

# SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB COLORADO CHAPTER 27 NEWSLETTER

## NOTIFICATION OF THE SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 MEETING AT 10:00 AM AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIC LIBRARY (RMPL)

Our regular monthly meeting will take place this Saturday at RMPL. Roger Cichorz will give a presentation on "Iceland's 1930 Parliament Stamp Issue – More to It Than Meets the Eye!" We will have our usual "Show-and-Tell" session with the subject matter being up to you. Members are reminded to submit scans of your items to Even Brande ([evenbrande@gmail.com](mailto:evenbrande@gmail.com)) who will prepare them for presentation on RMPL's large screen. Also, please read the boxed announcement below and bring a page or two or more pages for the SCC Chapter's one-frame exhibit in the Club competition at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. Breakfast sweets will be provided.

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### SCC Chapter 27 April 6, 2024 Meeting Summary

The April 6 meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by President Harry Pedersen with 11 members in attendance. Roger gave the Treasurer's report. There was no old business to discuss. **New Business:** Roger passed around some free literature items for anyone interested. Eric Carlson reminded us that there will be a dealers' bourse at RMPL the last Saturday of the month. Roger announced that longtime member Randy Nielsen failed to pay his dues for 2024 and informed Roger that he resigned his membership from our Chapter. **Program:** There was no feature speaker and the program consisted of an extended "Show-and-Tell" session: • Jeff Modesitt began by showing a number of varied Danish covers, including a money letter with wax seals on the backside, parcel cards (a half card and a more unusual entire form consisting of two halves), and a telegram money order form. • Roger showed three mid-1930s sales invoices from foreign companies for imported goods into Iceland and franked with multiples of Stimpilmerki (documentary revenue stamps). • Even Brande talked about his efforts on building a Microsoft Access data base to keep track of his ever-growing stamp and postal history collections, and showed several examples of lists and how to pull up items to review information and view them – personalized format for his own use and probably better than any stamp inventory system that is commercially available. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

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### Announcement: Bring Your Exhibit Pages This Saturday for the RMSS Club Competition!

Even reminded me to give you all a heads up. Steve McGill got up after Even's April 13 "Second Saturday" presentation at RMPL and announced that our SCC Chapter needs to submit an exhibit for the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show's local club's one-frame competition. Even offered to help put together our exhibit as he did last year, but indicated it is not likely he will be able to attend the show in May since his daughter graduates from high school that weekend. Even indicated that he would be happy to coordinate the exhibition but not be able to put it up at the show. So, bring a page, or even two or more, so Even can have some variety in putting together 16 diverse pages for our Chapter exhibit. If possible, bring your page(s) housed in a one-page sleeve protector – **we'll have them available at the meeting** – and some printed name and address labels to adhere to the sleeve backsides so we can keep track of which pages belong to whom. Then at Saturday's meeting we will need to discuss and figure out who Even can hand off the exhibit to once it's finished and be at RMSS to assemble the exhibit into a frame.

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### S.C.C. Chapter 27 Treasurer's Report

**\$1477.96 Previous Treasury Balance (3/11/24)**

–\$13.67 breakfast sweets for April meeting

–\$3.20 printing costs for April 2024 Newsletters

**\$1461.09 Current Treasury Balance (4/6/24)**

**\$604.96 Cash on Hand (4/6/24)**

**\$856.13** seven-month Certificate of Deposit at Elevations Credit Union, Boulder, CO (ECUBC) valued at \$856.13 was reinvested on 2/12/24 at 5.00% APY for seven months (maturity date of 9/12/24).

Prepared by Roger Cichorz, 4/6/24

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### SCC Chapter 27 Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2024

June 1: Jim Kilbane on a subject to be determined, Sept.

September 7: Steve Nadler on "Maps on Stamps" (a joint meeting with Topic members invited to attend)

October 5: Semi-annual members' auction

November 2: open

December: Annual holiday party to be determined, or, alternatively, December 7: open

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### Chapter 27 Members' Classified Advertisements

*As a no-cost service to all Chapter 27 members, your "buy, sell, or trade" classified ads can appear in future Meeting Notifications. Submit your copy to Roger at [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net). Also, take a look at the listing of Chapter members' collecting interests on the next page as you may have unwanted items others may be interested in!*

**For Sale:** My entire holdings of worldwide stamps and postal history (countries include Åland, Danish West Indies, Denmark with emphasis on star cancels & postmarks, Faroes, Finland with emphasis on village cancels, Greenland, Iceland, Sweden with emphasis on postmarks – also many non-Nordic countries) – worldwide postal history of various specialties and topics (including advertising, airmail & zeppelins, auxiliary markings, censored, consular, DOX, maps, military, perfins, pneumatic, postage dues, propaganda, RPOs/TPOs, ship mail) – U.S. postal history (including advertising, Colorado towns and RPOS, Doane cancels, expositions, foreign destinations, machine cancels with emphasis on flags, overrun nations, postal stationery, registered/insured, RFD, special delivers and town cancels by State) – miscellaneous (used and unused postcards, trade cards, "Dear Doctor" cards). I probably have some of the items you are looking for! Contact me to arrange for an appointment at my home. Steve Nadler, 9730 East 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80238, 303-638-3755 (cell phone), or [schlomoX@msn.com](mailto:schlomoX@msn.com).

**For Sale:** Roger Cichorz conducts regular quarterly auctions for the SCC Library, and all Chapter 27 members are on his auction distribution list. Roger will gladly accept literature and stamp donations to SCCL – SCCL is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit entity that will formally acknowledge donations, which may be to your tax advantage. SCCL Auction #72, offering 100 lots at cumulative starting bids of \$1235, closes at midnight April 30<sup>th</sup>. SCCL Auction #73 will occur in July with a closing date of July 31, 2024.

**Free Offer:** Jay Smith sends via e-mail distribution a weekly Philatelic E-News that is chock full of stamp, cover, and literature offers available from his extensive stock. Also included in each issue is a "Behind the Scenes" Commentary, several of which have been reprinted in our SCC Chapter 27 Newsletters. Jay reminds members that these are available to you free upon request, so contact Jay at [js@jaysmith.com](mailto:js@jaysmith.com) and give him your name and e-mail address to start receiving issues of these weekly Philatelic E-News.

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### TUNDRA: By Chad Carpenter



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### Chapter 27 Members' Philatelic-Related Collecting Interests

List your collecting interests (all, not just Scandinavian) here for members to be aware of what you collect and possibly help with or bring attention to items of interest! **Contact Roger at [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net) to amend your listing.**

- **Paul Albright:** Greenland and runs of worldwide correspondence to use as historical research material
- **Peter Bergh:** Denmark (in particular the bi-colors and 1882-1905 coat-of-arms series), Malmö and Lund locals, Ireland, and Great Britain QE2 predecimals and KGV Silver Jubilee
- **Even Brande:** Norway 1855 to the present cancelled & mint stamps, airmail covers to the U.S., FDCs, and U.S.A. 1847 to the present canceled & mint stamps, airmail covers, first-flight covers, FDCs, and Wyoming & Colorado covers
- **Geno Brink:** worldwide postally used up to 1970, Denmark used errors and varieties, and Aalborg (cancels on stamps, covers, by post, Christmas seals, and other items related to Aalborg)
- **Eric Carlson:** United States, certain Great Britain (Wildings, Machins, and earlier sets of British Royalty), Sweden, Finland mint Wasa/Vasa issue (*Scott #111-18*), various sets of Denmark, Finland, and Norway, and lighthouses, golf, and baseball as topical/thematics
- **Roger Cichorz:** Åland and Faroes postal history and revenue stamps, Iceland stamps and revenues, Denmark and Danish West Indies stamps, Lundy and Herm Island (stamps, postal history, and postcards), Abbott Pentothal "Dear Doctor" ad postcards, *HMS Montagu* postcards, and bonsai and puffin items as topical/thematics
- **Jerry Eggleston:** primary interests = used Denmark, Danish West Indies, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway; secondary interests = Austria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden; postal history interests = Jo Daviess County, Illinois, and Summit County, Colorado
- **Jim Fredlund:** early Finland used stamps & 1980 to the present, and used Scandinavian & worldwide stamps 1985 to the present
- **Jim Kilbane:** Iowa and Colorado postal history, registered package envelopes, United States Post Office Department envelopes, revenues, cinderellas, and other miscellaneous
- **Severt Kvamme:** post-2002 used stamps of Åland, Faroes, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway
- **Sergio Lugo:** Danish West Indies, Iceland, Greenland, and many other non-Scandinavian topics and subjects beginning with South America, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and continuing throughout the world, including stampless Papal State covers, Lombardy Venezia, and extending to military postal history
- **Clark Lyda:** Norway, United States, Canada, and Europa
- **Steve McGill:** Great Britain Machins and GB postal mechanization (specialist level) and Antarctic, Austria, China (Republic and PCR), Faroes, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, Sweden, and United States (fun-to-collect level)
- **Jeff Modesitt:** Denmark (general, postal stationery, and booklets, primary), Åland, Danish West Indies, Faroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden (secondary), Great Britain (general, postal stationery), New Zealand (general, penny universals, QEII, 1960 and 1980 definitives), and United States postal stationery
- **Steve Nadler:** all Scandinavian postal history (covers and postmarks), Colorado postal history, U.S.A. States (streetcar postmarks and covers, flag machine cancels, and advertising covers), worldwide (airmails, perfins on and off cover, pneumatic mail, overrun nations covers, and military mail), Afghanistan, France, Israel, Monaco, and Palestine
- **Harry Pedersen:** United States (including revenues), U.S. Possessions, and 1840-1940 worldwide (including Scandinavia)
- **David Petersen:** Danish West Indies and Hawaii
- **Jay Smith:** France Merson issue – bicolored high-denomination stamps used in the 1900-1930 era and North Carolina postal history and postmarks from the beginning until the day after tomorrow.
- **Tonny van Loij:** Colorado, Colorado Territory, and Kansas Territory postal history, classical music (Bach, Beethoven, Mozart), opera buildings (stamps and postcards), European Union, NATO, European Security Council (KSZE), Thurn & Taxis European postal service from 1499 to 1864 (specializing in foreign destinations), and Scandinavian destinations handled by Thurn & Taxis during 1854-1867

## “Vittrup Man” Violently Died in a Bog 5,200 Years Ago. Now, Researchers Know His Story

Source: Article by Ashley Strickland, February 15, 2024 CNN on-line posting. To read the entire article, go to: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/02/15/world/vittrup-man-bog-body-denmark-scn/index.html>

About 5,200 years ago, a man's life ended violently in a peat bog in northwest Denmark. Now, researchers have used advanced genetic analyses to tell the unexpected story of “Vittrup Man,” the oldest known immigrant in Denmark's history. Bog bodies, the uniquely preserved “accidental mummies” discovered in Northern Europe, have long intrigued researchers, but a new study contends it's the first time that experts have mapped the life history of the deceased to such a degree.



*The fragmented skull of "Vittrup Man" is on display at Denmark's Vendsyssel Historical Museum.*

The man's remains were uncovered in a peat bog in Vittrup, Denmark, during peat cutting in 1915. His right anklebone, lower left shinbone, jawbone, and fragmented skull were found alongside a wooden club. Researchers estimate that he died after being hit over the head at least eight times with the wooden club sometime between 3100 BC and 3300 BC. Scientists analyzed Vittrup Man's remains in a recent study published in the journal *Nature* about Denmark's genetic prehistory that sequenced the genomes of 317 ancient skeletons. Some of the same researchers decided to conduct an individual study of Vittrup Man after his DNA revealed that he was genetically distinct from the rest of the Danish Stone Age population. A study detailing the new findings appeared February 14, 2024 in the journal *PLOS One*.



*Stone Age megastructure found submerged in the Baltic Sea wasn't formed by nature, scientists say*

What the research team discovered while piecing together Vittrup Man's life is shedding light on the movements and connections between different Stone Age cultures. “I wanted to make an anonymous skull speak (and) find the individual behind the bone. The initial result(s) were ‘almost too good to be true,’ which made me apply additional and alternative methods. The outcome was this surprising life history,” stated lead study author Anders Fischer, project researcher in the department of historical studies at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and director of Sealand Archaeology.

**A Stone Age Migrant:** The research team, eager to uncover as many clues as possible about the life of Vittrup Man, analyzed his tooth enamel, tartar, and bone collagen using cutting-edge analytical methods. The combined detection of specific chemical elements within his enamel, such as strontium, nitrogen, carbon and oxygen, as well as a protein analysis of his teeth and bones, revealed how Vittrup Man's diet went from being that of a hunter-gatherer to a farmer before dying between the ages of 30 and 40.

**Article continues on the following page.**

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Vittrup Man was likely born and grew up along the coast of the Scandinavian Peninsula, perhaps within the frigid climes of Norway or Sweden. He was genetically closest to people from those regions and had darker skin than the Stone Age communities in Denmark. In Scandinavia, Vittrup Man likely belonged to a northern hunter-gatherer community that enjoyed a diet of fish, seals and even whales, which suggests that the foragers had vessels that enabled them to fish in the open sea. And then, something caused his life to change drastically, and by the age of 18 or 19, Vittrup Man was in Denmark and subsisting on the diet of a farmer, eating sheep and goat.



*Bones found in 8-meter-deep pit may 'fundamentally change' history of humans in Europe*

His journey to a farming peasant society in Denmark “indicates extensive travel by boat,” the study authors said. Vittrup Man’s long-distance movements were unusual, “but may say something about ongoing exchanges between Danish farmers and northern hunter-gatherers,” said study coauthor Karl-Göran Sjögren, researcher in the department of historical studies at the University of Gothenburg.

Why Vittrup Man made such a long voyage is unknown, but the researchers have a couple of theories. It’s possible that he was a captive or a slave who became part of local society in Denmark. Or Vittrup Man was a trader who settled in Denmark. According to study coauthor Lasse Sørensen, head of research of ancient cultures of Denmark and the Mediterranean at the National Museum in Copenhagen, archaeologists have known that flint axes were traded from Denmark to the Arctic Circle in Norway. “The study adds a concrete human being of flesh and blood to this finding,” Sørensen said.

Studying Vittrup Man has helped researchers gain insights about the genetics, lifestyles, and ritual practices that can be traced to Stone Age societies, Sjögren said. “Vittrup Man is a migrant – the earliest indisputable first-generation immigrant known from Denmark and vicinity,” Fischer said. “As far as we are informed, it is (the) first time scientists have been able to map a north European person’s life story in such great detail and in such a distant past.”



*A cartoon included with the new research depicts how Vittrup Man was possibly sacrificed in a swamp.*

**Article concludes on the following page.**



**Death in the Swamp:** Vittrup Man had “a remarkable life course before he was killed and thrown into the swamp,” said Fischer, who has researched Stone Age cultures for more than 40 years. He is particularly interested in how Denmark shifted from a hunter-gatherer culture to one of farmers about 6,000 years ago. Why did Vittrup Man end up with a smashed skull in a peat bog? The exact answer will never be known, but researchers believe he was killed as a sacrifice, which was a common practice in the region at the time.

“Wetlands appear to have had a special role in the religious life in northern Europe those days,” Fischer said. “Vittrup Man was killed in an unusually brutal way. Other humans were killed by arrow shots or strangled with a cord.” “Perhaps we should understand him as a slave who was sacrificed to the gods when he was no longer fit for hard physical labor,” said study coauthor Kristian Kristiansen, professor of archaeology at the University of Gothenburg, in a statement.

But it’s also possible that Vittrup Man was in the wrong place at the wrong time. “Based on archaeological evidence alone it is difficult to tell this apart from, for example, someone who was killed in a conflict, or robbed and killed,” according to Roy van Beek, associate professor in landscape archaeology at the Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands. “That he may have been a ‘slave’ or held in captivity is quite speculative in my opinion, but the authors also show some reservations there.” van Beek was not involved in this study but coauthored research published in the journal *Antiquity* about the wealth of information that bog bodies provide about prehistoric life.

“In my opinion this is a fascinating study that shows the huge contribution that innovative bioarchaeological methods can make to improve our knowledge on prehistoric societies, including important aspects like population history, migration and lifeways,” van Beek said after reading the new study. “Our *Antiquity* study shows that the lifetimes of thousands of prehistoric and early historic humans ended in bogs across Northern Europe, and studies like this one show the incredible scientific potential they have. And this is only one individual – we are only scratching the surface!”

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## **Intriguing Skull Modifications Discovered in Viking Women**

Source: April 2024 on-line postings at Medievalists.net and Ancient-Origins.net.

Access at <https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/viking-body-modification-0020587>

A recent study delves into the discovery of three women from Viking-Age Gotland who underwent skull elongation. This investigation sheds light on the fascinating tradition of body modification prevalent among the Norse and Vikings. The study, authored by Matthias Toplak and Lukas Kerk and published in the journal *Current Swedish Archaeology*, investigates archaeological findings from Gotland, where half of all documented cases of male teeth filing have been discovered. Alongside the intriguing possibility of Viking tattoos, these practices represent the known forms of body modification taking place in early medieval Scandinavia.



*Drawing by Miroslaw Kuźma/Matthias Toplak of the grave of the female individual with an artificially modified skull in grave 192 from Havor, Hablingbo parish, Gotland,.*

Dating back to the latter part of the eleventh century, all three women were interred in different locations across Gotland. Their skull modifications bestowed upon them a distinctive and remarkable appearance, elongating their heads. Further details are discerned in two of the cases: one woman passed away between the ages of 25 and 30, while the other was between 55 and 60 years old. The drawing below, based on excavation reports, is an artistic rendering of how this older woman would have looked when she was buried.

**Article continues on the following page.**

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Accompanied by ornate jewelry, including four animal-head brooches, a common custom in Gotland, this woman's grave stands out for its abundance of such adornments. While the religious affiliations of these women remain unknown, Toplak and Kerk propose they were laid to rest within a Christian framework.

The methodology behind their skull elongation remains a subject of intrigue. This practice, observed across various ancient and medieval cultures spanning the South Americas, Central Asia, and Southeast Europe, involves binding young children's heads with wood or cloth, typically under the age of three. In Europe, such modifications predominantly occurred among females.

The authors believe that the practice came to Scandinavia from southeast Europe – it could be found in Bulgaria from the 9th to 11th centuries. "It remains unclear how the custom of skull modification reached Gotland," they write. "Either the three females from Havor, Ire, and Kvie were born in southeastern Europe, perhaps as children of Gotlandic or East Baltic traders, and their skulls were modified there in the first years of life, or the modifications were made on Gotland or in the eastern Baltic, respectively, and thus represent a cultural adoption long unknown to the Scandinavian Viking Age. A common background of the three females can be assumed due to the close chronological dating of the three burials, and especially due to the very similar execution of the skull modifications."

There is still much to understand about these three women. Did the local community consider them different or outsiders, or were they given special status because of their appearance? The authors tell *Medievalists.net*: *We assume that these three females were indeed exposed characters in their society even though we are not quite sure if they were actually regarded as outsiders. According to the aDNA-analysis, at least one of these females might come from Gotland. But we are very sure that they had a special significance as they were signaling a different identity and mediating certain narratives (for example, of far-reaching contacts and exotic cultural influences). And, according to their burials, this special significance was regarded as something positive as at least the female individual from Havor was buried not only with the Gotlandic 'standard' dress attire but she was overequipped with typical Gotlandic jewelry.*

The authors also found similarities with another type of body modification done in the Viking Age: the filing of teeth. Researchers began noticing this practice in 1989 and we currently have about 130 cases of males who had their teeth modified in the form of single horizontal filed grooves. All the cases involved men who were at least 20 years old, which would indicate that unlike for the three women, these modifications were both voluntary and desired. Several theories exist on why they took part in this – perhaps as a test to endure pain or to show membership in a warrior group.

Toplak and Kerk see these body modifications as not merely physical alterations but embodied signals that sent complex messages to the Gotland community. These modifications served as visual cues that communicated a wealth of information about an individual's social status, group affiliation, and possibly even their cultural background.

Furthermore, the study underscores the dynamic nature of these embodied signals, suggesting that the meanings behind these body modifications could evolve and be reinterpreted over time. The researchers argue that these physical alterations were part of a broader system of communication within Viking Age society, where individuals could express aspects of their identity, status, and affiliations through their bodies. By decoding these embodied signals, researchers can gain valuable insights into the social dynamics and cultural practices of Viking communities, revealing a deeper understanding of how individuals navigated and communicated their place within their society through physical transformations.

The article, "Body Modification on Viking Age Gotland: Filed Teeth and Artificially Modified Skulls as Embodiment of Social Identities," by Matthias S. Toplak and Lukas Kerk, appears in the latest issue of *Current Swedish Archaeology*. Matthias S. Toplak is the Head of the Viking Museum Hedeby. You can read more of Matthias' research through his Academia.edu page. Lukas Kerk is a Doctoral student at the University of Munster, where his research focuses on 'Archaeologically evident permanent body modifications.

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**This space is available. Why not consider submitting something for next time?**

**Wanted: Contributions for future *Scandinavian Collectors Club Chapter 27 Newsletters* so that your Editor can continue to incorporate additional pages of items of interest each issue.** Anything is welcome: brief articles, collection and exhibit pages, scans or color photocopies of your favorite stamps or covers (preferably with explanatory captions), Scandinavian humor, items for a "Questions and Answers" feature, etc. Submissions to [rcichorz@comcast.net](mailto:rcichorz@comcast.net).