

# Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands No. 57

February 2024



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# Faroese Vinyl Records



The passage of time is unceasing. We arrive and depart, carrying with us a cultural heritage rich in folk ballads, melodies, and music. This heritage remains significant to us, resonating with our emotions, bringing joy and reverence.

The technical ability to faithfully reproduce beautiful songs and music wasn't always a given. For generations, ballads flourished in their own unique way, with each generation preserving and passing down this legacy, similar to the Kingo hymns which are also firmly embedded in the Faroese musical tradition.

Technological advancements eventually made their way to our shores, leaving our ancestors in awe as they for the first time witnessed a magical device reproducing speech and songs. By 1906, general stores in the Faroe Islands began promoting the sale of gramophones and records. The debut of a record featuring Faroese songs, produced by the renowned global company "His Master's Voice," marked a significant moment.

In 1937, the "Polyphone" record company released three records in an initial effort to pique the interest of the Faroese population in purchasing records featuring Faroese content, but all of which featured foreign female vocalists.

In 1946, the Faroese audience was eager for Faroese song content, leading to an increase in record production in the subsequent years. Over time, various foreign record companies entered the scene, resulting in a greater diversity of records. These releases predominantly highlighted patriotic songs, choirs, and spiritual music.

In the late 1940s, the first Faroese record label was established, known as "Grammofonupptøkan" (The Gramophone Recording Company), closely affiliated with the Open Brethren congregation in Klaksvík. This record company became a prolific producer of numerous records, featuring spiritual songs.

## Faroese Vinyl Records

Design: Posta / in  
cooperation with John Dam

In 1957, the Faroese Radio commenced regular broadcasts, heralding a significant transformation. It brought both Faroese and international music into every household in the Faroe Islands.

This development opened up fresh possibilities, leading to a rapid surge in entertainment music. Over the following years, a plethora of records were created, several of them becoming enduring hits that can still be enjoyed today.

The initial recordings of entertainment music, the pop music of that era, were quite rudimentary. These recordings were made with resourcefulness, skill, and unwavering enthusiasm, often taking place in kitchens, living rooms, or basements.

During this period, proper recording studios for music and songs were not yet accessible in the Faroe Islands. This limitation posed challenges for the recently established radio and led to most music recordings being conducted throughout the country. It wasn't until the seventies that a recording studio was finally established.

The first LP records emerged in the latter half of the sixties, prior to which only singles and EP records were manufactured.

During the early nineties, vinyl records vanished as CDs emerged as the latest technological breakthrough. This ushered in a transformative era where the musical landscape underwent profound changes. Despite the prevailing culture in the music industry, this shift also gave rise to new needs and a renewed curiosity for the old ways. Many musicians and bands began to view producing LP records as a cherished endeavour.

The stamp collection showcases album covers that played a pivotal role in the musical landscape during the 25-year period when vinyl records were produced in the Faroe Islands. This era spanned from the latter half of the sixties to the early nineties, encompassing a wide range of genres.

*Hans Egholm*



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# Europa 2024: Underwater Fauna and Flora



## Europa 2024: Underwater Fauna and Flora

Photos: Harald Bjørgvin

**23 KR:** Nudibranch  
*Facelina bostoniensis*.  
Captured at Sund on  
19 May 2020.

**33 KR:** Above/Underneath.  
Shot in Akkersvík at Hvítanes  
on 7 June 2021.

This year's Europa stamp series showcases the captivating underwater photography of Faroese photographic artist, Harald Bjørgvin.

The collection features a stunning array of marine life and vegetation, marking the first time Harald's photographs have been selected for Posta stamps.

*Harald shares his thoughts on underwater photography:*

Diving into the underwater realm offers a unique perspective on nature's diversity and beauty. It's a world where the vibrancy of marine life coexists with the serene sway of seaweed forests. These scenes, ranging from bustling aquatic ecosystems to tranquil underwater landscapes, are not only captivating but also deeply moving.

While diving, I often take a large number of photos, typically ranging from 200 to 500. On a good day, I might capture one exceptional shot, and occasionally, I manage to get between 3 and 5 that are truly outstanding. My goal is always to snap an excellent photo from the start. The key elements include the lighting and the process of perfecting the images. Moreover, composition plays a crucial role. When using a flashlight, it's vital to ensure it has the right intensity and angle to capture the desired lighting effect.

Capturing the image (33KR stamp) that includes both above and below the water's surface was a matter of precise timing. The camera angle is crucial; it should be positioned slightly downward so that the waterline bisects the image near its centre. Lighting plays a pivotal role: the underwater portion needs to be adequately illuminated, while the light above the surface shouldn't be overpowering. This necessitated the use of a flashlight beneath the water's surface and careful adjustment of the camera settings to ensure the light intensity above the surface was just right. Fortunately, during this particular shot, the sunlight was gentle, greatly aiding the process. The photo should

be crisp and detailed, capturing everything from the nearby seaweed to the more distant boathouse.

When capturing macro photos of nearby subjects, I meticulously search the surroundings for potential motifs. For more distant subjects, I switch to a wide-angle lens, focusing on capturing seascapes and seaweed patterns. In such scenarios, utilizing natural light proves beneficial. On sunny days, positioning myself higher in the water to harness the sun's rays for the photograph is particularly effective. The visual impact is striking as the sunlight filters through the water, highlighting the vibrant colours of the seaweed.

Near the shore, you'll typically encounter seaweed that clings to rocks or slabs. This type thrives in the shallows. As you venture into deeper waters, different seaweed varieties emerge. In places like Akkersvík, a rich tapestry of seaweed is visible, especially at low tide, with various types growing in close proximity, almost as if arranged by a

landscaper. The seaweed varies greatly; some are frayed and worn, while others feature thick or slender fronds, with some so delicate they're nearly transparent. A notable feature of seaweed is its diverse color palette – hues of yellow, green, red, and brown. On sunny days, this kaleidoscope of colors in the shallow waters creates a dynamic, vibrant display.

*Nudibranchs*, a type of sea slug, stand out as some of the most vivid and striking inhabitants of the marine world. These shell-less gastropods move in a manner akin to snails. Their Faroese name, "*bertákna*," (bare gills) is inspired by their exposed respiratory organs, the gills, situated towards the back on their spine. These creatures inhabit every ocean globally, ranging from the surface to depths exceeding 700 meters. To date, over 3,000 species of nudibranchs have been identified.

*Harald Bjørgvin*

**Seaweed forest below the surface**

Photo: Harald Bjørgvin

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# Súsan í Jákupsstovu, artist:

## Organic Art II



### Organic Art II

Artist: Súsan í Jákupsstovu

23 KR: Stones

48 KR: Snowscape

This stamp issue features the works of Súsan í Jákupsstovu (born in 1946). Súsan boasts a rich background in various forms of craftsmanship. Her artistic and applied art creations span an array of techniques, including watercolour, weaving, needlework, as well as the use of clay and various textiles.

Súsan has been at the forefront of this popular artistic movement in a period when public discourse focuses on pollution-causing transportation, reducing waste, and utilizing our domestic resources. Long before this became a mainstream topic, Súsan explored the tanning of fish skin in Northern Norway. She has incorporated materials such as fish skin, fish bones, sheep rumen, and various sheep derivatives into her art. Additionally, Súsan has crafted her own paper to use in her artistic creations.

Súsan also initiated the groundbreaking School of Art and Handiwork in the town of Sandur. This venture was a significant undertaking, requiring supportive political attitudes. However, due to a lack of sustained backing the school ceased operations after four years.

Súsan believes that utilizing our own resources is of the utmost importance. While she acknowledges the benefits and usefulness of going abroad for learning, she emphasizes the significance of building on our domestic foundation and embracing our inherited traditions.

Súsan has contributed to numerous projects in different churches. After a fire in 1989, the Church of Sandur underwent repairs, and Súsan, a resident of Sandur at the time, was tasked with designing the woven interior and illustrations. This included creating a strip rug and various ornaments for the pulpit, corresponding to the different seasons of the church year. Weaving, particularly pictorial weaving, has been a central



aspect of Súsán's artistry. She frequently dyes the materials herself, a technique she also employed in her work for the Church of Sandur.

Susan frequently draws inspiration for her designs from the natural landscapes of the Faroe Islands. Two notable examples that showcase her artistry are the stamp motifs titled "Snowscape" and "Stones."

"Snowscape" features a woolen backdrop, intricately woven from Faroese wool, with quilted and embroidered enhancements. The piece incorporates a variety of materials, including fish skin, rumen, handmade paper, and silk. The artwork captures the essence of a wintry scene—parts covered in snow and ice, interspersed with visible stones and perhaps even a sheltering sheep. The colour palette blends white, yellowish hues, and warm browns, creating a contrast between cold and warm elements,

suggesting a sense of life, perhaps dormant or hibernating, beneath the snowy layer.

The artwork titled "Stones" is a sculptural piece, consisting of two actual stones rather than a mere depiction of them. Crafted from fulled wool, these sculptures are shaped like stones and stuffed with coat wool. This creation is unique and perfectly emblematic of our country, as stones are a fundamental aspect of our landscape. This piece complements Karsten Hoydal's poem "*Bright lichen-grey stones along the way,*" where the subtle light grey tones, visible in certain areas, seem to bring the stone to life. This artwork is not just a visual experience but also invites interpretation, much like a poem waiting to be read.

*Bergljót av Skarði*



**Súsán í Jákupsstovu, artist**

Photo: Fotostúdíó

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Sepac 2024:

# Fossá Waterfall



**Sepac 2024:**

**Fossá Waterfall**

Photo: Marylee Burman

In broad terms, one could describe the topography of the Faroe Islands, especially in the northern part of the country, as featuring mountainous terrain and valleys of differing depths and elevations.

These mountainsides are steep, marked by horizontal rock ledges, and crisscrossed by more or less vertical stripes created by streams and gradually widening as they descend towards the coastline. In the valleys, these streams often converge, forming regular rivers or pooling into freshwater lakes of various sizes. These lakes, in turn, serve as the origins of larger rivers that flow continuously towards the coast and ultimately into the sea.

The bedrock of the Faroe Islands consists of sturdy rock formations that have their origins in volcanic processes along the oceanic ridge. This ridge formed as the North American/Greenland tectonic plate gradually separated from the Eurasian plate, leading to the creation and expansion of the Atlantic Ocean. Over countless millennia, successive layers of molten lava accumulated, gradually solidifying into the characteristic black basalt. The forces of nature, including the passage of time, wind, weather, ice ages, land subsidence, and land uplift, have collectively sculpted and eroded these basalt plains until only the distinct islands we recognize today remain.

It's evident that in this type of terrain, groundwater is absent, making all the fresh water in the Faroe Islands surface water that originates from precipitation in the form of rain and snow. This water, adhering to the laws of gravity, descends relentlessly towards the sea. Our region receives abundant rainfall, and ironically, drought can occur when there is an extended period of infrequent rain.

This dynamic transformation of the landscape is readily observable during heavy rainfall. The once-muted streaks constituting the mountainside streams swell and turn frothy white, evolving into powerful torrents as they approach the coastline. We refer



to this as "*áarføri*," a term used when the river's surge fills its banks, eroding parts of them and posing a risk of flooding.

The steep rock ledges give rise to numerous expansive waterfalls, scattered throughout the islands in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some of these waterfalls are particularly awe-inspiring when they cascade down their rocky precipices. We have previously issued stamps featuring large waterfalls, e.g., Svartifossur in Tórshavn, Múlafossur in Gásadalur and Skorá at Leynavatn.

## The Largest Waterfall

The largest and most impressive waterfall is Fossá, located to the south of Haldórsvík village in the northern region of Streymoy. Originating from Lake Víkarvatn, nestled in a mountain valley between the peaks of Vatnfelli and Gásafelli, this river descends through Fossdalur. Along its course, it merges with other streams until it reaches

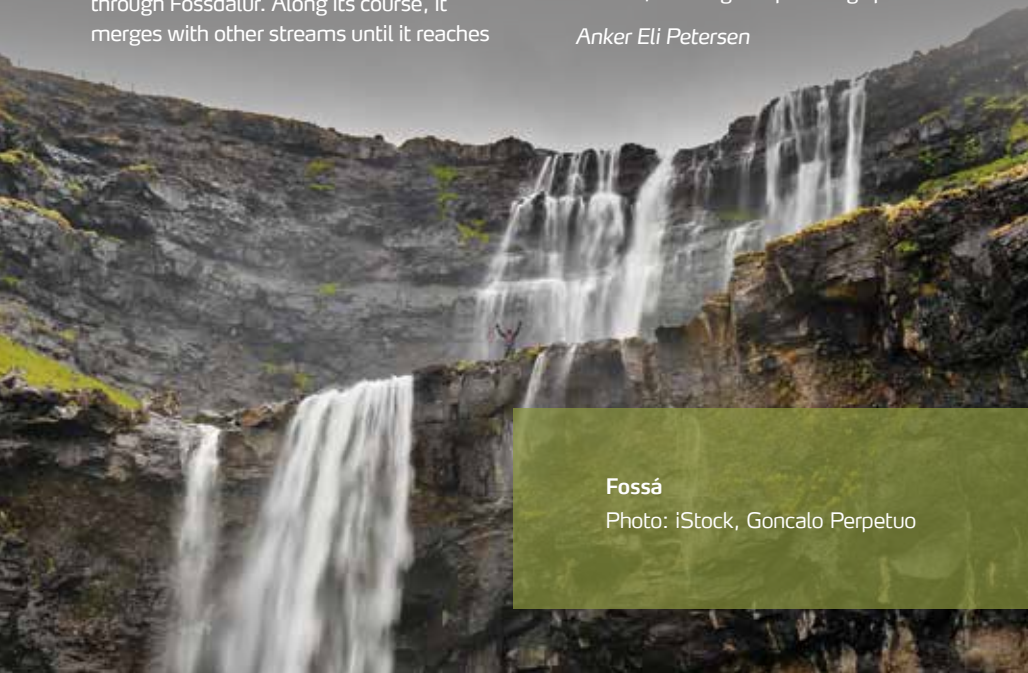
a dramatic culmination point. Here, it plunges from a towering rock precipice, approximately 140 meters above sea level, before descending onto another ledge and crashing into a jumble of rocks at the mountainside's base. From there, the water meanders its way into the sea.

During dry spells, the waterfall can span just a few meters in width. However, when the rains arrive, it truly shines, expanding to more than 30 meters in width on its uppermost two-tiered segment. The contrasting black basalt backdrop adds an extra layer of drama to the brilliant white foam. If you happen to be fortunate and find yourself nearby on a stormy, rainy day, you might witness the unique Faroese waterfall phenomenon, where the wind seizes the water and sends it soaring upwards, as if lifting its skirt, creating a captivating spectacle.

*Anker Eli Petersen*

### Fossá

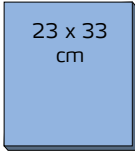
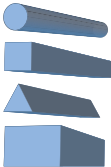
Photo: iStock, Goncalo Perpetuo




# Valid from 1 January:

# Postal Rates 2024

All rates are in Danish Kroner (DKK)

Letter sizes	
Letter	Large letter
Maximum: 23 x 33 x 1 cm	Maximum: Length + width + thickness = 90 cm
	
Max.: 1 cm thick	l + w + t = max. 90 cm

Inland letters		
Weight	Letters	Large letters
0 - 100 g	23 kr	48 kr
101 - 250 g	33 kr	61 kr
251 - 500 g		61 kr
501 - 1000 g		76 kr
1001 - 2000 g		76 kr

International letters 		
Weight	Letters	Large letters
0 - 100 g	33 kr	84 kr
101 - 250 g	67 kr	97 kr
251 - 500 g		97 kr
501 - 1000 g		140 kr
1001 - 2000 g		240 kr

**Registered letter:** 50.00 DKK + postal rate.

# Vote 2023:

# Stamp of the Year

We are pleased to present the result of the 'Stamp of the Year 2023' vote.

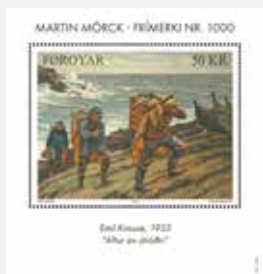
The winner was the beautiful miniature sheet released in connection with Martin Mörck's stamp No. 1,000. The stamp depicts Emil Krause's painting from 1933 titled "Returning from fishing." Martin Mörck has engraved the stamp, which, at 62 x 82 mm, is the largest hand-engraved stamp ever.

In second place is the miniature sheet '60 Years at Sornfelli,' showing the magnificent view of the Sornfelli mountain, where the radar station 'NATO Early Warning Station Site 09' was built in 1963. Photo: Jákup Brúsá.

In third place, we find another one of the major issues in 2023, namely stamp No. 1,000. The Faroese artist Edward Fuglø designed the beautiful miniature sheet illustrating a cairn in the outback on a summer evening. A summer atmosphere surrounds the cairn with seasonal plants, birds and animal life. Supernatural beings, fairies and water kelpies are also part of the picture.

There has also been a draw among our readers, and the lucky winners have been notified directly.

Warm congratulations and thank you for participating.



1

## Mörck No. 1,000

FO 1001

21% of the votes

Painting: Emil Krause

Engraving: Martin Mörck



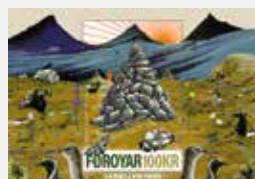
2

## 60 Years at Sornfelli

FO 992

11% of the votes

Photo: Jákup Brúsá



3

## Stamp No. 1,000

FO 1000

10% of the votes

Artist: Edward Fuglø

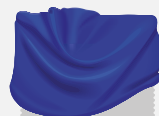
Engraving: Martin Mörck



**New issue:** Vinyl Records  
**Issue date:** 27.05.2024  
**Value:** 61,00 DKK  
**Number:** FO 1014  
**Size, stamp:** 40,0 x 30,0 mm  
**Size, mini-sheet:** 72,0 x 50,0 mm  
**Photos / artist:** Posta  
**Printing method:** Offset + special varnish  
**Printer:** Bpost, Belgium  
**Postal use:** Inland maxi-letter, 101-500 g  
**Other products:**

**Europa 2024**  
 27.05.2024  
 23,00 and 33,00 DKK  
 FO 1015-1016  
 40,0 x 30,0 mm  
 Harald Bjørgvin  
 Offset  
 Bpost, Belgium  
 Inland letter and letter abroad, 0-100 g.  
 Self-adhesive booklet with 6 stamps

The stamps are only proofs and not necessarily the final version



**New issue:** Organic Art II  
**Issue date:** 27.05.2024  
**Value:** 23,00 and 48,00 DKK  
**Number:** FO 1017-1018  
**Size, stamp:** 40 x 30 mm  
**Photos / artist:** Súsan í Jákupsstovu  
**Printing method:** Offset + special varnish  
**Printer:** Bpost, Belgium  
**Postal use:** Inland letter and maxi-letter, 0-100 g

**Sepac 2024: Fossá**  
 27.05.2024  
 33,00 DKK  
 FO 1019  
 26 x 40 mm  
 Marylee Burman  
 Offset  
 Cartor Security Printers, FR  
 Letter abroad, 0-100 g.

**Succession of the Throne**  
 27.05.2024  
 FO 1020

Offset

*More information and ordering in the next magazine.*

**NB! New products will be available in our webshop one week before the issue date**

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