

Have Another Danish, Please

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Though geographically small--about 16,500 square miles, slightly larger than Switzerland, but twice the size of New Jersey, Denmark has a reported perfin count of just over 1000 patterns. Any country with a thousand perfin types is a BIG country in my estimation.

I have collected Danish perfins for years and have been happy to acquire some of these punches in revenue and semi-postal stamps, though not very many. Since I recently obtained a large collection of Danish perfins, I decided to reorganize my material by pairing a face-down perfin with a face-up town cancel. Naturally, I believed most postmarks would be those of Copenhagen (spelled Kobenhavn or Kjobenhavn on Danish stamps). My assumption was correct. I was amazed, however, at the number of other town cancels found in the perfins. Some had

two or three different postmarks.

I decided to make a master list of towns found in two perfin catalogs: 1983 Engelbrecht and 1990 Hansen, et al. My list had a total of 96--certainly a manageable number. The catalogs also showed in some instances two or three towns listed for the same perfin pattern.

The pairing was going smoothly until I reached type H4 in Engelbrecht (type H1 in Hansen). It is the single letter H with a three-hole crossbar attributed to Hjemmevaernet with a note indicating "sev. Towns", which I read as "several". The note is an understatement. I found 19 different town postmarks, but I can't identify all of the towns because of blurred ink or partial strikes.



Following is a list of the towns for my type H4:

Legible and catalog listed though not listed for type H4	Unlisted towns in both catalogs (Spellings may not be accurate)	Incompletes--could be one or more towns of master list
Alborg Arhus Kobenhavn Hadsund Nyborg Odense Rand(ers) Ringkobing Silkeborg	Blenstrup Herlev Ragsverd Ringsted Saeby	Brae... Fred... L... Ron... ...ullebolle

Possible explanations for this variety are a bank with branch offices or traveling salesmen with company stamps for mailing orders back to the company.

For me, perfin collecting is not all face-down perfin types. Those of Denmark exemplify this. So, pass me the Danish, I'll gobble up all those postmarks.