

Three New Stamp Issues
New Franking Labels: "Boat racing"
2010 - The year for animal and plant conservation
Vote for Stamp of the Year 2009











FO 692-695 Test proof

Jens Christian Svabo

Jens Christian Svabo was born in the village Miðvágur in 1746. His father, who was the village vicar, gave him lessons, until he at the age of 13 attended the so-called *Latínskúli* (Latin School) in Tórshavn. There young Svabo spent the next six years and gained the necessary knowledge for a higher education.

Together with one of his classmates from the Latin School, Nikolai Mohr (1742-90), Svabo went to Copenhagen in 1765. They started to study political economics and natural history at Copenhagen University. They became the first Faroese ever to study something else than theology. Svabo and Mohr got their philosophicum degree in 1769, but because of poverty, neither got the final exams from the university.

Poverty became Svabo's burden through life. In the seventies he had different temporary jobs, while he worked on memoranda and treatises regarding the improvement of Faroese agriculture and economy. Only a couple of these works were published. It was also in the beginning of this period that Svabo started his work on a Faroese dictionary, of which there exists one transcript, dated 1773.

Apparently Svabo applied for several permanent jobs in this period. But the only known application is regarding a position as bailiff in *Smaalenenes County* in Norway. He did not get the job. In stead he was offered the old job of the new bailiff, but had to turn it down, because he was not able to raise the necessary financial security.

When Svabo's friend, Nikolai Mohr, had to give up his work on a description of the Faroe Islands, Svabo got his chance to write a new book about the islands. On May 22nd 1781, he travelled back to his native islands to make research about the Faroese resources and economical conditions.

After his return to Copenhagen on September 1st 1782, Svabo wrote a series of articles, which in all make a magnificent work about the Faroes and Faroese conditions in the late eighteenth century. But due to difference of opinions in the Danish government, the work was never published. It was often used as source for other works about the Faroes, but was not published in full before 1959.

The Faroese expedition ruined Svabo. He was heavily indebted, became seriously ill and lived a miserable life in Copenhagen for many years. In year 1800 he went back to



the Faroes as a broken man, and lived in poverty in Tórshavn until his death in 1824.

But the legacy of Jens Christian Svabo turned out to be much more significant than the impression one gets from studying his tragic life. He was a true child of the Age of Enlightenment, and continued his scientific work until he died. He was convinced that the old Faroese language was going to die and replaced by Danish. In order to document the language in future, he compiled an impressive Faroese-Danish-Latin dictionary. Things did not turn out as he feared, in stead his work accidentally created an academically interest for the Faroese language. His word collection became the foundation that lead to the creation of Faroese orthography and written language, and the work which has been made since then, in order to preserve the language.

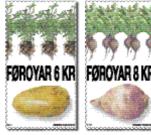
Parallel to the linguistic work, Svabo also created a comprehensive collection of the

ancient Faroese ballads. His manuscripts contained 52 ballads, for instance the first transcripts of the great Faroese *Charlemagne ballads*. Only one of the ballads was published while he was still alive – in a Swedish ballad collection from 1814. This was, by the way, the first printed Faroese text ever.

Though unnoticed in life, Jens Christian Svabo today stands out as one of the greatest Faroese cultural personalities. His ballad collection and the dictionary are invaluable sources regarding language and culture from the eighteenth century, and stand as an outpost for our view further back in time. The description of the Faroese also provides a broad view of the Faroese society in the eighteenth century. Reading his works leaves the impression of a rational and modern thinking Enlightenment man, in a society that barely had made its first steps out of the dark Middle Ages.

Anker Eli Petersen







FO 696-697

Test proof

Potatoes and root vegetables

Root vegetables are an old food on the Faroe Islands and much older that potatoes, which did not become common until the mid-19th century. Two types of root vegetable were grown: Faroese turnips (Brassica napus) and Norwegian turnips (Brassica rapa), which used to be commonest. Faroese turnips grew down into the soil, so far down that a spade was needed to dig them up, whereas Norwegian turnips grew close to the surface and were easy to pick by hand. The place where root vegetables were grown was called the rótakál. Root vegetables were mainly used for soup, but also for bread, as well as being cooked for dinner together with poultry, for example.

Later on the Faroe Islanders also started growing other root vegetables such as kohlrabi, different turnip varieties and carrots, as the seeds were now available in the shops. From around 1920 there was a growing interest in kitchen gardens among the population, and people began cultivating various sorts of greens in addition to root vegetables. Before the arrival of potatoes, only root vegetables were served with dinner.

For one reason or another stealing root vegetables used to be very common. Therefore, people who grew root vegetables often tried to hide them by planting them among their potatoes so that the potato shoots would conceal the shoots of their root vegetables.

Kohlrabi, which is often called Faroese turnip, is now available in the shops. It comes from foreign seed cultivated in the Faroe Islands, but the conditions mean that it does not grow as big and so has a much better flavour.

Potatoes made their first appearance in Denmark in 1719. As far as the Faroe Islands are concerned, we know that root vegetables were being grown in Tórshavn in 1775 and 1799, but it was not until the mid-19th century that it became common to grow potatoes. Many people on the islands can remember Hans Marius Debes's story about the first potatoes arriving in Gjógv in 1835.

To begin with potatoes were cultivated in the same way as cereals and root vegetables, but people soon started earthing them up. They used a mattock or shovel to dig a furrow a foot deep, put fertiliser in the bottom and then planted the potatoes in it before creating a ridge. On Mykines it was long thought that potatoes could only be grown in the infield close to the village, where the weather was particularly good. This spot was called the Land of Canaan. No one tried growing them





anywhere else and people who did not own land there ate more root vegetables than potatoes. This changed when people started growing turf, as it turned out that potatoes could actually be cultivated everywhere.

Some places were particularly well suited to earthing up potatoes, however, including *Oyran* in Sørvágur and the beach in Sandur, where earthing-up continued. The same piece of land was often cultivated every year, with cow manure or artificial fertiliser being used to enrich the soil.

The beach was so deep that it was possible to keep potatoes in what was called a potato pit until well into the spring. People would dig a square hole that was deep enough to be frost-free. To enable them to find the potato pit again, they drew a map of the piece of land and marked the pit. The potato pit did the same job as the turf potato clamps, which were more or less buried in the ground. Some people also kept potatoes in their cellars, but it had to be cool enough or the potatoes would start to sprout prematurely.

Potato cultivation on the Faroe Islands only really got going after a man from Miðvágur on Vágar discovered a new growing method. The potatoes were grown under turf that had been turned upside down, i.e. with the grass facing down. This method of growing potatoes was also called *Vágaveltan*. It was a very easy way to grow potatoes. They were placed on a narrow strip of grass, then the turf was laid on top, grass to grass, with the soil facing up. This is now the commonest method of growing potatoes.

After 1925, and in the lean thirties in particular, potatoes became very important in Faroese households and dinner was not dinner unless it included potatoes.

These days most people buy imported potatoes in the shops because it is easier, but many people still enjoy growing their own potatoes, which taste much better than the shop-bought variety of course.

Jóan Pauli Joensen







FO 698-699

Christmas Carols

Classical Faroese Christmas Carols

Any country, where people celebrate Christmas, has its own Christmas carols. Classical carols, which have migrated from country to country, and the more local classics, which people automatically associate with Christmas. The Faroe Islands are no exception from this rule. There are numerous Christmas carols in Faroese, and the next three years we shall present some examples.

We start with the undisputed masters of Faroese children's songs – Hans Andreas Djurhuus and Alexandur Kristiansen.

Á barnaárum ungu (In My Early Childhood) Hans Andreas Djurhuus (1883-1951) is the bright and most popular Faroese poet. During his career he wrote a whole lot of songs, describing nature, everyday life and national pride.

But, especially one part of Djurhuus' works has become an integrated part of the national mind. As a teacher and poet, it probably came naturally to him to write children's songs. Easy, optimistic and marvellous texts, which have fascinated Faroese children for generations, and left their stamp on our minds. The princess from Babylon or the butterfly that wanted to marry the fly they are all an integrated part of the collective Faroese mind.

In the song "Á barnaárum ungu", H. A. Djurhuus looks back on his childhood Christmas, when he played with the candles. He used to light the candles and put them out, while he waited for the church bells to ring. When the bells started their ringing, he lighted all the candles, and in their lights he imagined the little prince, which brought light and hope to the world.



And years have past since then And children wait, like I did then, When the candle light is burning the memories come back

Litla fitta nissa mín (My Sweet Little Brownie) Alexandur Kristiansen (b. 1949) is, like Djurhuus before him, an institution in Faroese cultural life and one of the absolute leading Faroese lyric poets. Since his début in 1968, he has enriched Faroese culture with several collections of poems, translations of novels and short stories and children's books.

Kristiansen, who also is a teacher, has written and translated numerous children's songs. His ingenious sense of the nuances in the language is transferred to the children through the words, rhythmic constructions and rhymes. And his, often quite peculiar, figures have become a natural part of the colourful universe of the Faroese children.

During his teaching practice in 1974 or 75. Alexandur Kristiansen wrote and translated several children's songs for the first class he worked with. One of these songs was the translation of the Danish "Lille søde nissefar", originally written by Kirsten Pendrup, with music by Gerd Gøssel. The Faroese title was "Lítla fitta nissa mín", and it was a part of the poems collection "Kannubjølluvísur" from 1977. The same year, or the year after, the song was recorded by the nursery teacher Hiørdis Johansen and her girls. The song about the brownie that looks for the almond in his porridge became an instant hit among Faroese children and has kept its popularity through the years.

My sweet little brownie here's some porridge for your plate Christmas porridge with almonds Wait, and I shall fill it up.

Anker Fli Petersen



New Franking Labels 2010

On 20th September 2010, four new Faroese franking labels will be issued. This is the third issue of Faroese franking labels.

The motifs on this year's franking labels have been taken from the Faroese national sport, boat racing, and artist Jóannes Lamhauge drew them.

Jóannes Lamhauge's intention with his drawings was to capture the soul of Faroese boat racing and he therefore chose the motifs that he felt best represented the spirit of the sport.

The first franking label depicts a training session in a rowing boat. We are inclined to forget how much intensive training is necessary to compete in the sport. There are often training sessions up to six times a week during the season – from February to the end of July – so this aspect should not be underrated.

And boat racing competitions must naturally also be included. All of the boats are lined up stem to stem and it's almost possible to hear Faroese sports reporter Jógvan Arge commentating.

The third franking label provides an impression of the atmosphere in the boat. The expressions on the crew's faces bear witness to the pain and the unrelenting will necessary to win. The white knuckles, the power, the sweat and all the drama. This motif is seen from the cox's point of view as he sits in the stern exhorting the crew to row harder.

The winner boat must also be given a place. This franking label shows the crew, rapturous after coming in first, the result of and reward for all their rigorous training.

Mint and cancelled franking labels can be ordered and first day cancellations or ordinary day cancellations are available. First day covers with all four franking labels are



also available.

As a customer and stamp collector you can decide the value of the franking labels. However, the face value cannot be lower than DKK 6.00 or higher than DKK 100.00.

NB.

Please note that the franking lables and FDC from 2009 are only available until 19 September 2010 (incl.).

New issue: Franking labels 2010

Date of issue: 20.09.2010

Value: 6,00 - 100,00 DKK Size: 22,5 x 55,0 mm

Subject: Boat racing Design: Jóannes Lamhauge

Printing method: Flexoprent

Printer: Post Danmark, Denmark



The apple rose, Rosa mollis, has almost disappeared from the Faroese countryside. The first record of the plant is from 1893 and it was found at Vestmanna at the time. The apple rose grows in inaccessible places such as rock ledges and on hills. In the northern hemisphere the plant only grows in Europe. Photo: Anna Maria Fosaa

2010 – The year for animal and plant conservation

The UN has declared 2010 as a year that will be devoted to protecting plant and animal species. Sixteen years ago The Lagting (The Faroese Representative Council) decided to accede to the international convention on the maintenance of biodiversity – on a sustainable basis. But so far there is no concrete plan as to how this will be done.

Will there be any natural surroundings left for coming generations?

Now is an apt time to ask this question as the UN has declared 2010 as the *International* Year of Biodiversity.

Briefly, the purpose of this international year is:

- To focus on the importance of biodiversity for our well-being
- To halt the decline in biodiversity, which is at present proceeding at 100 times the rate

that could be expected based on natural causes

• To celebrate positive results

The importance of maintaining biodiversity

Biodiversity means the diversity of living organisms. Diversity is found in the ecosystems inhabited by animals and plants, in plant and animal species and in their genetic characteristics. The interplay between plant and animal life helps to maintain balance in global ecosystems.

Biodiversity is the foundation for the food we live on. Much of the medicine we use comes wholly or partly from our biological resources. Most of our building materials and materials for industry also come from our biological resources – and biodiversity is also a major factor in leisure activities and tourism.



Sixteen years ago a decision was made in the Faroes to accede to the international convention on the preservation of biodiversity. This was an expression of the intention to use our natural resources in a sustainable manner. As a society, we accepted that nature must also be part of our culture in the future to provide us with inspiration on an everyday basis so that we can pass on the same conditions our forefathers had to our children and also enable them to live on these islands.

But even though we are very much attached to nature in the Faroes, we have yet to reach the point where we have a clear plan as to how these vital resources should be used and maintained.

The UN convention is a consequence of the fact that human impact on the land and the sea is growing as the world's population grows. Pollution is on the increase and natural resorts are disappearing so people all over

the world are concerned that the number of plant and animal species will be dramatically reduced.

This is one of the reasons why 155 countries signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at a congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

One of the chief purposes of the convention was to maintain global biodiversity in order to ensure the sustainable use of living resources. The *Folketing* (The Danish Parliament) acceded to the convention on 21 November 1993 and the Faroese *Lagting* followed suit on 18 December the same year. The Faroes are therefore a party to the convention.

The first step on the road to honouring the convention on biodiversity was to draw up a status report on biodiversity in the Faroes. This report was released in the book "Føroya"



náttúra" (Faroese Nature), published by "Føroya Skulabókagrunnur" in 2006.

More done in Europe than in other countries

Another conference was held in Johannesburg, ten years after the conference in Rio, where it was confirmed that the Rio conference had been unable to halt the decline in biodiversity. In Europe, the goal of reducing this decline is given higher priority than in other countries and the goal for 2010 is to stop the decline instead of simply reducing the speed at which animal and plant species are disappearing.

The joint aim where Europe is concerned is to work towards achieving this result with the help of legislation and agreements to update EU policy in the area to ensure that the goal can be attained.

Countdown 2010

The seven principal items in the work of maintaining biodiversity are illustrated in what is known as Countdown 2010:

- 1. At least 10% of ecosystems of all kinds must be protected in order to conserve nature and natural landscapes.
- 2. Farmers should safeguard biodiversity through such means as enhancing diversity on arable land and cutting back on the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides.
- 3. Fishing must be carried out on a sustainable basis: 75% of all fishing in the world today is overfishing and many species are already threatened.
- 4. The construction industry must take greater care to maintain biodiversity. At present the industry is destroying the habitats of many animal species.



- 5. Climate change also has an impact on nature. We should attempt to prevent this change and ensure that animals have an opportunity to move to or adapt to new habitats.
- 6. Non-domestic animal species can in some cases invade new areas and threaten domestic species. We should prevent these invasions
- 7. Biodiversity is the basis for sustainable development. This makes it necessary to coordinate the control of biodiversity and the political decisions made in this area.

Fifty-four bird species and seventy-four plant species are threatened

A new list of birds and plants drawn up in accordance with the rules laid down by The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) shows that 54 bird species and 74 plant species in the Faroes are in danger of disappearing.

Some species have already died out and others are so close to extinction that they will not survive if something is not done very soon.

A list of this kind is called a red list and it is an assessment of how great the threat to the survival of certain plants and animals is.

There is nothing new in animals and plants becoming extinct and it is part of natural developments in the world. But events in recent centuries have shown that human impact on nature has led to the wholesale extinction of some plants and animals. The condition for the ability to draw up red lists of plants and animals is to acknowledge that they are dying because of human behaviour. At a later stage we must find the specific reasons why this is happening and stop the development as far as possible.

Anna Maria Fosaa

Vote for Stamp of the Year 2009

- and win beautiful prizes!



FO 651-658



FO 659-660









UPPRUNI FØROYA























FO 669

FO 670

Guðrun & Guðrun -Faroese Luxury Wool Design





Guðrun & Guðrun is owned by two Faroese women and the creative process of design is very closely linked to the isolation of the place.

Most of the collection is hand knitted from 100% untreated wool and the result of a unique collaboration between the Faroese and Jordanian women.

After only a few years in the fashion business, Guðrun & Guðrun have been on the

1st prize: a sweater designed

cover of Vogue, fashioned clothes for celebrities such as Naomi Campbell and Helena Christensen, hosted a visit by Bill Clinton,

opened showrooms in New York and Milan, sold several large orders to Japan and increased their revenues from 600.000 DKK in 2006 to 5 million DKK in 2008.

More info on: www.gudrungudrun.com



New Stamp Issues









New stamp issue: **Iens Christian Svabo**

Date of issue: 20.09.2010

Value: 6,00, 12,00, 14,00 and 22,00 DKK Numbers:

FO 692-695

Stamp size: 42.00 x 30.45 mm Artist: Anker Eli Petersen Printing method: Offset + Intaglio

Printer: Joh. Enschedé, Netherlands

Postal use: Inland small letters, medium and large letters to Europe, 0-50 g, and medium letters to other

countries (B-Economic)



New stamp issue: Potatoes and root vegetables

Date of issue: 20.09.2010 Value: 6.00 and 8.00 DKK

Numbers: FO 696-697 Stamp size: 24,75 x 45,00 mm Edward Fuglø Design:

Printing method: Offset Printer:

LM Group, Canada Postal use: Inland small and medium letters, 0-50 g





New stamp issue: Christmas Carols 1 Date of issue: 20.09.2010 Value: 6.00 and 10.00 DKK FO 698-699 Numbers: Stamp size: 26,5 x 42 mm

Anker Eli Petersen Artist: Printing method:

Offset + silver metallic and gloss varnish

Printer: LM Group, Canada

Postal use: Inland small letters and small letters to Europe,

0-50 g

Posta Stamps Óðinshædd 2 FO-100 Tórshavn Faroe Islands

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