

# DANISH WEST INDIES STUDY GROUP

## SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB

[www.scc-online.org](http://www.scc-online.org)

Editor-Coordinator: Arnold Sorensen. Email [valbydwi@hotmail.com](mailto:valbydwi@hotmail.com)

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NEWSLETTER No. 33

March 2011

This Newsletter has an exiting article by Bernd Stein about the two separate 10 cent printings of print 6, something neither Hagemann's nor Engstrom's books mention. The 3 cents printing 6 also had two separate printings and both books mentions this.

Several members have asked about the availability of all prior newsletters. A CD collection is being prepared.

### FOLLOW-UP OF NEWSLETTER No. 32

Newsletter No. 32 attracted several new Study Group Members including the Danish Post And Tele Museum. There were also multiple requests regarding the possibility of obtaining the 29 Newsletters issued by Dr. Roger Schnell and John DuBois, and since they add up to more than 150 pages, it is more logical to reproduce them electronically than to copy and mail them.

Newsletter 32 was emailed to a number of Study Group members before being posted on the SCC Website, and Bernd Stein submitted several bicolored stamps with earlier ERP's. These new ERP's can be found on he Newsletter posted on the SCC Website.

Newsletter 31 showed several 2 cent postal cards that appeared to have been mailed locally without having been assessed postage due (the published local post card rate was three cents), and discussed two Danish articles by Svend Seitzberg and Henning Mathiesen. The article by the latter proposed that it was possible the local post card rate had been reduced to two cents even though there is no published record of such a rate. An earlier article by John DuBois had called the local 2 cents rate a "phantom rate".

Svend Seitzberg sent the following comment regarding this "phantom" 2-cent rate:

Regarding an unpublished local 2 cents rate, though it may not be logical that the rate to nearby islands was cheaper than the local rate, a similar situation existed in Denmark about 1900 where the local rate was higher than the rate to Norway and Sweden.

Most of the 2 cent postal cards I have seen were sent to a Caribbean destination, and the local ones are mostly from the first part of the period. (He included several examples) There are many cards mailed by apotheker Riise in St. Thomas to various physicians. They all have 3 cents postage, and I am sure that if there was an unpublished 2 cents rate he would have known about it and would have spared the extra one sent.

John DuBois also wrote this editor that he personally did not believe that a local 2-cent post card rate existed. Significantly, No one wrote in support of a 2-cent rate, so it may be more reasonable to believe it never existed, and that some postal cards were mailed with an incorrect rate.

**PORTO CANCEL UPDATES:** Svend Seitzberg also found an error among the dates given for the circular "PORTO" cancel covers in Newsletter 31. The correct date for the sixth cover listed (second weight class sold at Hoiland Auction April 2001) is 8/5/1862 (rather than 8/9/1862).

Another member sent illustrations of two Circular PORTO covers to the index. One has a St. Thomas cancel 30 May, 1861 to T. Kronsén, St. Croix and a red "4" postage due crayon mark. It may be the first cover listed in the Newsletter index, but now the date is complete.

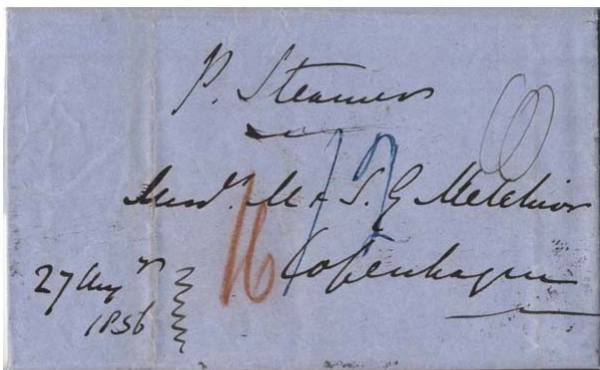
Mr. Seitzberg submitted two postal cards, and they are shown below. The first is a 2-cent postal card mailed locally and assessed 2 cents postage due. It shows the post office did penalize locally used 2-cent cards. The second card was in response to a request for a "Type 2 C" cancel used in St. Thomas to identify mail that arrived from Christiansted without cancels. It is dated 31 December 1914, and has previously been illustrated as Lot No. 3289 in the Thomas Høiland 24 April 2001 auction.



Tony Gade in Denmark has joined the study group, and his special interest are covers mailed from the D.W.I. to Denmark. He submitted two covers shown below. The first is from St. Croix to Copenhagen dated 27 July 1856 via the British Post Office, and while there are many of these covers to merchants in Copenhagen, this one is different from the others I have seen. At this date the DWI Post Office had opened, and such covers typically have either a Christiansted or Frederiksted cancel, an indication that 4 cents cash had been paid to the DWI post office. THIS ONE DOES NOT! It is the first time I have seen a DWI cover sent privately to the British St. Thomas Post Office via a forwarder (J. F. Peniston & Co.). This forwarder is listed in the DWI Mails Volume 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition as having been a forwarder from 1841-1854, so this extends their operation two additional years. The forwarding cost must have been less than four cents.

Tony Gade asks if anyone else seen a cover like this? His email is [tonygade@hotmail.com](mailto:tonygade@hotmail.com).

He also submitted the St. Jan cover dated 4.4.1893 to U.S.A.



The Danish Post and Telemuseum has full sheets of all the D.W.I. bicolored stamps except 10 cents print 6b. The plating has been unknown until recently when Bernd Stein (Germany) and Hans and Inga Mortensen (Denmark) began studying it, and it is a pleasure having Mr. Stein submitting the following article about 10ø6b. His references show that it has been briefly described in the Danish journal starting twenty years ago, and otherwise was briefly mentioned in Lasse Nielsen's book, so this review may be the first time many D.W.I. specialists learn about this exiting development.

### **Danish West Indies Bicoloured 10 Cents print 6** **About the separation between print 6a and 6b**

Bernd Stein

In December 1888 a total of 2000 sheets of 10 Cents stamps with frame-setting 28 (106 series) were printed, of which 250 sheets had to be destroyed as printer's waste and were printed again in January 1889. The same frame-setting was used, but the oval-setting had been broken up in the meantime and the oval-clichés were arranged in another order. So this second edition of print 6 can be separated from the first part by the different oval-setting (as well as the frame-colours - as we shall see later).



Fig. 1: 10 Cents 6a and 10 Cents 6b, both position 38 (with big dent in east-frame - "106-flaw"). 10c6a with oval-flaw 42 (unclear white spot at the top of S of CENTS) and 10c6b with oval-flaw 13 (short first hatching line to the right of the cross above the crown, additionally the oval-line is missing above VE and under 10).

But first of all let's have a look back in history, my oldest source is:

G.A.Hagemann, "The Stamps Of The Danish West Indies", Copenhagen 1930, pg. 44:  
"VI. Dec. 1888. ... Impression heavy. The frame is sometimes blurred.  
Colours: the oval is darker than V, the frame has many shades.  
a. dark blackish brown and dirty grey-blue,  
b. black-brown and dirty blue-grey."

But Hagemann minimized the description of this print in his next work  
"Danmarks Og Dansk Vestindiens Tofarvede Frimærker 1870-1905", Copenhagen 1941, pg. 130: "VI. (Dec. 1888), ... The oval is black-brown, the darkest of all, the frame is grey-blue."

More precisely was Doris T. Stericker in her article about  
"The Plating of the Sixth Printing of the 10 Cent Bicolored Stamp of the Danish West Indies", The Posthorn, Volume 4, Number 4, October 1947:

“The impression is rather heavy and the colors are dull gray-blue and dark black-brown or blue-gray and black-brown.”

Surprisingly Mrs. Stericker did not find the two different oval-settings, despite having 72 plated positions, which had been compared with a full sheet of print 6a. From the colour-descriptions it is obvious, that she had seen one stamp from print 6b.

Douglas Collard and Victor E. Engstrom used Hagemann’s descriptions again in “Danish West Indies Mails, 1754 – 1917, Volume 2: The Postal Emissions”, 1981, pg. 7-23: “10 VI Dec. 1888. Black brown (the darkest of all) and gray blue (varies considerably). ...Heavy impression and frame sometimes blurred.”

The Danish “AFA Specialkatalog 1981/82” contained a section of more than 100 pages about the bicoloured stamps, which was worked out by Børge Schäffer and Lasse Nielsen. On pg. 284 and 398 you only find: “6. tr. dec. 1888 grey-blue / black-brown.....”

The first one to discover the two different oval-settings was Svend K. Seitzberg. In his article “Danmarks og Dansk Vestindiens tofarvede frimærker. D.V.I. 10 cents tryk 6”, Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift (NFT), March 1991 he showed position 35 with two different ovals and concluded: “Herewith it should be proved, that 10 Cents print 6 has to be divided in two groups:

Print 6.1: oval-setting 1, 1750 sheets (no. 35 with oval-flaw)

Print 6.2: oval-setting 2, 250 sheets (no. 35 without oval-flaw)

The colours on 6.2 seem to be dark and heavy, also the clichés are worn.”



Fig. 2 showing Svend Seitzberg’s argumentation:

**To the left** 10 Cents print 6a position 35 with frame-matrix type 4N and oval-flaw 3 (white dot at the R of ØER and oval-matrix type 6, “wavy” oval-line under CEN), **in the middle** 10 Cents print 6b position 35 with oval-flaw 21 (break of a hatching-line above the spike to the left of the crown and oval-matrix type 7, dot above E of SKE), and **to the right** 10 Cents print 6b position 36 with frame-matrix type 4H and oval-flaw 3. (The 10c6b pos.35 also having a rare inverted watermark).

The Danish expert Slavomir Kaiser had exemplified the difference of the colours in his proof-collection.

In his monumental six-volume work “The Bicoloured Stamps of Denmark 1870 – 1905”, Copenhagen 2001, Lasse Nielsen wrote (volume III, pg. 969 – 970):

“10 cents print / tryk 6a ... The oval is very dark brown, as prints 2 and 3. The frame is rather light dull grey-blue. ...10 cents print / tryk 6b ... Same colours as print 6a.”

The following year I discussed this with Lasse Nielsen and learned, that he had too little material from print 6b (only two stamps) to base a certain statement on. But together with my stamps we concluded, that there is definite difference especially in the frame-colour:

**Print 6a has rather light dull grey-blue frames, woolly (blurred) print, while in print 6b the frames have a bit darker and more bluish shade, dry (and sharper) print.**

Furthermore the ovals in 6b are usually more worn (with poor covering colour) and a bit lighter than in 6a.

There was only one problem left: The oval-setting of print 6b was still (almost) completely unknown, as – in contrary to all other prints of the Danish West Indies bicoloured stamps – there is no full-sheet in the archives of the Post & Tele Museum Danmark in Copenhagen! (And I doubt, that there is existing one anywhere else.)

From 2005 on I registered all known stamps from print 6b – quite a difficult task due to the very limited material on the market. But with help especially from Inga and Hans Mortensen and other collectors I have noted until the date of writing (October 2, 2010) 120 copies from 70 different positions. Here are some statistics:

Like in print 6a the perforation-machines KI (61 copies) and KII (59 copies) were used. Interestingly are 27 of the 35 positions, that are listed with two or more copies, perforated with KI as well as KII ! Based only on these few stamps it seems to be very likely, that the KI and KII were each in use for about the half of the 250 sheets.

Six stamps are known with inverted watermark (KI and KII, minimum 3 sheets).

Eight covers with stamps from 10c6b are known to me.

Cancellations: Christiansted	29	(earliest 19/4 1893, latest 4/8 1897)
Christianssted	1	(earliest .8/.1 1892)
Frederiksted	33	(earliest .6/6 1893)
...sted	16	(either Christiansted or Frederiksted, earliest ../. 1893)
St.Thomas	26	(earliest .1/12 1893, .2/12 1893)
St.Thomas (Roman)	2	(4/4 1894, 23/4 1894)
4-ring	10	

The cancellations from St.Jan and Kingshill are not registered until now.

Three unused stamps, two without gum and one regummed.

Largest units: three pairs.

In 2008 Lasse Nielsen made a great discovery: he found, that after the use for print 6b the oval-clichés were kept in blocks of twenty, and these blocks were used in reversed sequence for print 7:

Print 6b positions 1 - 20 changed to print 7 positions 81 - 100,  
 print 6b positions 21 - 40 changed to print 7 positions 61 - 80,  
 print 6b positions 41 - 60 changed to print 7 positions 41 - 60 (same positions!),  
 print 6b positions 61 - 80 changed to print 7 positions 21 - 40 and  
 print 6b positions 81 - 100 changed to print 7 positions 1 - 20.

(For more details – in Danish – please have a look at: [www.tofarvet.dk](http://www.tofarvet.dk) DVI 10 cents – afsløring af ovalsettingen i tryk 6b en kommentar – 06.10.2008.

On the homepage of the Danish bicoloured study group you can also find informations about the newly discovered 10 Cents oval-matrix types 6, 7 and 8.

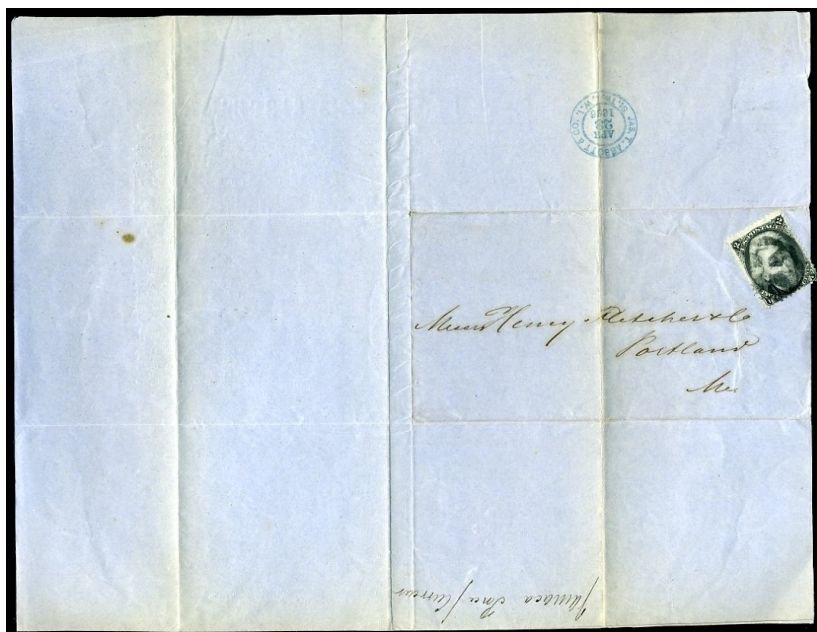
For informations about frame-matrix types, oval-flaw numbers and the perforation machines I refer to the special literature, these explanations would go beyond the scope of this article.)

So the problem with the oval-setting was solved!?! (As print 7 is known in a full-sheet, you can refer to print 6b. ) Not quite, because a closer examination showed, that Lasse's theory is correct only for about 90% of the clichés. Some minor modifications were made (probably accidentally while putting the clichés in or out of the storage box), so you can find f.ex. print 6b pos. 11 - 12 in print 7 as pos. 92 - 91, while print 6b pos. 41 - 42 - 43 were mixed up in print 7 to pos. 43 - 41 - 42.

As there are still 30 positions missing in my registration, I may kindly ask all readers to check out their material from 10 Cents print 6. If you discover any items from print 6b, please send me a good scan, it will be a pleasure for me to give a helping hand for plating. You can also send me an e-mail, if you are interested in the complete list of registered stamps. [BerndStein@intexx.de](mailto:BerndStein@intexx.de).

**JAS. T. ABBOTT Printed Circular Dated 23 April 1866 to Portland, Maine.**

There are very few "printed circulars" sent at the printed matter rate from St. Thomas via the United States and Brazil Steamship Company. This one has the two cents "Blackjack" Scott No. 73, and has no St. Thomas postmarks. The printed matter rate within the U.S.A. was 2 cents, but there is no recorded knowledge if D.W.I. printed matter could be mailed at this rate, or if the rate was actually four cents. The D.W.I. St. Thomas post Office sold U.S. stamps, and it is not known if it would have been mailed directly from St. Thomas, or if the circular was mailed in the U.S.A. with the stamp having been affixed in St. Thomas. Even if the rate was 2 cents from St. Thomas, the D.W.I. Post Office was not allowed to cancel the stamp.



Many, many thanks to those who kindly provided material for this newsletter.

In 1855 the British Post Office in St. Thomas had a fire, and as a result lost the day and month inserts in the date cancel, and for a few months it was used having only "1855" for a date. The *Posthorn* had a brief article about this event in 2010, and I can email a copy if you don't have access to the *Posthorn*.

The most recent *Posthorn* has an article about postal cards from Faroe Islands, Iceland and Danish West Indies having tourist pictures printed on them. The illustrations include two scenes from the D.W.I.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY INTERESTING MATERIAL FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

An article titled "Printed matter from the Danish West Indies" has been submitted to the *Posthorn*.