new method of industrial analysis that is useful for studying stamps. The technique, known as multispectral imaging, is being used in analytical laboratories and quality control systems to study color, texture, and surface chemistry of objects. The author shows some examples where the method has detected ink cancelations on supposedly unused classic stamps of Norway. ■

Scandinavian Area Awards

Several Scandinavian area exhibits were seen at the COLOPEX show in Columbus, OH, in February. Steve Kaplan won a gold, the APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence, and the United Postal Stationery Society Marcus White award for "Usage of the Ring Stationery of Finland 1891-1911." Roger Quinby also received a gold for "The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland – The Saarinen Cards 1917-1930." Gary Carlson won a silver, the AAPE novice award, and an AAPE award of honor for "Postal History of Sweden's Engraved Oscar II Issue 1891-1911."

In the literature section of COLOPEX, Roger Quinby won a gold and the Grand Award for society journals and newsletters for *The Finnish Philatelist: Vol. 12, Nos. 1-4*. He also received a vermeil for *Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1918*. Quinby received another gold at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Florida in February along with the APS research medal for his "Postal Censorship in the Grand Duchy of Finland 1914-1918." A vermeil award went to Robert Hisey for "Finland: First Issue as a Republic."

At the Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose, CA, in March, Roger Quinby won a gold and the Ed & Pat Laveroni award of merit for his "Postal Censorship in Finland 1914-1918." The Wodonga 2007 show was held in December in this town in Victoria, Australia. It was designated a national single frame exhibition. David Brindle had two exhibits where the awards are named for gems rather than precious metals. His "The Faroes in WWII" won a Ruby along with a special prize, and his "Introduction to Swedish Warships and Naval Post" received an Emerald.

Robert Hisey won a gold and the APS 1900-1940 medal of excellence for his "The First Definitives of the Finnish Republic" at the Saint Louis Stamp Expo in Missouri in March.



Roger Quinby



Wolf Spille received a silver at the APS AmeriStamp Expo show in Charlotte, NC, in January for "Ludwig Hessheimer (1872-1956): Passion for Philately." Hessheimer designed the 1930 Parliament stamps of Iceland.

At the Association of British Philatelic Societies' Exhibition in Croydon, Surrey last November, Chris and Birthe King received a vermeil for their "Denmark and the Second World War 1939-1949: Overseas Mail." Also last November, Roger Quinby won a gold at CHICAGOPEX in Arlington Heights, IL, with his "Postal Censorship in the Grand Duchy of Finland 1914-1918." In the literature section of the show he received a vermeil for *Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1918*. Another vermeil went to co-authors Heikki Reinikainen, Jussi Murtosaari, and Jeffrey Stone for *Finland Type 1875*. Paul Albright received a gold for *The Posthorn*.

Vermeil awards went to Robert Hisey for "The First Definitives of the Finnish Republic 1917-1930" and to Alan Warren for "Censored First Day Covers of Nordic Countries" at the Florex show in Orlando, FL, in December.

At the STEPEX show in Elmira, NY, in October, Alan Warren won a gold and the reserve grand award for his "Denmark: The Christian X Issues of the 1940s on First Day Covers." He received a silver at the OKPEX show in Oklahoma City, OK, in November for "Denmark: The Frederik IX Issues on First Day Covers." ■

— Alan Warren

Transfers and Re-Entries

Alan Warren

Issue 4/2007 of the Finnish journal, *Abophil*, had some complimentary words concerning SCC's 2007 annual meeting and exhibition at NAPEX, concluding with this summation: "It is very significant that our country's (Finland) philately is so prominently displayed on the other side of 'the puddle,' perhaps more significant than we believe."

Sweden Post Stamps now has two firms in the United States representing different aspects of their philatelic business for collectors. Uncover serves as their media relations contact. Collectors and dealers can reach them at Sweden Stamp Agency in North America, 1 Uncover Center, Cheyenne, WY, 82008-0001. Nordica will represent Sweden's postal service at exhibitions in the U.S. Nordica also represents the other Scandinavian philatelic agencies. Their contact information is Nordica, PO Box 284, Old Bethpage, NY, 11804.

Iceland's Stamp Collectors Society (Félag frimerkjasafnara) celebrated its 50th anniversary, having been founded in 1957. At a recent meeting of the Philatelic Federation of Iceland, it was decided that **Dor Þorsteins** will continue as editor of the federation's journal *Frimerkjablaðið*.

Denmark established a new group for collectors of the late **Czeslaw Slania**. The Dansk Slania-Samlersklub was founded in September 2007 during the Frimærker i Forum show. More information is available from Mogens Børresen, Park Alle 41, 3650 Ølstykke, Denmark, or by email to Nordfoss@email.dk.

Past SCC president **Paul Nelson** has been named vice-chair of the Postal History Foundation in Tucson.

The well-known collector of Finland, **Eric Keefe**, was the speaker last November at a meeting of the National Philatelic Society in London. His display and discussion touched on many aspects of Finnish philately including stampless mail, the early issues including the serpentine roulettes, arms types, and the Saarinen series, military mail, postal stationery, railway and paquebot markings among other topics.

Eric N. Jackson, a leading figure in Scandinavia collecting in the United Kingdom, died last November at the age of 87. Jackson was a founding member of the Posthorn Study Circle and was president of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society in the UK from 1991-1993.



Norman Hudson of the Faroes Islands Study Circle reports that the post office at Skáli on the island of Eysturoy has closed. Its last day of operation was February 1. Postverk Føroya's Philatelic Bureau has supplied last-day covers to its subscribers who requested copies of special postmarks.

Gunnar Melbø steps down as editor of *INFO*, published by the Oslo Filatelistklubb. The new editor is **Oyvind Refsnes**. **Marit Elind** was named to succeed **Peer-Christian Ånensen** as secretary of the Norwegian Philatelic Federation. Ånensen was recently named editor of the federation's journal, *Norsk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*.

The February 1 issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps Magazine* reports that Swedish writer **Christer Brunström** received the Karl-Erik Stenberg Memorial Fund award for his long years of service to Swedish philately. The honor was bestowed at the BOFILEX show in Borås, Sweden last fall.

For 30 years, exhibitors at major Swedish exhibitions have sought the special prize of the Silvarryttaren (Silver Horseman). This past year the honor went to **Magnus Gartrup** for his exhibit "King Oscar II 1885-1911" at the Bofilex show held in Borås.

The Swedish Philatelic Federation (SFF) announced a new medal will recognize distinguished success in international exhibiting. It is the Wallberg Medal, named for **Borje Wallberg**, an internationally recognized judge and exhibitor. To qualify for the honor an exhibitor must have won 10 gold or large gold medals, or the Prix d'Honneur in the FIP championship class. The applicable exhibitions are those sponsored by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), or the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA). The recipient will be determined by a special committee of SFF.

The Swedish auction firm AB Philea opened a new office in Skara where the company will be represented by **Gösta Karlsson**, who was a previous editor of SFF's journal, *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift*. In addition to the new location in Skara, Philea also has offices in Stockholm and Kalmar.

The Philatelic Federation of Finland recently changed some of its officers. **Jussi Tuori** stepped down as president and was replaced by **Heikki Kähäri**. **Jukka Mäkinen** was named vice president and **Ari Muhonen** is the new secretary. Merkki-Albert has acquired the 75-year-old stamp store A. Pischow in September 2007 which will be managed by **Tapio Ylismaa**, formerly of NORMA fame.

SCC past president **Roger Quinby** was recognized in issue 3/2007 of the Finnish journal *Filatelisti* for 10 years of publishing *The Finnish Philatelist* for SCC's Finnish Study Group. To learn more about the study group, contact Quinby at rpquinby@aol.com. ■

Auction Marketplace

Frank Banke

David Feldman, Geneva, April 1-5, 2008

A special volume was dedicated to Part II of the "Kristall estate" collection that offered 598 lots of outstanding Swedish material accumulated by the late Ingvar

Pettersson. An accumulation of 180 feather letters (#10001) went for \$62,700.

A rare first day cancel on 3-sk. Banco with faults (#10015) sold for 20 percent above the estimate for \$35,000. A 36-sk. rate letter to England bearing four, 3-sk. Banco and a 24-sk. Banco (#10023) sold for \$203,000 after starting at \$148,000.

A famous Nordenskiöld letter to Finland (#10059) bearing a single and a four-block, 4-sk. Banco sold for \$350,000, starting from \$147,000. A 3-öre local 1856-issue with four copies (#10146) started at \$11,000 and sold for \$35,000. A lovely three-color letter (#10119) with 4-, 8-, and 24-sk. Banco to London sold for \$22,000, twice the



A famous cover goes for \$350,000.



estimate. A rare letter franked with four, 30-öre 1858 Arms issue sent to the former Swedish colony of St. Barth's sold for \$42,000.

A scarce set of imperforate official stamps in blocks, 3-, 6-, 12-, 24- and 30-öre of four (#10416), started at \$18,500 and went for \$41,000. A unique 10-öre proof surcharge (#10522) of the Official 1889 stamp went for \$15,700.

Two world rarities from Scandinavia merited their own catalogs. The first lot (#60083) was the stunning, used 39-block of Norway 4-sk. 1855. It sold for \$2 million, some 20 percent above the starting price. This certainly was the highest auction price ever paid for a Norwegian philatelic object. Feldman would not identify the buyer but said in a statement that, "We can state that the buyer represents a foreign company presently acquiring great world philatelic rarities."

The other lot (#60047) was the fabulous letter with two, 3-strips of Schleswig-Holstein 1S Postschillinge stamp on cover. When it was found last year, it was a complete surprise that such a cover existed. Without question it is the greatest Schleswig-Holstein cover that is known. The cover went for the estimate of \$745,000.



Newly found Schleswig-Holstein cover auctioned for \$745,000.

Thomas Høiland, March 13, 2008

The Dane Jens Olesen, who lives in Brazil and has been collecting for the past 20 years, has decided to sell his collection through Thomas Høiland over the next five years. Olesen acquired what he found interesting from Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and the Danish West Indies. The most expensive item in this one-day, 1,800-lot sale was the famous Danish Søllested imperforate stamp of the 15-øre Arms issue from 1902 (#139). Two pair are recorded, but this lot went unsold at its \$40,000 estimate. However, a beautiful single stamp (#138) sold for \$15,700.

The Faroe Islands is in demand. A registered letter with six copies of the 1919 2/5-øre provisional (#241) started at \$2,600 and sold for \$15,800. A rare First Day Cover with 2/5-øre provisional (#239) went for \$14,400 and a surprising \$22,300 was paid for a bisected 4/8-øre 1904-12 provisional tied on piece with 5-øre King's issue postmarked "Vaag 20.1.1919" (#249). Lot 287 was a 3-cent DWI 1855 issue with white gum and canceled with Danish numeral "1." But the stamp most likely has never been in the West Indies. The price paid for the stamp was \$16,200.

From the Iceland section, a letter with the arrival mark, "Fra Island," used in Vejle (#1942) sold for \$2,900. A small section of the Iceland numerals showed strong prices.



Registered letter brings \$15,800.



DWI stamp most likely never in the West Indies.



Faroesse provisional and bisect on piece brings \$22,300.

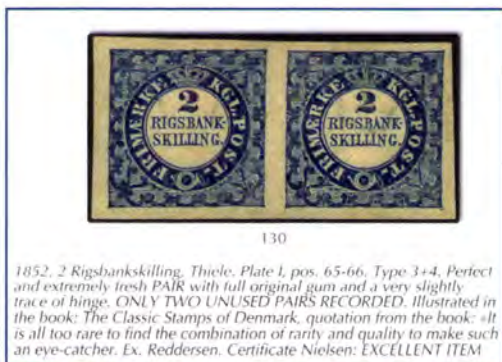
Numeral 239 Drumboddsstadir (#2042) sold for \$2,100 and numeral 74 from Frostastadir (#2048) went for a stunning \$5,500, or 10 times the estimate.

Two Swedish skilling Banco letters have been seen in the marketplace several times in recent years. This time a letter to Denmark with four, 3-Sk. Banco (#2137) sold for \$75,000 and a letter to Finland with two 3-sk. and 4-sk. Banco (#2138) sold for \$59,000.

Postiljonen, April 4-5, 2008

Postiljonen marked its 40th anniversary with an extended auction containing the usual strength in Swedish material and many fine items from elsewhere in Scandinavia and Europe. An underpaid 3-Sk. Banco (#1046) sold for \$23,400. An exhibition collection (#1410) of the 20-öre numeral issue perf 14 & 13 sold for \$22,500, starting at \$9,000. In the Finnish section, the extremely rare "Portostempel" 20 Kopek envelope (*Facit* FK2vm) without watermark and sent to Helsingfors (#858) sold for the estimate of \$27,000.

One lot (#728) provides some concern. This 2 RBS pair sold for \$82,700 as an unused, never hinged pair. That was \$45,200 more than when the same pair (2 Rigsbankskilling Thiele printing, plate I, pos. 65-66) sold for at a



2 RBS pair described and sold by Høiland in 2004.



2 RBS pair described as unused never hinged pair in 2008.

Høiland auction on November 8, 2004. The same pair sold for \$67,400 through Høiland in 2003 but was returned by the buyer due to what he considered a gum crease. In both of the Høiland sales, the item was described as having "a very slight trace of hinge." Here, it was described as unused and never hinged. Different expert certificates were connected with each of the three sales. While there can be genuine differences of opinion among experts, one could ask how the same pair suddenly became never hinged over the last four years. ■

(Editor's Note: Unless otherwise noted, all prices listed include commission and are calculated at the dollar exchange rate when each Auction Marketplace article is prepared)

Iceland Honors School of Education

A 100th year anniversary and the merger of two universities sparked a new commemorative released February 14 in Iceland. The 85 ISK stamp commemorates the centennial of Iceland University of Education, which began training teachers in 1908 as the Teachers' College of Iceland.

The education university will be united with the University of Iceland on July 1, 2008 when the degree program in education will be extended from four to five years. The stamp shows one of the earlier classes at the education school with the 1908 school house in the background. ■



Greenland Post Helps Fight TB for 50 Years

Greenland Post is helping once again in the fight against tuberculosis some 50 years after it did the same thing with its first semi-postal stamp. Tuberculosis continues as a health problem in Greenland, particularly in South Greenland where it is most prevalent among the native population.

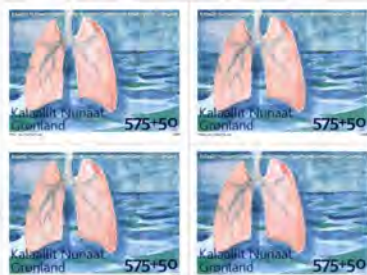
On May 24, Greenland issued a DKK 5.75 + .50 semi-postal stamp in full sheets and a souvenir sheet (four stamps) with proceeds (DKK .50 per stamp) going to the Greenland Organization of Tuberculosis. The issue comes 50 years after a 30 + 10-öre semi-postal was issued to aid the King Frederik IX and Queen Ingrid

Tuberculosis Relief Fund for Greenland (Greenland *Facit* 40).

TB was the most frequent cause of death in Greenland in the 1960s, declined after then, but resurged in the 1990s. "With an average of 83 cases per year over the past five years, Greenland now has levels which match those of several developing countries," said Jens Otto Veje, doctor in chief of Coastal Management. Among the many objectives in fighting the disease are to X-ray the lungs of the entire population of South Greenland every second year and to lease a medical ship that will travel the coastline seeking isolated populations who might be infected.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Faroes issued two stamps in February marking the 100th anniversary of its tuberculosis sanatorium at Hoydalar. The write-up by the Faroes Post claimed TB was eradicated on the islands by the mid-1950s through vaccination of the populace. ■

— Paul Albright



1950 stamp showing ship "Gustav Holm" in front of an iceberg (*Facit* 33) became Greenland's first TB semi-postal in 1958. (Illustration courtesy of Jay Smith.)



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SCC and Scandinavian Calendar

2008

NORDIA 2008, October 23-26, Stavanger, Norway; www.nordia2008.com.

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

2009

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

NORDIA 2009, May 28-31, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland; contact Greg Frantz, gfcaptain@aol.com.

2010

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

NORDIA 2010, Finland.

2011

NORDIA 2011, Stockholm, Sweden.

2012

NORDIA 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Look to Chicago for SCC's 2008 Annual Meeting



Scandinavia and its philately will be in the spotlight as SCC members convene for their 2008 annual meeting and exhibition, November 21-23, at Chicagopex. The show, which will be held at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest in suburban Arlington Heights, IL, will have a theme of "Enjoy Scandinavian Culture."

The Chicagopex Show Committee of the Chicago Philatelic Society selected the theme to reflect the Nordic flavor that SCC members will bring to Chicagopex. SCC is planning a members' dinner on November 21 with a general membership meeting and

a Board of Directors meeting on November 22. SCC awards will be presented throughout the weekend – at the members' dinner, the general membership meeting, and at the Chicagopex Awards Banquet on November 22.

Nordic culture will be reflected on show cachets that feature Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen, Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, and Nobel Prize winning author Selma Lagerlöf of Sweden.

Some 75 dealers are expected at the bourse with the 320 exhibit frames likely to be filled. SCC members interested in exhibiting should contact Exhibit Coordinator Warren Grosjean (warren@Derma-Safe.com). August 31 is the application deadline for exhibit entries.

John DuBois, SCC's immediate past president, will have his eight-frame exhibit on Danish West Indies postal history on display in the Court of Honor. His exhibit won the International Grand Prix award at NORDIA 2006.

SCC arranged for Ivar Sundsbø of Norway to be on the Chicagopex judging panel as a visiting judge from Scandinavia, a role he last filled for SCC at its annual meeting and exhibition in 1999. Roger G. Schnell, another former president of SCC, also will be on the jury, which includes the last two presidents of the American Philatelic Society, Janet R. Klug and Peter P. McCann.

Other national societies convening at Chicagopex will be the Mobile Post Office Society and the fairly new Auxiliary Markings Club. More information concerning hotel reservations and other logistics can be found at www.chicagopex.com, the Chicagopex Web site. ■

Looking Ahead to NORDIA 2009

Gregory Frantz of Colorado has been named by SCC President Mats Roing as SCC's Commissioner to the NORDIA 2009 exhibition to be held in Iceland. Frantz, who also will serve on the NORDIA jury, has asked that SCC members consider exhibiting at this all-Nordic show. The prospectus will be available on the Internet and there are no plans to print a bulletin, he said. Frantz would like to hear from possible exhibitors at gfcaptain@aol.com. Some 700 frames are being planned for the exhibition.

NORDIA 2009 will be held May 28-31 at Hafnarfjörður, which is about a 30-minute drive from the Reykjavík airport. Sigurður R. Pétursson, the president of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation, said Iceland hosted its first NORDIA exhibition in 1984 and its most recent one in 2003. ■

1,000 Frames Fill NORDIA 2008



There will be 1,000 frames of exhibits at NORDIA 2008 to be held October 23-26 in Stavanger, Norway. Officials said in January that applications exceeded the 1,000-frame limitation, but it appears "that all exhibitors whose applications were received within the deadline will get acceptance for at least one qualified exhibit."

More information in English is being placed online at www.nordia2008.com, including examples of some of the collectors' items that are available now and apparently will be available at the exhibition. These include personal stamps by two artists, Kjell Pahr-Iversen and Helgi Joensen, who will be exhibiting some of their art at NORDIA. Other

personalized stamps ("mostly in small quantities") will be available at the show, which is the first NORDIA that Stavanger has hosted. Norway Post plans to issue a two-stamp collectors' sheet in conjunction with Stavanger's selection as a European Capital of Culture for 2008.

For those planning to attend, hotel and contact information also is available on the NORDIA 2008 Web site. SCC President Mats Roing (mr22841@gmail.com) and Director Mark Lorentzen (pumamarco@roadrunner.com) are coordinating SCC's participation in NORDIA 2008. ■

SCC Member Services & Contacts

Stamp Mart (USA)	Eric Roberts, PO Box 460201, Houston, TX 77056	eric.roberts@kbr.com
Stamp Mart (Canada)	Roger Fontaine, 177 Crestwood Cres., Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1H9, Canada	stampman@mts.net
Website (www.scc-online.org)	John DuBois	jld@thlogic.com
Membership Inquiries	Don Brent, PO Box 13196, El Cajon, CA 92022	dbrent47@sprynet.com
Local Chapters	See list in each <i>Posthorn</i>	See list in each <i>Posthorn</i>
Helpers' List/ Traders' List	George Kuhhorn, PO Box 4486, Emerald Isle, NC 28594	geokuhh@starfishnet.com
Complimentary Classified Ads	Paul Albright, 4615 Hampshire St., Boulder, CO 80301-4210	palbright@wiche.edu
Library Services	Paul Albright, 4615 Hampshire St., Boulder, CO 80301-4210	palbright@wiche.edu
Cyber Chapter	Ed Bode, 829 Western Air Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109-0615	edbode@juno.com
Study Groups	See list in each <i>Posthorn</i>	See list in each <i>Posthorn</i>

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Cover Corner

Puzzling Censor Mark on a Letter from Greenland

By Kim Widén

Sometimes you get an item in your collection that is unusual and puzzling at the same time. This is such an item. Some years ago I purchased a collection of covers sent from Søndre Strømfjord in Greenland. In the lot was a nice little cover with a combined 270-øre rate: 90-øre for the foreign letter rate up to 20 grams, 140-øre for registered mail, and a 40-øre airmail surcharge per 5 grams. This rate indicates that the letter did not weigh more than five grams.

It was sent by Dr. Hart Hansen, a leading Danish doctor of medicine in the arctic climes, who traveled regularly to Greenland. It is postmarked in Sdr. Strømfjord May 17, 1972 and has an arrival mark in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on May 25, 1972. There it received a rather unusual censor mark, in French, on the back.

Unfortunately, the censor mark is difficult to read as it is pink inking on a blue envelope. The third line of the censor mark is very hard to make out, and I have not been able to come up with anything that makes sense. As far as I have been able to make out, the censor mark reads:

“Censure, Republique Khmère, (?unreadable? par imperialist?), Viet Cong et Nord-Vietnamien.”

The censor mark is, in my opinion, the most interesting feature of this Greenland cover, but what does the inscription say, and how was censorship in Cambodia organized? I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge of Cambodian censorship. ■

(Editor's Note: Kim Widén can be reached at Forchammersvej 31 1 th., 1920 Frederiksberg, Denmark; email, kimwiden@sol.dk or kiwid@dsb.dk)



Sweden Post Turns to Students for Stamp Designs

Sweden Post turned to a class of 13 budding graphic designers to come up with its 2008 Europa design on the theme of letters. The challenge to the students of the University College of Arts, Crafts, and Design in Stockholm resulted from discussions in Sweden Post's Stamps' Design Council on how to invigorate stamp design and find new designers and creators.

The post considered the students' designs and decided to produce the work of Pontus Björlin, who submitted one stamp showing a comma and a second with a semi-colon on it. The pair of 11-kr stamps was released March 27. The punctuation marks, said Björlin, “reveal a silence, a tone of voice and phrasing; they give clues to hidden meanings. They are the writer's breaths and looks, expressions, and gestures.”

Sweden Posten plans to continue collaborating with the design school in 2009. ■



Albums Closed

Svalbard Specialist Walter Jellum

Walter Jellum, whose collecting interests included the stamps, coins, and scrip of Norway and Svalbard, passed away last July after a long illness. He was an active member of Southern California Chapter 17 and served as SCC's vice president for chapters in 2001 and 2002.

He provided many pages of illustrations and text to websites and journals dealing with the specialized coins and paper money of Norway and the scrip from Svalbard. His collections included items not represented in the museum collections in Norway. His contributions can be seen on the Numismondo world paper money catalog (www.numismondo.com, search for Spitsbergen) and in Wikipedia (search for Grumant) and in reviews of the Scandinavian Banknote Price Yearbook for 1997.

When he joined SCC in 1972, a 150-mile round-trip did not deter him from meetings of the Southern California Chapter. Jellum, who is survived by his wife, Joanie, also was a member of the American Society of Polar Philatelists.

—Paul Nelson



Finnish-Russian Collector Leonard Tann

Collector and author Leonard Tann, a rabbi in Birmingham, England, died November 13, at the age of 61. Rabbi Tann was an enthusiastic collector of classic Finnish and Russian material and was published extensively in philatelic publications in Great Britain and the U.S., including *The Posthorn*, *The Finnish Philatelist*, and the *Rossica Society* journal. He was a member of SCC since 1997.

Roger Quinby, past president of SCC, wrote of Rabbi Tann: "His philatelic loves included the 1913 Romanov Tercentenary Issues and the use of Russian stamps in Finland. He had a special interest in kopek franked cards from the Åland Islands." ■

Misperforated Swedish Coil Stamp Surfaces

Misperforated Swedish coil stamps showing colorful red and black ladybugs are finding their way into the philatelic marketplace. The correct perforation of the non-denominated stamps is vertical so that they are easily removed from the coil strips. Some coils were perforated horizontally, however, and were released to customers.

A customer service representative of Sweden Posten told SCC member Charles D. Schmidt that the first stamps had horizontal perforations but that was changed for customer convenience. All of the perf variety stamps were distributed in January and February to sales shops, such as supermarkets, convenience stores, etc. The misperforated stamps were showing up for sale from dealers and on eBay by late March. Sweden Posten does not publish information concerning the quantity of stamps it issues.

Schmidt contacted catalog publisher Facit Förlags and was told that they were aware of the misperforations and "we think it's still easy to find it." Martin J.



Frankevicz, new issues editor of Scott Publishing Co., told Schmidt that a dealer had alerted Scott to the perf variety and “when we get it we will list it.” Scott assigned Sweden No. 2578 to the ladybug stamp (marked “Brev Inkrikes” for domestic postage) but listed no variety initially. A souvenir sheet of the ladybug stamp was issued with perforations on all four sides.

The accompanying illustration, supplied to *The Posthorn* by Erik Hamberg of the Sweden Post Museum Library, shows a strip of three vertically perfed stamps and a pair with horizontal perforations. ■

– Paul Albright

Post Office Move in Åland Brings Protests

The closing of a post office in a government building in Åland and moving it to a more convenient location triggered protests, which Åland Post said was the result of misunderstanding as to its role. Postal services at Eckerö were shifted March 31 from a 180-year-old post office and customs building that was built to demonstrate Russian prowess in its relations with Sweden. In the 19th Century, mail and travelers were transported between Sweden and Eckerö, passing through one of the largest structures on the islands.



The old Eckerö post and customs building is seen from rocks at the seaside. The post office was located in the left wing. (Photos by Lauri Poropudas).

In the modern era the office catered to summer tourists and collectors but was not conveniently located to Eckerö’s inhabitants. The new office is in a convenience store in the heart of the village of Storby on Eckerö. When word circulated that the old post office was going to close, protest petitions attracted 650 signatures.

“There has been a lot of misunderstanding concerning the mission of the Åland Post,” said Björn Wennström, marketing manager for Åland Post. “People have not yet realized that it is not the Åland Post’s business to run an information office for tourists. In fact, opening a contract office makes the post office services more available for customers as they have longer opening hours and also open during Saturdays and Sundays.”

The petitions did have an impact, however. There are plans to open a “summer sales” office in the old building and Wennström said it is hoped that “some kind of postal museum can be started in the building soon concentrating on how the post was handled on Åland in the old days.”

There were no Last Day Cancels since the Eckerö office only moved locations and was not shut down, said Wennström. ■

– Information supplied by Lauri Poropudas and Kauko Aro.



A sign on the wall of the post office notes that this was an important point along the post road dating back to 1638.

SCC Library Auction #12 (Closing Date July 21, 2008)

This is the twelfth auction of items being **offered to SCC members**. These 19 lots are duplicates of current SCC Library holdings. Realizations will be used to help the SCC Library, especially for literature acquisitions. Place bids with Roger Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305-7233, USA; telephone 303-494-8361, or e-mail rcichorz@comcast.net. This auction closes on July, 21, 2008.

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

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

Lot Numbers and Descriptions:

Scandinavia: The first three lots comprise issues of *The Scandinavian Scribe* (in English), the publication of the North Jersey Chapter of the SCC, staple-bound, 5½x8 inches. These issues run 16-20 pages and contain an interesting and useful mix of articles (studies of classic issues, detection of forgeries, cancels/postmarks, etc. covering all Scandinavian/Nordic areas) as well as chapter news, auctions, and projects. Many of the issues in all three of these lots were franked with contemporary U.S. commemorative stamps of the period. The value of these stamps and items as "modern U.S. postal history" is not considered in the low estimates.



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1. *Scandinavian Scribe*, complete run of Volumes 1-5 (1965-69, whole issues #1-64) plus 33 different issues of Volumes 8-11 (1972-75), 97 issues total. EMV = \$48, Starting Bid = \$15.
2. *Scandinavian Scribe*, complete run of Volumes 1-5 (1965-69, whole issues #1-64, issue #1 is a photocopy). EMV = \$32, Starting Bid = \$10.
3. *Scandinavian Scribe*, incomplete run of Volumes 1-5 (1965-69, 46 of 64 issues). EMV = \$23, Starting Bid = \$5.
4. **Finland:** *The Finnish Philatelist*, quarterly newsletter of the SCC Finnish Study Group, in English, edited by Roger P. Quinby, staple-bound, 8½x11 inches, incomplete run of 19 issues from Vol. 6, No. 4 (August, 2001) through Vol. 12, No. 1 (February, 2007), whole nos. 20-42, missing nos. 24, 27, 31, and 41. Extremely useful contemporary journal that contains English-translation reprints of articles originally published in Finnish philatelic periodicals and original research articles. EMV = \$38, Starting Bid = \$10.
5. **Postal History/Rates/Worldwide:** *De Pariteit van Munten in de Postgeschiedenis, 1700-1875/Parity of Currencies in Postal History, 1700-1875*, in Dutch (with six-page Introductions in English, French, and German), by Leonard H. J. Janssen, published 2001, 501 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. Although written in Dutch, this book is replete with rate tables and monetary conversions, along with illustrations of prephilatelic covers and detailed explanations of their postal markings, so it will not be a hindrance to English-language users. A thoroughly documented and footnoted research treatise on pre-UPU postal rates for all mails, this book is probably the most thorough "all in one place" compilation of postal-rates and currency-conversion information ever published! A magnificently produced, oversized (12" x 8") "coffee table"-style book, this publication appears indispensable for the serious postal historian, prephilatelic-cover specialist, or philatelic bibliophile. CMV = \$66, Starting Bid = \$25.
6. **Miscellaneous/Scandinavia:** *Twenty-First American Philatelic Congress Book*, 1955, 160 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. Contains 15 articles, including frame varieties of the DWI bicolored issues by Doris T. Stericker, pre-adhesive markings of Christiania (Oslo) by G. P. Grabfield and Henrik Thrap-Meyer, and pre-stamp postmarks of Norway by Svend Yort. CMV = \$35, Starting Bid = \$10.
7. **Worldwide/Forgeries:** *The Fournier Album of Philatelic Forgeries – A Photographic Composite for Reference Purposes*, Lowell Ragatz (Ed.), reprint edition by Janet van den Berg, Worthington, OH, 1970, 175 pages, profusely illustrated, softbound, excellent condition. Contains a four-page alphabetical index and illustrated reproductions of Fournier's 1914 pricelist of philatelic forgeries and original Fournier 171-page album of facsimiles. CMV = \$75, Starting Bid = \$25.
8. **Denmark:** *The Railway Post Offices of Denmark*, by Anthony M. Goodbody, Mobile Post Office Society, Holmdel, NJ, 1979, illustrated, 27 pages, paperback, pristine. Useful guide that includes the history, postmark types, and alphabetical listing of railway post offices, and a map of Denmark's railway post office routes. CMV = \$14, Starting Bid = \$5.
9. **Denmark:** *Danmarks Posthuse 1624-1989/Denmark's Post Houses 1624-1989*, in Danish, by Vagn Jensen, Henning Kaaber, and Hans Ehler Jessen, Kjøbenhavns Philatelist Klub, Copenhagen, 1990, 317 pages, hardbound, pristine; includes a separate paperback summary in English and German, 20 pages. Written in Danish, this book comprises tabular alphabetical compilations of all Danish posthuse (the Danish Post Office term for all permanent places of dispatch of mail regardless of size and kind). It lists all Danish post offices (including Iceland and the Faroes while under Danish administration), locations, status/type, dates of operation, sub-offices, military stations, etc. Essential reference for Denmark postal historians and Danish postmark collectors. CMV = \$110, Starting Bid = \$30.
10. **Denmark:** *P&Ts Historie til 1711/Post and Telegraph's History to 1711*, in Danish, by Otto Madsen, Post-og Telegrafvæsenet, Copenhagen, 1991, 437 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. This beautifully produced book is Volume 1 of the Danish P&T's official history, five-volume series about the development and establishment of the Danish Post Office. CMV = \$85, Starting Bid = \$25.
11. **Denmark:** *Danske Breve 1851-1979, Bind I/Danish Letters 1851-1979, Volumes I and II*, in Danish, by Jørgen Gotfredsen and Jesper Haff, Aarhus Frimærkehandel (AFA), Aarhus, Denmark, 1979, 224 and 174 pages, respectively, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. Postal rates and services (Volume I) and cataloging and pricing on cover by stamp issue (Volume II); essential books for serious Danish cover and postal history collectors. CMV = \$65, Starting Bid = \$25.
12. **Denmark:** *Bogen om Danske Skillingsbreve 1851-1874/The Book on Danish Skilling Covers 1851-1874*, in Danish, by Ole Steen Jacobsen, Bogtrykkeriet, Gentofte, Denmark, 1995, 159 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. An essential reference covering all aspects of the postal history, rates, markings and usages of the skilling issues on cover; Danish text, but with useful English introduction and table of contents. CMV = \$86, Starting Bid = \$25.



13. **Norway:** *Norske Brev før 1855/Norwegian Covers Before 1855*, in Norwegian, by Ivar Sundsbø, Filatelistisk Forlag A/S, Bergen, Norway, 1989, 142 pages, profusely illustrated, softbound, good condition. A valuable reference about Norwegian prephilatelic covers, which includes route maps, rate markings, rate tables, and Scandinavian/European 1851-1875 currency-translation tables. CMV = \$54, Starting Bid = \$18.
14. **Norway:** *Sjø-Postruter på Utlande/Norwegian Sea Postal Routes to and from Foreign Countries*, in Norwegian, by Per Eirik Danielsen, Norsk Filatelistforbund/Filatelistisk Forlag A/S, Oslo/Bergen, 1991, 89 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, excellent condition. Important book about the Bergen-Newcastle, Kristiansand-Newcastle, and other mail routes; includes details of the ships, postal history, and postmarks. CMV = \$38, Starting Bid = \$12.
15. **Norway:** *Feltposttjenesten i Storbritannia Under den 2. Verdenskrig/Norwegian Military Mail in Great Britain During World War II*, in Norwegian, by Hilmar Eriksen, Norway Post Museum, Oslo, 1972, 48 pages, profusely illustrated, paperback, pristine. Covers this feature of exile mail. CMV = \$14, Starting Bid = \$4.
16. **Sweden:** *Svenska brev, Förfilateli från 1600-talet till 1855/Swedish Letters/Prephilately from About 1600 Until 1855*, in Swedish, by Karl-Erik Stenberg, Bokförlaget Forum AB, Stockholm, 1974, 128 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, pristine. Twenty-six brief chapters on just about all aspects of Swedish postal history and covers. CMV = \$18, Starting Bid = \$6.
17. **Sweden:** *Skilling Banco Stamps of Coat of Arms Type*, in English, by Hugo Olsson, translated by Eric Hallar, Postal Museum Communication No. 30, Postverkets Tryckeri, Stockholm, 1955, 158 pages, profusely illustrated, softbound, pristine. Encyclopedic treatment of the history, types, printings, plate flaws, varieties, errors, and reprints of this stamp issue. CMV = \$24, Starting Bid = \$10.
18. **Sweden:** *Sweden Coat of Arms Ore Values 1858-1872*, in English, by Per Sjöman, Erik Helmers, and Einer Wockatz, SPF-authorized translation by Sven Åhman from the *Swedish Philatelic Federation's Handbook, Part I - 1961*, Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, Thousand Oaks, CA, 1984, 114 pages, illustrated, softbound, pristine. Important treatment concerning the history, proofs/trials, types, printings, plate flaws, varieties, errors, and reprints of this stamp issue. CMV = \$18, Starting Bid = \$7.
19. **Sweden:** *Den Gula Treskillingen. Ett frimärke och dess underbara öden från äldsta tider till våra dagar/The Yellow Three Skilling Banco, A Stamp and its fantastic fate from the early days to the present time*, in Swedish, by Sven Åhman, R M Skogs Förlags AB, Malmö, Sweden, 1975, 143 pages, profusely illustrated, hardbound, good condition except spine damage at top; includes a separate *Summary in English of The Yellow Three Skilling Banco*, by Sven Åhman, 1975, paperback, 40 pages. Interesting book about this unique color-error stamp. Includes a mounted facsimile/reprint se-tenant mint souvenir sheet of the yellow 3sk banco alongside the normal 3sk green and 8sk yellow stamps. CMV = \$18, Starting Bid = \$7. ■

Prices Realized – SCC Library Auction #11

(Closed January 21, 2008)

#1 = \$4.50, #3 = \$21, #4 = \$7, #5 = \$3.50, #6 = \$35, #7 = \$7, #8 = \$6, #9 = \$8, #10 = \$8, #11 = \$7, #12 = \$4, #14 = \$3.50, #15 = \$22, #16 = \$27, #17 = \$15, #18 = \$4, and #19 = \$3.

Summary: There were 10 bidders, nine of whom were successful in winning one or more lots. In all, 17 of the 19 lots sold, with realizations totaling \$185.50 against cumulative starting bids of \$134. ■

Member Advertisements

Wanted: Member seeks individual examples or a collection of Thomas Cook-related WWII undercover mail. Contact Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735; efraser@msn.com.

Library Want List: The SCC Library is seeking auction catalogs of Carl Pelander from the 1940s into the 1960s to fill its run of these philatelic reference works. For donations to the Library (or to borrow materials), contact Paul Albright at palbright@wiche.edu. (The Library Committee acknowledges with thanks the recent donation of previously requested *Facit* catalogs by members Karl Klaus (#3053) and Rufus Wilson (#3969).

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