

VALDEMAR LUTZEN - FAROE ISLANDS

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I was intrigued by lot 487 in William Hall's recent Auction (127) ...

Faroe Islands - 44 DDF all Perfin "V.L." used by Valdemar Lützen A/S - some are partial strikes/blind - also some are mint stamps - Not often seen in such quantity.

... so I decided to find out more about the man and his Perfin.

The Faroe Islands (Sheep Islands) lie well to the north of the Shetlands, and were first settled by Irish Monks in the 6th century. Then came Viking settlers from Norway in the 9th century, with the islands becoming part of a 'dual monarchy' with Norway and Denmark in the late 14th century. However, when the Norway-Denmark pact was succeeded by a Norway-Sweden union in 1814, the Faroes remained under the sovereignty of Denmark. Although still part of Denmark to this day, since 1948 the islands have been essentially self governing, with their own language and culture. Indeed, they boast the oldest parliament in the world - the Løgting - dating back to the 9th century.



Map of the Islands flanked by a 16th century 'ram' seal and its modern Government counterpart, plus a 1979 philatelic version.

The first Post Office opened in Tórshavn on the 1st March 1870, and not surprisingly, the postage stamps were Danish right up until 1975 when the Danish postal authorities issued stamps with FØROYAR. Postal independence came to the Faroes in 1976, and as a result philatelic sales have become an important part of the economy!

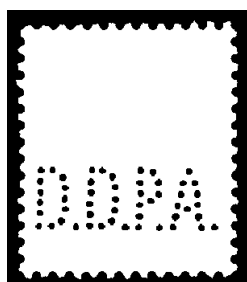


A search of the Internet also established that there are **TWO** Perfins known used in the Faroe Islands, D19 “**D.D.P.A.**” (1906-1952 in Denmark, and 1928-1935 in the Faroes) and V14 “**V.L.**” (1935-1993), with a common link between them.

The first Perfin, “**D.D.P.A.**”, is a Danish Perfin known used by ‘*Det Danske Petroleums Aktieselskab*’ (The Danish Petroleum Co Ltd). The company was founded in 1899, but in 1952 changed its name to ‘*Danske ESSO*’. I thought that model private owner railway wagons were a UK phenomenon, but clearly not as this Danish model shows!



Because the “**D.D.P.A.**” Perfin was in general use in Denmark, care must be taken to check that the Perfin has a Faroe cancellation, usually *Thorshavn* (Tórshavn in Faroese) the capital of the Faroe Islands, rather than the much more common *København* (Copenhagen). I’m afraid I couldn’t find an example of the Perfin which had been undeniably posted on the Faroes, but at least we can see a silhouette.



The Perfin would have been used by the Thorshavn branch of the Petroleum company, the agent for which was *Valdemar Lützen*. 1928-1935 is roughly when Valdemar would have used the Danish stamps with “**D.D.P.A.**”, no doubt perforated at the H/O in Copenhagen.

Valdemar Lützen was born in Rhorshavn on the 8th October 1878, becoming a prominent businessman and politician. He established a 'Department Store' in Thorshavn in 1904 when he would only have been 26 years of age - a store that's still in business today. Sadly, he died in Thorshavn on 9th November 1957.



The use of the "V.L." Perfin in the Faroes was first mentioned in the Perfins Bulletin in 1976 by **James H Baker**, who discovered a 90 øre Føroyar stamp perforated with it. A letter sent to the owners of **P/F Valdemar Lützen** elicited this reply, and a gift of perforated stamps!

*... these stamps are **not used in business** any longer, but we have the old machine to perforate the stamps.*

Here are two examples of the "V.L." Perfin, courtesy of **Jay Smith & Associates** 'Scandanavian Specialists' website, dating from the early to mid 1950's, and the 1979 'Year of the Child' Faroese issue.



The accumulation of material offered in the auction covered the fifteen year period 1975-1990, with examples from the years 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1990. There is evidence of progressive pin loss over time, suggesting a single headed die, and **continuous use** despite the 1976 claim that the Perfin was no longer used in business.



Latest known use is on a 4.00 Kr 'Original Faroe Horse' (1993) on a company cover with logo to a Tórshavn address.

A *selection* from the auction 'mini' collection - the Faroese Ram has been shown twice full size so you can look into his eyes!

