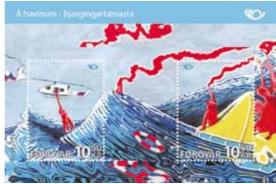


Three new Stamp Issues
Stamps.fo now in Spanish and Chinese
Exhibition in Wuxi





# Nordic issue 2012 - Rescue at Sea



FO 731-32

Test proof

It is widely accepted that the most dangerous of all workplaces is the sea. Naturally, the effects of this fact are primarily felt by the countries most dependent on the sea, such as the Faroe Islands.

The biggest known accident at sea in the Faroe Islands occurred around the year 1600. A storm suddenly appeared from the northeast and 50 hoats never returned home. It is believed that 200 to 300 fishermen were killed in the storm. Because the majority of the hoats that did not return home were small, the use of small boats was then prohibited. Thus, this major accident resulted in the first known initiative to make the sea a safer workplace. But there were still many maritime accidents that claimed the lives of many victims. There are no precise figures. but the victims were in the thousands. making a significant impact on a community as small as the Faroe Islands.

The lives of many fishermen were lost in the first half of the previous century. On more than one occasion, many crews of up to 23 men each disappeared at the same time. There are also reports from this period of incredible rescue efforts. For example, in 1930 during a snowstorm, the schooner "Ernestine" crashed into a reef off the southern coast of Iceland. A member of the

crew, Ziska Jacobsen, swam in the worst imaginable conditions to the shore with a line, enabling the rescue of 17 of the 26 crew members.

It would take another accident before an initiative was taken to establish an actual rescue service in the Faroe Islands. In 1957. the Icelandic trawler "Goðanes" crashed into a reef at the approach to Skálafjørð on the island of Eysturoy. Although there was a willingness to rescue the crew, the Faroe Islands were simply not equipped to handle such a situation. The captain of "Goðanes" died in the accident. Following this accident, the Icelandic rescue company, Slýsavarnafelag Íslands, donated equipment to the Faroese for rescuing crews from ships in distress, sparking the establishment of rescue associations around the Faroe Islands. These rescue associations have been very well equipped. And they have made great efforts when there has been a need for them.

It took some time before the Faroe Islands established a formal rescue service. This happened in 1976, in connection with the founding of the Fisheries Inspectorate. In addition to fisheries inspection, the inspectorate was also charged with the task of participating in search and rescue efforts at



sea in cooperation with the MRCC, Maritime Rescue Coordination Center. The Fisheries Inspectorate also had a cooperation agreement with the large Faroese insurance company. This primarily involved towage and diving assistance. The Fisheries Inspectorate and Ships Inspectorate also cooperate on monitoring the conditions for crews on board ships. The Fisheries Inspectorate examines the crew documents, while the ships are fishing. It has the power to order ships into port if it finds violations of crewing and inspection regulations. The MRCC also cooperates to operate Tórshavn Radio, both agencies under the Ministry of Fisheries.

MRCC Tórshavn is responsible for initiating and coordinating search and rescue efforts in Faroese waters. Cooperation agreements have been established with various partners, including: Atlantic Helicopters, Island Command Faroes, the Fisheries Inspectorate and our neighbouring countries regarding assistance in emergencies.

MRCC Tórshavn also has the task of recei-

ving notification of oil spills in Faroese waters, organising patient transports by helicopter, forwarding notifications of terrorist threats against Faroese ships (ISPS) and to formulate and announce marine warnings.

The MRCC's area of operation is out to 200 nautical miles from land, or to the midline between our neighbouring countries. The station is staffed around the clock throughout the year.

For added security, it is required by law that anyone who goes to sea must have taken a safety course, so that crews are well prepared in case of an emergency situation. In addition, ships today are much better equipped for safety, making life at sea much safer today than in the past.

Therefore, work at sea can now be considered a safe occupation. Deaths at sea are now rare, although absolute safety can never be achieved. But when something does happen, everything that can possibly be done to save human lives is done.

Óli Jacobsen



FO 733-734



Test proof



30.4.2012

# Europa 2012 - visit

The roar of the surf, the screams from the sea-birds – the ever changing light which can alter the shape of a mountain. The colours, the deception of the senses – the acknowledge of inconstancy built into even the most solid rocky ground. The echoes of eternity resound through space and time, but there are few places on Earth you will sense it more clearly than on the Faroe Islands.

It may seem peculiar for the untrained eye, that the Faroes, situated in the midst of the unforgiving North Atlantic Ocean, in fact is a very attractive tourist destination. No tropical beaches, no massproduced hotels for charter tourists and no waterparks or other tourist-traps, which are so common at traditional tourist destinations.

And still the interest for the Faroes as a travel destination is rapidly growing. In a comprehensive study from 2007, which covered 111 archipelagos all over the World, National Geographic Traveller pointed the Faroe Islands out at the most appealing island-destination in the World. In December last year, The Daily Mail recommended the Faroes as one of the ten best destinations in 2012. The interest for the islands has increased during the past few years, after

experienced travel journalists and people who prefer alternative travel experiences have become aware of the destination.

And there are valid reasons for that. Unspoiled environment and culture, wellestablished infrastructure and good accomodations are atractive for tourists who seek something different than just days in the sun. The rough beauty of the country is legendary and stimulates the senses. Hikes in the mountains, boat-cruises to inaccessible promontories and caves - or just to sit down on a boulder and let the mysterious nature flow into body and soul. There is room for everything. Unspoiled bird-cliffs and breeding grounds. The secrets of the sea - below and over the surface. Fantastic geological formations with millions of years on their rugged backs. The wild, the unspoiled, the prodigious.

The EUROPE stamps this year give a tiny glimpse of what you could expect from an active holiday on the Faroes. Hikes and trips in the grandious nature – by land or by sea. To take a peek into the abyss from a sharp mountain-edge on one of the northern islands – or a high speed and extreme cruise below the enormous bird-cliffs of Suðuroy – just a couple of the exiting activities that



wait for you.

And just like the wild outback, the cultural landscape has a lot to offer. Traces back in time to the first Iron Age settlers. Ruins of Viking farms, the agricultural landscape of the Middle Ages and well-preserved houses from days of old. The Cathedral Ruins of Kirkjubøur, a monument over the power and glory of the Middle Age church. The museums around the islands, which provide an excellent insight into the colourful history of the islands.

And finally, the modern Faroese society. From the cafées and nightlife of Tórshavn, the numerous cultural events – to everyday life in villages and towns. The summerfestivals, the music-festivals, chain-dance and rock conserts. Art exhibitions and literary events – the cultural life of the Faroes is as varied and colourful as the village houses.

It is not the lazy life at sunny beaches you

will meet on the Faroe Islands. It is the life in a rough and untamed nature – the beauty of the grandious and ever changing. The encounter with hospitable people, who may live in a strange environment, but still are surprisingly cosmopolitan, skilled in languages and well-informed about the World outside. A modern society characterized by its environment and history.

You can travel to the Faroe Islands by ship or airplane. The shipping company Smyril Line offers transport on the modern Atlantic ferry "Norrøna", which carries both passengers and cars. You can visit their homepage: www.smyrilline.com for information about departures and prices.

If you prefer to travel by air, Atlantic Airways has daily departures to and from the Faroes. Their homepage is: www.atlantic.fo

Welcome to the Faroe Islands – we will do our best to give you a memory for life.



FO 735-38









Test proof

# Monsters

The old folklore often deals with issues on the borders between the known universe and a threatening outher world which people feared - or between right and wrong, defined by secular regulation and laws or by common tradition.

The conceptions about the "Niðagrísur" (The Child Ghost) derive from a serious crime. The fact that the "Grýla" (The Monster) goes for the children, derives from the need to observe ecclesiastical orders. The Beach Trolls keep the children away from the beach and thereby great danger - and the conceptions about the Night Mare is a symtom of physical and mental stress, which most people experience during their lifetime.

#### The bogeyman - scary disguise

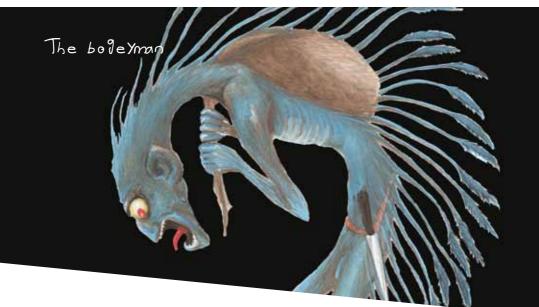
Celebrations involving dressing up in various disguises are a feature of cultures throughout the world, including Denmark. Among the celebrations with the richest traditions are various kinds of carnivals in connection with Shrovetide. On the Faroe Islands, children dress up in festive costumes and wear imaginative masks, after which they visit friends and family who typically give them treats or loose change. A kind of game, it is called to "walk like bogeymen" ("ganga grýla" in Faroese). This creature is otherwise known from folk beliefs to wander around ensuring that no children eat meat during the fast. A presumably ancient rhyme about

this creature has survived. It carries a sack. into which it puts the children who have been so reckless as to breach the strict directive about fasting between Shrovetide and Easter, which we know from Catholic countries, for example.

A legend speaks of the filthy rich Gæsa, who owned half of the island Streymov but was caught eating meat during the fast, for which he was sentenced to relinquish all of his earthly possessions.

This Catholic custom - both the carnival and probably also the fast - is widespread. The Rio Carnival is famous and has evolved into a huge tourist magnet. In most of the Southern European countries, Shrovetide is also celebrated with big carnivals and somewhat wild shenanigans.

An unavoidable consequence of our time is the commercialisation of popular customs. A significant amount of money is spent and made in connection with carnivals, and not least the media is eager to televise the colourful and spectacular parades in the streets of Rio and other cities. Another consequence of our time is the Anglo-Saxon influence. These days, the traditional masquerade at Shrovetide is being replaced by the Anglo-American Halloween, which originated as a Gaelic festival of light among carnival-like masquerades. It is interesting to note how this custom has gained ground



in our Nordic culture without people giving much thought to the fact that similar celebratory customs have existed in our culture since the dawn of time. Perhaps it is also due to late autumn being a time for festivities and fun. Halloween is celebrated on 1 November , after all, while Shrovetide takes place in the spring and has to compete with the onset of the many summer activities.

#### The mare

The mare appears at night and sits or lies on sleeping people, disturbing their sleep, causing evil dreams, and suppressing their breathing. It often appears in the guise of a beautiful woman – but is in fact an abominable monster. It wants to stick its fingers into the sleeper's mouth in order to count the teeth. If it succeeds, the sleeping individual will die.

Most people sleep badly from time to time and may experience chest tightness, be unable to exhale freely and have nightmares at night. There are many possible causes of disturbed sleep without sufficient rest: illness and worries are often the cause of disturbed sleep in the same way as overeating or eating something wrong can lead to those types of symptoms. Natural causes of these kinds have presumably given rise to the superstitious beliefs surrounding the mare.

We know of many good pieces of advice involving the mare. One could recite certain, often ritualistic verses or rhymes which were considered capable of keeping the mare away. One piece of advice was to wrap a knife in a cloth, or preferably a garter, and then move it around the person who feared the mare by letting it go from one hand to the other while reciting a mare verse. In a few places, it is advised to place one's shoes in front of the bed with toes pointing outwards, as this will prevent the mare from getting into the bed.

The belief in a mare or similar creature features in all cultures, supposedly because disturbed sleep is a universal human phenomenon. In many places, people believed that some individuals were capable of transforming themselves into a mare in order to hurt their enemies. Mare stories with obvious sexual connotations also occur. These usually involve a mare in the guise of a woman who seeks out sleeping men, and, conversely, a male form who looks for sleeping women.

The belief in a mare has been strong in many cultures. The oldest Nordic Christian laws include fines for people who take on the form of a mare and seek out others in their homes.



The mare often appears in the form of a woman flying through the air. We therefore sometimes see a correlation with superstitious beliefs about witches. Indeed, it is believed that women flew to Bloksbjerg on broomsticks in order to indulge in wild excesses together with Satan. There is no original connection between these two popular beliefs.

Scarcely anyone living in our part of the world today believes in the mare, and yet we have preserved it in our language. We talk of having nightmares following a night of unsettling dreams and we refer to a problem that has proven to be difficult to solve as a mare.

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#### The murdered child as a ghost

A common notion in folk beliefs is that when certain people die they are transformed into one animal form or another and can appear as ghosts. On the Faroe Islands and in many other places, there is thus the belief that children concealed at birth and murdered come back to haunt and show themselves to the living in one form or another. If we are to believe the Faroese belief, this ghost is small and chubby, bears a likeness to a child, and is no larger than a ball of yarn. The most common explanation for why they come back to haunt is that they want to have a name because they died without being christened.

A name is meaningful and to not have a name is an unhappy state of being. When

a newborn baby is christened and given a name, it is also given its own place in the family and in society. It becomes a person. The name stays with that individual throughout his or her life and is entered into official registers, even after death, as proof that this person really did live. The little child murdered at birth is never given a place in life; it is not registered and no one ever becomes aware of its existence. It is unwanted and silently pushed away.

Should the unhappy child succeed in getting a name, its apparition will also disappear, never to be seen again. In Faroeses, this ghost is called a "niðagrísur", which refers in part to it not having achieved a blessed life (niða means in the opposite direction of the blessed life) and in part to an animalistic form (grísur means pig) because it never became a person. Some researchers believe that this ghost originates from the time before Christ, specifically because what matters is the name and not the ritual of a church christening as a sacrament.

Near the village of Skála on the Faroe Islands, there is a boulder called Loddasasteinur (Lodda's Boulder) . It was often possible to meet the ghost of a murdered child here. A man from the village once became so irritated when he



came upon it that he shouted: "What a loddas!" No one has ever seen the ghost since. It was believed that it perceived the expression to be its name and thus found peace. (Incidentally, the meaning of the word 'loddas' is unclear.)

In the village of Viðareiði , a housemaid gave birth to a child in secret. She wrapped it in leg warmers and buried it. When the girl later married, the child turned up at the wedding as a ghost in the leg warmers, where it rolled around between the legs of the guests and sang a song about its cruel fate.

#### The beach troll

In the old days, people believed in trolls. They lived beyond the human domain in poorly accessible and impassable areas high up on the fells or deep in the mountains. The world of trolls was dark and scary and they belonged to the heathen world. They were dangerous and menacing.

There were many stories and legends about trolls, although opinions differ as to whether people genuinely believed in their existence. Many researchers believe that stories about dangerous trolls served a pedagogic purpose primarily and were intended to make children, and perhaps also a few adults, afraid of seeking out perilous places – especially in the dark.

A famous legend tells the story of a troll,

who, at dusk one evening succeeded in abducting one of the children from the village of Hattarvík on Fugloy. An old man leapt after the troll and managed to save the child from the edge of the cliff down by the sea. The troll jumped into the sea and thus became known as a beach troll.

The same village is the centre of another story about a beach troll, who could often be witnessed coming onto land at dusk. The troll is said to have been terrifying. Seaweed grew and pebbles hung all over its body. When it moved it sounded as if it was dragging millstones behind it and the ground came loose and spun around it. It was so large that it could be seen above the tallest houses. A man eventually succeeded in exorcising it, and no one has seen or heard from it since.

In the village of Hattarvík, the cliff facing the sea is quite steep in places, the beach below is narrow, and the surf is often rough. One can therefore easily imagine the adults worrying about their children and envisage them having reasons for scaring them into staying away from the dangers lurking down by the beach.

Evðun Andreassen



The Faroe Islands are a minor island nation and our national language has a rather limited geographic distribution. It has therefore always been a necessary for the Faroese to master foreign languages in order to communicate with the outside world.

Linguistic skills are a part of the culture, so to speak: for survival, for cultural development or just to keep up with what is going on around us.

Since Posta in the mid-seventies started to issue stamps, our information materials and communication has been delivered in five languages: English, German, French, Danish and Faroese.

This has worked well so far, but as the increasing globalization has opened markets in new linguistic and cultural fields, the needs and requirements for communication have grown as well.

It is therefore with great pride that we now are able to present ourselves in two of

the world's largest and most widespread languages – Chinese (Mandarin) and Spanish.

In the future, all our promotional materials will be available on our web side in these languages, and direct correspondence via E-mail and traditional mail will now be answered in Chinese and Spanish.

The Spanish version of www.stamps.fo was launched on January 17th this year and we expect the Chinese version to be ready in February.

We welcome all Mandarin and Spanish speakers to our little branch of the world culture and hope you will find pleasure in exploring our colourful and interesting universe.

Svanbjørg Manai, director Posta Stamps



## China 2011 - in Wuxi

Jingrui Yan

Posta Faroe Islands was represented at the CHINA 2011, 27th Asian International Stamp which was held in Wuxi, the "Pearl of Lake Taihu" in November 11th-15th, 2011.

The representatives from the Faroe Islands were Svanbjørg Manai and Jingrui Yan.

Jingrui Yan is a Chinese woman who is married to a Faroese man and they are living in the Faroe Islands.

When stamps.fo will be available in Chinese it will be mrs. Yan who will be the contact person for the

Chinese customers who write to Posta Stamps in Chinese.

Svanbjørg Manai, director of Posta Stamps was very satisfied with the exhibition. She says that it was a pleasure to talk to so many chinese collectors.

It is already planned that Posta Faroe Islands will be attending another exhibition in Beijing, China in November 2012.

"We know that there are about 30 millions of stamp collectors in China, so it is an exciting market that we want to learn more about," says Svanbjørg Manai.



Svanbjørg Manai together with two chinese collectors of Faroese stamps

In connection with the exhibition a special cancellation was produced.

It is possible to order an envelope with a beautiful Faroese stamp and this special cancellation for 15,00 DKK through the ordering form.



# The presentation of the stamp issue "Queen for 40 years"



From the left Mikael Melbye, Joel undir Leitinum, Svanbjørg Manai and Martin Mörck



Mikael Melbye and Martin Mörck





On Wednesday 5th of January the stamp issue "Queen for 40 years was presented. This is a joint issue between Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland to celebrate that the Queen Margrethe II has been on the Danish throne for 40 years.

The presentation was at Drabantsalen in Christiansborg. From the Faroe Islands came Joel undir Leitinum, director of Posta and Svanbjørg Manai the director of Posta Stamps. A Faroese journalist from Kringvarp Føroya (The Faroese Radio) was also present. We are



very pleased when the Faroese media shows an interest in Faroese stamps.

You could see the stamps and hear the story behind the stamp issue. The engraver Martin Mörck and the artist Michel Melbye were present to sign the philatelic material.

About 300 people were attending the successful presentation. Above you can see some pictures from the event.



# Maud C. á Geilini, Annvør Manai, Eyðun Húsgarð, and Korinta Jarnfoss Posta Stamps

# Posta Stamps

#### The staff

This is the current staff at Posta Stamps. It is us who handle your inquiries and orders both through ordinary letters, email, and the internet, with fax and on the telephone. We also pack and ship your orders, cancel the stamps as well as other thing regarding the handling of the stamps. You might have seen some of us on exhibitions abroad.

#### The stamps

The postage stamp is the mirror of a nation. A small glimpse into the soul of the country, its appearance, history, flora, fauna, life and manners.

A small culture bearer that reaches far beyond national frontiers, right out into the remotest corners of the globe.

On a small piece of paper just a few centimetres across it is possible to tell the history of this or that, and this has always been the aim with Faroese postage stamps.

In recent years we have become even more conscious of the role of the stamp as a cultural messenger and have conceived our stamp issues accordingly.

It is no longer simply enough to produce a stamp with a picture of the nation's great sons or daughter. We'd also like to say what such people did to make them worthy of appearing in the postage stamp gallery.

And while we are about it, why not try to show examples of the internal landscapes of our artists, writers and poets?

# Frontpage: Viðoy, Svínoy in the background. Photo: Eyðbjørn Jacobsen Layout: Posta Stamps - Printer: TrykTeam, Denmark

### New Stamp Issues 21 March and 30 April 2012



Test prod

New stamp issue: Nordic issue - Rescue at sea
Date of issue: 21.03.2012
Value: 2 x 10,50 DKK

 Value:
 2 x 10,50 DK

 Numbers:
 F0 731-32

 Stamp size:
 29,5 x 38,5mm

 Sheet size:
 105 x 70 mm

 Artist:
 Edward Fuglø

 Printing method:
 Offset

 Printer:
 OeSD, Østrig

Postal use: Small letters to Europe, 0-50 g





est pro

New stamp issue: **Europa 2012 - visit**Date of issue: 30.04.2012

 Value:
 6,50 og 10,50 DKK

 Numbers:
 F0 733-734

 Stamp size:
 64,00 x 23,00 mm

 Photos:
 Eyðbjørn Jacobsen

Printing method: Offset

Printer: LM Group, Canada
Postal use: Inland small letters &

small letters to Europe, 0-50 g









Test proof

New stamp issue: **Monsters**Date of issue: 30.04.2012

Value: 6,50, 11,00, 17,00 and 19,00 DKK

Numbers: FO 735-738
Stamp size: 26,00 x 40,00 mm
Artist: Edward Fuglø
Printing method: Offset

Printer: LM Group, Canada
Postal use: Small letters, inland0-50 g,

medium letters, inland51-100gr, medium letters, inland 101- 250 gr, large letters to Europe 51 - 100 gr.

Posta Stamps Óðinshædd 2 FO-100 Tórshavn Faroe Islands

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