

Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands No. 58

May 2024



His Majesty King Frederik X



On December 31, 2023, Denmark's monarch, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, declared her intention to step down as regent and head of state, passing the throne to her eldest son, Crown Prince Frederik.

To commemorate this transition, PostNord, Tusass Greenland, and Posta are issuing a joint stamp issue featuring HM King Frederik X.

Following Danish tradition, the abdication ceremony was simple, with Queen Margrethe signing her resignation during a Council of State on January 14, 2024, exactly 52 years after assuming the throne herself. With the Queen's signature, the Crown Prince ascended to the throne, and an hour later, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen officially proclaimed King Frederik X from the balcony of Christiansborg, the Danish Parliament.

Thus, the Danish Commonwealth countries - Denmark, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands - welcomed their new regent and head of state, King Frederik X, whose Royal motto is *"United, committed, for the Kingdom of Denmark."*

Constitutional monarchy

The Danish kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. That is to say, the regent's function is to be chairman - like a constitutional president without political power. All political decisions rest with the elected parliamentarians, government, and prime minister, while the regent's role is to represent the Kingdom, for which the elected representatives work. This takes the form of weekly state councils, where the prime minister informs about the state of affairs and the government's work - and where the regent, together with the responsible minister, signs new laws. After a parliamentary election, the king chooses the party chairman that the majority of political parties point to, to form a government.

King Frederik X

Photo: Steen Evald

Design: Ella Clausen

The New King

King Frederik X was born on 26 May 1968, son of Queen Margrethe II and her husband Prince Henrik (Henri de Laborde de Monpezat). After graduating in 1986, he began his military service with the Queen's Life Guard Regiment. Over time, he has served in the Army, the Air Force and the Navy - and is an officer in all three services. From 1989 to 1995 he studied political science at Aarhus University and Harvard University. He has been attached to the diplomatic corps at Denmark's UN mission in New York and worked as embassy secretary at the Danish embassy in Paris.

King Frederik X

During the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark crossed paths with Australian Mary Donaldson. Their encounter blossomed into a romance, and in 2003, the young couple announced their engagement, followed by their marriage the next year. Their family grew over the years, welcoming their first son, Christian, in 2005, daughter Isabella in 2007, and twins Vincent and Josephine in 2011.

King Frederik is renowned for his active participation in sports, excelling in various disciplines such as sailing, running, and cycling. Notably, he achieved a milestone by becoming the first Royal to complete an "Ironman" competition in 2013. An Ironman is a long-distance triathlon race consisting of a 3.9 km swim, a 180.2 km bicycle ride, and a 42.2 km run completed in that order. It is widely considered one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world.

His passion for sports led him to become a member of the International Olympic Committee in 2009, a position for which he was re-elected in 2018 for another 8-year term.

Denmark's new king is characterized by his down-to-earth demeanour, sparking expectations of a rejuvenation and modernization of the Royal household and its traditionally strict protocols. As a modern family, they seem to resonate with contemporary societal values.

We extend our sincerest wishes to King Frederik X as he ascends to the throne, hoping for a peaceful and prosperous reign.

Posta (Text: Anker Eli Petersen)



Heiðrik á Heygum

The Four Seasons



A year ago, Posta, as the first Nordic postal service, issued NFT stamps. The motif was the four seasons, beautifully depicted by artist Heiðrik á Heygum. And now, the beautiful illustrations are being released as regular stamps, albeit this time arranged in a sheet with lovely floral borders.

About the inspiration for the issue, Heiðrik á Heygum says:

“The Faroese Post Office approached me with an intriguing task: to design stamps that capture the essence of our four distinct seasons. Eager to celebrate our unique cultural identity, I drew inspiration from the intricate floral embroidery found in our traditional Faroese outfits. Incorporating signature flowers and seasonal animals into the designs, I aimed to create stamps that truly reflect the spirit of the Faroe Islands.

Opting for a black background was a deliberate choice, echoing the traditional Faroese national costume, often adorned with flowers against a dark backdrop. This decision not only pays homage to our heritage but also serves to accentuate the vibrant colors of the flowers, creating a visually striking composition that embodies the traditional Faroese aesthetic.

Each season in the Faroe Islands is marked by the presence of specific animals, further enriching the symbolism of the stamps. Spring welcomes the birth of lambs and the return of our national bird, the oystercatcher. Summer sees the return of the Atlantic puffin and northern gannet to our shores. In autumn, sheep are slaughtered, and we hunt for the northern fulmar. Finally, winter brings the transformation of the Faroese hare’s fur to white and the tradition of rearing geese for Christmas. These seasonal nuances add depth and richness to the narrative depicted in the stamp designs, offering a profound connection to our island’s natural rhythms and traditions.”

The Four Seasons

Design: Heiðrik á Heygum



Sunset seen from Sornfelli mountain

Photo: Andrija Ilic

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Red Cross Samaritans



Red Cross Samaritans

Design: Kári við Rættará

We often see them amidst the crowds, dressed in their signature red uniforms, equipped with small backpacks and the emblematic Red Cross badge on their chests.

Whether at bustling concerts, lively festivals, spirited sporting events, community gatherings, or any place where people converge, they stand out as beacons of aid and assistance.

They are the Red Cross Samaritans - individuals hailing from diverse backgrounds, walks of life, and levels of education and occupation. Yet, united by a common altruistic spirit, they dedicate a significant portion of their leisure time to tending to the welfare of others.

In times of mishap, they tend to our wounds, swiftly applying bandages or administering first aid, and if needed, they're trained to deploy life-saving equipment like defibrillators from their packs.

Should someone overindulge in intoxicating spirits, they extend a helping hand and offer a safe space to sober up. And if a situation demands urgent medical attention, they swiftly guide individuals to healthcare facilities.

For them, there is no discrimination in who they assist or why. Like their namesake, the Good Samaritan, they offer impartial aid to all in need.

The Faroese branch of the Red Cross Samaritans was established in 1999. Over the past quarter-century, they've evolved into a proficient voluntary health service. Prospective members undergo rigorous training, including a 30-hour Samaritan course encompassing comprehensive first aid training. Regular drills and education in both physical and psychological first aid ensure they're adept at addressing a spectrum of injuries, from minor scrapes to severe trauma, with readiness for major emergencies always at the forefront.

In recent years, heightened awareness of potential international crises and their local implications has led to a greater emphasis on contingency planning in the Faroe Islands. The Red Cross diligently identifies risks and strategizes responses, with the Samaritans poised to play a pivotal role in these preparedness efforts.

As they commemorate this milestone of tending to our needs and ensuring our well-being, we extend heartfelt congratulations on 25 years of unwavering service.

We're immensely proud of your selfless dedication!

Posta

Text: Anker Eli Petersen



The Samaritans working
Photo: Ólavur Frederiksen

Origins of the Postal Service

HAFNIA 2024



This year marks the 400th anniversary of King Christian IV introducing regular mail in the Danish kingdom, paving the way for the Danish postal service. This milestone is celebrated with a Hafnia stamp issue, acknowledging its significance in Posta's history.

The Danish Postal Service

The earliest political initiative for a structured postal delivery system in Denmark is in King Christian II's Secular Law of 1522, but it never came to fruition. A century later, in 1624, Christian IV's "Ordinance on Mailmen" formalized the postal system, setting up nine routes. The most important route was between Copenhagen and Hamburg due to key trade connections. Letters, goods, and parcels were delivered via horse-drawn carriages on this route, while the other eight routes, primarily on foot, only carried letters. The main post office was housed in the now-burnt Børsen building in Copenhagen.

Mail to the Faroe Islands

In its early days, the Danish Postal Service didn't include the Faroe Islands, so cargo ships carrying goods for the Royal Monopoly Trade also delivered mail there. After the monopoly ended in the 1850s, various private operators took over. The volume of mail was limited, mostly comprising official letters from Copenhagen to the Faroese government, business correspondence, and occasional personal letters for Danish clergy and officials. The *amtmand* (county governor) managed the mail deliveries in the islands,

using the "skjúts" system, (conveyance by boat) which enlisted men from various settlements to carry mail, cargo, and passengers by boat or across mountains.

Mail Steamer Diana

In 1870, the Danish postal service took over the steamship connection to the Faroe Islands and Iceland via Lerwick in the Shetland Islands or Leith in Scotland. Over several years the mail steamer "Diana" made seven round trips each year between March 1 and the end of November. The *United Steamship Company* (DFDS) eventually took over this route.

The First Faroese Post Office

With Diana's service, the Danish Postal Service appointed H. C. Müller, a well known Sheriff, as a Faroese postal forwarder in 1869. By 1870, he had established the first Faroese postal expedition at his home in Tórshavn, allowing the public to send and receive letters, parcels, and newspapers at standardized postage rates.

After the postal reforms of 1871, three postal routes were created in 1872, each with a dedicated postman.

Mail Steamer Smiril

In 1895, the private trading company *A/S J. Mortensens Eftf.* in Tjørøyrí commissioned a small steam freighter named *Smiril*, built at *Kochum's Mekaniska Verkstad* in Malmø. It addressed the pressing need for reliable freight, passenger, and mail services between the islands, especially now that the transition from a medieval farming community to a modern fishing nation really set social development in motion. The belief that the political authorities would solve logistical problems and build a functional infrastructure was not present. Especially in Tjørøyrí on Suðuroy, where shipping and the fishing industry boomed, impatience was great.

Therefore, *A/S J. Mortensens Eftf.* decided to build a steamship for cargo, passenger and mail transport and put it into coastal sailing in January 1896 under the name *Smiril*. Conditions for coastal traffic on the Faroe Islands were difficult at the time.

While “*Smiril*” was supposed to serve most settlements, it could dock only in a

few places. In most places boats had to transport passengers and cargo to and from the ship, making coastal navigation challenging and slow.

But this was, after all, a radical change, especially for postal connections. Despite this, *Smiril* had its own postal expedition, sorting and cancelling mail, much to the delight of later collectors and philatelists.

Eventually, *Smiril's* extensive coastal service was discontinued, with new local operators stepping in. The ship was acquired by the public coastal shipping company in 1917 and used primarily for the Tórshavn-Suðuroy route.

Thus ends this look back at the pioneer days of Faroese postal history. Many more fascinating aspects remain, but those are stories for another time.

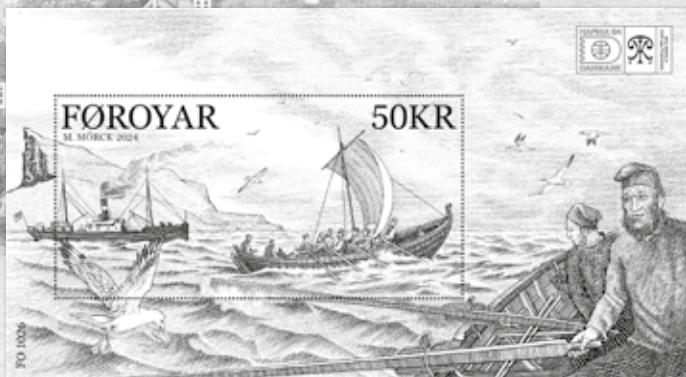
Congratulations to the Danish Postal Service on its 400th anniversary. Here's to many more years!

Posta

Text: Anker Eli Petersen

HAFNIA 2024

Artist / engraving:
Martin Mörc



The Faroese Santa Claus

Julius



Julius

Design: Allan Davidsen

Christmas holds a special place in all our hearts, regardless of age.

It envelops us in a sensory experience, from the gentle touch of snowflakes on our cheeks to the warmth of hot cocoa on our tongues, the aroma of freshly baked crullers filling the air, and the familiar melodies of Christmas music. It's a time when we feel a deeper connection with one another. But why is that?

When you were little, adults worked to cultivate the magic of Christmas around you. Remember those moments when your parents would proclaim, *"Santa Claus is on his way!"*? Your eyes would widen with anticipation as you imagined the perfect gift from Santa Claus. Yet, as you grew older, your understanding of Christmas evolved, and you came to realize that Santa Claus was simply a legend. Or was he?

To me, Santa Claus represents more than just a fairy tale. And that sentiment continues, especially now that families with children have embraced him as Santa Claus here in the Faroe Islands. But how did Julius come to be?

Let's turn back the clock to 2016, when I stood in the heart of Tórshavn eagerly awaiting the lighting of the grand Christmas tree. Excited families gathered in anticipation, the air filled with festive cheer. The town was adorned with holiday decorations, offering homemade waffles in cozy stalls, while a towering fire engine stood ready to hoist Santa Claus up to the poinsettia at the top of the tree. It was a moment awaited eagerly by children and adults alike.

Then the priest started talking about the holiday, and so did the mayor. The children and I waited impatiently for Santa Claus. I remember being excited to see who this year's Santa was and how he would do the job. Then I heard the words: *"Let's shout for Santa!"* The children shouted louder and louder, and suddenly I heard the recognizable old whistle coming howling up the

street. I looked around, hoping that the play would unfold as I had imagined. Fun and wild.

Santa got out of the fire engine and the children shouted: "Hello Santa!" It was the first time I wondered why they didn't call Santa Claus by name. Then my thoughts began to fly. Perhaps I would like this task – to play a Santa Claus that all the children in the Faroe Islands would know by name.

When the Christmas tree was lit, I told the organizer who was standing next to me that I would like to try next year. The answer was clear: "You must be allowed to!"

Early the following year, I teamed up with a friend, Rógvi Brekku Dam, who has long been part of the entertainment scene in the Faroe Islands, to create a Santa that all families with children would know. The task was taken seriously. We were both excited and impatient. After much discussion, we decided that Santa's outfit should reflect Faroese style, he should be lively, clumsy,

mischievous with a crooked smile, and his name should be *Julius*.

We had many dreams and set ourselves big goals. The dream was to entertain the entire Faroe Islands, create Faroese children's programs on TV, write new Christmas songs, stage theatrical performances, have our own website, and our biggest wish was to have the children shout, "Hello Julius!"

The number seven holds significance in fairy tales. After seven years we reached our goal and then there was only one thing to do and that was to dream new dreams and set even bigger goals.

Some of our new dreams and ideas involve producing more Faroese children's content for social media, TV, the theatre stage, and getting all families with children to send their Christmas wishes with Julius stamps on the envelope via the good old mailbox.

Sasho Bjartsson



Julius distributes Christmas treats
Photo: Jens Kr. Vang

100 Years in the Faroe Islands: The Salvation Army



Established on October 23, 1924, The Salvation Army has woven its presence into the fabric of the Faroe Islands over the past century. Today, as we mark this significant milestone, echoes of hymns, brass music, and the Evangel reverberate: *“Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war!”*

The Salvation Army

Rooted in London in 1865, The Salvation Army burgeoned into an international evangelical movement, spanning 134 countries. Its ethos is simple yet profound – rooted in the Bible and fuelled by love for God. Recognizable by its distinct uniforms, brass bands, and spirited evangelical songs, The Salvation Army embodies a holistic approach to faith and service. Here, preaching Christianity and social work are intertwined, for both are essential facets of its mission. Guided by the belief that all human life is sacred and belongs to its Creator, The Salvation Army extends its hand far and wide, embracing diverse forms of social outreach tailored to local needs. From hospitals and schools to childcare centres, youth initiatives, emergency services, and support for the homeless – its impact is deeply felt.

The Salvation Army Activities in the Faroes

Since its inception in 1924, The Salvation Army congregation in Tórshavn has remained steadfast, nestled in the heart of the city. For generations, its presence has been synonymous with national celebrations, particularly on *Ólavsøka*, the Faroe Islands' National Day. With fluttering flags and stirring horn melodies, the congregation marches to outdoor gatherings, where familiar hymns mingle with the open air.

In Vágur, Suðuroy, a church building stands as a beacon of hope since its inauguration on November 9, 1947.

Also in the Faroe Islands, The Salvation Army provides social assistance. An extended hand, a responsive phone, and people

The Salvation Army - 100
Years in the Faroe Islands

Artist: Edward Fuglø

receiving help — this has been the practice for 100 years. In recent years, The Salvation Army has also raised funds and raised awareness about poverty under the slogan “Help us help others”. Christmas assistance is provided to around 200 families, and there are also several others who receive assistance throughout the year.

The Salvation Army has also contributed to raising awareness about homelessness issues in the Faroe Islands. The Salvation Army’s homeless shelter opened on April 1, 1998, and today it offers shelter, a warm lounge, and communal living. Society evolves, and so does The Salvation Army’s social work. In June 2017, The Salvation Army opened a treatment home for young substance abusers, *Frælsi*, in the village of Eiði.

Through it all, The Salvation Army remains a steadfast advocate for the marginalized, amplifying the voices of the vulnerable in society. As we reflect on a century of service, we reaffirm our commitment to be the hands

and heart of compassion to those who don’t have a voice or won’t be heard, echoing the timeless call to serve others.

*Finggerð Djurhuus Olsen,
The Salvation Army*

*“While women weep, as they do now,
I’ll fight
While little children go hungry,
as they do now,
I’ll fight
While men go to prison, in and out,
in and out, as they do now,
I’ll fight
While there is a drunkard left,
While there is a poor lost girl upon
the streets,
While there remains one dark soul
without the light of God,
I’ll fight
I’ll fight to the very end!”*

- William Booth 1912



Test proof

17 October 2024

Year collections

The yearbook, year pack and Christmas Seals will be shipped together with the last stamp issue of the year - on 17th October.

Yearbook 2024

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 high quality hardcover book is filled with beautiful imagery, fascinating stories, and placeholders throughout the pages for mounting and preserving the stamps. The articles are in Danish, English and German.

As in previous years, a black print is inserted in the yearbook, which you receive free of charge. The black print is of the mini-sheet, which was published in connection with HAFNIA 24.

The value of the black print is 150.00 DKK.

Year pack 2024

Would you like to receive all of this year's stamps at once - easily and conveniently? Then the year pack is a good alternative - it is a superb way of collecting all the stamps of the year.

The year pack contains all the stamps and mini-sheets of the year and is sold at face value.

Christmas seals 2024

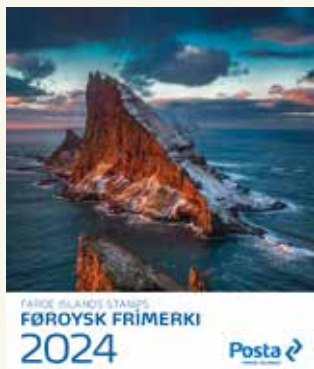
The Faroese artist Helga Djurhuus has crafted this year's Christmas Seals, capturing the essence of traditional Christmas cut-outs. Currently residing and working in Denmark, Helga boasts a rich academic background, holding both a bachelor's and master's degree in Visual Design from the esteemed Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen.

Reflecting on the inspiration behind her creations, Helga shares, "One of the fondest memories from my childhood was crafting Christmas decorations alongside my loved ones. It encapsulates the warmth and inclusivity of the holiday season, accessible to all, regardless of expense." In light of today's economic challenges, marked by inflation and escalating prices, Helga felt compelled to highlight this universal joy. Thus, she intentionally opted for Christmas cut-outs as the central theme for this year's Christmas Seals, ensuring each one resonates with the charm and nostalgia of the festive season."

The profit from the Christmas Seals sale goes to the Faroese Christmas Seals Fund, which aims to provide support for various initiatives for children and young people in the Faroe Islands. Each sheet contains 15 Christmas Seals.



Yearbook 2024 - 1 free blackprint incl.
Price: 735,- DKK



Year pack 2024
Price: 719,- DKK



Booklet folder 2024

The folder contains the three self-adhesive stamp booklets of the year.
Price: 504,- DKK



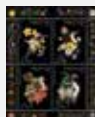
FDC folder 2024

The folder contains all the FDC's with series of stamps and mini-sheets issued this year - a total of 14 FDCs.
Price: 796,- DKK



Christmas Seals 2024

Artist: Helga Djurhuus.
Price: 30,- DKK

**New issue:** **HM King Frederik X****Issue date:** 26.05.2024**Value:** 50,00 DKK**Number:** FO 1020**Size, stamp:** 30,6 x 38,0 mm**Size, mini-sheet:** 130 x 70 mm**Photos / Design:** Steen Evald/Ella Clausen**Printing method:** Offset**Printer:** Cartor Security Printers**Postal use:** Registered letter**Other products:** Joint folder with Denmark and Greenland**The Four Seasons**

24.06.2024

4 x 23,00 DKK

FO 1021-1024

30 x 40 mm

80 x 100 mm

Heiðrik á Heygum

Offset

Cartor Security Printers

Inland letter and letter abroad, 0-100 g.

Folder with mini-sheet and NFTs

**Red Cross 25 Years**

30.08.2024

33,00 DKK

FO 1025

40 x 30 mm

Kári við Rættará

Offset

Bpost, Belgium

Letter abroad, 0-100 g.

The stamps are only proofs and not necessarily the final version

**New issue:** **HAFNIA 24****Issue date:** 17.10.2024**Value:** 50,00 DKK**Number:** FO 1026**Size, stamp:** 60 x 30 mm**Size, mini-sheet:** 100 x 54 mm**Photos / artist:** Martin Mörck**Printing method:** Intaglio**Printer:** La Poste, France**Postal use:** Registered letter**Other products:** Folder with mini-sheet, black print and FDC**Christmas Stamps**

17.10.2024

23,00 and 33,00 DKK

FO 1027-1028

30 x 40 mm

Allan Davidsen

Offset

Cartor Security Printers

Inland letter and letter abroad, 0-100 g.

Self-adhesive booklet with 6 stamps, 2 postcards

**The Salvation Army 100 Yrs**

23.10.2024

23,00 DKK

FO 1029

40 x 60 mm

100 x 70 mm

Edward Fuglø

Offset

Bpost, Belgium

Inland letter, 0-100 g.

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

Layout: Posta Stamps**Cover:** Summer**Design:** Heiðrik á Heygum**Printer:** Føroyaprent

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