

The Classic Stamps of Denmark 1851 - 1863

This exhibit is a display of the first ten postage stamps, considered the true classics of Denmark and recognizable for their simple square and beautifully elegant design.

Especially the two first issues from 1851; the 4 and 2 R.B.S. always draws special interest since the 4 R.B.S. Ferslew printing had undergone retouching of the plates during the early printing process and for another reason the blue 2 R.B.S. intended only for the local foot post service within the ramparts of the capital of Copenhagen only.

The issues from 1854 to 1857 appeared in a new design and was a direct result of the political unrest within the German speaking population in the Duchies especially Holsten and Lauenburg. The values were 2, 4, 8 and 16 S., dotted spandrels and Danish spelling in the text bands were replaced with abbreviated text, readable both in German and Danish, but also text in the sheet watermark changed to the so-called Holsten watermark paper.

In 1858 a redesign of the 1854-57 issue was put into circulation and now with wavy line spandrels instead of dotted spandrels, but 4 and 8 S values only.

The final square stamps are from 1863. The 4 and 16 S. were issued with roulette perforation. The 16 S. 1857 clichés were re-used in a new setting. The life of classics ceased simultaneously when the Duchies were lost in the 1864-war.

For cancellation a mute 4-ring canceller was initially used from 1851. From October 1852 then replaced with a 3-ring numeral canceller identifying senders post office. Many of the used stamps in this exhibit are cancelled in the Duchies of Slesvig, Holsten and Lauenburg and generally scarcer than those cancelled within the Kingdom. Only from 1st July 1853 stamps were introduced in Holsten and Lauenburg.

It is worth noting that the stamps were not at all permitted for use in the first three years for foreign mail before 15th July 1854 and consequently the 4 R.B.S. and 2 R.B.S. were nearly never used on letters sent to foreign countries.

Organisation of the exhibit:

Section	Year	Issue
1		Title Page
2	1851	4 R.B.S. Ferslew's printing
3	-	2 R.B.S. Ferslew's printing (#3 not in Notes)
4	1852	4 R.B.S. Thiele's I printing
5	-	2 R.B.S. Thiele's printing
6.1	1853	4 R.B.S. Thiele's II printing, blackish brown
6.2	-	4 R.B.S. Thiele's II printing, reddish brown
7.1 - 7.6	1854	4 R.B.S. Thiele's III printing, colour shades
8	1855	2 S. 1855 dotted spandrels
9 - 9.6	1854	4 S. 1854 dotted spandrels

10	1857	8 S. 1857	dotted spandrels
11	1857	16 S. 1857	dotted spandrels
12-12.4	1858	4 S. 1858	wavy-line spandrels, watermark I
13	1860	4 S. 1860	wavy-line spandrels, watermark II
14	1858	8 S. 1858	wavy-line spandrels
15	1863	4 S. 1863	wavy-line spandrels, roulette
16	1863	16 S. 1863	dotted spandrels, roulette

The material chosen for this exhibit displays some essays and proofs that in fact are few among the classics. Unused and used stamps and in multiples also, plate flaws and varieties, examples of miscellaneous cancellations within the Kingdom and the Duchies, inland letters and letters sent abroad, mixed issues and a examples of letters with foreign stamps sharing the postage.

An effort has been made in collecting largest recorded examples when either unused, used or even on letters. Largest recorded, rare and unusual items have been marked with a red text throughout the exhibit.

Outstanding and significant philatelic items:

Frame

- 4 R.B.S. First Day Letter's (p.3,4)
Ferslew 1st strip of four and on letter (p.8)
4 R.B.S. Ferslew inv. wm. on letter with mandatory pen cancel (p.11)
4 R.B.S. Ferslew strip of seven on letter (p.12)
- 2 R.B.S. Ferslew mixed franking with 4 R.B.S. Ferslew (p.5)
4 R.B.S. Thiele I mixed franking with GB 1d mark (p.9)
4 R.B.S. Thiele I mixed franking with GB 1d postage stamp (p.9)
2 R.B.S. Thiele used block of four (p.11)
2 R.B.S. Thiele mixed franking with GB 1d mark (p.12)
2 R.B.S. Thiele and 4 R.B.S. Thiele III on letter (p.12)
2 R.B.S. Thiele and 5-strip 4 R.B.S. Thiele III on letter (p.15)
2 R.B.S. Thiele and 4-strip 4 S. 1854 on letter (p.15)
- 4 R.B.S. Thiele II, 6-strip on letter (p.8)
4 R.B.S. Thiele III, block of 4 with pen cancellation (p.13)
- 4 R.B.S. Thiele III, six stamps on letter (p.3)
4 R.B.S. Thiele II mixed with 4 R.B.S. Thiele III on letter (p.12)
- 2 S. 1855 used block of eight (p.1)
2 S. 1855 mixed franking with GB 2d (p.5)
4 S. 1854 mint block of six and mint strip of six (p.6)
4 S. 1854 and 4 R.B.S. Thiele III on letter (p.8)
4 S. 1854 block of 12 on letter to Norway (p.14)
4 S. 1854 on Prussian and Hannover stationery envelopes (p.15)
- 16 S. 1857 strip of four on letter to U.S.A. (p.16)
- 4 S. 1858 essay block of eight, used block of eight (p.1)
4 S. 1862 mint block of ten, used block of eight (p.15)
- 8 S. 1858 mint pair (p.1)
4 S. 1863 used block of eight (p.6)
4 S. 1863 mixed franking with GB 2d (p.6)
4 S. 1863 NUM 213, NUM 214 and Ribe c.d.s. on letters (p.8)
4 S. 1863 block of six on letter to Norway (p.10)
4 S. 1863 strip of seven on letter (p.12)
16 S. 1863 used block of four (p.13)
16 S. 1863 4-strip on letter to Danish West Indies (p.15)

Applied Literature:

Karsten Jensen	Danmarks Klassiske Frimærkeudgaver, 1851-1863 Registrant over de størst kendte enheder
Karsten Jensen	Danske Frimærketrukkede Forsendelser til og fra Udlandet, 1851-1905, 1. November 2019
J. Schmidt-Andersen	Danmarks Første Frimærke, 1961
J. Schmidt-Andersen	Danmarks Frimærker 1854-1857 og 1863, 1958
J. Schmidt-Andersen	Danmarks Gennemstukne Frimærker 1863, 1962
J. Schmidt-Andersen	Danmarks Frimærker 1858-1862, 1964

Steen Christensen	2 Rigsbank-Skilling 1851-1852, 1980
Mark Lorentzen	Early Junk Mail: Price Circulars from Great Britain to Denmark 1850-UPU
Erik Paaskesen	DAKA Danmark 1999
Lasse Nielsen	Oversigt over de klassiske frimærkeudgaver, 1986
Ole Steen Jacobsen	Bogen om den Kjøbenhavnske Fodpost 1806-1876
Stvend Arnholtz	Danske Poststempler, K/PK 1953
Gottfredsen, Hart	Danske Breve 1851-1979, Bind 1 og II, 1979
Vagn Jensen, Jan Hølding	Danmarks Poststempler, Annuleringsstempler