

An underwater photograph showing a dense forest of seaweed and kelp. The water is a clear, vibrant blue. Several small fish are visible swimming among the green and yellow seaweed. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting sunlight filtering down from the surface.

**Posta** Stamps  
Faroe Islands

No. **2**  
November 2009

ISSN 1603-0036

Three New Stamp Issues  
German Collector visits the Faroes  
Clearance Sale of the Year 2009

The logo consists of a stylized graphic of two overlapping chevrons, one pointing up and to the right, and the other pointing down and to the left, creating a central diamond shape. The chevrons are colored in shades of blue and green.

**Posta**  
FAROE ISLANDS



## The Faroes – seen from the bottom of the sea

A fabulous submarine world seen through Ingi Sørensen's camera lens.

The Faroe Islands have many unique and beautiful submarine landscapes. Absolutely fantastic places where nobody has ever been. And many, many years will pass before even half of this exceptional, uncharted world at the bottom of the sea has been explored.

For my part, I take photographs in an attempt to make people aware of this unknown area of the Faroes that is simply waiting for divers to explore it.

There are also many hidden and forgotten shipwrecks from previous centuries here that conceal numerous exciting, thought-provoking secrets.

What makes diving in the Faroes so unique is the ever-varying submarine landscape, extensive thickets of seaweed alternating with attractive "sand eyes" (patches of sand on the bottom called *sandeyga* in Faroese), vertical walls that disappear into the depths and a host of submarine chasms and grottoes in shapes of all kinds that are really exciting to explore. The water is crystal clear in many places and allows the sun's rays to throw

shadows on the sea floor. Plaice, flounder, dab, small halibut and angler fish lie immobile in the sand while they observe the diver gliding soundlessly through the water like a bird floating across the firmament.

The Faroes are truly a diver's paradise that compares favourably with any other place on earth. Expressing the experience of sailing beneath the bird cliffs in fine weather before diving is no easy matter. The sun, the towering cliffs, the birds, the sea, the fish, the thickets of seaweed, the play of colours and incredible rock formations on the bottom where everything forms a synthesis are quite indescribable.

The four photos reproduced on the postage stamps were taken at Kvívík. Diving at Kvívík is like taking a walk in an enchanted grove, with the difference that you can see beautiful, multicoloured thickets of seaweed and the sandy bottom, or "sand eyes". You can either swim on the surface or negotiate a tangled thicket of seaweed to reach the sand and it was here, at a depth of about five metres, that the photos for the postage stamps were



taken. Many different life forms can be seen such as the big starfish that lives on horse mussels, which are also found here – very well camouflaged.

It's often possible to take the makings of a good dinner home with you: plaice, flounder or angler fish.

Another reason why I often dive at Kvívík is that it is fast and easy to get there from Tórshavn. Sailing is unnecessary as a 15-minute drive is all it takes. So it's easy to get out into the water and up again, and equipment can be rinsed with fresh water on the jetty.

My interest in diving was aroused when I worked as a lifeguard at a swimming pool in Tórshavn. I took the **Padi Open Water** course seven years ago and will never forget the absolutely fantastic feeling of diving at Hoyvík for the first time. It was an experience that made a deep impression on my soul. Since then, I have dived more or less every day and I have received many certificates for something that has given me countless

unique experiences. I now work as a commercial diver, but also dive on a recreational basis, which has also made taking photographs a passion. *Diving is living!* It is a world of its own that most people can experience if they have the will and make an effort. We have two diving schools in the Faroes where people can learn recreational diving. So put your name down – and the gateway to our beautiful submarine world will open for you!

Over the years I have dived on many occasions with tourists in the Faroes and seen the pleasure they take in our beautiful submarine landscapes. Many of them have told me that it was the best diving experience they have ever had – in spite of the fact that they have dived in many other places in the world. So this is something that the Faroese tourist industry could take up to advantage.

I hope that my photos will help to promote the development of the Faroes as a North Atlantic diver's paradise.

Ingi Sørensen

# Butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera)

To date, 154 different species of butterflies have been registered in the Faroe Islands. Most of them do not breed here, but arrive with the help of warm currents of air from the south, sometimes all the way from Southern Europe and Africa. New species are constantly being registered. It can be mentioned as an example that only 54 species had been registered in 1954 and that this had increased to 106 by 1999. Compared with the countries that lie to the south of the Faroes, 154 species is no great number. In Denmark, for instance, 2,500 species have been registered.

None of the species mentioned here are native to the Faroes, but can be seen here from time to time. The painted lady, *Vanessa cardui*, and the peacock butterfly belong to the brush-footed family, *Nymphalidae*, and fly during the day. The hawk-moth, *Agrius convolvuli*, and the death's-head hawk-moth, *Acherontia atropos*, belong to the *Sphingidae* family of moths and fly from twilight until late at night.

## The peacock butterfly, *Inachis io* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The peacock butterfly is a rare guest in the Faroes and was first registered here in 1938. The species is native to the countries south of us, such as Great Britain, Denmark and Norway. It has a wingspan of between 5-6 cm and an eye-spot at the tip of all four

wings that resemble the 'eyes' on a peacock's tail. The caterpillar, which lives on stinging nettles, (*Urtica dioica*) has been found in the Faroes only once and that was at Haldórsvík in 1992. In the countries the peacock butterfly is native to, it usually hibernates in such locations as warehouse buildings so it sometimes arrives in the country together with freight.

## The painted lady, *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The painted lady has a wingspan of 5-6 cm and is resident in North Africa. It is not seen in the Faroes every year, but some years see an invasion of them, such as in 2009, which has been called a record year throughout Europe. When they come to the Faroes they fly immediately to the top of the mountains. This phenomenon is known as "hill topping" and gives them a fine opportunity to find a mate once they have arrived in the new country. They then lay their eggs on the creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and on stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*) that the caterpillars feed on. A new generation hatches in the autumn if the summer has been fine and the butterflies fly south to winter in warmer countries.

The first time we hear about the painted lady in the Faroes is from expeditions during the



period 1863-68. The butterfly can travel long distances and one found its way to the far north in Svalbard in 1978.

## The hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The hawk-moth, which was first registered in the Faroes in 1947, comes from North Africa. Eleven of them were observed in the Faroes in 2003 and, as they are very rare here, this constituted a record year. They can have a wingspan of 12 cm and can fly as fast as 55 kilometres an hour. The hawk-moth lives on nectar and, like the hummingbird, it can hover in mid-air on its rapidly-beating wings while it feeds on nectar with the help of its long proboscis. The caterpillar lives on various species of the *Convolvulaceae* family, in the Faroes on plants of the dock family, *Rumex*.

## The death's-head hawk-moth, *Acherontia atropos* (Linnaeus, 1758)

This very rare guest from North Africa is the biggest moth ever found in the Faroes and can have a wingspan of more than 13 cm.

The death's head hawk moth is one of the few moths that can whistle by blowing air through its proboscis. The first time anything was heard of this moth in the Faroes was on 20 October 1933. Leif Dahl (Firvaldar 1956) wrote as follows:

"A man was fishing along the coast east of Fugloy. Suddenly, he saw what he thought were three small birds flying in from the sea. One of them fell into the water while the two others continued towards the land. When the man reached what he had thought was a bird, it proved to be a death's-head hawk-moth."

The female moth lays between 150 and 200 eggs, but the population has declined greatly. This is due to the fact that the caterpillar lives in areas where potatoes are grown and the commercialisation of potato-growing has led to the use of large quantities of pesticides. New, modern agricultural machinery is also believed to have had a negative effect on the population.

Hans Eli Sivertsen

# Long-finned Pilot Whale



The pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) is an extremely gregarious animal that regularly swims along the Faroese coast on its migration within its habitat in the northern Atlantic Ocean. During the approximately 300 years for which we have statistics, somewhere between 800 and 1500 whales have been killed annually in the Faroes. It is estimated that 1000 whales can produce roughly 500 tonnes of meat and blubber, and the pilot whale has thus been immensely important to the population of the islands down the ages.

The only terrestrial mammals on the Faroes are a few small rodents. Therefore, the only mammals that have been hunted regularly are seals, to be found in abundance along the coast. One exception is the hare, but it was introduced onto the islands in the 19th century. The capture of pilot whales is not hunting in the true sense of the word. They are not hunted. They are driven ashore when a pod happens to swim by.

On the Faroes there has always been free access to the resources of the sea. This also applies to pilot whales. On the other hand, catching them requires extensive social organisation. On account of the topography

of the islands, there are only a few places where it is possible to drive a pod of whales ashore and slaughter them. Since 1832, legislation has governed where pilot whales may be caught. There were probably also rules on this earlier. However, the legislation does not give the inhabitants of a village with a specified catch site a preferential right to catch the whales. The meat and blubber of pilot whales is equally distributed among all inhabitants, whether newborn or elderly. Even visitors get their lawful share. For practical reasons, the country is divided into pilot whale districts, but over time there will be food for all. In this way, a unique distribution system has emerged in connection with the exploitation of this important resource.

Everyone is entitled to participate in the catch. However, it has not been common to have women in the boats as the Faroese were previously very superstitious about women at sea. Things are probably different now. There have been no gender differences in connection with the distribution of the catch.

Some foreigners have often been fascinated by the capture of pilot whales in the Faroes. These include the Danish official Chr. Pløyen,



Long-finned pilot whale *Globicephala melas*

who composed the poem *Grindevise* in 1832. This enthusiastic poem of homage is in the style of a traditional ballad and has been in common use for the traditional pilot whale dance, a chain dance, often outdoors after a successful catch while people waited for distribution by the sheriff, celebrated the catch and needed to keep warm. The pilot whale dance is hardly danced any more.

In this way, the capture of pilot whales has also assumed a visible position in cultural life. A number of Faroese poets have also written about the capture of pilot whales in their poetry, in particular patriotic and regional poetry. These include Hans Andreas Djurhuus, Mikkjal á Ryggi and Jóannes Patursson.

In pictorial art, the capture of pilot whales has assumed an almost iconic position via the works of the well-known painter Sámal Joensen-Mikines. The slaughter of pilot whales is one of his main motifs and his works in this genre are among those that have made him best known.

In recent years, there has been occasionally severe international criticism of the traditional capture of pilot whales. The method of capture is criticised as being cruel to the animals and it is alleged that pilot whales are an endangered species. The Faroese maintain that, as the annual catch only represents just over 0.01% of the total population, it can hardly be said that they are under threat of extinction. On the other hand, significant improvements have been made to the method of slaughter. It is strictly monitored and governed by detailed rules to eliminate animal suffering. The Faroese have kept to their traditional capture of pilot whales despite the criticism and most still greatly appreciate a good meal of pilot whale meat and blubber. However, there is some indication that the youngest generation do not fully share their parents' taste, so we may find that the conflict between time-honoured tradition and modern philosophy of nature will be resolved entirely of its own accord in the not too distant future.

Eyðun Andreasen

# Stamp Programme 2010

## 22 February

### The Faroes - under the sea

– four single stamps. Photos: Ingi Sørensen. Common issue. Four postcards. Values: 1,00, 6,00, 8,00 and 12,00 DKK. FO 677-680.



### Butterflies

– four single stamps. Design: Astrid Andreassen. Values: 6,00, 8,00, 14,00 and 16,00 DKK. FO 681-684.



### Long-finned Pilot Whale

– one single stamp. Design: Edward Fuglø. Value: 50,00 DKK. FO 685.



## 26 April

### Nordic issue 2010 "Life at the coast - fish breeding"

– sheetlet with two stamps. Design: Edward Fuglø. Values: 2 x 10,00 DKK. FO 686-687.



### Europa 2010 "Children's Books"

– two single stamps. Children's books: "A dog, a cat and a mouse" by Bárður Oskarsson and "Moss Mollis' Journey" by Janus á Húsagarði. A booklet will also be issued. Values: 10,00 and 12,00 DKK. FO 688-689.



### Art with Faroese paint

– two single stamps with paintings by Eli Smith. Eli has developed his own "paint" using paint-ingredients such as coal and shells. Values: 18,00 and 24,00 DKK. FO 690-691.

## 20 September

### J. Chr. Svabo

– four single stamps. Design: A.E. Petersen. Values: 6,00, 12,00, 14,00 and 22,00 DKK. FO 692-695.



### Potatoes and swedes

– two single stamps. Design: Edward Fuglø. Values: 6,00 and 8,00 DKK. FO 696-697.



### Christmas Stamps

– two single stamps picturing Faroese Christmas carols. Design: A. E. Petersen. Booklet + two postcards. Values: 6,00 and 10,00 DKK. FO 698-699.



### Franking labels 2010

Four franking labels. The motifs are yet to be determined.

## 10 November

Yearbook, year pack (289,00 DKK) and Christmas Seals. The motifs for the Christmas Seals are yet to be determined.

NB! Please note that the Stamp Programme may change!



## German collector visits the Faroes

On 15 and 16 September several post offices and Samkeyp supermarkets were visited by a German who wanted to buy franking labels from 2008, which expired on 15 September 2009, but also franking labels from 2009, which were released on 16 September 2009.

Thomas von Loeper collects franking labels and is the owner of ATM International, a small firm that sells franking labels from all over the world.

He emphasises the need to be able to offer a wide range of franking labels of various values from different countries. The Post'n'Go selfservice machine where the franking labels are printed is also very important for some collectors.

This means that Thomas travels a good deal to acquire the latest franking labels on the

day they are released. He visited the Faroes for the first time in January 2009 to buy Faroese franking labels (which were released in October 2008) and he goes on about 20 similar trips around the world each year.

Thomas says that collectors of franking labels can be divided into several categories: "hard core" collectors, who want to have all alterations and variants in their collections, collectors who only want to buy the franking labels themselves and are known as theme collectors who collect postage stamps and franking labels from a given country or with a specific motif, and philatelists, who only collect franking labels and not ordinary postage stamps.

We thank Thomas von Loeper for his visit and look forward to welcoming him on another occasion.



## Faroe Islands - Memories for life

The Faroe Islands has a unique landscape and is steeped in history and culture. The everchanging weather of rain, mist, heat and sunshine adds to the variety of the natural delights you will find here. There are birds and sheep, a pristine nature and isolated villages. Exploring the Faroe Islands by car gives you the chance to see it all.

**Join GreeGate Incoming on this self drive tour that gives you the opportunity to explore the Faroe Island in 8 days.**

**Day 1** Arrive with Atlantic Airways to Vágur. Visit the charming villages on Vágoy. Overnight on Vágoy.

**Day 2 & 3** Experience Faroe Island second largest island Eysturoy.

Towards Eysturoy we suggest a fascinating boat trip to the Vestmanna bird cliffs, visit the village Tjørnuvík which is surrounded by steep mountains and Gjógv who is known for its distinctive natural harbor. Overnight at Eysturoy.

**Day 4** Start the day early by driving to the Northern Islands. In passing the decorative underwater tunnel of a famous Faroese artist. Overnight at Northern Islands.

**Day 5 & 6** The last couple of days spent in the metropolitan area. Enjoy the world's smallest capital city, Tórshavn.

Spend day 6 visiting the beautiful green Island Sandoy, where a local family will serve coffee / cake. Overnight in Tórshavn.

**Day 7** We recommend a visit to the ancient cultural center Kirkjubøur. Overnight at Vágoy.

**Day 8** Return the rental car at the airport. Departure with Atlantic Airways.

### ITINERARY:

INDEPENDENT TOUR WITH CAR  
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS  
START: ANY DAY OF THE WEEK

**PRICE PER PERSON IN A  
DOUBLE ROOM  
€ 1,380**

**PRICE PER PERSON IN A  
SINGLE ROOM  
€ 2,092**

### THE PRICE INCLUDES:

Return flights with  
Atlantic Airways to the Faroe Islands  
and taxes.  
Car hire group B including unlimited km,  
CDW and VAT.  
Accommodation in hotels with breakfast, visit  
to private home with coffee and cake on  
Sandoy and  
return trip to Sandoy with the ferry.

For more information  
**[www.greengate.fo](http://www.greengate.fo)**

For booking please contact  
[info@greengate.fo](mailto:info@greengate.fo) eller  
+298 350 520

**ORDER BEFOR MARCH 1'ST AND SAVE € 135**



## Win a mini holiday to the Faroe Islands

- ☐ Yes, I would like to register for the e-newsletter from GreenGate Incoming sent by e-mail and thereby take part in a draw for a trip to the Faroe Island.
- ☐ Yes, I would like to order a catalogue from GreenGate Incoming

E-mail

Name

Last name

Address

Postal code

City

Country

The mini holiday is for one person only and is valid from May to September 2010. Including: Return flight with Atlantic Airways to the Faroe Islands and taxes. Transfer by shuttle bus to and from the airport. 3 nights accommodation with breakfast. Excursion to Vestmanna bird cliffs, including bus, guide and boat trip. Excursion to Sandoy, including bus, guide, ferry and lunch. 3-course dinner in Tórshavn, excluding drinks.

Please note that only one coupon can be sent in per person.

[WWW.GREENGATE.FO](http://WWW.GREENGATE.FO)

**A**  
Prioritaire

Postage  
paid

Ne pas  
affranchir

GreenGate Incoming  
Jónas Broncksgøta 35  
FO-100 Tórshavn  
Faroe Islands



## Global Warming folder

For the first time Posta Stamps is issuing a souvenir folder like this one. The folder contains the stamp issue "Global Warming" from 23 February 2009 - two stamps and a mini-sheet. Furthermore, a text concerning the climatetic changes written by Bogi Hansen, Professor in Oceanography, is included.

*"Global warming cannot be immediately stopped. We have perturbed the climate balance and it needs time to re-adjust. A car does not stop immediately after you step on the brake, and neither does the climate. To prevent dangerous consequences, it is essential*

*to put the brakes on well before the danger signals are evident."*

Price: 55,00 DKK

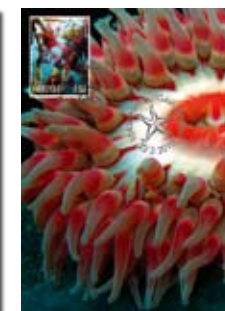


## ► The Faroes - under the sea: postcards and maximum cards

The stamp issue "The Faroes - under the sea" also features four postcards and maximum cards. The maximum cards are illustrated below.

The photographer is Ingi Sørensen, who also has taken the photos which has been used for the stamps.

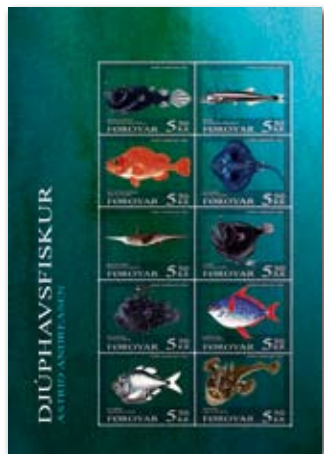
The photos for the postcards are taken on the bottom of the sea in Kvívík, Hoyvík and Tjørnuvík in the Faroe Islands.



# Clearance sale of the year 2009

Please note that 31 December 2009 is the last date of sale for the stamps and articles presented on this page. 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](http://www.stamps.fo).



FO 539-548



FO 554-563



FO 523-524



FO 552-553



FO 564-565



FO 566-567



FO 568-575



Stamp booklet 576-577



FDC Folder 2005



Year pack 2005



FO 576-577



Stamp booklet 566-567



Booklet Folder 2005



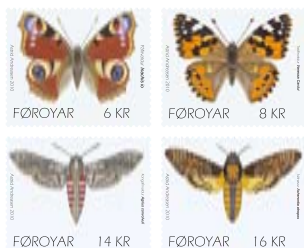
Yearbook 2005

# New Stamp Issues



Test proof

New stamp issue: The Faroes - under the sea - definitives  
22.02.2010  
Date of issue: 1,00, 6,00, 8,00 and 12,00 DKK  
Value: FO 677-680  
Numbers: 30,0 x 40,0 mm  
Stamp size: Ingi Sørensen  
Photografer: Offset + metal 877 silver  
Printing method: Southern Colour Print, New Zealand  
Printer: Inland small and medium letters and medium  
Postal use: letters to Europe, 0-50 g,



Test proof

New stamp issue: Butterflies  
22.02.2010  
Date of issue: 6,00, 8,00, 14,00 and 16,00 DKK  
Value: FO 681-684  
Numbers: 30,0 x 40,0 mm  
Stamp size: Astrid Andreassen  
Design: Offset  
Printing method: LM-Group, Canada  
Printer: Inland small and medium letters and large  
Postal use: letters to Europe, 0-50 g, and inland medium  
letters, 101-250 g



Test proof

New stamp issue: Long-finned pilot whale  
22.02.2010  
Date of issue: 50,00 DKK  
Value: FO 685  
Numbers: 28,27 x 46,0 mm  
Stamp size: Edward Fuglø  
Design: Offset + metal FX  
Printing method: Southern Colour Print, New Zealand  
Printer: Inland large letters, 1001-2000 g  
Postal use: and large letters to Europe, 251-500 g.

Posta Stamps  
Óðinshædd 2  
FO-100 Tórshavn  
Faroe Islands

Tel. +298 346200  
Fax +298 346201  
stamps@posta.fo  
www.stamps.fo