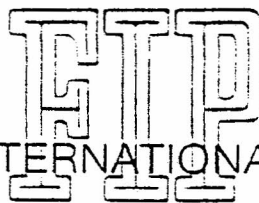




FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATELIE



FONDEE EN 1949

POSTAL STATIONERY COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER No. 2.

December 1992.

Edited by Erik Hvidberg Hansen, Denmark

CONTENTS:

- The Presidents message
- Postal stationery information file ?
- Literature reviews
- Modern postal stationery in the Netherlands
- "The secretary's page"
- Postal stationery collecting in New Zealand
- Denmark - status of national activities
- Postal stationery - what does the future hold?

ENCLOSURE:

- FIP Postal Stationery Commission Guidelines (revision September 1992)
(For formal approval at the Bangkok meeting in 1993)

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE TO COMMISSION MEMBERS.

Dear colleagues,

You will by now have recieved the first issue of the Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter which I hope that you found of interest. We aim to develop this to carry out items which will encourage members of the Commission to distribute information on postal stationery to members of their own Federations and in their country's philatelic publications.

It is not intended to hold a formal meeting of the Commission during POLSKA' 93 in Poznan but I shall be present at this exhibition and will be happy to discuss any matters should members wish to do so. I will be contactable via the Jury Secretariat.

In the meantime I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a haelthy and peaceful year i 1993.

Alan Huggins

Commission President

REPORT ON POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTING IN NEW ZEALAND.

Reported by Mr. Robert Samuel, Christchurch, New Zealand.

New Zealand postal stationery enjoys only a small following in this country. It is, however, widely collected overseas with keen collectors of New Zealand postal stationery in the United States, Germany, Australia, the United Kingdom, France and other countries.

Literature.

The standard catalogue is the "NEW ZEALAND POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE" edited by myself. Three parts are now in print, namely:

PART 1: POSTCARDS: 1988; Shades Stamp publications, P.O.Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand.

PART 2: Lettercards: 1989. Same publisher.

PART 3: REGISTERED ENVELOPES, ETC: 1992. Same publisher

PART 4: - which will deal with envelopes - is in the course of preparation. It should be published during 1993.

In addition I publish a monthly newsletter, "ROBERT SAMUEL'S POSTAL STATIONERY NEWSLETTER" now in its fifth year.

Few of our postal stationery collectors are active exhibitors. My own collection of "New Zealand Embossed Postal Stationery 1900 - 1938" was awarded a Gold Medal at the 1993 FIAP exhibition, Kuala Lumpur 93.

At the present time I am the only postal stationery collector which has reached the FIP qualifying standard. Postal stationery is, regretfully, the most neglected field of New Zealand philately.

Robert Samuel, POB 394, Christchurch, New Zealand.

DENMARK - NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STATUS.

Reported by Erik Hvidberg Hansen, Denmark.

Since the issue of two handbooks about Danish postal stationery, and a revised issue of the well known Ringström specialized handbook about Danish, DWI, Slesvig and Icelandic postal stationery in the mid 80'ties, the interest in collecting postal stationery in Denmark has improved.

At the present time there is no postal stationery society in Denmark, but some years ago a special group for collectors of postal stationery was formed within the frames of the Postal History Society, - unfortunately the interest for active participation among collectors is not very great.

For the moment 6 different postal stationery exhibits are qualified for international FIP exhibitions, and are often participating in exhibitions with results ranging from large silver up to large vermeil.

Further one exhibit is qualified for Nordic exhibitions, and 3 exhibits are qualified for national exhibitions.

To-day all members of the danish jury-college are familiar with the regulations about evaluation of postal stationery, but only one juror is specialized in evaluation of postal stationery.

Late 1990 a presentation of evaluation of postal stationery was given by me at the NORDICA'90, a FIP approved jury-accreditation seminar for FIP "B-jurors". The presentation was followed by a discussion and practical evaluation of different exhibits.

At the moment the danish jury-college are working on a booklet about "How to prepare your exhibit for exhibition", this booklet includes a chapter about postal stationery.

Literature about dansih postal stationery:

S. Ringström: Danmarks, Slesvigs, Dansk Vestindiens, Islands helsager. 212 pages. Issued 1985, by Skogs printing house, Trelleborg, Sweden.

Oluf Pedersen: Danske helsager 1, Single-, double and service post cards. 126 pages Issued by Skilling printing house 1984. ISBN 87-87832-11-7. (Dkr 120,00) Summary in english and german language.

Oluf Pedersen: Danske helsager 2, Envelopes, letter cards, wrappers and aerogrammes 126 pages. Issued by Skilling printing house 1985. ISBN 87-87832-12-7. (Dkr 120,00) Summary in english and german language.

POSTAL STATIONERY - WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

By Dr Alan Huggins.

You will all be aware that nothing stays the same for ever and postal stationery is no exception. The last few years have seen a number of different and sometimes opposing trends. Thus many Postal Administrations have simplified their range of postal stationery items continuing a process which started some fifty years ago. As a consequence there is often very little to maintain the interest of existing collectors or attract new ones.

On the other hand some countries have developed a policy of producing special issues of postal stationery in parallel with those of adhesive stamps. Yet another developement has been the creation of new forms of pre-paid stationery products some of which pose major problems to collectors who wish to display them. Whilst current postal stationery often retains the principal characteristics of the earlier issues in that recognisable stamp type printed images are present, there is a growing number of items appearing without a specified denomination or face value, or where the printed device or symbol denoting that postage has been pre-paid is greatly simplified or becomes almost vestigial. Such items are certain to catalyse a further re-evaluation of attitudes to a considerable range of other items which until now have generally not been considered to be in the mainstream of postal stationery.

Clearly the Commission will need to give serious attention as to how the trends outlined above will impact on the established criteria we currently apply to define what constitutes postal stationery and how it should be exhibited. Regardless of any personal views we may hold, we must be careful not to be unduly rigid in approaching these problems if the collecting of postal stationery and related areas is to grow and evolve in the future.

The last twenty years has seen a dramatic rise in the number, quality and range of postal stationery exhibits at all levels, and we need to be thinking now of the ways and means to ensure its continuance.

To the members of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission.

Several years ago a questionnaire was sent to the then members of our commission. The object of this questionnaire was to investigate the possibilities of gathering and subsequently making available essential information related to postal stationery. Unfortunately the responses were very limited.

Since then little more information has become available, but the need for such information has not diminished.

As the FIP is apparently not in a position to provide funds for such projects, everything has to be done on a voluntary basis, and for a good part by the editor. This explains the delay in the implementation of the project.

The project has been taken up again and the members present at the Granada meeting were requested to give their views on the proposed set-up.

The information we want to collect would fall into four sections:

1. Information on philatelic organisations and accredited persons in the field of postal stationery, starting with names and addresses of National Philatelic Federations.
2. Titles of magazines devoted wholly or partially to postal stationery.
3. Titles of catalogues dealing exclusively or partially with postal stationery.
4. Specialized literature, both monographs and articles in magazines.

We think that the information might be made available on 3.5" diskettes which can be read by any IBM machine (or any IBM clone) using the MS-DOS operating system.

Distribution of the information on diskette is easy. One could think of an annual or bi-annual update (depending on the amount of new information that has come in) which could be sent by mail at reasonably low cost.

Anyone desiring to receive the update would send in the old diskette (in a special protective envelope) onto which the new version would then be copied. Return airmail postage would probably not exceed 1.50 dollar. This could be paid for with International Reply Coupons. The sender would only have to add a selfadhesive label with his address so that the original protective envelope could be re-used.

Any additional information that one would like to be put on the diskette could be sent at the same time.

It will be difficult to provide complete print-outs, simply because of the bulk. Providing a print-out of a particular country will probably be feasible.

The information on the diskettes will be in English language as this will make the information easily accessible for the majority of collectors.

The information will be given country by country, using the national motor vehicle code, so F for France, SF for Finland etc. One file would give information on "supranational" publications and catalogues etc., such as MICHEL, HIGGINS & GAGE.

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No decision has yet been taken as to which database programme (or library programme) is most suitable. The programmes DataPerfect and have been tried, but possibly members are acquainted with programmes that are better suited. The section 1, 2 and 3 would probably be best arranged as "filecards", section 4 as an attached "report"

These then are a few ideas for an easily accessible international information system on organization and literature in the field of Postal Stationery. Much will then depend on the co-operation of the individual members of the commission if we want to attain a serviceable and valuable work of reference.

Please send or give, preferably in writing, any comment and suggestions to

B. Hellebrekers
P.O.Box 779
1180 AT AMSTELVEEN
Netherlands

"THE SECRETARY'S PAGE".

Dear colleagues.

You have now received the Commission Newsletter no. 2. As it appears from the contents, only a very few members have responded to my request of sending information for this issue of the newsletter.

Once again I therefore ask for your cooperation in the hope that you will contribute to the success of the newsletter by sending information i.e.:

- reports on national activities
- information on new postal stationery literature (if possible a short review)
- "personalia"
- exhibition results, national and regional
- striking auction results
- etc etc

All contributions (short) in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and the Scandinavian languages are very welcome. Other languages will not be practical, as the bureau has no translators.

Please send your contribution, already to-day, to

FIP Postal Stationery Commission
Erik Hvidberg Hansen, secretary
Masten 50
DK 3070 Snekkersten
DENMARK

LITERATURE REVIEWS.

Franco Filanci & Carlo Sopracordevole

IL NOUVO PERTILE: Catalogo Specializzato degli Interi Postali dell'Area Italiana 1991: Italia - Antichi Stati (p. 224) Idem. 1992: San Marino, Vaticano, Colonie & Occupazioni (p. 180).

Both volumes published by LASER INVEST, Via C. Poma 16, 46100 MANTOVA MN, Italy: no ISBN.

It is a pleasure to be able to write an appreciation of these catalogues that I have seen grow from the first edition in 1971 to an excellent work of reference, definitively more than a catalogue.

The authors have dedicated their work to the memory of Luigi Pertile, grand old man of Italian Postal Stationery and author of the first edition, with the gratitude that every collector owes to him "who opened the new horizons".

The editions of 1971, 1977 and 1983 were edited by Luigi Pertile, the subsequent editions were edited by the present team. From nearly 300 pages in 1971 it has grown to 400.

There is a wealth of information on legal authorization for each issue, on historical background, on production, on possible use, on postal rates, on essays and proofs, on dates of issue etc.

In volume 1 the authors have included the interesting but problematic AQ sheets, issued from 1608 to 1797 in the Venetian Republic, which were compulsory for every letter addressed to any government department. They admit that the 4 soldi that each sheet cost, represented a tax rather than postal franking, but they defend this inclusion by comparing this tax with the compulsory charity stamps issued by e.g. Greece and Romania. In both cases letters could not be sent without the compulsory tax or charity stamp. A difference, though, is that the charity stamps were only compulsory at certain times of the year, notably Christmas and Easter, whereas the 4 soldi tax knew no comparable exceptions.

Equally problematical are the famous Sardinian "cavallini" used from 1819 to 1836 for letters transported by private couriers. The state had a postal monopoly and the tax of 15c, 25c or 50 c did not represent the franking of a letter: it was a reimbursement to the government for the stamping of the sheets, the (compulsory) registration of the letters and the postage that the state missed out on. In fact the state was paid for a service it did not perform.

There are also a few pages of supplementary information on Italian Forces stationery. These few pages in fact are an updating of volume 2 of the previous edition.

In the present volume 2 the same standard is maintained, There is though one anomaly, the inclusion of the stationery of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. So far only 3 items, but in the view of the fact that they are not recognized by the UPU, none of them has ever been used normally. In theory they can be used for correspondence with a number of states with which individual postal conventions have been concluded, notably in Africa and Central and South America, and Austria, Hungary and Portugal in Europe. In fact they have to be franked with Italian stamps as well or inserted in envelope franked with Italian stamps.

The last three chapters cover ancillary areas:

a. Postal stationery issues in the late 19th century of some former British colonies which mention "routes" such as "Via Brindisi".

Continued.../

- b. The Italian private post in Morocco at the end of the 19th century.
- c. Postal stationery issues of several European countries which are thematically linked with "Europe".

Some knowledge of Italian is essential if one wants to fully make use of all the information, but even without this knowledge any serious collector will find this catalogue an excellent investment.

B. Hellebrekers.

Franco Filanci & Carlo Sopracordevole
IL NUOVO PERTILE: Aggiornamento 1988-89 & Catalogo Specializzato Cartolino e Biglietti Postali Militari (p 112)
Published by LASER INVEST, address as above. No ISBN.

Though the title suggests that this is mainly an updating of the 1987 edition, the better part of this volume, 90 pages, is dedicated to Military Postal Stationery and it is in fact the 2nd volume of the 1987 edition.

There is no doubt that from a historical point of view this is a fascinating study, which covers the period 1911 (Italian - Turkish war in Libya) to 1944 (Repubblica Sociale Italiana, the northern part of Italy).

Stationery collectors may well have a range of views on this type of material if they think of the wording of the FIP definition of Postal Stationery. In no way did the senders (nor the addresses) pay for the transmission of these cards, as all soldiers enjoyed free postage. The authors found justification in the text of a circular of the "Intendenza Generale" of 31st July 1916, which stated that the officially issued military cards "have in actual fact a value of 10c and therefore acquire the characteristics of franked postal stationery". The authors stress the point that only the officially issued cards are concerned, and that all privately issued cards, even though they were sent post free, are to be excluded.

At the request of collectors the issues of the RSI of 1944 have also been catalogued even though they lack the official status of the other issues.

It is clear that the Postal Stationery Commission will have to look into the matter of unfranked military stationery, an additional problem being that in other countries similar cards exist without benefit of such an "Intendenza Generale" statement.

B. Hellebrekers.

POLSKA '93.
Poznan 7 - 16 May 1993.

From the official list of jurymembers at the FIP World Exhibition POLSKA'93, to be held in Poznan, Poland, 7 - 16 May 1993, it appears that three members of the Postal Stationery Commission are in the jury:

Dr Alan Huggins, FIP
Erik Hvidberg Hansen, Denmark
Jan Witkowski, Poland

MODERN POSTAL STATIONERY IN THE NETHERLANDS

The number of postal stationery items issued by the Netherlands has been very modest for quite a number of years. Apart from the normal issues there is usually only one commemorative postcard every year. Not a very exciting situation for keen collectors.

In 1991 and 1992, however, the situation has changed a bit. On 1 July 1991 the postal rates were increased and to meet new requirements the GPO issued a CEPT-rate postcard (60c), an aérogramme (Hfl. 1.10), a change-of-address card (60c) of a completely new design and a PTT-TELECOM change-of-telephone number card (60c). For the first time since 1873 there was no "foreign rate" postcard. The previous "foreign rate" postcard was hardly used as the CEPT rate postcard covered the whole of Europe, including the Asian parts of the USSR and Turkey and even Greenland.

The design of the new postcard was slightly modified in December 1991. It can be recognized by the boxes for the postal code that were added.

On 25 February 1992 a completely new postcard was issued. The stamp design shows a "collage" of a fragment of a crossword puzzle, a tv screen, the head of a quizmaster, a fistful of money etc. This may seem puzzling to foreigners, but the bulk of postcards in the Netherlands is used to send in entries for tv quizzes, puzzles etc. and once one realizes this the new design seems logical.

The change-of-telephone number card is the current black sheep: they are available from the Philatelic Service but it is extremely hard to get used. So far I have not seen a single a genuinely used copy. This is because they are officially put at the disposal of customers by PTT-TELECOM only when a number changes by being allocated to a new exchange.

The change-of-address card now exists in 6 types. The original issue of July 1991 exists in the usual 2 types, one for counter sale at the post offices, size 147x100mm, printed in rotogravure, with 3 address lines; the boxes for the postal code are outlined with tiny dots. At the same time, as usual, the same cards on which the new address etc. is printed to order (PTO) by the Post office became available. They are slightly bigger (147x105mm) and they are offset printed. Then the counter card was changed: 4 address lines and boxes for postal code outlined with big dots. Next the PTO card was changed: 3 address lines, big dots. Shortly afterwards the PTO card was changed again: 4 address lines, big dots. So far a counter card with 3 address lines and big dots has not been found, but it is possible that it exists. Though the Post Office and the printers are usually quite willing to inform collectors of changes, usually after the fact unfortunately, this variety was not mentioned. The printing processes have not been changed. Then on 2 September 1992 an absolutely first-ever was issued: a commemorative change-of-address card. This card which shows an appropriate illustration at the left on the address side. The occasion was the building of the building of the six millionth home since the end of World War 2 (the population of the Netherlands is approximately 16 million at the moment). So far only in counter-size and with 4 address lines and big dots.

All this means that in a very short time 3 postcards and 6 change-of-address cards have become available to stationery buffs.

Last but not least we have seen the birth of 4 NVI stationery items, though many people would not recognize them as stationery.

Up till 2 years ago we had one such item, the CASSETTEPOST, which was withdrawn on 31 December 1990. In the course of the few years they were available the design was modified twice, so there are 3 types. If you can get hold of a genuinely used copy, don't hesitate: they are quite scarce, though the number of collectors who add them to their collections is limited. The absence of a stamp design puts many people off.

The new items, which all have a product BAR-code, are the following:

- a. A corrugated cardboard sheet which when folded is a protective container for a compact disk. They are available at a number of record shops. They cost Hfl. 6.50, which includes postage, and are only valid within the Netherlands, but sometimes they are accepted by mistake for CEPT destinations.
- b. A similar item, slightly larger, meant for a two-compact-disk box, same price.
- c. Two corrugated cardboard sheets which when folded form a protective container for a bottle! They are available at a number of liquor stores. Irrespective of the weight of the bottle they cost Hfl. 10.00, which is not cheap. Again the price includes postage and they are only valid within the Netherlands. So far I have not heard of such a box being accepted for a foreign destination.
- d. A similar box for two bottles. Cost Hfl. 13.00.

B. Hellebrekers