



**Posta** Stamps  
Faroe Islands

No. **33**  
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- The Seven Swans
- Christmas 2017
- Faroese mini-sheet 2nd prize



FO 865-866

Test proof

# The Seven Swans



Once upon a time there was a husband and wife who had eight children, seven boys and a girl. The wife died and her husband mourned her, but like most widowed men he remarried and had a daughter with his second wife.

But as the children grew older, the stepmother became so cruel to them, that the man began to worry and did not want to have them in the house. He, therefore, dug into a hill and made a chamber where he put his children.

His lock to the chamber was a golden apple. When he rolled it upwards the hillside opened and when he rolled it downwards the hillside closed again. He visited his children every night and brought them food. He kept the apple in a locked coffer and kept the key to it around his neck.

The woman became suspicious. Her husband

was away every night and she noticed that food was missing in the pantry. She questioned him insistently but was received no answers.

Using sorcery she turned her daughter into a feather – for she was also a witch – and put it in her husband's cap.

When night fell he went to the hill as usual, and the feather in his cap observed all his doings closely. When he came back home, his wife took the feather and turned it back into her daughter. She asked her closely about the whereabouts of the father, and the daughter told her everything.

When the man was asleep, the old hag stole the key to the coffer from his neck and took the golden apple. She then made her way to the hill with plenty of food for the children. The hillside opened when she rolled the gol-



Swan with cygnets  
Photo: Harald Bjørgvin

den apple upwards. She went in, pretended to be kind to the children and gave them food. The boys sat down at once to eat, but the girl did not want anything.

The old hag gave each of the boys a shirt to wear, and when they put them on they turned into swans and flew away. She wanted to give her stepdaughter a shift dress, but the girl refused, she wanted neither food nor clothes from the woman and asked her to leave her alone. Yes, she would be left alone, the old hag said, more alone than she ever would care for. She then went out, locked the hill and threw the golden apple into the sea.

The girl became very sad. She sat down and cried, poor thing. She wondered how to get out but did not really want to live after what had happened to her brothers.

When the father went to visit his children

in the hill, he discovered that the golden apple was gone. He was grief-stricken, for he thought that now they would starve. He knew that it was their stepmother who had taken the apple and thrown it away.

The girl in the hill ate the food that her father had brought until nothing was left. She then began to dig herself out of the hill with a knife she had. It took a long time, but at last she managed to get out.

She walked far and long and finally came to a house where a childless couple lived. They received her warmly, and she told them all that had happened and how sad it was that her brothers had been turned into swans by their stepmother.

The kind people said that she was welcome to stay with them, and so she did. But no one ever saw her laugh or play.





Li Yunzhong, the artist behind the issue  
«The Seven Swans »

A black print of the mini sheet has also been produced. It is included in the 2017 yearbook at no additional cost. However, it is also possible to purchase the black print separately and then the price is 150 DKK.



The black print «The Seven Swans»

One day when she was out walking, she met a pastor and began to lament bitterly, telling him about her misfortune.

The pastor said that he knew how she could turn her brothers back into humans again, but he doubted that she would be able to heed his advice in all details. She implored him to tell her, for she was willing to try everything.

The pastor then told her to sew seven shirts, one for each of her brothers. She must use a thread as fine as a spider's thread and she must not utter one word until all the shirts were finished. This would take a long time. She sat down to sew and although she worked very hard, each shirt took one year to make.

The girl was exceptionally beautiful, and there was no shortage of suitors - but no one could get a word out of her, so all of them went back home empty-handed. Some

thought she was mute, for she never uttered a word.

When six years had passed, none other than the Prince himself arrived to woo her. People thought that she might speak to him, if she at all was able to talk. But not even the Prince could get her to utter a word.

Now the stepmother had heard of her doings and whereabouts. She immediately began to practice her evil deeds and started a rumour that the girl was mad and full of sorcery. The Prince talked about taking the girl away by force; but the stepmother felt this was not enough - she had to be burned because she would not answer his questions. That such a person as the Prince himself should seek her hand in marriage was too great an honour for her.

At first the Prince made excuses for her, but the stepmother was eager and slandered her





The mini-sheet, a set of stamps and a First Day Cover with the mini-sheet is part of this elegant folder. A summary of the fairytale in English and Chinese is also included.

for so long that he finally believed that the girl really was out of her mind, and ordered that she be burned at the stake.

Men were sent to seize the girl and take her to the pyre – but at the very moment when she was to be tied to the pyre, seven swans came flying. The girl took the shirts from the chest and threw them to the swans. All of the shirts were finished, except one which was still missing one sleeve. The swans put on their shirts and all became human again – but one of them had a wing instead of an arm because one shirtsleeve had not been finished.

Now when the girl could speak again, she told about all the evil things the stepmother had done to her and her brothers.

The Prince then ordered the stepmother and her daughter to be burned at the stake, and so they were.

But the other girl was made a princess and later she became a queen.

From: FAROESE TALES AND LEGENDS by Jakob Jakobsen, Copenhagen 1898 - 1901



From the left Martin Mörck and Li Yunzhong

## Chinese artist draws Faroese stamps

The long-standing collaboration between Posta Stamps and the artist and engraver Martin Mörck played a substantial part in us being introduced to the renowned Chinese artist Li Yunzhong from Huhot, Inner Mongolia, at a Philatelic Exhibition in China.

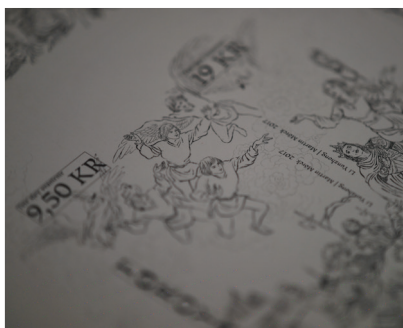
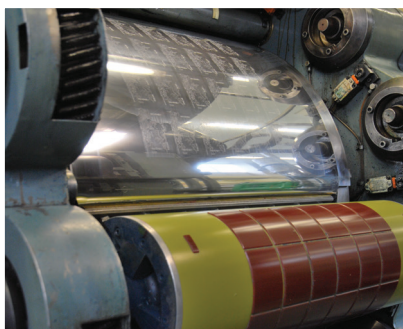
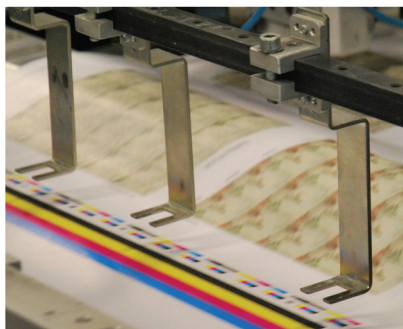
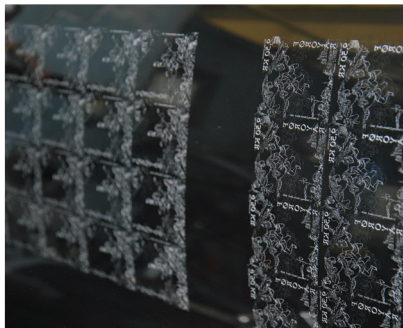
Martin Mörck recommended that we collaborate with Mr. Yunzhong due to the fact that he is one of the young gifted representatives of traditional Chinese painting. Li Yunzhong has designed stamps for both China and the UN and he accepted our offer to design a stamp for the Faroe Islands with great enthusiasm.

During the last six years, Posta has been very active in taking part in philatelic exhibitions in China and we have placed great emphasis on reaching out to Chinese collectors by creating a web store in Chinese. The most important thing, however, about the present

philatelic venture is the fact that the subject is purely Faroese. The old Faroese adventure, "The Seven Swans", which was chosen as a stamp motif, is a part of Jakob Jakobsen's famed fairy tale collection "FAROESE FOLK TALES AND LEGENDS" dating back to 1901.

The present stamp issue is a joint collaboration project between the engraver Martin Mörck, who engraved the stamp, and Li Yunzhong, who designed it.

*The stamp issue «The Seven Swans» was printed at Royal Joh. Enschede in the Netherlands. To the right are some pictures from the printing of the stamps.*





# China International Collection Expo 2017

September 8, 2017, the same day as the "Seven Swans" stamps were issued, a large stamp exhibition opened in Nanjing, China.

The two artists Li Yunzhong and Martin Mörck, were at the shared Faroese / Aland booth and signed the issue.



From the left: Li Yunzhong, Martin Mörck, Svanbjörg Manai and Ingun N. Olsen



# Faroese mini-sheet no. 2.



## in the vote "European Stamp of the Year 2015"

We are pleased to announce that the Faroese minisheet "Total Solar Eclipse", entered the second place in the poll "Europe's most beautiful stamp". It was the German stamp magazine "Deutsche Briefmarken Revue" that organized the vote.

The mini-sheet, which shows the total solar eclipse, which took place on the Faroe Islands on March 20, 2015, was designed by the famous artist Martin Mörck, who has designed several Faroese stamps.

It is still possible to buy this interesting stamp issue. A nice folder with the mini-sheet, the set of stamps and an envelope with the special cancellation of March 20, 2015 has been released. The folder costs 113,00 kr.

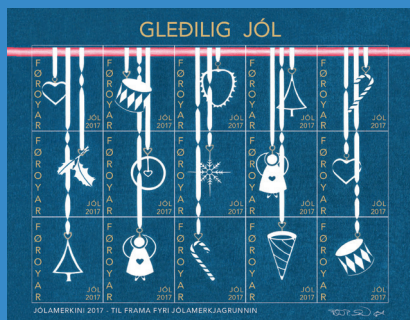


Folder: Total Solar Eclipse



From left: Helmut Dallei, Germany, Jan Billion, Maud C. à Geilini, Faroe Islands and Stefan Erne, Lichtenstein  
Photo: Dirk A. Friedrich, Territory

## Christmas Seals 2017



**30 DKK**

## Christmas Cards



**25 DKK**



**OFFER!  
Trivets**

**30 DKK**

**OFFER! Christmas Baubles**



# Christmas 2017

### Christmas Seals

This years Christmas Seals are designed by the Faroese artist Elin P. Andreasen and shows Christmas Ornaments. There are fifteen seals in one sheet.

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

**Price: 30 DKK**

### Christmas Cards

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

**Price: 25 DKK (3)**

### OFFER - Christmas Baubles

Edward Fuglås beautiful drawings of the Christmas Gospel are on these Christmas Baubles.

**Price of 6 Christmas baubles in a box:**

**Original price: 149 DKK per set.**

**NOW ONLY: 75 DKK**

### OFFER - Christmas Trivets

Edward Fuglås's drawings of the Christmas Gospel have been used as motifs for our Christmas stamps some years ago. 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. The large trivets can be purchased in our webshop.

Price for a set of 6 coasters (10 x 10 cm):

**Original price: 60 DKK**

**NOW ONLY: 30 DKK**



## Year Pack 2017



445 DKK

## Yearbook 2017



475 DKK



75 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: 445 DKK**

The articles are in Danish, English and German.

**Price: 475 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.



**NB!**

**A blackprint of the mini-sheet "The Seven Swans" is included in the yearbook 2017 - FOR FREE!**

# New Stamp Issues - 8 September and 6 November 2017

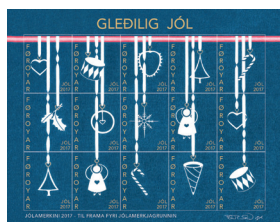


FO 865-866

Test proof

New stamp issue:  
Date of issue:  
Value:  
Numbers:  
Stamp, size:  
Sheet, size:  
Artist:  
Engraver:  
Printer:  
Postal use:

**The Seven Swans**  
08.09.2017  
9,50 and 19,00 DKK  
FO 865-866  
37,7 x 45 mm  
90 x 63 mm  
Li Yunzhong  
Martin Mörck  
Joh. Enschedé, Holland  
Small inland letters and to  
countries outside Europe, 0-50 g.



Test proof

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

**Christmas Seals 2017**  
06.11.2016  
30,00 DKK  
Posta  
Cartor Security Printing, France



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

**Yearbook 2017**  
06.11.2017  
475,00 DKK  
TrykTeam, Denmark



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

**Year Pack 2017**  
06.11.2017  
445,00 DKK  
TrykTeam, Denmark

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](http://www.stamps.fo)



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