

Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik visit the Faroe Islands 2010
Photo: Scanpix

Posta Stamps

Faroe Islands

No. **10**
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Three new Stamp Issues
Stamp program 2012
Choose Stamp of the Year 2011
End Sale of the Year



Posta
FAROE ISLANDS



FO 724



Queen of Denmark for 40 years

Test proof

On 14 January 2012, forty years have passed since Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II became Queen of Denmark. Queen Margrethe is the constitutional head of the Kingdom of Denmark, which includes Denmark and the two autonomous regions: Greenland and the Faroe Islands. On this occasion the Faroese Posta, Post Denmark and Post Greenland issue a common stamp and a mini-sheet.

Queen Margrethe was born on 16 April 1940 at Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen. Her parents were Crown Prince Frederik, later King Frederik IX, and Crown Princess Ingrid. In 1944 and 1946 the couple had two more daughters, respectively Princess Benedikte and Princess Anne-Marie of Denmark. Princess Margrethe was baptized in Holmen Church in Copenhagen on 14 May 1940. Her full name was Margrethe Alexandrine Þórhildur Ingrid. At that time, female succession to the throne was not an option, so not until the introduction of the Act of Succession of 27 March 1953, Princess Margrethe became Crown Princess of Denmark and heir to the throne. On 16 April 1958, Crown Princess Margrethe took seat in the State Council and served as head of State Council meetings when her father King Frederik IX was absent.

Education

The young Princess Margrethe received her primary school education at Zahle's School in Copenhagen from 1946 to 1955. The first couple of years though, the education took place at Amalienborg Palace. After a short stay at boarding school in England (1955-56), she started on her high school education and graduated from Zahle's

School in 1959. In 1960 Crown Princess Margrethe took the obligatory examination in philosophy at the University of Copenhagen. In 1960-61 she attended studies in archeology at the University of Cambridge in England. In the period 1961-62 Margrethe studied political science at University of Århus, in 1963 she studied in Sorbonne, France and in 1965 at the London School of Economics.

In 1967 Crown Princess Margrethe married the French diplomat Henri Marie Jean André Count de Laborde de Monpezat, who by this marriage became Prince Henrik of Denmark. They had two sons, Crown Prince Frederik, born on 26 May 1968, and Prince Joachim, born on 7 June 1969.

From Crown Princess to Queen

On 14 January 1972 King Frederik IX died. The next day, the Crown Princess was hailed as Queen Margrethe II by Prime Minister Jens Otto Krag at Christiansborg Castle Square.

The Constitutional Head of State

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II is the constitutional Head of State of Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. This means that she as a ruler has no political powers or influence – these lies with the democratically elected parliaments.

The Queen's role in elections

When time calls for elections to the Danish Parliament, the Prime Minister visits the Queen, submits his resignation and recommends general elections. When the elections are over, the Queen calls for a so-called Queen's Round, where two



representatives from each elected party visit her at Amalienborg Palace and recommend a leader for new government negotiations. This person will then be summoned and appointed formal negotiator. When the political parties in question have made an agreement for the terms of a new government, the new Prime Minister and his/her team of ministers visit the Queen again for the official approval.

The State Council

Once a week the Danish State Council is held, where the Queen meets the Prime Minister and Government. At this council the Queen or her deputy is informed of the Government's work. It is also at this meeting that the Queen signs new laws together with the responsible ministers.

The Queen's New Year Speech

Every year on 31 December, Queen Margrethe delivers the so-called New Year Speech, which is broadcasted live in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. With this speech the Queen makes status over the year that has passed. This tradition is very popular, and although it is not a political speech, it may contain a remark or two of humanitarian or moral character.

Other Duties

As Head of State, it is the Queen's duty to preside at formal State Visits, both when she makes official visits to other countries and when foreign Head of States visit Denmark. The Queen of Denmark is formally the head of the Danish

Army. It is also the Queen who formally welcomes foreign ambassadors, when they arrive in Denmark. Additionally, the Queen performs some representative tasks in connection with anniversaries, inaugurations, premieres, award of orders, etc.

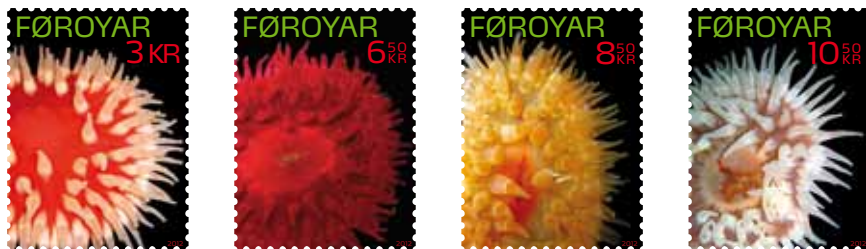
The Summer Cruise

Each year the Queen performs a so-called Summer Cruise to Danish cities – mostly with the royal yacht "Dannebrog". At regular intervals, the summer cruise also includes visits to the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Great numbers of people meet the Queen at her arrivals, and indicate the Queen's popularity in the three countries.

The Queen and the Faroe Islands

Since 1380, the Faroe Islands have been part of the Kingdom of Denmark -first as a part of Norway, then with direct connection to Denmark. Although the progress has developed into greater political autonomy, Queen Margrethe is very popular among the Faroese population, who have followed her since her first visit on the islands as a child. The Queen's insight into Faroese relations and history is highly appreciated and there is no doubt that a large proportion of the population looks forward to her traditional summer visits.

Queen Margrethe II is the Queen of the Faroese as well as the Greenlanders and Danes, no doubt about that.



FO 725-728

Sea Anemone - Flowers of the Sea

Sea anemones are related to jellyfish and corals, all of which have a relatively simple circular body shape with numerous tentacles surrounding a mouth at one end of the organism. At the opposite end, sea anemones have a suction disc with which they can attach themselves firmly to a hard surface, whereas jellyfish live their lives swimming in open waters. In contrast to corals, sea anemones have no skeleton and act as independent individuals, whereas corals form colonies.

Sea anemones' shapes and colours give them a striking appearance reminiscent of exotic tropical plants, which also inspired their name and overall scientific classification, Anthozoa (Greek: antho=flowers and zoa=animals).

Sea anemones are found in all oceans and at all depths, from just below the water surface to depths of more than 10,000 metres. Many species are found on wharfs and rocks at the water surface, where they add colour to the more neutral blue-green or brown surroundings – one of the reasons that most people with a relationship to the sea are fond of them. In unsteady waters or

when touched, the sea anemone retracts its tentacles into its tubular body, appearing as a hemisphere with a hole at the top.

Despite their flower-like appearance, most sea anemones are predators. They have numerous poisonous cells on their surface – especially on their tentacles, each of which can hold about 2 million of these cells. The poisonous cells paralyse prey, after which it is captured and transported through the sea anemone's mouth and into its intestinal cavity, where it is digested.

The sea anemone can only attach itself to a hard surface. It is able to slowly glide on its foot at a speed of less than 10 cm per hour. There are certain species that can release their grip on the surface and float with the current if necessary, and others can even swim using their tentacles, which can help to escape from an approaching predator. The sea anemone's enemies include nudibranchs, fish and starfish. However, sea anemones have a very high capacity for regeneration. Parts of the animal torn off due to bad weather or a predator grow back again.



Photo: Ingi Sørensen

It is not uncommon for sea anemones to be attached to other animals, such as the hermit crab. In this way, sea anemones come in contact with more potential food – and the behaviour of the hermit crab can attract potential prey of the sea anemone. In return, the hermit crab is protected by the sea anemone from infection by larvae of various crustacean parasites.

Sea anemones reproduce both sexually, with sperm and eggs, and asexually, typically through pedal laceration, in which a small piece of the pedal disc breaks off. This piece then develops into a new sea anemone that is a clone of the mother.

Marine biologists consider it difficult to determine the species of sea anemones. Conservation of this animal group requires special methods and specialist knowledge is required to ensure correct identification. Although the sea anemone fauna in the Faroese area is not yet completely documented, it can be characterised as Nordic

– or in scientific terms, East Atlantic Boreal – with an Arctic touch. Thirty species of sea anemone have been identified in the Faroes, but the total number of species is presumably higher.

The size of Faroese sea anemones varies greatly. The diameter of fully grown sea anemones varies from more than 30 centimetres for the largest species, *Bolocera tuediae*, down to a couple of millimetres with *Edvardisia danica*. The longest species in the Nordic seas is the very common Frilled Anemone (*Metridium senile*), which can reach lengths of a half metre. Some species of sea anemone can reach a considerable age; for example, a sea anemone of the species *Actinia equina* has lived for more than 66 years in an aquarium.

Ámundur Nolsø



FO 729-730

Test proof

Animals of the Viking Age

The Great Auk

Latin: *Pinguinus impennis*

The Great Auk was a bird of the genus *Alca*, which also includes the Little Auk, Common Murre, Razor Bill and Atlantic Puffin. All of these species live or lived in the North Atlantic. The Great Auk was the largest of these birds and could grow up to 70 cm in height. Some of the other *Alca* birds had bright or whitish abdomens and dark-black backs, with a characteristic white spot on each side of the head, between the eyes and eye socket. They were flightless birds, with wings that were as small as the South Atlantic penguin. It was fast in the water when hunting fish but very clumsy on land. The Great Auk lived in large colonies along the coast on both sides of the North Atlantic, so far south that remains of the bird are found in Stone Age and Viking Age kitchen middens.

The bird's fate was sealed because it was easy to hunt and butcher. Already in the 15th century, the Great Auk was more or less extinct in Northern Europe but large colonies remained in Greenland, Iceland, Newfoundland, Baffin Island and Labrador. When cod

fishing began in Newfoundland and whale hunting began in the North Atlantic, the Great Auk's fate was sealed. The fishing and hunting boats only had supplies for the trip out, so the Great Auk was taken alive or butchered onboard the boats for the return journey.

The most famous colony was on the Penguin Islands (called Funk Island today), which lies north east of Newfoundland. The last Great Auks were killed in 1801-1802. At that point people were aware of how rare the bird had become and European museums were willing to pay a fortune to get hold of the skin of the Great Auk before it became extinct. The last Great Auks were taken in 1844 on the small island Eldey south of Reykjanes, Iceland, but there were unconfirmed observations of the Great Auk in Vardø in Norway in 1848 and several times in Greenland in the 1850s. But the bird is now extinct.

The Great Auk was a summer visitor to the Faroe Islands but there was never any evidence that it bred there. The last bird was taken at Stóra Dímun on 1 July 1808. There exist a few stuffed examples of the

Great Auk, for example Iceland purchased a pair that can be seen today in the Natural History Museum of Iceland. The Zoological Museum in Copenhagen has used the Great Auk as a logo for many years. Ole Worm's Museum Wormianum in Copenhagen was sent a living Great Auk. It was drawn showing a ring around its neck, which meant that it had been tethered.

The Great Auk is an example of a bird that was hunted to extinction purely because of a lack of knowledge about its population distribution. The fishermen of the day cannot be reproached for this, since they did not have the benefit of modern communication technology. But the museums could have perhaps tried to save the Great Auk rather than have helped to deliver the final blow.

Dímun Sheep

Latin: *Ovis aries*

In the summer of 1844, the then Danish Crown Prince, who would later go on to become King Frederik VII, visited the Faroe Islands. Among the royal entourage was a young zoologist by the name of Japetus Steenstrup, who had been sent by the Royal

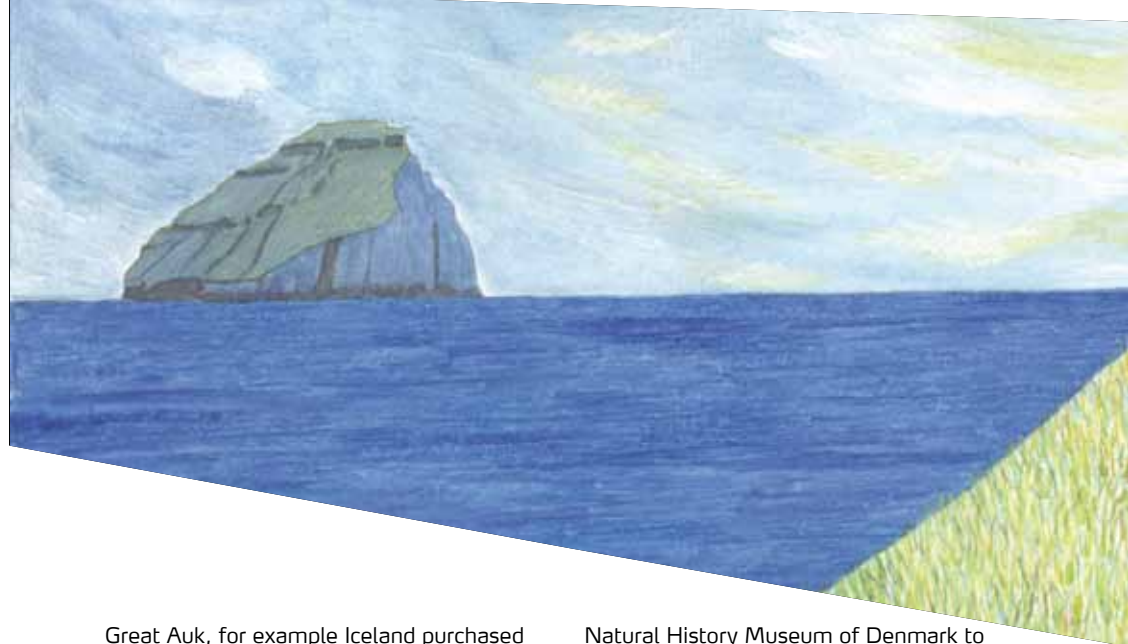
Natural History Museum of Denmark to collect specimens for the museum. In the Zoological Museum's collection records of 23 August 1844, it states:

"HRH the Crown Prince with Professor Steenstrup gave the following items to the museum:

1. 18-foot skeleton of *Delphinus globiceps* (pilot whale).
2. The feral variety of the Faroese sheep. No hair at the base of the horns or around the ears. The skull was loose.
3. Second specimen. Well preserved. The skull was loose.
4. The same juvenile. Male lamb. Well preserved. The skull was loose.

In 1983, the three specimens were returned to the Faroe Islands as part of the opening of Nordic House in the Faroe Islands and today they can be seen in the National Museum of the Faroe Islands.

The sheep are small and black and look a little like the more primitive feral Soay sheep that live on the island of St Kilda in the Outer Hebrides. They are called the goat-horned sheep, because both sexes have horns, though the ewe's horns are





smaller and more delicate than the ram's horns. The Dímun sheep are more developed compared to the Soay sheep, which have the wild sheep's light belly. Woollen garments recovered from Bronze Age burial sites have the same kind of wool and structure that is found on the Dímun sheep, so even at this early stage, wool from these sheep was being used.

The three sheep from Stóra Dímun were among the last of the original sheep in the Faroe Islands, and were perhaps brought by the Vikings. In an excavation in Eiði in the north end of Eysturoy, half a skull of the same kind of sheep was found. The Vikings brought their own sheep to Iceland and Greenland and almost certainly when they came to the Faroe Islands.

Around 1600, almost all of the sheep on the Faroe Islands were wiped out by disease. New sheep were introduced from Shetland and Iceland. But the small black sheep on Litlu Dímun managed to survive, although by 1860 they were finally wiped out by hunting.

A description of the final shooting of the last sheep on Litlu Dímun exists. On 5 February 1911, the Justice of the Peace R. Müller wrote in the Danish newspaper *Nationaltidende*:

"The remaining sheep were so wild that they would rather jump in into the abyss than be caught, especially some of the old rams and ewes, who were impossible to get near. So you had to take your rifle and shoot the last of them. The late J. Mortensen, merchant and founder of the largest trading establishment in the Faroe Islands, was a gifted shooter and he told me that he shot several of these sheep and that he had shot the last of them, an old ram that was so careful that shooting it cost him a great deal of effort."

Dorethe Block

Queen for 40 years



Black Print in a limited edition & souvenir folder

In connection with the stamp issue "Queen for 40 years" which is a joint issue between the Faroe Islands, Denmark and Greenland some special products have been produced.

A beautiful souvenir folder with all three souvenir sheets has been made and also a so called black print of the stamp. All the black press are numbered and signed by hand by the artist Mikael Melby and the graveur Martin Mörck. They will be delivered in a card.

This is the first time that Posta Faroe Islands sells a black print as a special product. It is only made in a limited edition, so you have to order it right away to be sure to get one copy.

The souvenir folder with the three souvenir sheets costs 45,- DKK

The black press costs 100,- DKK

We will also be selling the products from Denmark and Greenland belonging to this issue. That means that we will be selling the stamps and the minisheets as well as the first days covers of "Queen for 40 years". But we will not be selling the cancelled stamps from these countries.

All these products can be ordered through the order form which is placed in the middle of this magazine and on our web-page www.stamps.fo

Stamp Program 2012

4. January

Margrethe II – Queen for 40 years

Posta Faroe Islands, Post Denmark and Post Greenland issue a common stamp issue on this occasion. Value: 10,50 kr. FO 724. It will be issued both as a minisheet and as a single stamp.

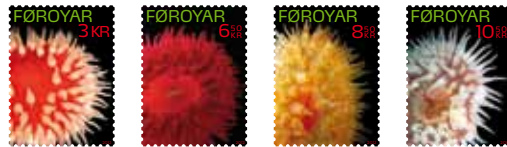
NB! This issue will be sent to the subscribers together with the February-issue.



20. February

Sea anemone

- four single stamps with photos of sea anemones. Photographer: Ingi Sørensen. A booklet with 8 selfadhesive stamps will also be published. Value: 3,00, 6,50, 8,50 and 10,50 kr. FO 725-728.



The animals of the vikings

- two stamps. Astrid Andreassen has drawn the great auk and the Dimon-sheep. Value: 13,00 and 21,00 kr. FO 729-730.



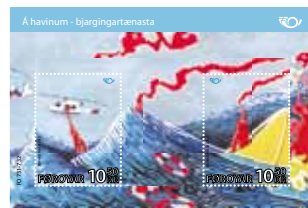
21. March

Nordic issue 2012 - Life at sea

- minisheet with two stamps showing sea rescue. Artist: Edward Fuglø.

Value: 2 x 10,50 kr. FO 731-732.

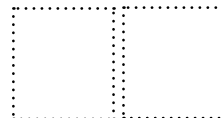
NB! This issue will be sent to the subscribers together with the April-issue.



30. april

Europa 2012: visit

- two single stamps. Photos showing activities in the Faroe Islands. To postcards will also be published. Value: 6,50 and 10,50 kr. FO 733-734.



Monsters

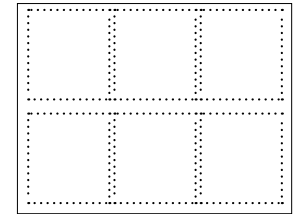
- four single stamps with drawings of Edward Fuglø. Values: 6,50, 11,00, 17,00 and 19,00 kr. FO 735-738.



24. september

Begin the Blacksmith- Faroese ballad

- sheetlet with six stamps. Artist: Anker Eli Petersen. Value: 6 x 11,00 kr. FO 739-744.



Nordic modern art:

Jan Håfstrøm & Edward Fuglø

- two single stamps with paintings of these two artists. Value: 13,00 and 21,00 kr. FO 745-746.



The old pharmacy in Klaksvík 80 years:

- one stamp. Photo of the old pharmacy in Klaksvík. Artist: Anker Eli Petersen. Value: 8,50 kr. FO 747.

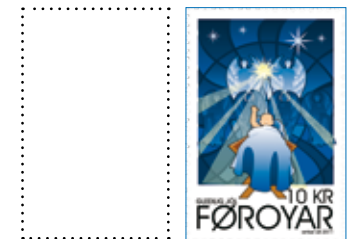


Christmas Carols 3

- two single stamps illustrating the third issue of the series Christmas Carols.

"Gleðilig jól" and "Jól hava einglaljóð".

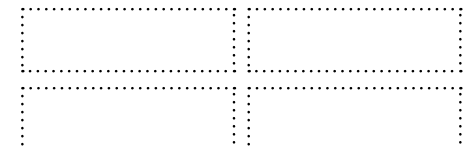
Artist: Anker Eli Petersen. A booklet with 8 stamps and two postcards will also be published. Value: 6,50 and 10,50 kr. FO 748-749.DKK.



Franking labels 2012

Four franking labels.

The motif is StreetArt. Artists: young people from the Youth House "Margarinfabrikin".



5. november

Yearbook, year pack (300,50 kr.) and the Christmas Seals. Janus Guttesen will be drawing the Christmas Seals 2012.

NB! This programme may change

Vote for Stamp of the Year 2011

- 1. prize is a trip to the Faroe Islands!



FO 700



FO 701



FO 702



FO 703



FO 704



FO 710



FO 711



FO 708



FO 709



FO 705-707



FO 712



FO 713



FO 716



FO 717



FO 714



FO 715



FO 718



FO 719-721



FO 719



FO 720



FO 721



FO 722



FO 723

2.prize:



3.prize:



This year's Grand Prize is a trip to the Faroe Islands. The trip is for one person only and the winner can travel to the Faroe Islands by ship or plane in the summer 2012. Four night at a hotel by further agreement with full board are included.

beautiful glass figurines pictured on the left. They are handmade by Mikkalina glass, and are 30 cm tall. Value: 1.000 DKK. You can read more about them at www.mikkalina.com.

The winner of the 2nd prize can choose one of the

Last, but not least, 5 lucky winners will be drawn for a yearbook 2010.

Cut out the coupon and send it to us or you can vote on www.stamps.fo
The deadline for voting is **15 March 2012!**

☒ Yes, I would like to register for the e-newsletter from
Posta Stamps sent by e-mail.
E-Mail: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code/Town: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Client No.: _____

Stamp of the year
2011 is:



Clearance Sale of the Year

Please note that 31 December 2011 is the last date of sale for the stamps and articles presented on these pages.

It is therefore your last opportunity to purchase the stamps at the nominal value.

The articles can be ordered by completing the enclosed coupon or by visiting our web-shop at www.stamps.fo.



FO 624-625



FO 627



FO 626



FO 649-650



FO 630-631



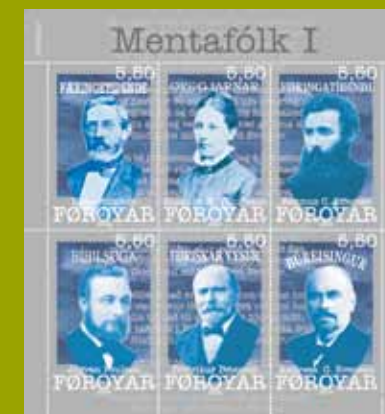
FO 618-623



FO 628-629



FO 639-648



FO 632-637

Yearbook 2007



FDC-folder 2007



Bookletfolder 2007



Yearpack 2007



New Stamp Issues 4 January and 20 February 2012



Test proof

New stamp issue: **Queen of Denmark for 40 years**
 Date of issue: 04.01.2012
 Value: 10,50 DKK
 Numbers: FO 724
 Stamp size: 38,4 x 28,8 mm
 Sheet size: 105 x 70 mm
 Artist: Mikael Melbye
 Printing method: Intaglio/Offset
 Engraver: Martin Mörck
 Printer: Post Danmark Frimærker
 Postal use: Small letters to Europe, 0-50 g



New stamp issue: **Sea Anemones**
 Date of issue: 20.02.2012
 Value: 3,00, 6,50, 8,50 og 10,50 DKK
 Numbers: FO 725-728
 Stamp size: 28,0 x 40,0 mm
 Drawings: Ingi Sørensen
 Printing method: Offset
 Printer: OeCd, Austria
 Postal use: Complimentary value, inland small letters and small letters to Europe, 0-50 g



New stamp issue: **Animals of the viking age**
 Date of issue: 20.02.2012
 Value: 13,00 and 21,00 DKK
 Numbers: FO 729-730
 Stamp size: 40 x 22,5 & 22,5 x 40 mm
 Layout: Astrid Andreassen
 Printing method: Offset
 Printer: Cartor Security, Frakland
 Postal use: Small letters outside Europe 0-50 g and large letters inland 101-250 g

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