

SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB COLORADO CHAPTER 27 NEWSLETTER

NOTIFICATION OF THE SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 MEETING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIC LIBRARY (RMPL)

Our regular monthly meeting will take place this Saturday at RMPL. In lieu of a program speaker, we will have an extended "Show-and-Tell" session with the subject matter being up to you. Members are reminded to submit scans of your items to Even Brande (evenbrande@gmail.com) who will prepare them for presentation on RMPL's large screen. Breakfast sweets will be provided.

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SCC Chapter 27 March 2, 2024 Meeting Summary

The March 2 meeting was our semi-annual members' auction, so there was no program or show-and-tell session. The lots were arranged before 9:00 AM to provide viewing. President Harry Pedersen called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM with ten members in attendance, and the auction began. Roger Cichorz served as the auctioneer, Eric Carlson assisted with locating the lots, and Jim Kilbane served as the recorder. There were 45 lots from two consignors, and Eric entered one lot as a donation to the Chapter that sold for \$4. 29 of the consigned lots sold to nine buyers for \$636.50, adding \$63.65 in commissions to the Chapter Treasury. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

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SCC Chapter 27 Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2024

May 4: Roger Cichorz on "Iceland's 1930 Parliament Issue"

June 1: Jim Kilbane on a subject to be determined

September 7: open

October 5: Semi-annual members' auction

November 2: open

December: Annual holiday party to be determined, or, alternatively, December 7: open

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S.C.C. Chapter 27 Treasurer's Report

\$1445.42 Previous Treasury Balance (2/12/24)

+\$67.65 March 2 auction commissions (\$63.65) + donation (\$4)

+\$10.00 one dues payment

-\$18.40 panes of 20 Forever & Additional Ounce postage stamps for future mailings

-\$20.31 breakfast sweets and bagels for March 2 meeting

-\$6.40 printing costs for March 2024 Newsletters & auction lists

\$1477.96 Current Treasury Balance (3/11/24)

\$621.83 Cash on Hand (3/11/24)

\$856.13 seven-month Certificate of Deposit at Elevations Credit Union, Boulder, CO (ECUBC) valued at \$856.13 was reinvested on 2/12/24 at 5.00% APY for seven months (maturity date of 9/12/24).

Prepared by Roger Cichorz, 3/11/24

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Scandinavian Miscellany

Word for the Day:

fleer \ 'flir \ *noun*: a word or look of derision or mockery

*When the new hire suggested that the firm prepare the start-up plan for the charity for free, she half expected to be hit with a collective **fleer**, but the others readily agreed.*

DID YOU KNOW? *Fleer* first appeared in English as a verb (*flergen* in Middle English) meaning "to laugh, grin, or grimace in a coarse manner." The verb is of Scandinavian origin and is akin to the Norwegian *flire*, meaning "to giggle." The noun *fleer* first and most famously appeared in William Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello*, in which the evil Iago invites Othello to observe the signs of his wife's unfaithfulness in the visage of her supposed lover, Cassio: "And mark the fleers, the gibes, and notable scorns / That dwell in every region of his face."

Source: Merriam-Webster Page-A-Day® Calendar entry for Friday, February 23, 2024.

Chapter 27 Members' Classified Advertisements

As a no-cost service to all Chapter 27 members, your "buy, sell, or trade" classified ads can appear in future Meeting Notifications. Submit your copy to Roger at rcichorz@comcast.net. Also, take a look at the listing of Chapter members' collecting interests on the next page as you may have unwanted items others may be interested in!

For Sale: My entire holdings of worldwide stamps and postal history (countries include Åland, Danish West Indies, Denmark with emphasis on star cancels & postmarks, Faroes, Finland with emphasis on village cancels, Greenland, Iceland, Sweden with emphasis on postmarks – also many non-Nordic countries) – worldwide postal history of various specialties and topics (including advertising, airmail & zeppelins, auxiliary markings, censored, consular, DOX, maps, military, perfins, pneumatic, postage dues, propaganda, RPOs/TPOs, ship mail) – U.S. postal history (including advertising, Colorado towns and RPOS, Doane cancels, expositions, foreign destinations, machine cancels with emphasis on flags, overrun nations, postal stationery, registered/insured, RFD, special deliveries and town cancels by State) – miscellaneous (used and unused postcards, trade cards, "Dear Doctor" cards). I probably have some of the items you are looking for! Contact me to arrange for an appointment at my home. Steve Nadler, 9730 East 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80238, 303-638-3755 (cell phone), or schlomoX@msn.com.

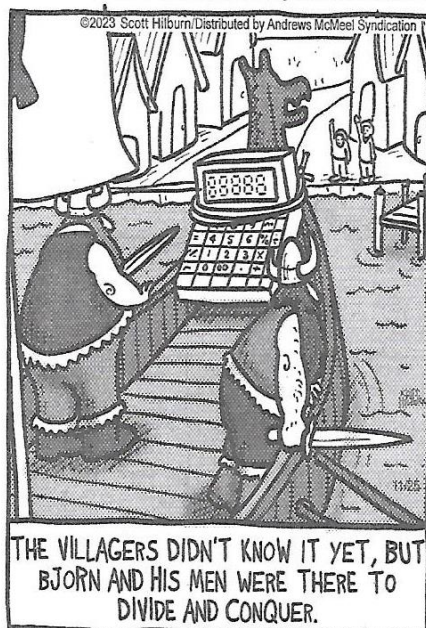
For Sale: Roger Cichorz conducts regular quarterly auctions for the SCC Library, and all Chapter 27 members are on his auction distribution list. Roger will gladly accept literature and stamp donations to SCCL – SCCL is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit entity that will formally acknowledge donations, which may be to your tax advantage. SCCL Auction #71 closed January 31, 2024. It offered 100 lots at cumulative starting bids of \$1224, and 92 of these 100 lots sold, realizing \$1698.50 versus their cumulative starting bids of \$1144.50. SCCL Auction #72 will occur in April with a closing date of April 30, 2024.

Free Offer: Jay Smith sends via e-mail distribution a weekly Philatelic E-News that is chock full of stamp, cover, and literature offers available from his extensive stock. Also included in each issue is a "Behind the Scenes" Commentary, several of which have been reprinted in our SCC Chapter 27 Newsletters. Jay reminds members that these are available to you free upon request, so contact Jay at js@jaysmith.com and give him your name and e-mail address to start receiving issues of these weekly Philatelic E-News.

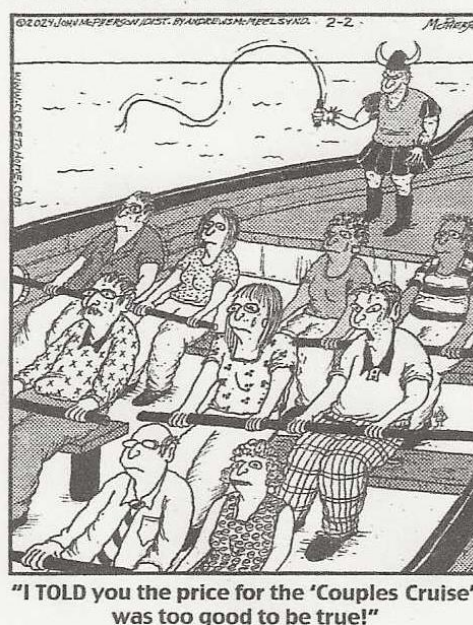
Wanted: Socked-on-the-nose Ålborg (Aalborg) and Denmark numeral "4" cancellations on stamps and stamps on piece, incoming and outgoing Ålborg covers/postal history, and other Ålborg-related items. Contact Eugene Brink, 1920 2nd Ave. SE, Waterton, SD 57201-3983 (new address), 1-417-559-2496, or geno4huskers@suddenlink.net.

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THE ARGYLE SWEATER: By Scott Hilburn



CLOSE TO HOME: By John McPherson



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Chapter 27 Members' Philatelic-Related Collecting Interests

List your collecting interests (all, not just Scandinavian) here for members to be aware of what you collect and possibly help with or bring attention to items of interest! **Contact Roger at rcichorz@comcast.net to amend your listing.**

- **Paul Albright:** Greenland and runs of worldwide correspondence to use as historical research material
- **Peter Bergh:** Denmark (in particular the bi-colors and 1882-1905 coat-of-arms series), Malmö and Lund locals, Ireland, and Great Britain QE2 predecimals and KGV Silver Jubilee
- **Even Brande:** Norway 1855 to the present cancelled & mint stamps, airmail covers to the U.S., FDCs, and U.S.A. 1847 to the present canceled & mint stamps, airmail covers, first-flight covers, FDCs, and Wyoming & Colorado covers
- **Geno Brink:** worldwide postally used up to 1970, Denmark used errors and varieties, and Aalborg (cancels on stamps, covers, by post, Christmas seals, and other items related to Aalborg)
- **Eric Carlson:** United States, certain Great Britain (Wildings, Machins, and earlier sets of British Royalty), Sweden, Finland mint Wasa/Vasa issue (*Scott #111-18*), various sets of Denmark, Finland, and Norway, and lighthouses, golf, and baseball as topical/thematics
- **Roger Cichorz:** Åland and Faroes postal history and revenue stamps, Iceland stamps and revenues, Denmark and Danish West Indies stamps, Lundy and Herm Island (stamps, postal history, and postcards), Abbott Pentothal "Dear Doctor" ad postcards, *HMS Montagu* postcards, and bonsai and puffin items as topical/thematics
- **Jerry Eggleston:** primary interests = used Denmark, Danish West Indies, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway; secondary interests = Austria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden; postal history interests = Jo Daviess County, Illinois, and Summit County, Colorado
- **Jim Fredlund:** early Finland used stamps & 1980 to the present, and used Scandinavian & worldwide stamps 1985 to the present
- **Jim Kilbane:** Iowa and Colorado postal history, registered package envelopes, United States Post Office Department envelopes, revenues, cinderellas, and other miscellaneous
- **Severt Kvamme:** post-2002 used stamps of Åland, Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway
- **Sergio Lugo:** Danish West Indies, Iceland, Greenland, and many other non-Scandinavian topics and subjects beginning with South America, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and continuing throughout the world, including stampless Papal State covers, Lombardy Venezia, and extending to military postal history
- **Clark Lyda:** Norway, United States, Canada, and Europa
- **Steve McGill:** Great Britain Machins and GB postal mechanization (specialist level) and Antarctic, Austria, China (Republic and PCR), Faroes, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Sweden, and United States (fun-to-collect level)
- **Jeff Modesitt:** Denmark (general, postal stationery, and booklets, primary), Åland, Danish West Indies, Faroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden (secondary), Great Britain (general, postal stationery), New Zealand (general, penny universals, QEII, 1960 and 1980 definitives), and United States postal stationery
- **Steve Nadler:** all Scandinavian postal history (covers and postmarks), Colorado postal history, U.S.A. States (streetcar postmarks and covers, flag machine cancels, and advertising covers), worldwide (airmails, perfins on and off cover, pneumatic mail, overrun nations covers, and military mail), Afghanistan, France, Israel, Monaco, and Palestine
- **Harry Pedersen:** United States (including revenues), U.S. Possessions, and 1840-1940 worldwide (including Scandinavia)
- **David Petersen:** Danish West Indies and Hawaii
- **Jay Smith:** France Merson issue – bicolored high-denomination stamps used in the 1900-1930 era and North Carolina postal history and postmarks from the beginning until the day after tomorrow.
- **Tonny van Loij:** Colorado, Colorado Territory, and Kansas Territory postal history, classical music (Bach, Beethoven, Mozart), opera buildings (stamps and postcards), European Union, NATO, European Security Council (KSZE), Thurn & Taxis European postal service from 1499 to 1864 (specializing in foreign destinations), and Scandinavian destinations handled by Thurn & Taxis during 1854-1867

Archaeologists in Norway Found an Arrow Likely Trapped in Ice for 4,000 Years

Source: *National Public Radio* on-line article by Dustin Jones posted September 6, 2023.

Secrets of the Ice: Archaeologists in Norway discovered an arrow shaft that appears to be from the Stone Age, meaning it is approximately 4,000 years old. The discovery was made on the side of Mount Lauvhøe, which stands at just over 6,500 feet in Norway's Lom Municipality. Archaeologists had found arrows from the Iron and Middle ages when they last surveyed the area in 2017. However, this arrow shaft was found after ice at the site melted away in recent years, according to Lars Holger Pilø, co-director Secrets of the Ice, part of Norway's Department of Cultural Heritage.



An archaeologist holds an arrow originally believed to be from the Iron Age on Mount Lauvhøe in Norway. Upon closer inspection, the team determined the artifact is from the Stone Age and is likely around 4,000 years old.

He said the discovery predates earlier finds by more than 2,000 years, which adds a lot more "time depth" to the site. Researchers can determine the age of the artifact by its shape, but will submit a sample of the wood for carbon dating once the field season is over.

The find is likely evidence of ancient hunters stalking reindeer, which made their way onto the snow and ice in summer months thousands of years ago to avoid clouds of botflies. "Sometimes, when an arrow missed its target, it burrowed itself deep into the snow and was lost," Pilø posted. "Sad for the hunter but a bull's eye for archaeology!"

The area where the arrow shaft was found is one of 66 ice sites in Norway, which have preserved more than 4,000 archaeological finds over the years, Pilø said. Since the arrow shaft was broken at both ends, it was difficult to date, according to a Secrets of the Ice post on X, the social media platform formerly known as *Twitter*. Archaeologists initially thought the artifact was from the Iron Age, but after removing glacial silt, experts determined it was far older than they initially thought. "The arrowhead is likely to have been a pressure-flaked stone projectile, meaning that the arrow is probably around 4,000 years old," the post reads.

In another post, archaeologists described how the preserving power of ice over time: "The ice is a time machine: It brings precious objects from the past to our time in an unaltered state, like sleeping beauties."

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This space is available. Why not consider submitting something for next time?

Wanted: Contributions for future *Scandinavian Collectors Club Chapter 27 Newsletters* so that your Editor can continue to incorporate additional pages of items of interest each issue. Anything is welcome: brief articles, collection and exhibit pages, scans or color photocopies of your favorite stamps or covers (preferably with explanatory captions), Scandinavian humor, items for a "Questions and Answers" feature, etc. Submissions to rcichorz@comcast.net.

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The Muddled Origins of the Word “Viking”

Source: *Atlas Obscura.com* November 16, 2023 article by Martyn Whittock, submitted by Paul Albright.

The now common term was not used to describe medieval Scandinavians until the 19th century.

Beginning in the Eighth Century, raiders exploded out of Scandinavia in a way that shocked their contemporaries in Western Europe. Their victims used various names for their attackers from the north. In Anglo-Saxon (Old English) writings the terms “Danes,” “Northmen,” “pagans,” or “heathens” were the ones most often used. But one term, “Viking,” is resoundingly absent. What is surprising is that the term “Danes” did not carry much geographical accuracy in these mentions. As a result, when we find the word in the accounts of a particular Viking raid we cannot be sure that those responsible came from Denmark!



In this 1873 watercolor, artist Frank Dicksee shows Viking raiders heading for land.

This sounds bizarre but an example will illustrate the point. In 789, after reporting a raid on Portland, Dorset, in southwest England, the same entry in a chronicle says that those responsible were Danes – and that they came from Norway! Clearly, a label could get detached from geography. Many other labels were also used to describe these ferocious northern raiders. The Franks, in what is now France and western Germany, called them the *Nordmanni*, or “Northmen.” As a result, an area ceded to them in the 10th century would become Normandy, “Land of the Northmen.”



A Viking leader named Rollo (shown here) ruled Normandy, France, in the 10th century. His descendants would go on to conquer England, Sicily, parts of Byzantium, and a section of northern Africa.

Article continues on the following page.

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Some have suggested that Slavs in Eastern Europe knew them from their ruddy complexions as the *Rus*, meaning “red.” Or this name may have been derived from an Old Norse word for “rowers” or “seamen” – Old Norse is basically an umbrella term to describe languages spoken in Scandinavia in the early Middle Ages – or perhaps the *Rus* label came from a coastal area of Sweden called Roslagen. The word eventually gave rise to the national names of Russia and Belarus. This is because the roots of the historic Russian nation started as a mixed Viking-Slav state centered around Kyiv in Ukraine.

A related word, *Rhos*, was used in the Byzantine Empire (ruled from Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul, Turkey), whose rulers employed the Scandinavians as mercenaries. The northern sailors had traveled down the rivers leading from the Baltic Sea and, eventually, sailed into the Black Sea. From there, they traveled into the eastern Mediterranean and the Byzantine Empire, where they found their fighting skills could earn a pretty penny. The Byzantines also called them *Varangians*, or “those who swear loyalty,” and the mercenaries of the Varangian Guard served the Byzantine emperor in Istanbul. In Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, one of them carved a runic inscription that reads “Halfdan carved these runes” or “Halfdan was here” into the white marble parapet surrounding the balcony of the upper gallery of the church.

In Ireland, they were the Northmen again (*Lochlannach* in Irish), a designation similar to the one used by the Franks. For reasons that are obscure, the Irish went on to differentiate the Norwegians as *Finn-gaill* (white foreigners) and the Danes as *Dubb-gaill* (black foreigners). Far from Scandinavia, Islamic writers called them *Al-madjus* (heathens), in a religiously derived label similar to that used by Anglo-Saxons, adding “May Allah curse them.” And, yes, Scandinavians reached the Islamic lands which stretched from the Iberian Peninsula to the Middle East, and beyond to the Caspian Sea.



Known as the Gjermundbu helmet, this is the best preserved Viking helmet ever discovered.

What is surprising to the modern reader is the fact that we hardly ever hear them called Vikings outside of Scandinavia at the time. Although several possible origins have been proposed, we have no definite answer to the question of where the now-familiar term came from. In Old Icelandic (a variant of Old Norse), the word *vik*, meaning “bay” or “creek,” may have been used to describe seafarers hiding in, or sailing from, coastal, Scandinavian inlets. This would have been an understandable label, whether it was meant as the neutral sailor or the more rakish pirate. In this way, a geographical term may have become a group name.

An area of southern Norway was called *Vik*, so another label rooted in geography may have become attached to those sailing from this area. On the other hand, the Old Icelandic verb *vikja*, meaning “moving” or “turning aside,” may have come to describe seafarers who were always “on the move.”

These possibilities are rooted in geographical origins, but occupation may also have been in the mix when it came to the definition as it developed. Later Old Norse Scandinavian written sources call a raider a *vikingr* and a raiding expedition of such people a *viking*. For Scandinavians, the word “viking” is something you did rather than what you were.

For many who were described in this way (including female Viking warriors), this would have been a part-time occupation. At other times of the year, or during other phases of their lives, they would not have gone out “viking” or been considered Vikings. Then they would have been farming and trading. Viking as a part-time activity – a kind of medieval job-share – is not how we have come to understand the term today.

Article concludes on the following page.

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For Scandinavians, the word “viking” is something you did rather than what you were.

For the Scandinavians who used the term, “going viking” did not carry a negative connotation. In Old Norse sources, going out viking was an adventure, taking part in a spot of muscular free enterprise. However, those on the receiving end of a Scandinavian raid viewed things very differently. It is not surprising that the victims of the Vikings coined their own terms – and these were often not positive or complimentary.

Even the red-faced foreigners of Slavic and Byzantine accounts suggest a sense of an alien “other.” Although, as we have seen, more neutral geographical terms (Danes, Northmen) were also used, even when these were usually deployed in the context of a generally negative account. For those who were on the receiving end of Scandinavian raids, there was definitely no romantic notion of the Vikings.

Viking names, such as Thorfinn Skull-splitter, a 10th-century Earl of Orkney, reveal that the Vikings themselves reveled in their own violent reputations and warrior prowess! As one historian wryly put it, regarding a 10th-century Viking King of York, “He wasn’t called Eric Bloodaxe because he was good with the children.”

So, given all these alternatives, when did the term “viking” come into English usage?

Old English – the language spoken by Anglo-Saxons in England before the country was conquered in 1066 by the Normans – had a similar word for such raiders. The Old English form *wicing* or *wicingas* was derived from the Old Norse word – but does not appear as a label for Scandinavian pirates until the 10th century. And it was only used rarely – but, when used, it had a negative connotation.



A 15th-century illuminated manuscript depicts Viking brothers Hinguar and Hubba raiding a northern England town.

Yet, some English east coast place names contain the word “viking.” In these cases, it may have been derived from a Scandinavian personal name. If so, we are back to a more positive spin on the label since the person in question almost certainly carried the name with pride. As in, “I am an adventurer,” rather than, “My employment is smash-and-grab...and worse.” However, that positivity is not surprising, given that the person in question in these cases was almost certainly a Scandinavian settler who had come to England to take land. Examples include Wickenby (modern Lincolnshire), which means “Viking’s by” or “Viking’s village,” Wiganthorpe (modern Yorkshire), which means “Viking’s thorp” or “Viking’s dependent farm,” and Wigston (modern Leicestershire), which means “Viking’s tun” or “Viking’s village.”

After this far from common use in Old English, the word did not surface again until almost a millennium later when, during the 19th century, it finally became the standard term for medieval Scandinavian invaders. That is a long time out of use, given that today it is so frequently deployed. In fact, its modern spelling, viking, is not recorded before 1840. Since then, it has come to describe those involved in raiding expeditions, as Scandinavians originally used the term, and Scandinavians generally during the Viking Age, a usage never deployed in the past.

However, it is now so popular that it is the label of choice for most people. Nevertheless, we need to remember that few of those meeting the original Vikings would have recognized the term; and, most strikingly, Scandinavian merchants and settlers would not have thought that it applied to them, since it was not what they did. However, Vikings is now the go-to label – such is the strange history of language.

Source: Dayton Stamp Club Newsletter, February 2024, pages 5 and 6.

Foreign Focus: Finland's Stamps and Postal History

By Douglas Files

Finland is a Scandinavian nation adjacent to Russia and Sweden. Its 5.6 million inhabitants mostly speak the Finnish language, which is very different from English. The country belongs to the European Union, which it joined in 1995. Its geography is known for its 180,000 lakes and the nation has a low population density. Finland has a low birth rate and its population is rapidly aging as are many industrial nations. The Finnish culture is famous for its saunas.

Finnish postal history



A 1895 cover showing one of the first Finnish stamps \ Image from dealer Jay Smith's website, <https://www.jaysmith.com/Lists/Finland/Finland-Covers-Unsorted-Page-01.html>

From the 1300s until the early 1800s Finland formed part of the Kingdom of Sweden. A few stampless cover letters written by private individuals are known from that era. Most letters at that time were sent by officials, members of the royal family, the clergy and the upper classes. Letters were carried by private courier until the Finnish postal system was established in 1638. Once the postal service took over mail delivery its clerks usually wrote a "recording number" in the upper left corner of the cover. This is how these early Finnish stampless covers can be identified today. In addition to the national postal service, various provinces also established internal mail delivery systems in the 1600s.

The army of Tsar Alexander I of Russia conquered Finland in 1809, after which it became an autonomous region within the Russian Empire. Stampless covers continued to be sent in these years and cancellations began to appear in 1812. The major Finnish postal event of the early 1800s occurred when a cholera epidemic broke out in 1831. Outgoing mail was disinfected during 1831 and 1832 by punching holes in letters. Finnish stampless covers from before 1850 are generally quite rare and command fairly high prices.

The first Finnish stamps were issued in 1856 at a time when the nation was still part of the Russian empire. Accordingly many of its early postage stamps resemble Russian ones of the period. The first Finnish issue was distinct, however, with its 5-kopek and 10-kopek colored ovals on square white paper. Not many stamps from any nation have resembled these colorful ovals. Most of this issue's stamps were cancelled with pen marks; such covers bearing a hand cancel command a premium.

Before 1860 the currency of Finland was the Russian ruble but after that date it changed to Finnish markka and pennia (100 pennia = 1 markka). This monetary system was in place until 2002 when Finland adopted the euro. The local name for Finland is "Suomi", which may derive from a Proto-Baltic word meaning "land". Many of its stamps can be identified by this name and modern issues often show both "Suomi" and "Finland"

The next issue of Finnish stamps may be familiar to readers because the stamps bore an unusual serpentine rouletting. — —



1856 five-kopek colored oval stamp from Finland

Image scanned and processed by Andrei Sdobnikov - Personal collection, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2712451>

Article concludes on the following page.

—continued from page 5 Finland’s History

This was often done with gauge 7.5 or gauge 8 (that is, 7.5 or 8 serrations per 2 centimeters). These early rouletted stamps are still sought by philatelists due to their many subtypes of rouletting and paper. (To put it is U.S. stamp



1860 and 1866 stamps showing serpentine rouletting Images from stamp collecting world website, <https://www.stamp-collecting->

terms, they are “the Washington-Franklins of Finland”). Collectors should be aware that this issue has been forged so caution is indicated when buying expensive stamps with serpentine rouletting. Catalogue values for this issue usually offer pricing for stamps with full teeth still present, though 150 years later many of them lack teeth. Many teeth were damaged on removing the stamps from the sheet. So for later issues this unusual perforation method was abandoned. Finland began to perforate stamp sheets the common way in 1875.

Starting in the 1880s many Russians became angry at the



Cover from Helsinki, the capital of Finland. Note that the stamps read “Suomi” and “Finland”. This stamp issue was used from 1930 until 1952 Image from dealer Jay Smith’s website, <https://www.jaysmith.com/Lists/Finland/Covers-Unsorted-Page-02.html>

liberties the Tsar permitted the Finns as an autonomous region, such as the rights to choose their own parliament and to issue their own postage stamps. So some rights were taken away from the Finns, which stoked their ire. One of the changes implemented in the late 1800s was to make the stamps of Finland more like Russian stamps. When Russia was pre-occupied during the Russian Revolution of 1917 Finland declared independence from Russia and since then it has operated as a democratic republic.

As Finland matured as a democracy its economic situation improved until currently its citizens enjoy a living standard among the highest in the world. Accordingly the nation has issued many attractive modern-appearing postage stamps. One feature of the modern Finnish postal system is that customers can pay an extra fee and place their own photos on personal-



1986 Europa stamp showing a seal emphasizing nature conservation Image by Postal administration of Finland (Posti) - scan of original, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=66454197>

ized postage stamps, which are then valid for use on mail.

For more information of Finland’s stamps:

The website “Postal History from Finland 1889-1918” is run by a Danish philatelist and carries extensive information about this topic. It can be found at <https://www.jiv.dk/finland/index.php>

If you have occasion to visit Finland, the nation runs a well-regarded postal museum. This philatelic marvel opened in Helsinki in 1926 with just a few rooms. Over the years it has greatly expanded, with the exception of World War II when it was forced to close for several years. A larger museum was opened in 1962 and the 1970s and 1980s saw continued expansion. In 2014 the museum moved from the capital of Helsinki to the city of Tampere. The Finnish postal museum’s website can be consulted at , <https://www.postimuseo.fi/en/history-of-the-finnish-postal-museum/>.

Finland has stamp collecting clubs and many American collectors of stamps from Finland belong to the Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC). This active group runs robust auctions, encourages the borrowing of books from a philatelic library and it publishes a colorful and varied quarterly journal called “The Posthorn”. The SCC began in 1935 as the Finnish-American Stamp Club, then later other Scandinavian philatelic groups merged into a larger organization. For more information check out the SCC’s website at <http://www.scc-online.org/>.

This article only contains the briefest introduction to the stamps and postal history of Finland. Most of this nation’s stamps are not particularly rare or expensive so collecting Finnish stamps can offer a fulfilling way for enterprising collectors to learn about a friendly foreign nation and its people.

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