



# Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands

No. **31**  
February 2017

ISSN 1603-0036

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The motif of the stamps will be unveiled at a later date  
FO 858



## Royal Golden Wedding Anniversary

*"... Sometimes sincerity calls for great courage. This courage is represented to full extent in Princess Margrethe's telling us the truth, simply and unreservedly: Whether we are surrounded by idyllic circumstances or war and insecurity, we fall in love, become engaged, marry and find the wealth and confidence consisting in having each other, and in this communal sense we can establish the home which forms the basis of our faith and confidence in the future.*

*We here in the islands have probably had the opportunity of seeing Princess Margrethe more often than is the case for many others in the Kingdom. We greeted her as a little girl and we have met her as an adult. Her unaffected, warm and fresh manner of being is for the majority of those that met her the best attributes of a future ruler.*

*And therefore, many kind thoughts go to the Church of Holmen with the best wishes for the future of Princess Margrethe and*

*her life partner, who has been chosen by her own heart to stand by her side in the days to come. "*

Thus, among others, were the thoughts expressed by the editorial in the Faroes' largest newspaper, *Dimmalætting*, on June 10, 1967 - the day when the Danish crown princess married the French Count Henri Marie Jean André de Laborde de Monpezat.

And there were reasons for a few optimistic words on that summer day, when turmoil and divisions reigned in the world. On that same day, the so-called Six Day War in the Middle East came to an end. A day earlier, Egypt's President Nasser had resigned. In Greece a few months earlier a military junta carried out a coup, side-lining democracy. In the East China groaned under the so-called cultural revolution. Add to this list the war in Vietnam, which just seemed to be escalating.



Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik visiting the Faroe Islands in 2010. Photo: Scanpix.

So it was not the most hopeful news that characterized the headlines in the summer of 1967. One must therefore assume that it was a bit of a relief for the writer of the editorial to put the world's anger and anguish aside for a moment and occupy himself with one of mankind's more sympathetic traits, love.

The story began in 1964 when Crown Princess Margrethe was studying in England. There she met the French diplomat Henri de Monpezat, who was employed by the French Embassy in London.

Love blossomed between the two, and in 1966 they became engaged. The following year, on June 10, 1967, they were married in the Church of Holmen in Copenhagen - and at the same time the bridegroom got the title "His Royal Highness, Prince Henrik of Denmark".

A year later, on May 26, 1968, the royal couple's first son, Crown Prince Frederik, was

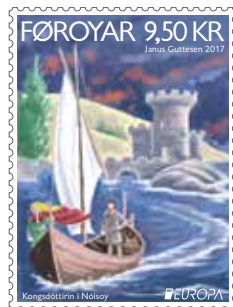
born – and on June 7, 1969, they had their second son, Prince Joachim.

In 1972 King Frederik IX died and the Crown Princess was hailed as Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

In the 50 years that have passed since the beautiful wedding ceremony took place in the Church of Holmen, the world has changed for better or worse. However, in these volatile times, the Danish royal family has been a stable factor - and the golden wedding couple has fully performed their functions in the constitutional, representative and, not least, the cultural fields.

This is why we follow the example of *Dimmalætting's* editorial writer 50 years ago, and send our kind regards to the golden wedding couple, extending to them our heartfelt congratulations.

Anker Eli Petersen



FO 859-860



Test proof

## Europa 2017: Castles

Once in a while you have to lay down the cards and decide to pass, realizing that you can't be in the round simply because you don't have the right hand of cards.

This was the case with the preparations for the EUROPA stamps, which this year feature the theme of castles. From whatever angle we looked at the challenge, there was nothing we could do. Simply put, we do not have any castles in the Faroe Islands.

So, to stick to the allegory - our pack of cards never had the royal playing cards which constitute the prerequisite for castle building. The Faroes have always been a relatively classless society without any nobility at the top. There were only peasants and the dispossessed who preferred a more pragmatic style - stone huts and timber houses with suitably heavy turf roofs to withstand the raging storms of the Atlantic. Faroese children have probably always built castles of cards, but it's just not the same.

In one of his more bombastic moments Janus Djurhuus, the national poet, called

the Faroe Islands a 'grand sea castle'. There may of course be some truth to this simile - the country has a certain resemblance to an inaccessible castle, with its vertical cliffs and mountain peaks reaching to the sky like castle towers - and, not to forget, the huge moat reaching to Norway in the east and Iceland in the west. No wonder that we were spared the fires of war that ravaged the mainland for centuries - just trying to cross the moat was sheer lunacy.

In fact, we have only two old buildings in the country which bear any semblance to castle buildings - *Skansin* in Tórshavn and the cathedral ruins in Kirkjubøur. Both were costly and must have required extensive labour to build - and both were built on orders from the outside. The Faroese themselves did not care much for spending time and energy on this kind of construction. In fact, the residents of Tórshavn complained mightily when they in the 18th century were drafted for the completion of *Skansin*. Things were even worse in the 14th century, when Bishop Erlend wanted a cathedral built in Kirkjubøur. According to



Painting in Nólsoy school. Painted by children with guidance from Faroese artist, Eli Smith.

legend, riots broke out because of the labour and the cost of the project. This is the only civil war experienced by the Faroese - and that because of a church building.

So, no - castles and that type of thing is not exactly what we are most accustomed to. However, we have a legend about a princess who did not want to stay in her father's castle - and moved to the Faroe Islands. And this is the kind of scenario which we can accept.

### **The Princess of Nólsoy**

*(Loosely told by an article in the youth magazine "Ungu Føroyar" no. 3, 1908).*

Reportedly, Scotland has had six kings by the name of James. One of them, no one knows which one, was the father of the aforementioned princess.

In those times there were many principalities in the land, each of which with its own king, known as "kinglets". One of these kinglets wanted the princess for his wife - and she

wanted him. But King James would not let his daughter marry her beloved, since such an arrangement was below her rank in his opinion.

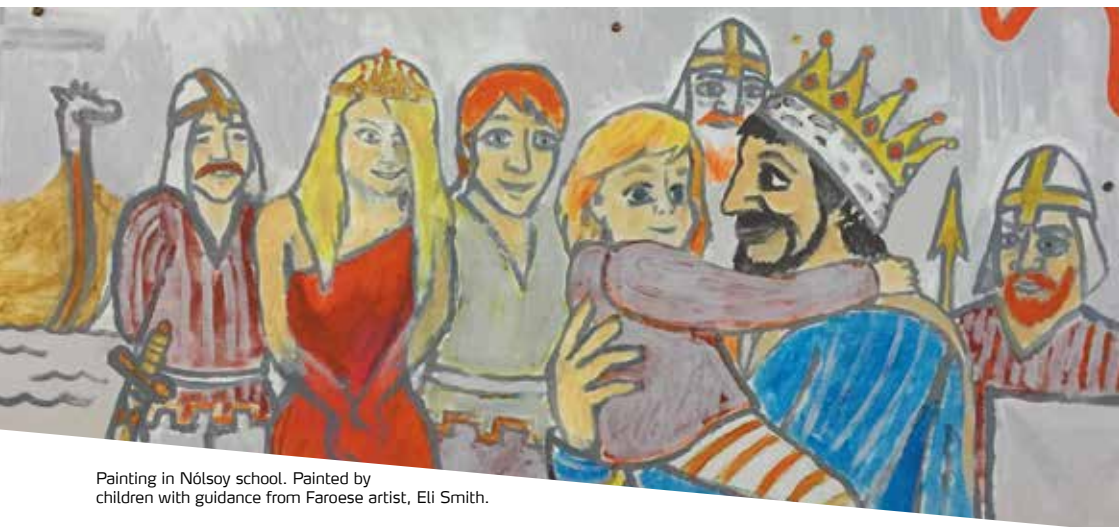
But the two young people got married anyway, in secret, and then they had to flee the country and go into hiding because King James, mad with rage, wanted to kill the man.

The young couple fled to the Faroes and settled in *Korndalur* on the small island *Nólsoy*, just off Tórshavn. At that time *Nólsoy* had been ravaged by the Black Death and there were no people left on the island.

The ruins of the cottage where the princess and her husband lived, can still be seen. Inside the gate there was a fountain where she collected water. The fountain can still be found and is aptly called the Princess Fountain.

Time passed and they had a little son. The couple, however, lived in perpetual fear that King James would find them.





Painting in Nólsoy school. Painted by children with guidance from Faroese artist, Eli Smith.

And then one day they saw a large fleet of ships heading for the fjord of Nólsoy. The young people immediately realized that this was King James, who for a long time had been looking for his daughter. The princess knew that her father had come to kill her husband so she asked him to hide up in the outfield, while she met with the King.

She then went with her child down to "*Halgutoftir*" on the shore close to *Korndalur* where the King's ship called into port. When she met the father, she bared her chest and told him that he had to kill her and her baby before doing any harm to her husband.

While she spoke, the child started to smile and giggle at the King, stretching its hand for the gold jewellery he wore. This melted his heart and with tears in his eyes he embraced the child. Father and daughter were reconciled and they sent for her husband to come freely, whereupon the King pardoned the young couple. He wanted them to go back with him to Scotland, but they declined this offer and lived for the rest of their lives in Nólsoy.

Another version of this story has it that when King James went ashore in Nólsoy, the first person he saw was his grandson playing on the seashore. The king immediately recognized the boy and the anger left him as he greeted the child.

Later more people settled in *Korndalur* and the ruins of their houses can still be seen in the landscape.

In the current village in Nólsoy there is a house called "*Kongsstova*" (the King's room). It is reportedly the first house that was built in the village, and was said to be constructed by the sons of the Scottish princess. There are families in Nólsoy (and in the Shetland Islands) which according to the legend are descendants of the escaped princess and her husband.

Is there any grain of truth to this legend? Well, it certainly makes for a good story - and we the Faroese love a good story more than all the world's castles and palaces.

*Anker Eli Petersen*



FO 861-864



# H. C. Lyngbye 1817

## and his Travel to the Faroe Islands in 1817

On the 9th of June in 1817, the Danish theologian, botanic and natural historian, Hans Christian Lyngbye (1782-1837) put ashore in the Faroe Islands. His mission was to collect and gather seaweed and to investigate the algal flora. During his summer long stay he made new discoveries among the algal flora as well as in regular flora, but in the Faroese context he made the greatest discoveries in fields related to antiquarianism, folklore as well as in literature.

At the bicentennial of Lyngbye's travel to the Faroe Islands POSTA commemorates his achievements in botany and some of his antiquarian findings.

### Lyngbye Star

Although Lyngbye is largely forgotten, his legacy is still to be found in the name of plants like Lyngbye Star (*Carex lyngbyei*). The

plant was collected by Lyngbye in the Faroe Islands in 1817. Lyngbyes Star was named and described in *Flora Danica* – the Danish project to register plants, which lasted from 1761-1863 - by the director of the Botanical Gardens in Copenhagen, professor in botany J. W. Hornemann (1770-1841). Lyngbye Star is to be found widely; it is common in Iceland although it is rare in the Faroe Islands.

### Lyngbye's background

As a young man Lyngbye educated himself in botany. As a private tutor in North Jutland he used the botanical book written by Hornemann.

In 1816 an awarded thesis, the description of the Danish algal flora, was issued at the University of Copenhagen. Lyngbye entered the competition and he won the prize. Before Lyngbye intended to publish his work,



Lyngbye Star growing outside the Faroe Islands University in Tórshavn. Photo: Ole Wich

he wanted to include plants from the North Atlantic, since it was part of the Danish Kingdom. He went to the Faroe Islands. He was given a free journey with the Royal Monopoly Trade ships. He was later compensated by a wealthy patron and by the *Ad usus Publicos* Found.

In 1819 Lyngbye published his *Tentamen Hydrophytologiae Danicae*, with descriptions of 321 plants, with copper engravings of 267 plants seen on 70 illustrations. The publication was financed by King Frederik VI and cost the staggering sum of 3000 Rigsdaler. The Danish King gave the rather poor writer Lyngbye all the printed copies, except some thirty, which he kept for himself. Some of his findings had already been published in *Flora Danica*.

Lyngbye's *Tentamen* was a ground-breaking work and it gained wide recognition. The publication expanded knowledge of northern

algal flora significantly, and the book described many new genera and species.

### **Two stamps with Faroese algae**

On the stamps commemorating Lyngbye's work we see an algal plant from Lyngbye's herbarium, which is to be found in his herbarium at the Botanical Museum in Copenhagen. The plant was gathered in Hoyvík on the 27th of June in 1817.

The other stamp contains a drawing of two algae, which has been reproduced from Lyngbye's original drawings of the images used in *Tentamen Hydrophytologiae Danicae*. On the drawing we see a mirroring of two plants, these algae are called *Chondrus crispus* and they are gathered by Lyngbye respectively on the 27th of July in 1817 in Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands and the other in February 1816 at Hofmansgave in Fyn, Denmark.





Lyngbye's drawings of the ruin of the Magnus Cathedral in Kirkjubøur

### Lyngbye the polymath

Lyngbye also wrote a dissertation on the killing of pilot whales in the Faroe Islands in 1817, which earned him a silver medal from *Det Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab* (The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters). He also wrote several important pieces of travel writing; one of these was about Faroese wedding rituals and the ballads people used to dance to at such occasions. Furthermore, he wrote a lengthy report on what he considered to be a great finding, namely the old medieval ruin of the Magnus Cathedral in Kirkjubøur directed towards The Royal Commission to the Preservation of Antiquities (*Den Kongelige Kommission til Oldsagers Opbevaring*) in Copenhagen. It is because of Lyngbye's drawings and descriptions that the ruin of the Magnus Cathedral in Kirkjubøur, was made into a landmark and the first site of memory in the Faroe Islands.

### Rocking stones and a baptismal font

On the fourth stamp are drawings by Lyngbye of the rocking stones in Oyndarfjørður, an ancient in scripture on Tinganes in Tórshavn and two baptismal fonts. These drawings are preserved at the National Museum in Denmark. The baptismal fonts originate from Sumba in Suðuroy and, the one in the middle, from the Church of Nes in Eysturoy.

Lyngbye's travels left a mark in many fields and in Faroese culture, from botany to the description of ruins all at the same time. Additionally, men like him paved the way for other travellers to embark on a journey to the obscure and remote corners of the world, and in the process making these peripheral places a part of Europe.

Kim Simonsen & Ole Wich



Kayaking across  
"Sundini" in the Faroe Islands.

## Kayaking 1200 miles across open seas

Last summer Oliver Hicks and George Bullard, two modern-day adventurers, embarked on a journey in their slightly modified Inuk Duo 6.8m kayak. Their goal was to complete a paddling expedition from Greenland to Scotland. This is their story, as told by George Bullard.

*It's 05:15 in the morning, we are 70nm offshore in the North Atlantic Ocean, the morning sun is threatening to rise above the horizon and we have been paddling our 26ft-long kayak for the last 30hrs, non stop. We are exhausted, hallucinating and our very survival hangs in the balance.*

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In 1728 an Inuit man arrived on a beach in Northeast Scotland, near Aberdeen. He was wearing full sealskin clothing, paddling a traditional Greenlandic skin-on-bone kayak and carrying all his hunting gear. He died 3 days later.

Up until now nobody knows how that man got there, whether he did indeed paddle 1,200nm from Greenland or whether he came by other means. This is what we set out to discover, or at least to add speculation to the fact that he might have paddled the entire way.

### On our way

As we lowered the kayak into the water at the Greenland ice edge, we experienced a mixture of emotions: from fear of what might lay ahead of us to excitement at the thought of experiencing true, unbridled adventure. We were about to do something that perhaps no human had ever attempted – and the stakes were high, very high!

We lived in the kayak, both resting and paddling at the same time barely an inch above the burning cold ocean water. The sea was black like the inside of a cave and made our



Oliver Hicks og George Bullard.  
Two modern-day adventurers. Photo: Oliver Hicks

hands flinch at every touch, it left me questioning what animals could survive in such Arctic temperatures. Dressed in nothing more than dry suits and a fleece base layer, we battled against the unforgiving ocean weather, until after 46hrs of paddling we arrived on a beach in Northwest Iceland. Hardly able to stand upright, we staggered to a freshwater stream and collapsed into it.

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Life on board the kayak was beyond difficult – completing the simplest of tasks seemed to take hours. Cooking hot meals was one way of mitigating our greatest threat: hypothermia. But, as you might imagine, cooking at sea is difficult, and cooking in a kayak at sea is almost impossible.

The following two weeks consisted of paddling 600nm between headlands around the north coast of Iceland. Not only did we pass some of the most majestic fjords and

## FACTS

**WHO?** Oliver Hicks (34) and George Bullard (27).

**WHAT?** An extreme kayak paddling expedition from Greenland to Scotland via Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

**WHEN?** On June 30th, 2016, they set off from Greenland. Hicks and Bullard completed their expedition arriving in Balnakeil Bay in Scotland on September 4th, 2016. A total of 66 days.

**MEANS OF TRANSPORT:** A slightly modified Inuk Duo 6.8m sea kayak, which is made of carbon fibre with Kevlar lining the base of the hull for ice protection. It is fast and light, designed to cover large distances.

**VISIT:** <http://www.ollyhicks.com/new-blog/> for more information.



Hicks and Bullard arrived in Tjørnuvik, Faroe Islands, at 3 in the morning. On the horizon the looming silhouettes of the Giant and the Witch bear silent witness to their accomplishment. Photo: Harald Bjorgvin.

mountains, we also met some incredibly generous and welcoming people on the way to our last stop before heading across the ocean to the Faroe Islands.

### **Iceland – Faroe Islands**

The crossing from Iceland to the Faroes is our longest and most dangerous stretch of open ocean, famously called *'The Devil's Dance Floor'*. There is no support boat by our side, so once we leave land we are committed, and we take everything we need to exist from loo paper to fresh water. This leg could take us up to a week and, of course, weather forecasts aren't that accurate that far out – hence the danger. If the weather changes for the worse, we have nowhere to hide.

Famed for its steep cliffs plunging straight into the ocean, arriving into the Faroe Islands was a moment we will never forget. From 240nm out we were aiming for a 500m-wide entrance to the main channel that runs

down the centre of the archipelago. Currents flow at up to 8km between the islands, so the waters can be exceptionally turbulent around here. We arrived at 03:00hrs as the sun was about to rise, surrounded by vast cliffs and a still, unmoving ocean. We hit the beach, crawled out of the kayak and were simply relieved to have dry land beneath our feet again.

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We had been away from home for almost 2 months and the summer season was drawing to a close. Our weather windows were not only getting shorter, but also becoming less frequent. The weather was our tyrant; it was the only factor that would determine whether this expedition would be possible or not. Indeed, our first attempt to cross The Devil's Dance Floor saw us join a passing fishing vessel on day 3, 50nm offshore, and head back to the mainland – an adventure in itself.



After three weeks of waiting and one false start, we spotted a narrow chance to leave the Faroes and make for the Scottish mainland. The window was tight, so the island of North Rona (45nm northwest of mainland Scotland) seemed like a great place to stop... but we had to get there first.

*It's 05:15 in the morning, we are 70nm offshore in the North Atlantic Ocean, the morning sun is threatening to rise above the horizon and we have been paddling our 26ft-long kayak for the last 30hrs, non stop. We are exhausted, hallucinating and our very survival hangs in the balance. We simply have to sleep, but will the weather close in around us?*

With only a matter of minutes to spare before gales ensued and the ocean turned into a fury of white horses, we landed at North Rona – hard ground couldn't have come sooner. North Rona is a deserted island

with no running water, so, having reached it, we faced a game of survival. Collecting fresh water from roofs and hunting sea birds was how we made it.

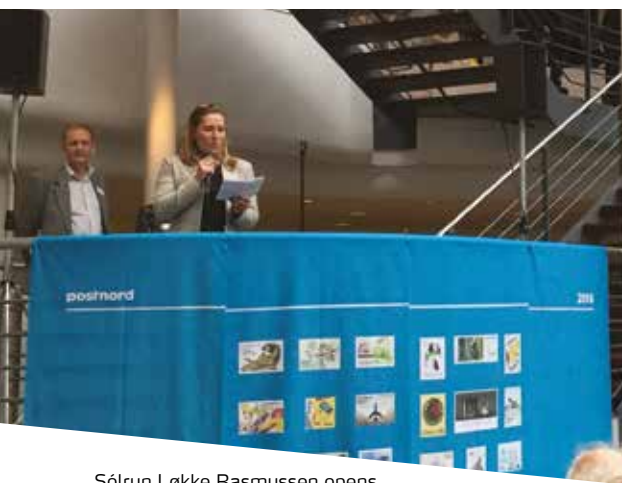
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As to whether the Finman did paddle the entire way? We feel that there are other, more plausible ways that he might have ended up near Aberdeen. For example, he might have been picked up by whalers and dropped off at sea when he fell ill.

Sixty-six days after leaving the coast of Greenland, we paddled silently into Balnakeil Bay in North Scotland having done something that perhaps no human had ever done before and, if they have any sense, will never do again!

*George Bullard*





Sólrun Løkke Rasmussen opens the show. Photo: Steen J. Petersen

## Posta 's 40th anniversary! Greetings from a stamp collector.

On the weekend of 5-6 November 2016, the Faroese postal service celebrated its 40th anniversary at the *2016 Brev & Postkort Messe* (Letters & Postcards Show) in Frederiksberg, Denmark.

The show was opened by Sólrun Løkke Rasmussen, the Faroese-born wife of the Danish Prime Minister, Svannbjørn Manai, director of Posta Stamps and by Flemming Petersen, chairman of the stamp association Frederiksberg Frimærke Forening (FFF).



Svannbjørn Manai, director of Posta Stamps, Flemming Petersen, Chairman of FFF, Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister and Sólrun Løkke Rasmussen. Photo: Steen J. Petersen.

Faroese stamp collectors were invited by the postal services to exhibit, and over 100 frames were registered. There were many attractive collections from the pre-philatelic period, all the way up to present times. There were many exhibitors from many different countries who exhibited different themes within Faroese philately.

The show had a very international presence, with visitors and exhibitors from the Faroe Islands, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany and England. There were also some exhibitors who were unable to attend but who were very helpful in still managing to exhibit items from their collections, which we all enjoyed looking at. We extend our gratitude to those people who helped to make this happen.

Very many collections were exhibited, including Færingehavn in Greenland, the postal steamer Ruth, postal history from the pre-stamp period to today, WW2, Clipfish stamps (stamps marked with the Faroese message



Ralf Masukowitz with his specialist WW2 display on the story of the Neopost 446 Metermark.  
Photo: Steen J. Petersen

"Spis Faerosk Klipfisk" (Eat Faroe Clipfish)), Neopost, star cancellations, airmail, newer franking labels, motif collection, variant collection, the 1975 booklet, Thorshavn day cancellations. A brilliant effort by the exhibitors.

Posta hosted an evening event for exhibitors and partners. The evening was extremely welcoming, and many collectors were able to make new acquaintances.

It was a lovely weekend where many of the Faroese collectors chatted in German, English, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish. Everyone enjoyed the attractive collections. A lot of work was put into these, which was appreciated by visitors. Knowledge was exchanged and everyone was extremely happy to be able to network with people who shared the same interest. I hope to meet some of the collectors again at future exhibitions. There is no doubt that the collectors of Faroese stamps take great satisfaction from their hobby.

Best regards  
Steen Jack Petersen



Brian Hague, Svanbjørg Manai and Peter Sondhelm. Photo: Steen J. Petersen

# New Stamp Issues - 15 May 2017



New stamp issue:

Date of issue:

Value:

Numbers:

Mini-sheet size:

Stamp size:

Artist:

Printing method:

Printer:

Posta use:

**Royal Golden Wedding Anniversary**

15.05.2017

50,00 DKK

FO 858

130 x 75 mm

40 x 40 mm

Torben Eskerod / Jacob Monefeldt

Offset

Cartor Security Printing, France

REC letters, 0-50 g

*The motif of the stamps will be unveiled at a later date*



FO 859-860



Test proof

New stamp issue:

Date of issue:

Value:

Numbers:

Stamp size:

Artist:

Printing method:

Printer:

Posta use:

**Europa 2017: Castles**

15.05.2017

9,50 and 17,00 DKK

FO 859-860

30 x 40 mm

Janus Gultesen

Offset

OeSD, Austria

Small inland letters, 0-50 g. and small letters to Europe, 0-50 g.



FO 861-864



Test proof

New stamp issue:

Date of issue:

Value:

Numbers:

Stamp size:

Design:

Printing method:

Printer:

Posta use:

**H. C. Lyngbye 1817**

15.05.2017

9,50, 13,00, 19,00 and 22,00 DKK

FO 861-864

30 x 40 mm

Ole Wich / Kim Simonsen

Offset

La Poste, France

Small letters to Europe and other countries, 0-50 g. large inland letters, 0-50 g. and small letters to Europe, 51-100 g.

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