

A VISIT TO THE FAROES

By ALF BROOKS

More than once, when I have mentioned the Faroe Islands, I have been asked two questions: "Where are the Faroe Islands?" When I answer that one I am asked the second question: "Why would you want to go there?"

influenced by the Gulf Stream: summers are cool, short and damp, winters are long, mild, windy and damp; as I write this (Feb 21 AM) Tórshavn is 5°C with light rain; the forecast for the next five days is more of the same, with maybe some sun on Sunday.



SOME HISTORY

Beginning in the seventh century the islands were inhabited by monks from Ireland who were later driven out by Vikings.



DNA analysis indicates that most present inhabitants can be classified as descended from Scandinavian and Celtic settlers. Their language, Faroese, is descended from Old Norse. Norway ruled the islands for centuries, but Denmark gradually took over control (Norway and Denmark were united for many centuries), with Denmark having total possession in 1814. In 1940 British forces occupied the islands, a "friendly occupation" meant to retain control of the North Atlantic after German occupation of Denmark and then Norway. (British Royal Engineers built the only airport in the Faroes, on Vágur; Vágur is now connected to Streymoy and the principal city Tórshavn by an undersea tunnel). In 1948 the Faroes gained a high degree of autonomy; the present population is almost evenly split on the question of whether they should be completely autonomous from Denmark.



WHERE AND WHAT

They are a group of eighteen islands-seventeen inhabited-and some small islets located north of Scotland, west of Norway, south-east of Iceland in the North Atlantic. In English: Faroe Islands or the Faroes; in Danish: Færøerne; in Faroese: Føroyar. The name means "sheep islands," so that should tell you of the principal livestock raised.



And it is not surprising that traditional cuisine has many dishes based on mutton. The January 2006 census gave a population of

48,219 (need a comparison? Brandon: 39,716 in 2001), of which 19,315 live in the principal city and capital, Tórshavn. The total area is 1,399 square kilometers (need a comparison? Winnipeg: 465 square kilometers). Only 2.4% of the land is arable, much is given to pasture, much is in its natural state, rugged terrain with spectacular cliffs that swarm with seabirds in breeding season. The climate is

connected to Streymoy and the principal city Tórshavn by an undersea tunnel). In 1948 the Faroes gained a high degree of autonomy; the present population is almost evenly split on the question of whether they should be completely autonomous from Denmark.

THE ECONOMY AND TRANSPORTATION

95 % of the economy is supported by fishing and related activities. This dependance on one primary industry has led to problems in the past, and continues to be a problem that needs to be overcome with greater diversification. Offshore oil shows

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The Buffalo

PUBLICATION OF THE
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Application filed July to April

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	Fee	Dues	Total
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RENEWALS

Lapsed memberships or late renewals (paid after September 30th of each year) are charged a \$1.00 reinstatement fee.

All new applicants must undergo a 60-day orientation before receiving full membership privileges.

The *Buffalo* is published monthly except in July and August. Deadline for article submissions and advertising copy is the 15th of each month preceding the month of issue.

WEBSITE:

WWW.WPS.MB.CA

COMING EVENTS

Doors Open 6:00 p.m. - Business Mtg. 8:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Thursdays (except Jul. & Aug.).
Visitors always welcome.
Main Floor, Deaf Centre Manitoba, located
at the corner of 285 Pembina Hwy. & Nassau St.

2007

- Mar. 01 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- Mar. 15 - Business Meeting
- Slide Show
"Scouting on Stamps"
- April 05 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- April 19 - Business Meeting
- Presentation
Alf Brooks "Siege of Paris
1870-71": Balloon Post
- May 03 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- May 17 - Business Meeting
- Annual Stamp Quiz
- June 03 - Business Meeting
- Auction
- June 17 - Season Wrap up Social
Night

The first meetings of each month reserved for Auctions.

The second meetings of each month reserved for formal programs.

MEMBERS' ADLETS

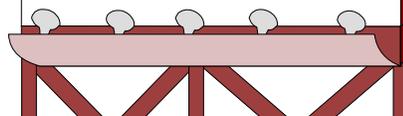
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Meets Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:30 PM,
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-up to 30 words [counting an average of 5
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1 issue -	\$1.00
5 issues -	\$2.00
10 issues -	\$3.00

TERMS OF PAYMENT

-payable to Winnipeg Philatelic Society
in one sum at time of agreement.

A VISIT TO THE FAROES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

promise. An aging population, with many young people going to Denmark for higher education and then not returning home to live, is another trend that needs to be addressed.

It is not surprising that traditional transportation was by sea, and ferry service between the islands and the mainland is still important. Many of the islands are now linked by bridges and undersea tunnels. There is regular airline service to Vágar.



PHILATELY

Faroes Post has a modest issue policy, unlike some other small islands one can name that issue postage stamps for the sole purpose of selling to naïve collectors. Since it began issuing its own stamps in 1975 Faroese Post has issued about 600 stamps and sheets. Concentration is on island scenes, island history, island plant life and wildlife, island economy.



Recently the Faroes have joined the other Nordic nations in the joint issue of handsome stamps and sheets. And if you recognize the work of Czeslaw Slania when you view Faroese stamps, you are right. Before his death this master engraver created a number of Faroese stamps; the sheet "Dance in a main room in the Faroe Islands" picturing the traditional Faroese chain dance was the one hundredth



stamp he produced for Faroese Post. He engraved the first set of five in 1975.

I recently joined the Faroe Islands Study Circle, a group devoted to Faroe Islands philately. Their journal is "238," named after the stamp cancel assigned to Tórshavn by Denmark. Contact the secretary, Norman Hudson, 28 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 8BY, ENGLAND, if you are interested.



WILL I GO THERE SOME DAY?

That is my wish, someday soon. And until then, I must content myself with its stamps. But I am impatient. And I must persuade my wife that a twenty-four hour ferry from Bergen, Norway, is the way to go.

(I gratefully acknowledge information supplied to me by Norman Hudson of the Faroe Islands Study Circle in the writing of this article. Also thanks to many websites I was able to find much information, Faroese Post and Wikipedia being the principals).

Winnipeg Philatelic Society

Stamp Auction

Saturday, March 17, 2007

Deaf Centre, 285 Pembina Hwy.

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Viewing of Lots: 9:00 a.m.

FREE ADMISSION

ALL ARE WELCOME



EDITOR NOTES

BY ALF BROOKS

SENIORS UNITE!

Our last fee increase, in 2004, was \$5.00, increasing the annual fee from \$20 to \$25 for "Regular" members (25% increase) and from \$15 to \$20 for "Senior" (Irregular?) members (33% increase).

Notice of motion was given at our last meeting to increase the fee for 2007/2008 by \$10 for each category, making the new fee \$35 for Regular members (40% increase) and \$30 for Senior members (50% increase).

The cumulative effect of the past increase and the proposed increase:

Regular: \$20 to \$35: 75%

Senior: \$15 to \$30: 100%

We all can see that, given our current financial situation when faced with rental increases for our meeting space, an increase is warranted. But do the math! Seniors are asked to pay a greater increase than "Regular" members! And we are, by implication, "Irregular."

Alternative solutions:

- Increase the Regular fee to \$40 and the Senior fee to \$30 (100% increase over the fee paid before 2004).
- Increase the Regular fee to \$35 and the Senior fee to \$26.25 (75% increase over the fee paid before 2004).

Either of these proposals would treat members equally.

Let's hear it for Grey Power!

•••

EXCHANGE REQUESTED

A philatelist from Poland: "I have a rather advanced collection of Canadian stamps. I am looking for recent and also older issues, by Scott numbers. I am looking for good special cancellations

(the best when postally used) of Calgary Olympic Games 1988. I can send you as in exchange Polish and world wide philatelic material. I am looking for philatelic partners from Canada."

Andrzej Kidzinski
POLYTECH Sp. z o.o.
ul. Jutrzenki 154
02-231 Warszawa
Poland



FROM OUR HONG KONG EDITOR

BY AXEL OLSSON

Hong Kong will join other countries on March 1st in issuing a set of 4 stamps to commemorate the Centenary of World

Scouting. They are in horizontal format in the following denominations: \$1.40, \$2.40, \$3.00 & \$5.00. A Souvenir Sheet with the same designs will be sold simultaneously.

Now that China's economy is white hot, its people have become quite affluent and have been directing some of that wealth in acquiring classic China stamps, driving the prices up quite considerably. Collectors often gather on street corners to trade their duplicates.

But what you and other BUFFALO readers might be interested to learn is that back in November 2002, a primary school in Xiamen, one of China's 5 special economic zones (SEZ), became the first in the country to list stamp collecting as a required class, according to Xinhua, the New China News Agency.

It said the school was trying to "enrich schoolchildren's lives in line with the country's policy of improving student education."

The school, located in SE China, treats stamp collecting as a weekly lesson similar to mathematics and English, complete with course tests. So successful it has been that this pilot project was extended to other schools as well.

Maybe Canada Post ought to take a leaf from this example to encourage the Education Ministers to do the same here.

•••

I don't get GIBBONS Stamp Monthly to know if they remembered it was their own company's 150th Anniversary last year. What if anything did they do about it? Is Stephen Quinn still the MD? His aim when he took over 20 years ago was to restore Gibbons to the position of premier name, and reputation, in British philately by concentrating on its traditional activities, viz. dealing in stamps, publishing catalogues, albums & accessories, and concentrating on its base in the UK, according to the Philatelic Exporter. Did he succeed?

•••

Lastly, for what it's worth, beware of wolves in sheep's clothing. Following the passing of a prominent British philatelist, a fellow philatelist sent condolences, and a week or so phoned to offer the widow (who had little knowledge of philately or business acumen) his advice and services in disposing of the award-winning philatelic stock. To his chagrin, she told him he was too late: the very day the obituaries appeared in the press, a certain gentleman had taken the trouble to drive more than 200 miles to visit her and to render assistance in the sacred name of friendship.

The man had gone through the whole collection and tut-tutted sadly, suggesting that the deceased "must have known he was going to his Maker and creamed off all the good stuff somehow." But to save the widow being troubled further, he was willing to remove and dispose of the "high-grade trash", which was all that remained.

She agreed to this, and to her surprise, the gentleman soon turned up with transport and promptly removed two large vans full of the "high-grade trash" from the dead man's study, office and stores.

In fact the widow had to turn away three other personal callers bent on the same errand of mercy, and had received numerous phone calls which were terminated abruptly as soon as the callers realised there was nothing to be gained.

Ultimately, out of the "goodness" of his heart, the kind gentleman did send the widow a modest cheque which represented perhaps as much as 1% of what he had made selling the high-grade trash; but of course the man had done nothing illegal — he had made the widow no promises, so he could not be accused of breaking them! Let's hope readers will be more prepared when leaving their collections behind with their loved ones when the time comes.



BUFFALO CHIPS

BY ALF BROOKS



PRINCESS DIANA

Have you had enough reminders of the late Diana? If not, you will like the set of stamps to be issued by Gibraltar at the end of March, accompanied by a miniature sheet, four sheetlets and a Limited Edition Booklet of 1,500 copies. The booklet includes the stamps, miniature sheet and sheetlets as well as a fully illustrated biography.



NEW ZEALAND FORGERIES

Customs officials in New Zealand recently seized fake stamps sent from somewhere in Asia, valued at approximately \$NZ150 000. There were three packets, each containing 25 000 stamps, face value \$1.00 and \$1.50. One man has been charged.



DANCING IN BELGIUM

Five stamps issued in November pictured popular dances: Rock-n-roll, Waltz (the first waltz tune, dating from 1770, was "Ach du Lieber Augustin;" I am sure some reading this can sing it.), Tango, Cha-cha-cha and Samba.



STAMPS AND POLITICS

President of Taiwan Chen Shui-bian has declared that the island will soon be replacing 'Republic of China' with 'Taiwan' on the island's stamp issues. But China still claims sovereignty over Taiwan, and threatens "serious action" should the change take place.



The latest issue, a set of four showing traditional costumes, is labeled "Republic of China;" The philatelic website greets one with "Welcome to Taiwan Post."

DOWN UNDER

A recent stamp from Royal Mail, celebrating communication by telephone, says it all



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

A number of countries issue stamps for this day; the recent one from Slovenia is one of the most attractive.



COLLECTING TOWN CANCELS: LEO, ALBERTA

BY NICK FEDORCHUK

Some fifty years ago I lived in a small town in Alberta named Leo. Last year I decided I had to add Leo to my town cancel collection. I contacted various relatives in Alberta and asked them to go through their old mail to see if they could find a town cancel. Unfortunately I was not successful on my first try. To illustrate the challenge of collecting some small town cancels let me tell you a little bit about Leo, Alberta.

Leo was a typical one-elevator town with three houses, a small store, and a post office that served the farmers of the area. The Post Office served about twenty families. The mail arrived once a week by train from Gadsby, and the train continued to Drumheller. In the winter it was a spectacular sight to watch the steam engine spew a plume of smoke. Mail day was a small weekly event on the farm and I was sent by bicycle to pick up the mail. The Post Office opened in March 1908 and closed on May 20, 1957. I left Leo for the big city in June of 1957. During next several years I must have had a dozen envelopes with Leo cancels in my

hands, but guess what? I tossed them in the garbage and so did most of my relatives that corresponded with Leo. Today the railway and the tracks are long gone as is the Leo elevator and all the houses. There is nothing left to tell one that a small community existed there.

I still had one cousin farming in Leo and I asked him to search all of his old boxes for a town cancel. I was in luck as they saved one old brown envelope that had some of my uncle's old documents. It was a letter from the Government of Saskatchewan sent from Regina resulting in three cancels including "Sask & Drum RPO No. 3" and a nice Leo town cancel.

There are thousands of such small towns in Canada that have long-since disappeared and town cancels are extremely difficult to get. However, it is an interesting challenge and is exciting when you find an old town cancel from your small town. So go out and find your home town cancel.



Dear Phil,
 Bear with me, this question does concern philately. A few months ago Prime Minister Harper, to keep a promise he had made during the election, had a free vote on whether or not to reopen the issue of same-sex marriage. Why?

1. Because he had promised to do so to satisfy his far-right

supporters.

2. Because he knew that the vote would lose. He could then say he had kept his promise but was unsuccessful (and he was not even present for the vote!).

I am sure that you agree that this is clever, but nefarious, political maneuvering.

The philatelic connection?

From Wikipedia: "The Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands is a micronation established as a symbolic political protest by a group of gay rights activists based in southeast Queensland Australia. It is an expression of Queer nationalism. On June 14, 2004, the group claimed the Coral Sea Island Territory and seceded from Australia after sailing to the largest island in the group and raising the rainbow flag there. One of the group's members, Dale Parker Anderson, was declared Emperor, as Dale I. The "secession" was staged in protest at a decision to ban same-sex marriage made by the Australian federal parliament."

OK. We know that Mr. Harper is a friend and admirer of the Australian PM, John Howard. And I am sure, when PM Harper spoke to PM Howard, that this secession issue was mentioned. By holding the vote PM Harper keeps his supporters happy ("I tried, didn't I?) and heads off a secession here in Canada.

The Gay and Lesbian Kingdom issues phony postage stamps, and collectors buy them. I am sure they then buy fewer Australian stamps. Canada Post would lose money. And what if a secession movement took over, say, Sable Island? Nova Scotia claims oil rights there, so you can see the federal-provincial problems this would present. To say nothing of the effect on the ponies. And on the Ipswich Sparrow.

- A Purist

Dear Purist,
 An interesting theory if you are into conspiracies. Do you really think that our politicians think in this selfish way, that they are not constantly trying to make our country better for the benefit of you and me? Shame
 - Phil



MINUTES OF THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 01, 2007

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Bob Stanley called the meeting to order at 8.00.
 -Bob Stanley announced that his term as president is coming to an end, so please think about nominations. Also, he said that the room upstairs in the Deaf Centre has been given up, and room for storing the boxes of stamps for the Youth club is needed.

- Alf Brooks, editor of the Buffalo, put out a request for articles for the Buffalo.
 -Robert Zacharias announced that next meeting will be the last for submitting lots for the next big auction (10 lots maximum per member with a \$2.00 minimum bid).
 - Sid Kroker announced that the Red River Bourse will next be held Feb. 11, 2007, 9 am-4 pm. at the Best Western Charter House Hotel.
 - Rick Penko said that there is a variety in the Year of the Pig new issue, with foiling missing.
 - Russ Thompson announced that at the next meeting, Len Kruczynski will give a presentation on small queen perfs and paper.
Draw: Bob Moore, Mike Goodman, Len K., Bill Voort.
Adj. 8.10.

MINUTES OF THE WINNIPEG PHILATELIC SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2007

BY JUDY LIPSEY

- Bob Stanley called the meeting to order at 7.53.
 - Bob Stanley announced that nobody has yet been able to contact any one at the Deaf Centre to discuss room rental. Therefore there is no further information available on facilities.
 - Another executive meeting was held Feb. 8, 2007.
 Three notices of motion resulted from that meeting:

1. That the annual membership fees be raised by \$10.00 for regular and senior categories (from the current \$25.00 (regular) and \$20.00 (senior), effective 2007/2008 fiscal year.

2. That a 10% buyers' fee be charged on all lots in addition to the present 10% sellers' fee at auctions, effective 2007/2008 fiscal year.

3. That honorary life members pay half of membership fee, effective 2007/2008 fiscal year.

The members discussed one other way of reducing the cost of the show and that was to charge an admission fee. The three choices are:

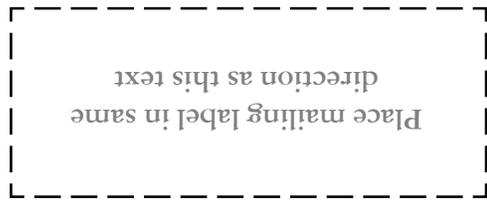
1. \$2.00 per day ;
 2. \$2.00 for the weekend ;
 3. \$2.50 per day plus the receipt of a show card for that day.

- Robert Zacharias says that the next big auction will be March 17, 2007, 10 lots maximum per member with a \$2.00 minimum bid.

- Tonight is the last meeting for putting in lots.
 - Tonight's presenter is Len Kruczynski and the topic is small queen perfs and paper weave.

Draw: Mike Blande, Russ Thompson, Hassan Madjid, Jack Price.

Adj. 8.14.



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