

GREENLAND POSTAL HISTORY 1938-1985

Purpose: Present the postal history of Greenland from the opening of the Danish Postal Service in 1938 until its transfer to the Greenland Home Government in 1986.

Content: Mail and postal forms show the development of the civilian postal service in this vast and isolated arctic island. Military postal service mail is not shown.

Official Greenland Postal Service. When Greenland joined the UPU in 1938 it opened its own post offices, issued its own stamps, and operated its own postal service under the direction of the Danish Postal and Telegraph Administration.

Royal Greenland Trading Company. All Greenland shipping, business, and administration were controlled by the Royal Greenland Trading Company. They had carried mail privately, but there was no official postal service before Greenland joined the UPU in 1938. The Company trading monopoly ended in 1953.

Carrying the Greenland Mails. The ships of the Royal Greenland Trading Company carried the mail to and from Greenland 1938 to 1953, with a hiatus during World War II. Air mail delivery in 1954 and the opening of sub-offices in 1958 greatly expanded postal service in Greenland.

Scarcity: The resident populations of the Greenland settlements were small, and the non-philatelic mail which predominates in this exhibit is difficult to find.



Chapters

1.0	The New Greenland Postal Service.....	1938-1945
2.0	Development after World War II	1945-1958
3.0	Expanded Postal Services.....	1958-1972
4.0	Late Developments	1973-1985

Blue borders highlight the most important items.