



Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands

No. **25**
September 2015

ISSN 1603-0036

The Provisional Stamps 1940-41
Christmas Products 2015
Yearbook, Year Pack & Christmas Seals

Posta 
FAROE ISLANDS



The Provisional Stamps 1940-41 - 75th anniversary

The two World Wars caused many disruptions and disturbances in the Faroe Islands. The Faroes was occupied by British forces and became totally isolated from the Danish Kingdom, the only outside connections being via UK and Iceland. Soon there was scarcity of daily necessities and already in 1939 ration cards were taken into use. Provisional bank notes were introduced as well.

It was also an irony of history that both in 1919 and 1940 the Post Office started having fears of stamp shortage. Postmaster General Johan Danielsen knew well that the situation could arise as it had done in 1919.

It became quite clear to the Postmaster that the stock of current values was hardly sufficient while there was an abundance of other values.

It soon became evident that the prerequisites for getting more stamps to the Faroes were unsatisfactory even though the war started in September 1939 and Denmark was not occupied until April 9th 1940. There were regular postal connections, but during the autumn of 1939 British Authorities ordered the shipping companies DFDS and Bergenske, carrying mail between Denmark and Faroes, to call at Kirkwall en route in order for the mail to be examined, which of course meant censorship. As a consequence in February 1940 the shipping companies declared that they no longer would accept mail on these routes.

Partly due to these difficulties of navigation and bad ice conditions in Skagerrak and Kattegat, the Tórshavn Post Office did not obtain the necessary stamps prior to the occupation of Denmark on the April 9th 1940. On April 13th that year the first 250 British soldiers



The old Post Office in Tórshavn.
Johan Danielsen, Postmaster General.
"FRANCO BETALT" cancellation.

were sent ashore in the Faroes. "Íslandsk Falk", arriving in Tórshavn on the 23rd February 1940, was the last vessel to maintain normal postal connections between the Faroes and Denmark until the end of the war.

It did not make life easier for Postmaster Danielsen that Danish High Commissioner Hilbert, perhaps wanting to underscore his position as "The Governor", ordered that the new postal tariffs in Denmark be adopted in the Faroes as of 10th July 1940 - this in spite of doubts whether it was at all possibly to supply the Faroes with the new values which meant an increase in the price of an ordinary letter from 15 øre to 20 øre!

Already on April 27th 1940 Postmaster Danielsen had written to the UPU office in Bern requesting that new Danish stamps be sent

to Faroes via neutral countries. However, no one knew how this would be possible.

One of the first solutions Mr Danielsen had in mind was a so-called FRANCO PAID hand cancellation with the values of 5 øre, 10 øre and 20 øre. Four sets were produced to be used in Tórshavn, Klaksvík, Tvøroyri and Vágur.

However, Mr Danielsen had a change of mind, not being satisfied with this untraditional solution. He preferred the well-known solution of 1919 where the post offices whenever necessary made use of over-printed stamps. The FRANCO hand cancellations were temporarily discarded.

The introduction of over-printed stamps

The printer H.N.J Bookstore played an impor-



The overprinted stamps from 1940-41.
The Franking Labels issued 01.10.2015.

tant part when the decision of over-printing the first stamps was taken in the autumn of 1940. Postmaster Danielsen had been taken ill and therefore the acting Postmaster, chief controller Laurits D. Hansen, conducted the operation.

Two sheets of postage stamps, the red 15 øre "Karavel" were used as sample prints with the value 20 printed over the 15. These sample prints, however, were unsuccessful because the overprinting was hardly visible to the naked eye. Consequently a bar was placed under the value "20" when the stock

The overprinted stamps used in 1940-41 were as follows:

Value	Color	No.	Date	Quantity / sheets
20/15 øre	red	AFA203a	02.11.1940	139,900
50/5 øre	wine red	AFA246	06.12.1940	25,000
60/6 øre	orange yellow	254	21.12.1940	17,500
20/1 øre	green black	196a	02.05.1941	42,500
20/5 øre	wine red	246	17.03.1941	70,000

In the summer of 1941 the second edition was over-printed:

Value	Color	No.	Date	Quantity / sheets
20/1 øre	green black	196	03.06.1941	4,000
60/6 øre	orange yellow	254	11.06.1941	5,000
50/5 øre	wine red	246	23.06.1941	2,500

of 1399 sheets was printed. These stamps were sold for the first time on November 2nd 1940.

Even if some parcels with stamps from Denmark arrived in Faroes via neutral countries after this first overprinting, the list of overprinted stamps during World War II grew longer due to various values being depleted.

There is a difference between the first and second printing; the space between the zeroes in the over-printed stamps is 13 mm. Since the HNJ printers were a traditional book printer many other variations are to be found in all these sheets.

FRANCO PAID taken into use

Early in 1941 both Mr Danielsen and Mr Hilbert realised that the situation was far from satisfactory. In spite of the new overprints other arrangements had to be made. It was even suggested that British stamps be used in the Faroes but instead Postmaster Danielsen and Governor Hilbert agreed to use the FRANCO PAID hand cancellations mentioned earlier! Later the figure "5" was removed so the postal staff could instead write the actual value of the mail.

In a report after the war Postmaster Danielsen wrote that these cancellations were taken into use due to "the gravest need".

6 øre stamps sold as 5 øre

A consignment of stamps from Denmark arrived in early June 1941. It came in handy but the lowest value was 8 øre and at the

time the Post Office was running out of the 5 øre value. As a consequence something happened in the Torshavn Post Office that may well be termed a "world sensation". Postmaster Danielsen ordered that in the period May 26th - September 8th 1941 no less than 180 sheets of 6 øre stamps be sold for 5 øre each stamp!

Besides a franking machine was ordered from Britain. It did not arrive until 1943 and was not used to any great extent.

Shipments of stamps had now improved and after 1943 there was no need for any special measures to cover the demand for stamps in the Faroes.

It can be added to this story that on April 5th 1952 Aage Tholl, the well-known Danish stamp collector, who is a devoted admirer of Faroese postal history, sent a request to the Danish post authorities asking whether overprints from 1940-41 still were valid to use. Mr Tholl received an affirmative reply! However, in a letter to the Tórshavn Post Office dated July 2nd 1953 the Postal Administration invalidated the use of overprints which in reality has been a temporary arrangement in the Faroe Islands during the Second World War.

Already then life in the Faroes had returned to normal even if ration cards and shortage of goods persisted until the end of 1952.

Álvur Danielsen



149 DKK per set



60 DKK per set



35 DKK each

Christmas Products 2015

Christmas Trivets

For several years Posta has been issuing Christmas decorations. Among the previous motifs you will find snowflakes, angels and churches.

Edward Fuglø's beautiful drawings of the Christmas Gospel have been used as motifs for our Christmas stamps during the past three years. They can now be used as decorations for your Christmas table. We can now offer a set of six small coasters and six large trivets.

Price for a set of 6 coasters (10 x 10 cm):
60,00 DKK

Price for large trivets (18 x 18 cm):
35,00 DKK each

Christmas Baubles

Fuglø's six Christmas Gospel drawings can also be used as Christmas tree ornaments.

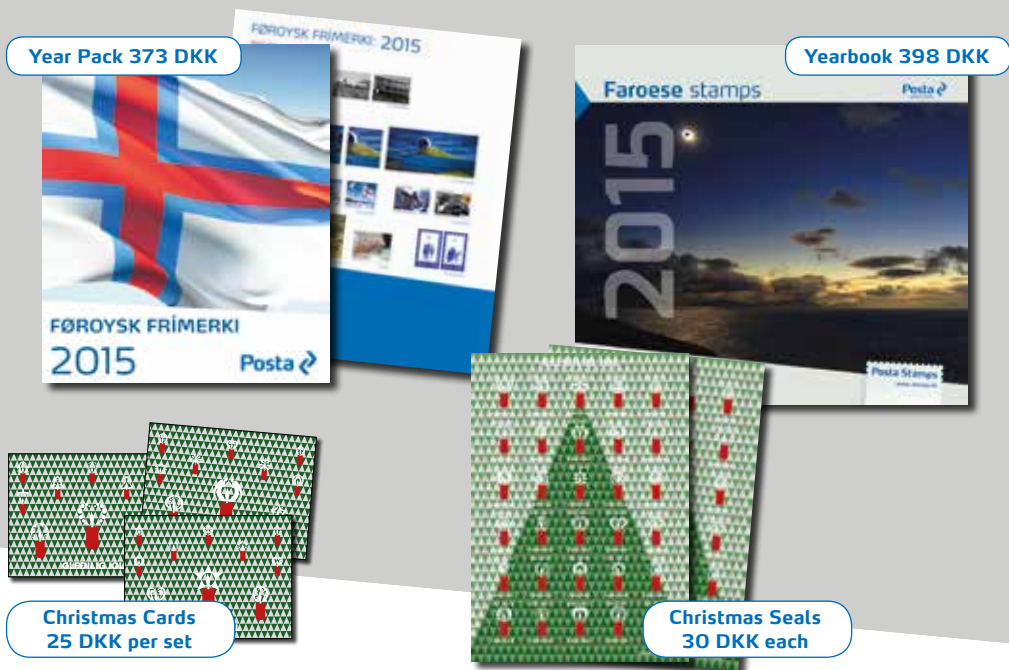
Price of 6 Christmas baubles (8 cm) in a box: 149,00 DKK per set.

Christmas Seals

The Faroese artist, Edward Fuglø, has also designed this year's Christmas Seals featuring a beautiful Christmas tree with candles.

All sale profits go to The Christmas Seal Foundation, which supports children and youth activities in the Faroe Islands.

Price: 30,00 DKK



Christmas Cards

Posta Stamps also issues three Christmas cards with the Christmas Seals' motifs. The cards are sold in sets of three, incl. envelopes.

Price: 25,00 DKK

Year Pack

This is the Flagship Product, traditionally issued at the end of the year. The Year Pack is a superb way of collecting all the stamps of the year. Year Packs are sold at face value prices.

Price: 373,00 DKK

Yearbook

The Yearbook is our most exclusive product. Together with the stamps and mini-sheets it recounts the fascinating stories behind every stamp issue in text and images.

The 90-page high quality hardcover book is filled with beautiful imagery, fascinating stories, and placeholders throughout the pages for mounting and preserving the stamps.

The articles are in Danish, English and German.

Price: 398,00 DKK

New Issues - November 2015



New stamp issue:
Date of issue:
Value:
Printer;

Yearbook 2015
09.11.2015
398,00 DKK
TrykTeam, Denmark



New stamp issue:
Date of issue:
Value:
Printer;

Year Pack 2015
09.11.2015
373,00 DKK
TrykTeam, Denmark



New stamp issue:
Date of issue:
Value:
Design:
Printer:

Christmas Seals 2015
09.11.2015
30,00 DKK
Edward Fuglø
Cartor Security Printing, France

Posta Stamps
Óðinshædd 2
FO-100 Tórshavn
Faroe Islands

Tel. +298 346200
Fax +298 346201
stamps@posta.fo
www.stamps.fo

Multilingual webshop: www.stamps.fo

