



A COMMON PERFIN TO AND FROM AN UNCOMMON COUNTRY?

Bob Szymanski

The following are parcel cards sent from Wessel & Vett. Perfin is "WV" (W21), used by Wessel & Vett, Copenhagen, 1921-1975. This is almost as it appears in the 2012 Denmark catalogue with updated price list of 2017. (The EKU is now 06.1921 and the LKU is now 11.1975.)

W21

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----|-----|---|---|---|--|
|  | A/S Th Wessel & Vett København | | | | | |  | |
| | 06.1921 | | PO | DSB | | | | |
| | 11.1975 | | 25 | | | | | |
| WV | | | | * | * | * | * | |
| | | | | * | * | * | * | |

From the Internet - Wikipedia - you can learn that the company traces its roots back to 1868 when Theodor Wessel and Emil Vett opened a draper's shop in Aarhus under the name Emil Vett & Co. It was an immediate success and in 1871 moved to Immervad where the Aarhus store is still located. There were basically a chain of department stores.

Kupon
Afsenderens Navn og
Adresse:

Magasin du Nord
A/S Th. Wessel & Vett
København

Angiven Værdi:
_____ Kr.
For anbefalede Pakker
anføres „R“.

Hermed 1 Pakke

WV. 743
Adressekort

614 **København K**
A/S Th. Wessel & Vett

m. v.)

Adressatens Navn og Adresse:

Sygeplejerske Frk. E. Kibsgaard,
JAKOB SHAVN,
Grønland.

Angiven Værdi _____ Kroner.
For anbefalede Pakker anføres „R“.

Angaaende Pakkens Afhentning
se Bagsiden



enten i Postkvitningsstog
eller paa løs Blanket, der
bedes udfyldt forinden
Aflæringen.

Ankomststempel

Uafyldes af Posth.
Vægt:
_____ kg.
3

Bet. 4 16-461

The parcel card shown was taken off the internet and interestingly shows that this perfinned card was sent to Greenland - an uncommon destination for as large as Greenland is, the population varies but always around 50,000 people with very few persons being non-indigenous natives. This is posted from Copenhagen to Greenland in 1947.

Yes, I believe this is uncommon, as anything sent to Greenland is infrequently seen and this has a perfin!

Really uncommon is the following parcel card dated 4-6-1952 (June 4, 1952) and mailed inside of Greenland and perfinned!

WV.17

A 672 Grønland

(til registernummer m. v.)

Adressatens navn og adresse:

Fru Waagstein,
Jakobshavn, Grønland.

Angiven værdi.....kroner.
 For anbefalede pakker anføres „R“.

Angående pakkens afhentning
se bagsiden

Bet. 4 (9-49)

UDFYLDES AF POSTH.

Vægt:
 kg

POSTKVIITERING
 enten i postkvitteringsbog
 eller på løs blanket, der
 bedes udfyldt forinden
 afleveringen.

Ankomststempel

DANMARK 50
 DANMARK 30
 DANMARK 60

As Grønland or Greenland, as it is commonly known outside of Denmark, has been administered as part of Denmark since 1814 it may come as a surprise that there are perfinned, Danish stamps! Greenland has had their own postal issues since 1938 and parcel post

stamps from 1905 to 1937! However, as part of Denmark, Danish stamps have been valid for postage in Greenland. Try finding used, not cancelled-to-order Greenland postage! It looks like Greenland has long had a profit motive in producing many more postage issues than could ever be needed.

I can surmise that since the Wessel & Vett company had representation in the way of a supply store in Greenland, the company may have forwarded perfined Danish stamps to the Greenland location for company use. Because of the Greenland tag and the cancellation these certainly were used in Greenland making them the only perfin with legitimate use of which I am aware. I am very happy that no one ever soaked these stamps off as this would have made the use in Greenland impossible to ascertain. As an aside, if you put a hat on Frederick IX and change the Denmark to Grønland, you have the same type stamp current for postage at that time in Denmark!

This is an interesting article so far but it does not end here. In order to see if any Denmark collectors could weigh in prior to publication, the now “draft“ was sent to Morten Mikkelsen. Morten was kind enough to send back information on the Greenland Post Office in Denmark!

Wessel & Vett never actually had a store or outlet of any type in Greenland and all orders were shipped through the mail order company “Magasin du Nord” which was also owned by Wessel & Vett! This cancellation was used in Copenhagen between 1950 and 1953 by the government department “Grønlands Departementet” for all shipments to Greenland and appears as an A04 in the Eric V. Woweren’s catalog of postal history of Greenland (it is noted as an item of some value). Along with this information, was the fact that Danish stamps were not legally used in Greenland since 1948!...all in all, quite convincing evidence that the cover is not what it seemed to be!

Although still a very interesting postal card, this article does prove one thing. If you want to be a true philatelist you must have a philatelic library, join perfin clubs, meet other perfin collectors and know to whom questions should be asked when you are contemplating writing about or purchasing perfins. My thanks to Maurice Harp, Roy Gault and Morten Mikkelsen for all their assistance in telling this story!