# Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands

No. **44**April 2020



- Ludwig van Beethoven 250th Anniversary
- 125 Years of Motion Pictures
- Faroese Chess Tradition
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# Ludwig van Beethoven - 250th Anniversary

Occasionally, art is created which takes on its own existence and wings its flight beyond the artist's universe and the confines of his earthly life. This is especially true of the world of music and, most eminently for the works of the great classical composers.

Classical works of music are written for orchestral ensembles of varying sizes, intended for concert performances for live audiences. This gives rise to constant reinterpretations of the musical works subject to the conductor's particular perception, his temperament and the quality of the orchestra.

Add to this the perceptiveness of the audience and the listeners when it comes to appreciating a work of high art. We are all children of our own cultural backgrounds. Whether there are societal differences or culturally conditioned regional differences there will always be perceptual differences

in individual interpretation of the work in question.

And this seems to be the starting point for the versatile artist Heiðrik á Heygum's in his graphic representation of Ludwig van Beethoven on his 250th birthday. Heiðrik has dressed the great composer up in the Faroese national costume, placed him in quintessential Faroese surroundings - enveloped by equally iconic examples of Faroese flora and fauna. The German-born Beethoven, who spent most of his life in Vienna, Austria and possibly did not have the faintest idea of the Faroe Islands - is as natural a part of Faroese culture as the landscape, the wind and the ram on the mountain. His music has been the faithful companion of the Faroese through so many years, creating myriad associations and influencing us in various ways, along with our own particular cultural features - which is why it seems natural for us to celebrate the old virtuoso as one of our own.



Bust of Ludwig van Beethoven outside the Beethoven-House in Bonn. Sculptor: Cantemir Riscutia (1926-2001)

### Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Bonn, the capital of the Electorate of Cologne in the German-Roman Empire. He showed exceptional musical talent from an early age and was taught intensely by his father Johann van Beethoven and court organist and composer Christian Gottlob Neefe, who also helped him with his very first maladroit compositions.

At the age of 22, Beethoven moved to Vienna to study composition with Joseph Haydn. He quickly gained reputation in the capital of classical music as a virtuoso pianist and became known in patrician circles for his improvisations and variations on the works of other composers, while improving his skills in the art of composition. In 1795,

Beethoven held his first public concert in Vienna, publishing his first work shortly thereafter.

Beethoven was a great admirer of the late composer W. A. Mozart and studied him closely. His first compositions were influenced by Haydn's and Mozart's music but he quickly matured musically and developed his own distinct style. He left an extensive body of compositions, the best known of which are his 9 symphonies, 32 piano sonatas, 5 piano concerts and 16 string quartets. In addition, he composed chamber music, choral works and songs.

In 1796, when Beethoven was 26 years old, his hearing began to deteriorate due to a bad case of tinnitus. The condition worsened in the following years and he eventually gave up performing and giving concerts. This, however, did not prevent him from composing - and during the last 10 years of his life, when his deafness was almost total, he created some of his most beloved works.



Painting of Ludwig van Beethoven. Artist: Josef Karl Stieler (1781-1858)

After a long illness, Beethoven died in 1827, at the age of 56. He is regarded as one of classical music's greatest composers, on par with his revered example Mozart. His influence on contemporary cultural life was enormous and he stands as a transitional figure between classical and romantic music. Influenced by the freedom of the Enlightenment ideals, Beethoven added a chorus piece in the fourth movement of his 9th symphony, based on Schiller's "An die Freude", a beautiful tribute to human kind a melody that every child today recognizes as the "Anthem of Europe".

Yes, Beethoven is genuinely Faroese, just as he belongs to all other nations in the world, and richly deserving of our humble tribute on his 250th anniversary.

Anker Eli Petersen

BIhm

The signature of Ludwig van Beethoven





Test proof



# 125 Years of Motion Pictures

This year (2020) marks the 125th anniversary of the first motion picture screening. This pivotal event took place on December 28, 1895, when the brothers Louis and Auguste Lumière had their first public film performance in Paris in the presence of 33 viewers. It is in this context that Posta is now issuing a stamp series featuring the theme of motion pictures. Katrin Ottarsdóttir (b. May 22, 1957) is a Faroese film director, screenwriter and author. 1989 saw the release of her first film, which was also the first movie, made by a Faroese film director, produced on location in the Faroe Islands with Faroese dialogue.

Katrin Ottarsdóttir

When I went to Denmark after my high school graduation, I knew nothing about any film school. But as soon as I heard about one, I knew that this was where I was headed. The idea of people sitting in the darkness of the movie theatre watching what I wanted to tell and show them felt seductive. I have

always been passionate about writing but never been adept at the spoken word. Now there was an opportunity to have movies speak on my behalf.

It quickly became clear to me that I had chosen one of the most difficult paths in life for a Faroe Islander - a Faroese woman. But I was stubborn and wanted to prove that I could make my dream of filmmaking become a reality, even though not a single person in the Faroe Islands believed in a 23-year-old woman who needed money to make films. Movies were something people made in other countries.

I took the liberty of sending an application to a Faroese bank director asking for financial support to make a short film. He reportedly made a number of phone calls to inquire about this strange and unrealistic young woman. I did not get any money from him. Instead, I borrowed some from my

grandmother and the short film was made anyway.

When I think of the movies that I was yearning to make but never able to finance, I sometimes wish that I had not been a filmmaking pioneer in the Faroes. I would have wanted to live in a country where making films was a commonplace activity. During these years, there was no financial support to be found in the Faroe Islands. My driving force through all those years was my persistence and determination along with the support and cooperation of the man in my life.

In spite of all this and against all odds some movies were actually made. My first movie became a reality because of a Nordic film festival, which was to be held in the Faroe Islands. I thought it would really be too bad to host a film festival in the Faroes without a Faroese movie, considering that the Faroe Islands actually had me, a film director who had graduated from one of the most prestigious film schools in Europe "The National Film School of Denmark". Fortunately, several Faroese cultural figures and politicians agreed and the movie "Atlantic Rhapsody" (1989) became reality as a uniquely Faroese low-budget film. This film "Atlantic Rhapsody" has travelled the world and won the honorary award at the Nordic Film Festival in Lübeck that same year.

Most of the time this has felt like rowing against a strong current. I have not yet been able to produce my most significant films. Coincidence has often been the determining factor in which films I've had the opportunity to produce. Conditions must improve if I am going to be able to produce what, for me, are truly important films. I have come to realize that I cannot keep rowing so hard anymore. My latest movie, "Ludo" (2014), which I wanted to be as personal as possible, was

made with almost no budget. It took all my energy and almost sent me over the edge. But the film has travelled the world and won awards in both Europe and the United States.

My film, "Bye, Bye Blue Bird" (1999), has also travelled the world and won awards, for example the Tiger Award at the International Film Festival in Rotterdam. In addition, this film has been shown in cinemas in Germany, the Netherlands and Japan. The short film, "The Man Who Was Allowed to Go" (1995), has also participated in several film festivals in Europe.

Making movies is not a routine job where you come and go. It is a lifestyle that runs in the blood. You are always prepared. And if you are unable to realize your dreams of moviemaking, you either become even more stubborn, or else you are really pushed over the edge.

In addition to these films, I have made documentaries about the poet Regin Dahl, the sculptor Hans Pauli Olsen, the versatile artist Tóroddur Poulsen and the author Jóanes Nielsen as well as a children's film, a film installation, some music videos and several television shows.

### Bye Bye Blue Bird, 1999

Bye Bye Blue Bird is a road movie about the two young women, Rannvá and Barba, who return to the Faroe Islands after several years abroad. The film contains both pulpy provocation and a reckoning with the past.

### Ludo, 2014

Ludo is a psychological drama about an 11-year-old girl who is caught between the mother's unstable mind and the father's well-meaning passivity.



Poster for the film Bye Bye Blue Bird. Photo: Blue Bird Film







# Faroese Chess Tradition

Chess has undergone a long development and given rise to traditions in many cultures. In the 15th century, the popular board game found its present form, but variations have also developed in different countries. In the Faroe Islands, the chess tradition also gained its local characteristics and this stamp issue describes two of them.

### Four Player Chess

In four player chess, the normal chessboard of 64 squares is extended by three extra rows in each of the four sides, a total of 160 squares. Each player's 16 pieces are placed as normal on the two outermost rows and the participants take turns. There are four players, two partners facing each other, and they must not give each other advice on the game. Otherwise, the rules differ very little from ordinary chess. If a player is checkmated, the partner can help him get free. If this fails and the partner himself is checkmated, the pair has lost.

Four player chess was usually played without time control, so games could become complicated and lengthy. Stories are told that games have been postponed in early summer and resumed in the fall when the men returned from the summer fishing trips. In some settlements, four player chess was commonplace and people gathered to attend the chess games. Enthusiasm could reach heights if the game was exciting and the bystanders could not keep from commenting on the developments on the chessboard. Today, only a few in the Faroe Islands meet to play this variation of the game.

The stamp shows the chessboard used for four player chess and four homemade chess pieces, bispur = the bishop, kongurin = the king, frúgvin = the queen and riddarin = the knight.



Four Player Chess. Faroe Islands National Museum. Photo: Ole Wich

### Rókurin – the Rook

The rooks that fortify the corners of the chessboard are effective and powerful pieces in the game. They can move quickly and far in one go. This piece is called "rókur" in Faroese and there are various theories about the origin of the term.

The Indian version of the piece is called "ratha" and "rukh" in Persian, both of which terms denote a horse-drawn two-wheeled wagon, often reinforced with a stone wall-like armour. When the game came to Italy, the piece was termed "rocca", which means tower. The term may also derive from "torre", the attack tower, which was pushed on wheels against fortified walls in order to occupy them. The interpretation of the piece as a part of a building, a tower, was transmitted to other European languages, for example "tour" in French, and "turm" n German. As a result, the look of the piece

has changed and taken on a tower-like appearance. The tower symbols are also used on coats of arms, but in heraldry the resemblance is perhaps more influenced by heads of horses sticking up above the chariot.

In English, the chess piece was sometimes called "castle", but today it is commonly called "rook" which is a word of questionable origin. This is also the name of the bird 'rook' (Corvus frugilegus) – a member of the crow family. It therefore appears that this designation has influenced the Faroese name of the piece "rókur". In Faroese, this word is also a name of the jackdaw (Corvus monedula), a member of the crow family as well.

Many of the Faroese chess pieces were homemade, carved in wood, often depicting people, the rooks as well as the other pieces. But there are some indications that the



Portrait of the piece "rókur". Faroe Islands National Museum. Photo: Ole Wich

word "rókur", a synonym for the crow, influenced the visual appearance of the piece in the corner of the chessboard. In many old versions of the chess piece, the artist has carved a man with a bird perching on his head. The designation and the appearance has drifted from a war vehicle to a building and then to a bird's hat. Thus, cultural patterns wander in inscrutable trajectories.

The stamp depicts the piece "rókur" in a homemade version surrounded by the cultural elements from which the appearance derives: the chessboard, the chariot, the attack tower, the tower depicted in heraldry and the ordinary tower piece.

The chess pieces shown on the stamp are preserved in the National Museum of the Faroe Islands (No. 4484).

Ole Wich



Black queen threatens king. Photo: Ole Wich







# Chasubles II

### Chasubles - Violet and White

Last year, Posta issued the first two stamps in a series on Faroese mass chasubles in the liturgical colours - at that time red and green. This year's issue in the series depicts chasubles in violet - the colour of the Advent and fasting - and white, the colour of Christmas and Easter.

The violet chasuble in this year's series belongs to the Church of Viðareiði on the island of Viðoy. The church got this chasuble in 2017 in connection with its 125th anniversary on December 10 - and in connection with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The chasuble was made by Paulina M. K. Fliasen.

The violet chasuble is made of woolen material, decorated with the Luther Rose in the

front and at the back, handsewn in crossstitch and Gobelin needlework.

#### The Luther Rose

The Luther Rose is the most recognizable symbol of the Protestant Church. It was Martin Luther's private seal and appears for the first time in a letter from 1517. Reportedly, Luther himself designed the rose. The red heart with the black cross at the centre symbolizes the unreserved faith in Christ the Crucified and the love of His glad-tidings. The white rose symbolizes the joy, comfort and peace of faith in Christ. The blue background has spiritual significance as faith's hope of heavenly joy, which, according to Luther, begins already in this earthly life. The golden circle around the blue signifies that heavenly joy will last forever and is more precious than other joys and pleasures.



The church in Viðareiði. Photo: Faroephoto

### The White Chasuble

The white mass chasuble belongs to the Church of Kvívík on Streymoy. It is knitted and decorated with a cross and a ribbon bearing various Christian symbols. The church got this simple and beautiful chasuble in 1989. It was made by Jóhanna Jensen in Nýggjustovu.

### Crosses and Symbols

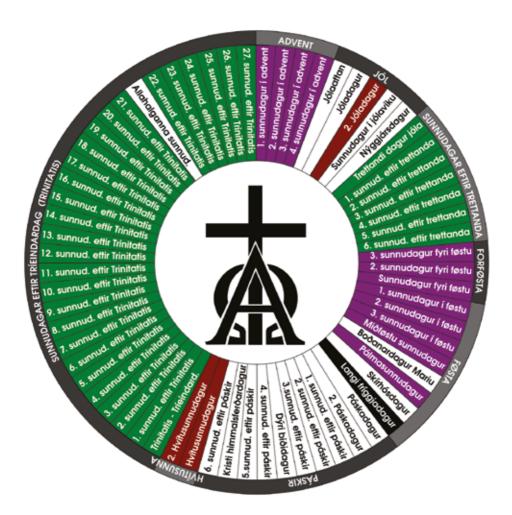
The white chasuble is decorated with a large cross and a ribbon at the bottom. Furthermore, both crosses and ribbons are decorated with various symbols, taken from the carved bars in the church chancel - which, moreover, stem from the old church situated at the site until 1903, when the present church was built. It is a bit unclear what several of the signs symbolize, but one can recognize the Sacrament's chalice, cross and shamrock which symbolize the Trinity. White is the oldest liturgical colour symbolizing joy, celebration and birth.



The Luther rose. It was Martin Luther's private seal. Artist: Anker Eli Petersen

Anker Eli Petersen

# The Liturgical Colors of the Church Year











Test proof

# Franking Labels 2020: Hay Harvest



Suffía Nón's four stamps depict the traditional work of harvesting hay in the Faroe Islands.

The old way of drying grass has become a thing of the past in most places. However, many still remember the man standing in the green field swinging his scythe, not to forget all the small birds peeling worms and other microorganisms from the ground after the grass had been cut and before the newly awakened young girls - with their thoughts full of dreams of love and life - came to spread the dewy grass out on the field for drying. Thus, a typical dry weather day could pass during the harvest period.

We must not forget the hay racks either (the hay rack is a kind of fence made of numerous strands of tensile wire for drying hay). This was hard work for both women and men. When the morning dew had evaporated, the sweet-smelling grass had to be brought to the rack where it was suspended for drying. Even though the work was hard, many people were happy about the rack because when the grass had been suspended the worst was over. Many nimble and sprightly men praised the invention of the rack when they were bringing dried loads of hay on their backs into the barn.

Grass could also be dried directly on the ground. In this case everyone was able to participate. Young and old with rakes in their hands enjoyed themselves, told stories and talked to the smaller children who through play and activity were learning their first lesson about a universe where things are both produced and enjoyed. Who has not seen and heard the woman voicing her discontent with her small load of hay when the work was not going as planned and the top of the load was not as perfect as she wanted and before it had been tightly secured with cords.

Petur Martin Petersen



Harvesting hay. Photo: Faroephoto, 2014

# Caucelled!

# LONDON 2020

Most of our customers are already informed, that the London 2020 Show due to the ongoing Covid-19 epidemic has been cancelled. It is now rescheduled to 2022.

The planned issue of the franking labels with the theme "Old postcards" has thus also been postponed.





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New stamp issue: Ludwig van Beethoven 250th Anniversary

Date of issue: 21.09.2020 Value: 44.00 DKK FO 935 Numbers: Stamp, size: 30 x 40 mm Mini-sheet, size: 80 x 60 mm Artist: Heiðrik á Heygum Printing technique: Offset

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France Postal use: Large letters abroad 101-250 g

125 Years of Motion Pictures: New stamp issue: Date of issue: 21.09.2020 12.00 and 26.00 DKK Value:

FO 936-937 Numbers: Stamp, size: 40 x 26 m Design: Blue Bird Film Printing technique: Offset

Printer:

Cartor Security Printing, France Postal use: Small letters inland, 0-50 g and large letters abroad, 0-100 g

New stamp issue: Date of issue: 21.09.2020 17,00 and 27,00 DKK Value: Numbers: FO 938-939

Stamp, size: Artist: Ole Wich Printing technique: Offset

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France Postal use: Large letters inland 0-100 g

and 101-250 g

New stamp issue: Chasubles Date of issue: 21.09.2020 Value: 12 and 20,00 DKK Numbers: FO 940-941 Stamp, size: 30 x 40 og 40 x 30 mm

Artist: Paulina M.K. Eliasen & Jóhanna Jensen

Printing technique:

Printer: Cartor Security Printing, France Small letters inland and abroad, 0-50 g Postal use: + selfadhesive booklet with 6 stamps

New stamp issue: Franking Labels 2020: Hay Harvest

Date of issue: 01.10.2020 4 x 12,00 DKK Value: Stamp, size: 55.0 x 22.5 mm Artist: Suffía Nón Printing technique: Flexoprint

Printer: Limo Labels, Denmark Postal use: Small inland letters, 0-50 g.

Posta Stamos Óðinshædd 2 FO-100 Tórshavn Faroe Islands

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# Franking labels

We offer many exciting Franking Labels which constitute an extremely interesting and very popular collector's area! Posta Faroe Islands has been issuing Franking Labels since 2008. We want to inform about different values, prints and not least the machines that we use.

Our Franking Labels are being printed on two different printing machines: aCon "Frankie" and "IAR - FOO1".

We have been using aCon "Frankie" since 2008. The franking labels which are issued in October each year and sent to our subscribers are printed on aCon "Frankie". "IAR - FOO1" was used for the first time at the Nordia 2017 exhibition. On the "IAR- FOO1" machine we have a number of extra features and options. This franking machine is therefore used at trade fairs, exhibitions and other special occasions.

Visit our webshop at www.stamps.fo for different varieties of franking labels.

# Franking labels from aCons "frankie": Franking lables from the IAR-FO01 machine:





We also offer a number of other exciting products with Franking Labels, including First Day Envelopes (FDC) and Folders.





### Posta Stamps will be attending the following exhibitions:

Participation with special cancellation:

**Philex 2020,** 11-14 June 2020, Paris, France\* **Nordia 2020** 4-6 September 2020, Malmö, Sweden

Participation without cancellation:

Sindelfingen 2020, 22-24 October 2020, Sindelfingen, Germany



# Order Form - Posta Stamps no. 44

n.	16		Price	Price	01	<b>T</b> -1-1
No.	Item		DKK	Euro	Qt.	Total
Issue 21.09.2020 - Ludwig van Beethoven 250 Years			935 (minis	heet with	1 stamp	)
PPS000920	Ludwig van Beethoven, minisheet mint	*	44,00	6,15		
FFT000920	Ludwig van Beethoven, minisheet/fdc.	•	44,00	6,15		
DDT000920	Ludwig van Beethoven, minisheet/rdc.	•	44,00	6,15		
FFU000920	First day cover w/minisheet	•	49,00	6,85		
Issue 21.09.20	20 - 125 years of motion pictures - FO S	36-9	937 (2 stan	nps)		
PPA010920	Motion Pictures 125 years, set mint	*	38,00	5,30		
FFG010920	Motion Pictures 125 years, /fdc.canc.	•	38,00	5,30		
DDG010920	Motions Pictures 125 years, set/rdc.	•	38,00	5,30		
FFK010920	First day cover w/set of stamps	•	43,00	6,00		
FFL010920	First day cover w/single stamps	•	45,00	6,30		
FFM010920	FM010920 First day cover w/block of four		159,00	22,25		
PPB010920			152,00	21,25		
PPC010920	PPC010920 Set/bottom plate blocks of four		152,00	21,25		
PPD000936	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		240,00	33,60		
PPD000937 Motion pictures, sheet 26KR (20)		*	520,00	72,80		
Issue 21.09.20	20 - Chess Traditions in the Faroe Island	ds - I	0 938-93	9 (2 starr	ıps)	
PPA020920	Chess Traditions, set mint	*	44,00	6,15		
FFG020920	Chess Traditions, set/fdc.canc.	•	44,00	6,15		
DDG020920	Chess Traditions, set/rdc.	•	44,00	6,15		
FFK020920	First day cover w/set of stamps	•	49,00	6,80		
FFL020920	First day cover w/single stamps	•	51,00	7,15		
FFM020920	First day cover w/block of four	•	183,00	25,50		
PPB020920	Set/top plate blocks of four	*	176,00	24,50		
PPC020920			176,00	24,50		
PPD000938	Chess Traditions, sheet 20KR (20)	*	340,00	47,50		
PPD000939	Chess Traditions, sheet 35KR (20)	*	540,00	75,50		
Issue 21.09.2020 - Chasubles II - FO 940-941 (2 stamp + booklet)						
PPA030920	Chasubles II, set mint	*	32,00	4,45		
FFG030920	Chasubles II, set/fdc.canc.	•	32,00	4,45		
DDG030920	Chasubles II, set/rdc.	•	32,00	4,45		
PPN000920	Booklet, mint	*	96,00	13,45		
FF0000920	Booklet, fdc.	•	96,00	13,45		

No.	Item		Price DKK	Price Euro	Qt.	Total	
DD0000920	20 Booklet, rdc.		96,00	13,45			
FFP000920	First day cover w/booklet		101,00	14,15			
FFK030920	First day cover w/set of stamps	•	37,00	5,15			
FFL030920	First day cover w/single stamps	•	39,00	5,45			
FFM030920	First day cover w/block of four	•	135,00	18,90			
PPJ000920	Postcard (2)	*	14,00	1,95			
FFJ000920	Maximumcard (2)	•	46,00	6,45			
PPB030920	Set/top plate blocks of four	*	128,00	17,90			
PPC030920	Set/bottom plate blocks of four	*	128,00	17,90			
PPD000940	Chasubles II, sheet (20)	*	240,00	33,50			
PPD000941	Chasubles II, sheet (20)		400,00	56,00			
Issue 01.10.20	Issue 01.10.2020 Franking Labels 2020: Hay making - 4 different						
PMA002020	Franking labels 2020, mint	*	48,00	6,70			
FMG002020	Franking labels 2020, fdc.canc	•	48,00	6,70			
DMG002020	Franking Labels 2020, set/rdc	•	48,00	6,70			
FMK002020	First Day Cover with set	*	53,00	7,40			
FML002020	First Day Cover with single labels	•	59,00	8,25			
Various		•					
WPMAMAP01	ATM Mappe #1 (2008-2012)	*	134,00	18,75			
WPMAMAP02	ATM Mappe #2 (2013-2017)	*	178,00	24,90			
PMA002019	Franking labels 2019	*	44,00	6,15			
FMK002019	Fdc with franking labels 2019	•	49,00	6,85			
	Handling fee: 25,00 3,50					25,00	
Total price:							

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	PPN	*	Booklet mint
	PPY	*	Year Collection(s)
	PPZ	*	Yearbook
	FFK	•	First day cover(s) with series of stamps
	FFU	•	First day cover(s) with mini-sheet
	РМА	*	Set(s) of mint franking labels
	FMK	•	First day cover(s) with series of franking labels
	JOJ	*	Christmas Cards

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