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Display of
The Duchy of Schleswig 1587-1920



By

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Background

In the central part of the peninsula extending north from the River Elbe in Germany, the Duchy of Schleswig, or *Slesvig* in Danish, was situated between the River Eider to its south and the *Kongeåen*, the King's River, to the north. Its governance was associated with the Danish Crown and Danish German aristocracy from early times. Roman sources name the Jutes as living north of the River Eider, and giving their name to Jutland, *Jylland* in Danish, and to the area of northern Schleswig which is known as *Sønderjylland* today.

Hedeby, the largest Viking settlement in Scandinavia was close to the modern City of Schleswig at the end of the Schlei, a long, narrow inlet of the Baltic Sea, which probably gave its name to the Duchy, Schlei-Vik. *Vik* in old Norse means a bay or creek, as does *vig* in modern Danish. Other examples are Reykjavik and Wick in Scotland.

In association with Hedeby, a fortified dyke known as Dannevirke was built and significantly expanded in the early 8th century, and this is usually taken as evidence of the formation of a unified Danish state.

In 811 the Danish King Hemming and Charlemagne established the southern boundary of Denmark at the River Eider. Earlier negotiations had taken place at Rendsburg, then an island in the middle of the river.

The Duchy of Holstein, south of the Eider and north of the Elbe was a fief subordinate to the Holy Roman Empire, while Schleswig remained a Danish fief from 1058 until 1864 when it was lost to Prussia. During the 10th century, ownership over the region between the Eider River and the Dannevirke became a matter of dispute between the Holy Roman Empire and Denmark, resulting in several wars.

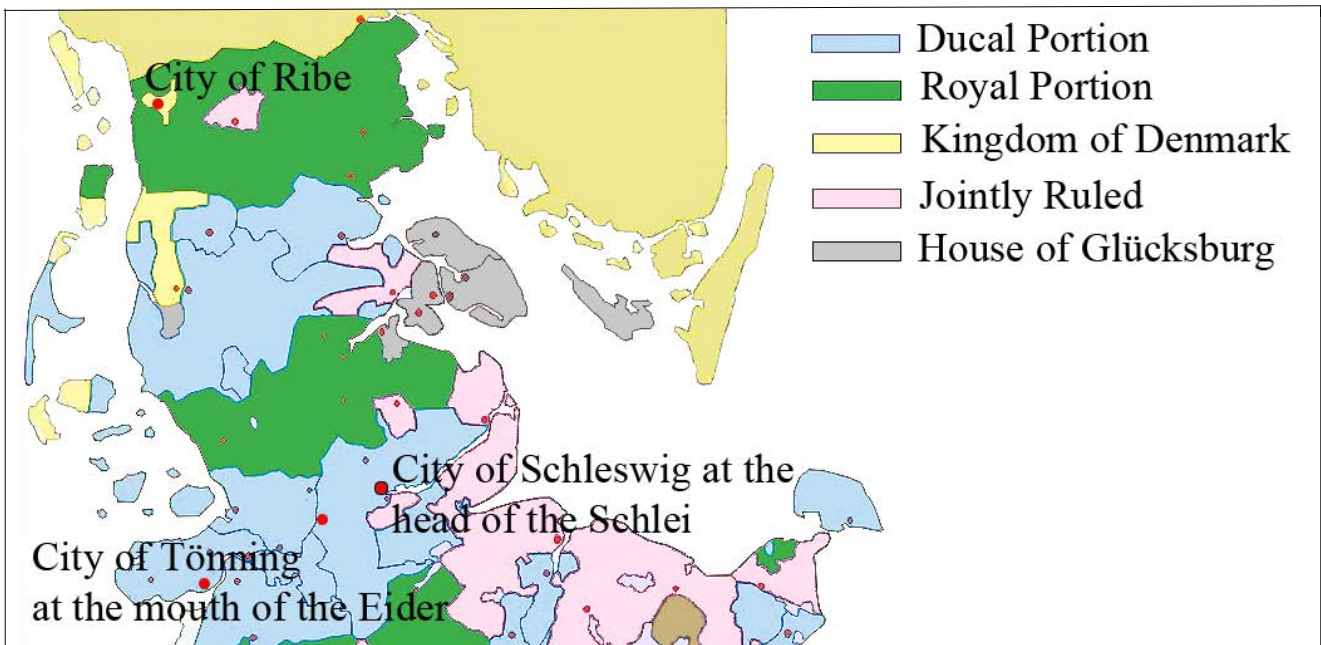
The titles Duke of Schleswig and Count of Holstein were inherited in 1460 by the hereditary kings of Norway who also invariably were the kings of Denmark. Central to this treaty was that the Danish Duchy of Schleswig and the German County of Holstein should be, *Up ewig ungedeelt*, 'Forever Undivided'. Duke of Holstein was a title granted to the king of Denmark by Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor, in 1474.

So, when Frederik I became King of Denmark and Norway in 1522, his title was By the Grace of God, King of Denmark and Norway, the Wends and the Goths, Duke of Schleswig, Holstein, Stormarn and Dithmarschen, Count of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst.

His great-grandson, Christian IV, was born in 1577, became King in 1596, and died in 1648. He established the Danish post office in 1624.



King Christian IV, founder of the Danish post office.



Sketch showing political divisions in the Duchy of Schleswig c.1700.

Thereafter, Schleswig and Holstein, and the Danish-German language border between them were either the root of conflict between the Duchies and The Holy Roman Empire and Denmark, or the preferred invasion route for other European powers. The Swedes occupied Jutland by way of the Duchies in 1625, again in 1643 and in 1657. Finally, in 1720, at the end of the Great Northern War from 1700-1721 involving Sweden, Denmark and Norway, Russia, and Saxony-Poland, Denmark gained complete control over the Duchy of Schleswig.

Peace held through the remainder of the 18th century, but forced to ally with France, the Danes were on the wrong side in the Napoleonic Wars. The British burned Copenhagen and captured the entire Danish fleet so that it couldn't be used by France to invade Britain. Schleswig and Holstein were virtually occupied by Napoleonic armies, the Danish post offices in Lübeck and Hamburg were closed, and the mails from the Duchies to the capital had to be diverted south due to the British naval patrols in the Great Belt between Denmark's two largest islands.

Denmark to England (4). The Royal Mail was ‘farmed’ out to the Klingenberg family in 1653 (5), and then to the Gyldenløve family from 1685-1711 when the service returned to state control. From 1678 official mail carried the Royal Monogram (6, 8, 9, 12). *Franco* (Paid) manuscript marks (7) were introduced; note *Franco Tønning* Paid to Tønning (11) and *Franco Lübeck* (12). Place of origin marks *Copenhagen* (10) and *Von Schleswig* (11) were introduced in the early 18th century. Letters marked *Cito Cito* in haste (9) and *Cito Citissime* in great haste (11) were exhortations, not postal markings.

Frame 28: More Manuscript Markings. The introduction of hand stamps showing origin



1765: From Copenhagen marked *Franco Hadersleben*, paid to Hadersleben, the dividing point for the north-south mail route between Jutland and the Duchies.

The following manuscript markings are shown, *Franco Partout* Completely paid, *par Expres* (1), *Franco Hamburg* and Frederik V Monogram with *mit attest*, with certificate confirming that the mail was official (2), *Franco Flensburg* (3), *Franco Hadersleben* (4), *Privat Sache* and *Pr occasio* as circumstances permit (5), and *beschwert mit 123 Rigsdaler in Banco Noten* (a money letter) (6). The hand stamps *de Flensburg* and *Bredstedt* indicate places of origin (7), and **HAMBOURG** shows origin applied in Paris from 1752 (7). The **DÆNNEMARK** hand stamp was applied at the Thurn und Taxis post office in Hamburg from 1787 and **OLANDA** (Holland) applied at the Spanish border (8). The Agende post vehicles,

mileage table, and an Agende post parcel letter, redirected due to Royal naval patrols between the Danish islands, with the postage increased to account for inflation end the frame.

Frame 29: Schleswig and the Napoleonic Wars

Private correspondence is scarce from Denmark at the end of the 18th century (1). A bullion letter carried through Schleswig and a wrapper from Schleswig City to Riga hand stamped **DAN.pr.HAMBURG.4**, used in 1809 by the Grand Duchy of Berg, the Napoleonic administration in Hamburg, are shown (2). Letters to Great Britain from Denmark and Schleswig were sent via Husum when Hamburg and Altona were closed to British mail (3), and British mail was confiscated from September 1807 (4). In 1807 an express field post was set up in Schleswig (6-7 and 11), and on 11th December 1807 an order was issued by the post office determining that ‘letters of importance’ should be duplicated and carried by different routes to avoid loss to the British navy (12).

In 1807 an expeditionary force from the regular Spanish Army commanded by the *Marquis de la Romana* was sent to serve with *La Grande Armée* in Northern Europe. It participated in the siege of the Swedish fortress of Stralsund in 1807, which was handed over to the French on 24th August,



1808: Grande-Armée letter from Hadersleben in Schleswig to Randers in Jutland, and redirected to Glückstadt in Holstein.

and was then divided and stationed in different parts of Denmark (8), mainly in Schleswig (8-10), Jutland, Funen and Langeland.

On 6th June 1808 Napoleon proclaimed his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain, which was not popular with the Spanish. A British agent contacted de la Romana who accepted the offer of transportation to Spain by British ships. In August 1808 the Spanish seized the Danish port of Nyborg on the island of Funen and on 21st August 1808, 9000 men were taken from there and from the island of Langeland (5) to Spain to support the offensive against the French. Not all were embarked, and over 3,500 Spanish troops became prisoners of war.

Hans Christian Andersen was a boy in Odense at the time, and in 1855 he wrote: *“I was not three years old yet I recall swarthy people making a lot of noise, canons being shot in the square and in front of the Bishop's house, I saw them resting in the streets and on straw in a half broken down Graabrødre Church...The French Soldiers are mentioned as reckless and peremptory, but the Spanish dittos as kind ones, they both hated the other strongly”*

The Napoleonic Wars began a period of inflation which was not brought under control finally until the 1830s. Postage rates from Schleswig were increased in line with current rates of inflation. 1813 saw the bankruptcy of the Danish state, and 1814 the loss of Norway and the addition of Lauenburg, south of Holstein, to the Duchies. Both these Duchies were members of the German Confederation *der Deutscher Bund* created in 1814 at the Congress of Vienna, while Schleswig remained a Danish fiefdom.

Frame 30: The introduction of hand stamped postmarks



1843: Framed TÖNNING, one of four cities with framed postmarks in the Duchy, used predominantly on foreign mail.

From 1821 boxed postmarks were introduced for foreign mail in Schleswig, Flensburg, Rendsburg and Tönning (1-3).

Other marks included Christiansfeld, Sonderburg, Schleswig, Flensburg, and Hoyer (4-6). These were generally superseded from 1845 with a 1½ ring circular date stamp throughout Denmark and Schleswig. Tönning, Deetzüll, Tondern and Flensburg are shown (7-8). Manuscript marks remained for internal mail, note Eckernförde and Hadersleben (9).

Folded letters to and from South America (10), a River Eider ship letter, a Consignee's letter from Great Britain to Ribe (11), and a cholera letter from the outbreak of 1831 (12) follow.

The dual and divided loyalties in Schleswig and Holstein were instrumental in the dispute between German States and Denmark in the 19th century, when the ideas of romantic nationalism and the nation state crystallised. The Danes had become used to viewing the Duchies and the Kingdom as increasingly unified, but this attitude clashed with that of the German majority in the Duchies. The First Schleswig War of 1848-1851 broke out after constitutional change in 1848 when Denmark tried to incorporate Schleswig into the Kingdom. It ended with the *status quo ante bellum* due only to the intervention of Great Britain and other Great European Powers.

Frame 31: The First Schleswig War - Treårskrigen



1850: 4RBS letter sent from *Dampskibet Gejser*, an armoured paddle steamer, showing the universal 4RBS military postage rate.

The Provisional Government of Schleswig-Holstein (1-2) was established in Kiel in March 1848, and in April, the German Confederation declared war on Denmark: 39 German States were members of the Confederation and a majority of their individual armies joined the fight for Schleswig and Holstein.

Illustrated letter sheets were published on both sides of the argument (3, 5, 8). The Schleswig-Holsteiners inaugurated a field post system with manuscript endorsements (4). Prussia used field postmarks, while the Saxon contingent used manuscript markings together with troop or regimental hand stamps (6). A small naval force was established by the rebel government (7). While Danish date stamps were used

by the reorganised post office with its headquarters in Kiel, manuscript marks of origin returned, i.a. in *Apenrade*, *Tondern* and *Gravenstein* (9-10).

In March 1849 a national postage rate of 4 Rigsbank Skilling (RBS) was introduced by the Danes for soldiers and sailors, replacing the rates which combined weight and distance, and the free field post service which carried a majority of the forces mail (11). Hanover introduced a field post with a hand stamp, and a Prussian cds was introduced for official mail, inscribed D.REICHS-ARMEE (12).

Frame 32: The First Schleswig War - Treårskrigen

Illustrated letter sheets for both armies were printed by entrepreneurs (2-11). In addition to the manuscript marks and troop stamps, the Schleswig-Holstein army introduced oval (1) and circular (12) field postmarks.

The Provisional Government in Kiel reorganised the Danish postal service under the direction of the Finance Department's postal division headed by Wilhelm Ahlman. Postage stamps were introduced in November 1850 (1). Two values were printed in a total of two million copies. 12,000 were sold, with one third of these being the 2 Schilling value, and used on a total of 8,701 letters. The balance was intended for destruction after the rebellion but many mint copies escaped. The stamps themselves were extensively forged, as early as 1864, and many cancelled examples are false.



1849: Folded letter from Aarhus to Christiansfeld showing the local place of origin mark used by Prussian troops.

Local place of origin marks were used in Horsens, Aarhus (4) and Veile, and Swedish volunteers with the Danish army were able to send letters at a privileged half rate (6). The Kurhessian force used a blue field post office mark (7), and the Saxons (9) and Austrians (12) a black circular date stamp. All other forces such as Oldenburg (9) had no postmarks, and the originating army can be seen only from internal evidence or by troop or army hand stamps.

Frame 33: The first postage stamps in the Duchy



1851: Envelope bearing Schleswig-Holstein 2 Schilling rose used in Rendsburg and cancelled with numeral 34.

The Schleswig-Holstein Government's postage stamps were valid only in Holstein, but Rendsburg, the border city, was in an anomalous position of having been part of Schleswig from time to time. The northern part of the City is on the north bank of the Eider, while the southern is on the south bank, and the historic centre, including the post office at the time, is on an island in the river. Cancellor number 34 (1-2) was used on the Schleswig-Holstein stamps.

although stamps could be used to prepay letters to Schleswig from 12th April. However, in practice, mail was accepted earlier (1-2).



1851: First day of issue. Wrapper sent with 4RBS to the City of Schleswig, contrary to regulations. Note that the Schleswig-Holstein issue was before the Danish.

Danish stamps were not introduced in the Duchy of Schleswig until 1st May 1851,

Danish stamps were not introduced in Holstein until July 1853. Mute cancellers were issued for 28 post offices in the Duchy (3-12), and where known, these are usually found accompanied by serified type 1½ ring date stamps (Antiqua IIb in Danish catalogues), introduced after 1845 and made in various formats including with and without year, and/or date, or time indicators.

However, usage of the Antiqua IIb was in some cases very short after the issue of stamps, with some disappearing before the end of 1851. Others remained in use until the mid fifties or even later, while several are unknown, or exist in very few examples. An exception to the 1½ ring date stamp was

Hoyer (4). From 1851 the Antiqua III datestamp was introduced with a single ring, office name, day, month and year (5). Registration was available, but paid in cash (7 and 10), and stamps were not valid on mail to Holstein from the Duchy of Schleswig (9).

Frame 34: The first postage stamps in the Duchy

Rendsburg was included in the postal arrangements for the Kingdom and Duchy of Schleswig from 1st July 1852 (1). During periods when cancellers were being repaired earlier hand stamps were used (2).

Stamps were not permitted for use to foreign destinations until 15th July 1854 (3 and 9).



1854: Envelope sent to Rostock from Apenrade in Schleswig. The earliest recorded fully prepaid foreign letter.

Marginal copies of the 4RBS are rare on cover, and very rare for the first, Ferslew, printing (4). Keitum on the island of Sylt was issued with a three, rather than four ring mute canceller without a central point (4). Mute cancellers were gradually replaced by three ring cancellers with central numerals with thirteen in late 1852, fifteen in 1853, nine for the Schleswig railway between 1856 and 1859, and eight others from 1855-1864. A COD service was available (6), and letters were checked for weight (7). Manuscript dates are found when date stamps were sent for repair (11). The 2RBS stamp was intended for local postage, and was not usually used in multiples for prepaying the standard rate of 4RBS (11). The first weight class was 1 Lod (c.15 grammes), and 4RBS was paid for each Lod thereafter (12). A five ring mute canceller was introduced for the coastal steamship route from Holstein to Jutland (12).

Frame 35: Change of currency and stamp design

The 4RBS was replaced in 1854 with the imperforate 4 Skilling stamp, and privately perforated stamps exist (1). The Schleswig railway from Rendsburg to Flensburg and from Tønning to Flensburg speeded up mail deliveries (2, 3, 5-6, 9-12), although the Danish Government refused to allow a northern extension of the railway to Jutland through fear of an invasion from the south. The 1854 series was replaced in 1858 with stamps with wavy lines in the spandrels. A number of individual numeral cancellers and some date stamps are very scarce, for example 162 Rømø, 161 Ballum, and 183 Tønning railway station (3, 7 and 10). Manuscript place names were sometimes used where no canceller or date stamp was issued (4 and 8), and the five ring mute steamship canceller was used in Haderslev for a week in January 1860 (8). Stamps other than those of the square brown variety are very scarce used in the Duchy of Schleswig, and the double weight COD cover from Tønning bears an 8 Skilling stamp (9). Special rates obtained when the sea was frozen between the islands, and mail had to be transported across the ice (11).

Frame 36: Towards the end of the Danish post office in Schleswig

Antiqua IV cancellers have no year indicator (2). Tønder was not issued with 2 Skilling stamps at this time, and the 22 Skilling envelope, paid partly in cash and partly in stamps, to Hanover is unusual (2). Møgeltonder had no date stamp and used a straight line hand stamp instead (3).



1862: Envelope sent from Vyk on the Island of Føhr in Schleswig to Dunedin in New Zealand.

The 60 Skilling envelope from the island of Vyk is the only one known to New Zealand from Denmark in this period.

The Esrom type cancellers (6-8) with abbreviated office names such as BBRO used on a rural post route from Tønder to Ribe are generally known only on fronts, almost invariably addressed to Hr. Høyberg at Visby Mølle. For this reason they are regarded with some suspicion,

although highly catalogued and known in use from 1862-1866. The Skærbæk cover to Ribe (8) is on a complete folded letter and indicates some genuine use.

Flensburg, like Haderslev and Schleswig had a 2 Skilling local postage rate which was limited to towns with over 6000 inhabitants, and was thus able to frank a 22 Skilling cover to Prussia correctly (9). The cover with a single 16 Skilling stamp to Sweden is rare from the Duchy (10), as is the 2 Skilling local cover used in Haderslev (11). It has been suggested that these are scarce because it was cheaper to send a boy than to use the post office to deliver a local letter.



1863: Folded letter from the Countess Danner at the Royal residence at Glücksburg cancelled with numeral 183.

King Frederik VII had his country residence at Glücksburg (Lyksborg in Danish) and was accompanied by his own post office clerk with a date stamp and numeral canceller 183. The letter, dated 15th November 1863, from the King's wife, Countess Danner, says that the King is very ill, and that they must fear the worst. He died that afternoon, and childless, with no acceptable heir to the Duchies, his death precipitated the Second Schleswig War.

In December 1863, with a change of King, Denmark again tried to incorporate Schleswig into the Monarchy; this time in the depths of winter with the wetland defences at Dannevirke frozen solid, and with Bismarck in control of Prussia.

On 23rd December 1863, the German Confederation authorised Saxon and Hanoverian Commissioners to take over the administration of the Duchies on its behalf.

The 1864 War began in earnest at the beginning of the year and quickly resulted in Danish postal servants being chased out of the Duchy by the Prussians. For example, the numeral canceller 194 from Rendsburg railway station applied on 5th January (11) is the last recorded use. Danish stamps were officially not permitted after 31st March.

Denmark faced war against both Prussia and Austria in what the Danes know as *The 1864 War*, and elsewhere is called the Second Schleswig War. The war, sanctioned by the *Deutscher Bund* lasted from February to October 1864. Denmark was easily beaten by Prussia and Austria, and obliged to relinquish Schleswig and Lauenburg to Prussia, and Holstein to Austria.

Having successfully fought the first war of German Unification, Bismarck provoked a war with Austria, took the whole of Schleswig and Holstein, created the North German Confederation, *der Norddeutsche Bund* in August 1866, and reorganised the Duchies as the province of Schleswig-Holstein in July 1867. Stamps were issued for the North German Postal District, *der Norddeutsche Postbezirk* from January 1st 1868.

During the four year period from January 1864 until January 1868 there were 15 different postal administrations in the peninsula north of the river Elbe.

These were the Danish post office and the Danish, Prussian, Austrian, Saxon, and Hanoverian field post offices, the civil postal system operated in Jutland by the Prussian field post, and the later Jutland service operated by the Danes under Prussian tutelage.

Furthermore there was a joint Holstein and Lauenburg post, a joint Prussian and Austrian post, followed by separate Prussian and Austrian services, and a new unified Prussian system. Hamburg had its own city post, and finally the above-mentioned North German Postal District.

Frame 37: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: The Danish field post

Denmark introduced four field post office date stamps, FELDPOST No 1-4, with No 1 in two types, and five numeral cancellers 221-225 used in six combinations during the course of the war. The field post offices followed the troops (1-12). Soldiers could use the public postal services and did so (4), since all soldiers' mail was paid at the usual rates. Note the 29th February leap year letter (5). Unpaid letters were charged at 6 Skilling (7-8).

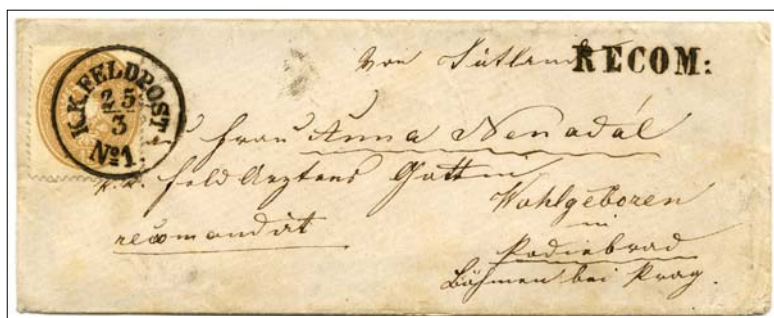
The scarcest of all field post offices is number 3 with canceller 224, which was used on the island of Als, and is known only in one copy (9). The folded letter of 3rd July (10) was sent from Funen to Copenhagen, then by ship to Lübeck and north to Aarhus in a circuitous route to Jutland. The civilian post office at Høruphav on the island of Als was allocated numeral canceller 230, which probably arrived on 18th June. The island was evacuated by Danish troops and occupied by the Prussians on 29th June, leaving very few copies of this canceller known, and none on cover (11). The parcel letter (11) sent through the field post is charged at a rate combining distance, weight and value.



1864: Envelope sent from the island of Als to Odense with field post office number 3 and numeral canceller 224.

Frame 38: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: The Danish field post: The Austrian field post

The 22 Skilling letter to Magdeburg (2) is to a Danish Prisoner of War. On 13th March 1864, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent two delegates to the conflict, one to each side, the first war with Red Cross observers, but no postal evidence is recorded. The Fredericia post office began the war in Fredericia, and then evacuated with all necessary equipment to the island of Funen. It returned on 20th April to a blacksmith's shop since the post office was damaged, and then evacuated a week later back across the water to Funen. Letters can be seen from the four locations (3-4). Naval mail is very scarce, and a folded letter to the Frigate *Thetis* is shown (5).

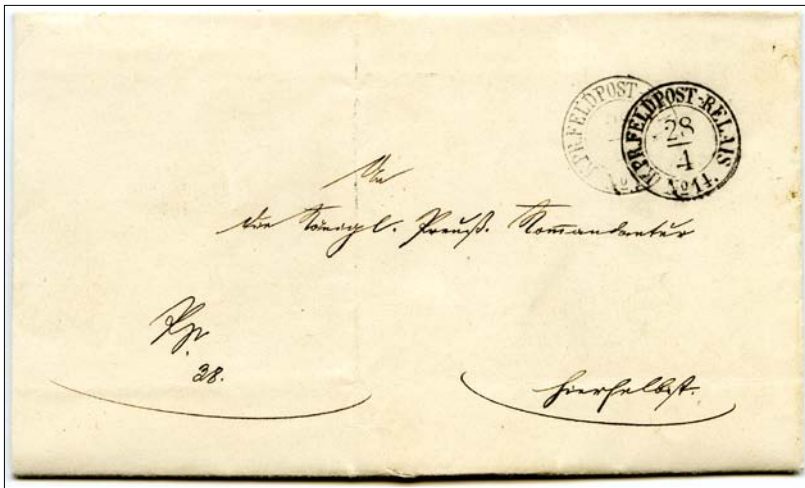


1864: Registered Austrian field post envelope marked *Von Jütland* sent to Padiabrad near Prague. On the reverse is a 10 Kreuzer stamp used to seal the flap. These, invariably, are damaged.

The Austrian field post office was located in Hamburg, Husum and Fredericia. Austrian letters from Jutland, registered mail, a money letter, and a parcel receipt are included (7-9), with correspondence addressed to present day Italy, Slovenia and Hungary, as well as to Austria.

A registered letter (11) was sent from Linz to an Austrian gunboat at Hamburg. The ship having left, the letter followed to the island of Vyk, back to Hamburg, to Cuxhafen, back to Hamburg, to Paris and Brest, before finally being redirected to the dead letter office in Paris, and from thence returned to Linz.

Frame 39: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: The Prussian field post



1864: Prussian Feldpost-Relais 14 used on the island of Burg.

The Prussian field post operated both static (1) and mobile offices. These used numbered circular and rectangular date stamps.

Field post offices (Feldpost-Relais) I through to 19 are shown in this frame, 4 and 15 are unknown while 16 is missing, but known only in one copy.

Money letters (2), parcel letters (3-4, 6), and mail to Agram in Austria-Hungary, now Zagreb in Croatia (5 and 8), and to Pontwitz

then in Prussian Silesia, now Poniatowice in Oleśnica, Poland are included (12).

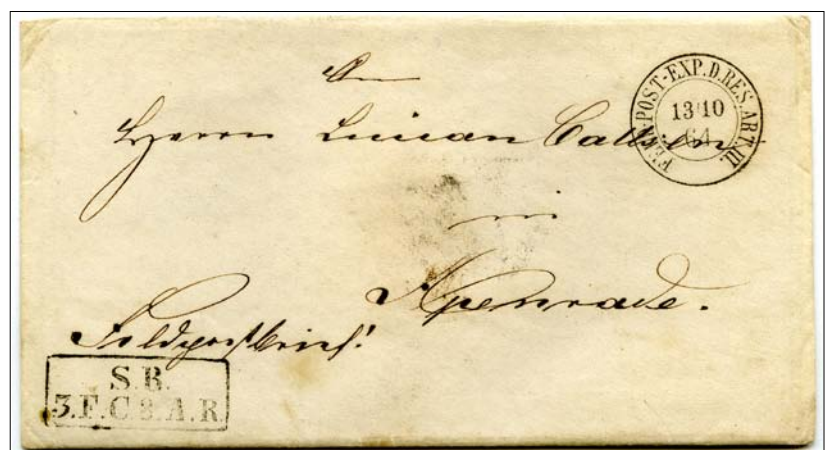
Frame 40: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: The Prussian field post

Field post office (Feldpost-Relais) circular date stamps numbered 19 through to 24 are shown in this frame, number 25 is unknown. Numbers 26 to 37 were rectangular in format. Only 26, 27, 30 and 33 are recorded in the literature, each in fewer than four examples, with number 30 being unique, and not shown. Numbers 26 and 28 are displayed here (1-6). Also of note is the parcel letter (2) with the label *aus Hobro*. These double labels were part of the Prussian postal system including the field post offices, but were not introduced in Denmark until 1868. The letter to Aarhus (6) is addressed to Albinus, the Prussian director of the Feldpost-Relais.

A separate field post system supported the troops in the field. These were circular in form and followed the armies (7-12).

Frame 41: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: The Prussian field post

More mobile Prussian field postmarks (1-2). A Prussian field post letter to London, unpaid at source but charged on delivery is unusual (1). There were further static offices which used boxed hand stamps at Flensburg and Altona (3). Danish date stamps continued in use in Hamburg in January 1864 (5). Privately printed illustrated letter sheets appeared as in 1848 (6-7). Parcels sent to support the war were allowed free of postage, although those sent



1864: Folded letter sent to Apenrade date stamped with Prussian mobile field post office FELDPOST-EXP.D.RES.ART.III.

from the war were charged (7). Flensburg Feldpost-Relais used a circular date stamp with a text rather than a number to show its location (10). The III Armee-Corps had its own pre-printed parcel labels (11), and in addition to free parcels, financial contributions in money letters were permitted to be sent to the Committee for Schleswig-Holstein Unity in Hamburg without charge (12).

Frame 42: The Second Schleswig War of 1864



1864: Saxon Field post office letter, with troop handstamp and Saxon field postmark in green sent to Dresden.

The Saxon and Hanoverian armies operated their own field post offices (1-4). A telegraph service was operated by the Danes, and another by the Prussians and Austrians (5-8).

An armistice was agreed from 12th May to 25th June, and mail was permitted within Jutland, to and from the Duchies and overseas. Items here include mail to a Danish POW in Flensburg sent from Copenhagen (9), and another to a Danish POW in Silesia (10).

A first armistice period letter sent from Horsens in Jutland to London is unusual, while another, to Magdeburg, is written by a parolee in Copenhagen who had been taken from a merchant ship by the Danish navy blockading the mouth of the River Elbe (11). Two letters violating the renewed prohibition on mail with Danish stamps after the end of the armistice (12) are shown.

Frame 43: The Second Schleswig War of 1864: Redirection of mail

The war caused additional charges and redirection of mail to avoid the conflict.

The first formal change was to route mail via Sweden through Ystad in the south, to Rostock or Warnemünde, at an additional fee of 4 Skilling (1-2, 4). Civilian mail could be carried by the Prussian Feldpost-Relais (5 and 10), but was sometimes deliberately routed away from the occupying forces by local initiatives (6). Mail was smuggled from northern Jutland to the capital by sea (7), in some cases via Sweden (8), and was smuggled to Jutland by small boats picking up mail from ships off the coast (9). A new route was set up via Kiel to the Duchies late in 1864 (12).



1864: Envelope sent to Lucerne in Switzerland via Malmö and Ystad in Sweden, via Rostock on the diverted route of February 1864, charged with an addition 4 Skilling, i.e. 22 Skilling + 4.

Frame 44: The Second Schleswig War of 1864

The resumption of the war led to a heavy defeat for Denmark after less than four weeks, and the second armistice lasted from 20th July until the formal ending of the war with a treaty in Vienna on 16th November (7).

From 24th July the Prussian Feldpost-Relais took over all mail handling in Jutland, routes to the south opened on 30th July (1), to the islands on 9th August (2). Danish stamps were not recognised, and all letters were charged an extra 6 Skilling (2), irrespective of the value of any stamps affixed.

The post reverted to Danish control on 27th August (3-4). Letters bore Danish and or Prussian marks during September 1864 (6). The latest recorded field post letter within Jutland is 14th November, but the majority of troops were already in Schleswig or further south (8).



1864: Letter to Copenhagen datestamped and with the stamp cancelled by the temporary skeleton RIBE postmark used in September.

The Prussian administration took over the Danish post office in Ribe on 14th July, issued a German language date stamp (9) and supplied new stamps inscribed HERZOGTH. SCHLESWIG. The Danish post office was re-established unofficially from September 15th 1864 and officially from 15th October. The original Danish numeral canceller and date slugs

had disappeared, and a skeleton date stamp was used for cancelling mail in September (10). The proper date stamp was later used as a canceller (9), and the numeral canceller was not replaced until July 1865. Another cancellation rarity is the Assens-Als ferry date stamp known on only one cover in the Postal Museum in Copenhagen, and the piece seen here (10) with a very partial strike. Finally, Hamburg post office items consequent on the war are shown (11-12).

The Treaty of Vienna 1864 allowed Danish subjects the right, within six years, to opt for Danish nationality and move with their families and personal property to Denmark, while keeping their landed property in the duchies. The Treaty of Prague in 1866 provided for a referendum on the question of a return of Schleswig to Denmark by a majority vote. About 50,000 Danes from North Schleswig, out of a total population of some 150,000, opted for Denmark and were expelled across the frontier, pending the plebiscite, but this provision was abrogated by Prussia, with the agreement of Austria, at the Treaty of Vienna in 1878. The so-called optees were particularly badly disadvantaged by this act.

Frame 45: Prussian administration of Schleswig

New 4 Schilling stamps for the Duchy were issued on 7th March, the issue of Prussian cancellers followed on 7th April, and the Danish railway post office cancellers were also replaced (1).

However, Danish cancellers and date stamps co-existed with the Prussian, and combinations of these can be found until at least 1865 (2-7).

From 4th March 1864 until 1st August 1865 there was no postal treaty between Denmark and the Prussian authorities in Schleswig. The 1¼ Schilling stamp, issued on 26th March, when the currency changed, was equal to 4 Danish Skilling, and remained valid for mail to Denmark until a new agreement was reached (2, 3, 4 and 6).



1865: Commercial envelope sent to Odense, probably from Kiel, paid to the border with 1¼ Schilling Duchy of Schleswig stamp used in Holstein, and from the border by a Danish 4 Skilling stamp used to avoid the additional 6 Skilling imposed by the Danes, since this stamp was not recognised when used from Holstein.

However, during this period stamps used from Holstein were not recognised and letters bearing stamps were treated as paid only to the border and unpaid in Denmark. Some commercial mail was sent with both a Danish stamp and a stamp valid in Holstein to avoid the charge (6).

In the new treaty postage to Denmark from Schleswig was fixed at a reduced rate of 2 Schilling per Lod (7-10). The rate to Prussia was 4 Schilling, equal to 3 Silbergroschen. At various times all stamps issued for Schleswig, for Holstein, and for Schleswig-Holstein were all valid in the Duchy of Schleswig. The postal order (12), is the only item of stationery issued in Schleswig.

Frame 46: Prussian administration of Schleswig



1866: Envelope sent to San Francisco, California from Gravenstein in Schleswig.

After the Treaty of Prague in August 1866 Prussia controlled both Schleswig and Holstein. This frame shows covers until the end of December 1867.

Interesting items include, foreign printed matter (1), an envelope sent to California (2), a border rate letter from Christiansfeld to Kolding paid at 1¼ rather than 2 Schilling (5), a prix-courant circular paid at ½ Schilling (7), and a triple rate letter

to Denmark (8). The Prussian style double cds gradually gave way to a canceller with a single ring (10), and these types co-existed for some years.

The cover from Tondern to Keitum bears a stamp from each of the Duchies together with another issue for both (10), and the special document envelope paid at 70¼ Schilling is the only evidence of this usage (11).



1867: Parcel letter from Tondern to Keitum on the island of Sylt with a stamp from each of the postal administrations, Schleswig, Holstein, and Schleswig-Holstein. One of three such recorded.

Frame 47: The North German Confederation

The various Schleswig-Holstein postal administrations came to an end on 31st December 1867, as did the German-Austrian Postal Union *Deutsch-Österreichische Postverein*, and the postal service was united in the *Norddeutscher Postbezirk*, the North German Confederation.

The basic issues are shown with border rate items (5), the reduced rate to Denmark (6), a 21¾ Groschen parcel letter to Copenhagen with a pair of 10 Groschen [Mi.20], and further parcel letters from Eckernförde, Ülsby and Flensburg. The frame is completed with a money letter, and items sent to Jamaica, Norway and Switzerland.



1869: Parcel letter sent from Lüsumkloster to Copenhagen with a pair of Prussian 10 Groschen stamps. These notoriously fragile stamps were printed on specially treated transparent paper, not sold to the public, and added in the post office to packets and parcel requiring them.

Schleswig became part of the German Empire in 1871, and a period of intense Germanification followed, with the Danish language being prohibited in schools and the civil service and Danish cultural traditions repressed up to the early 1900s.

Stamps were issued by the German Empire, and Schleswig became increasingly an economic backwater making interesting material from this period very difficult to find. The Schleswig Danes organised community

associations, supported local Danish language newspapers, and maintained their cultural traditions, but no love was lost between the Berlin Government and the Danish farmers.

Frame 48: The German Empire 1871-1918



1872: To South Australia via London and Southampton from Hoyer.

Stamps for the German Empire, inscribed Deutsches Reich and embossed with a double eagle were introduced on 1st January 1872.

National, local, printed matter and the reduced rate to Denmark are shown (1-4). Items to Sweden, Norway and South Australia follow (5-6), with a parcel letter accompanying a hare to Denmark, and a border rate letter from Toftlund. The border zone,

originally involving six towns gradually extended to include all offices in Denmark up to thirty kilometres from any office in Schleswig, and vice-versa, from 1st April 1880.

A reduced double rate letter from Sonderburg is followed by a 1½ Groschen letter used following metrication on 1st January 1875.

In practice Groschen stamps continued through the first half of 1875, becoming more scarce as December approached. Some Prussian single ring cancellers from this period are extremely elusive.



1876: Envelope from Apenrade to Singapore via Brindisi.

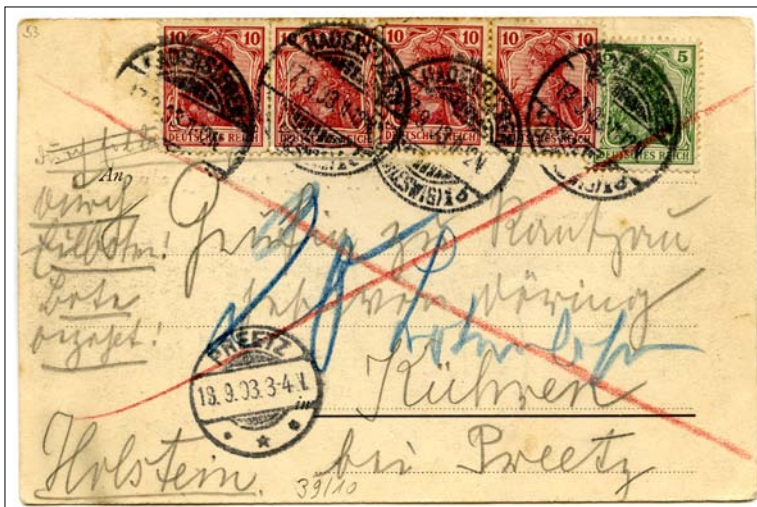
Frame 49: The late 19th and early 20th Century

While a border rate existed for letters in both directions (1), postcards were not included in the agreement, since they had not existed when it was made. An 1891 postcard (2) sent at the same 8 Øre rate as the letter on the previous page is charged 5 Pfennig as insufficiently paid, and another (2) from 1889 pays the full 10 Øre, the so-called 'unreasonable rate'.

An incompletely paid express postcard (4) is an easily missed rarity, and the unpaid postcard from Flensburg (4) is charged on delivery in the Danish West Indies.



1901: Postcard paid at the border letter rate from Denmark to the old Duchy of Schleswig, but charged since postcards were not included in the agreement.



1903: Express postcard from Hadersleben to Preetz.

Advertising envelopes in both languages demonstrate the linguistic divide in Hadersleben/Haderslev (5), and patriotic labels recalling 'Up ewig ungedeelt', 'Forever undivided' in German, and 'Fædrejord og Fædrearv, værnes maa til egen Tarv' 'For our own sake protect the land and the legacy of our fathers' in Danish (6).

Flensburg was the only town in the Duchy to have a local private post, and this operated from 20th February 1897 to 31st March 1900 issuing stamps and postal stationery (7-8).

In the First World War Denmark was neutral but Germany feared an attack by the British through Jutland and into Schleswig. The border was fortified, and the Schleswig Danes were among the first to be conscripted into the German Army. Censorship was introduced on 12th September 1916 in all districts north of a line from Sonderburg to Tondern through Tingleff.

Censorship was overseen by the *Überwachungs* (Surveillance) *kommission* in Tondern, Apenrade and Hadersleben. Of 30,000 south Jutlanders, *sønderjyder*, who were called up, 3,900 died, many were injured, and it was estimated that after the war the region had 1,500 widows, 5,000 fatherless children, and 7,000 disabled men.

The First World War broke out on 1st August 1914. A postcard, written in Danish on 5th August 1914 was held back since it was written in a foreign language (9), and a letter of 12th August 1914 sent from Schleswig, and written in Danish, to a conscripted husband was returned 'whereabouts unknown' (10). A hand stamp demonstrates the seaplane training centre in Apenrade, and another shows mail from Iceland undeliverable because of the war (11). Coastal defences were established at Sylt in the west and Höruphaff in the east, among many others.

Frame 50: The First World War

Censorship was introduced in the north of the former Duchy at Apenrade (1), Tondern (2), Hadersleben (3), and at Flensburg for incoming mail (4). Tondern saw a zeppelin base established (5), and the border with Denmark was heavily fortified (6) with Russian POWs used as forced labour to build fortifications. Danish speaking soldiers of the Kaiser were held in POW camps in Aurillac in France and Feltham in England, which were especially created for Danish speaking south Jutlanders (7-8), allowing them to write home in Danish.



1916: Prisoner of war letter written from the special Danish speaking POW camp at Aurillac in France sent to Apenrade.

The Danes from Schleswig served all over the world and were very widely dispersed as POWs, note the card from Japan (9). Censorship continued after the war (10-11) as did propaganda in a debate over the future of the Duchy, which had also reached the Versailles negotiations in France (10).

The plight of the Danish speaking German soldiers attracted considerable sympathy in Denmark and among the Allied Powers. The result was that the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 provided for a referendum in parts of the Duchy of Schleswig overseen by an Anglo-French force with five commissioners appointed from the United Kingdom (2), France, Norway and Sweden.



1919: Envelope sent from Esbjerg in Denmark to Aabenraa (Apenrade) censored due to control of currency and valuables.

UNREST IN SCHLESWIG.

Danes Accused of Propaganda Against the German Government.
Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, May 26.—The hostility of the Danish population in Northern Schleswig to the German régime was aired in the Prussian Diet today. The spokesman of the Conservative Party, Count Rantzau, said vigorous repression by the Prussian Government was necessary if "vital national interests" were not to be imperiled.

The Danish propaganda, he added, was openly directed toward making Northern Schleswig Danish in event of a war in which Germany was defeated.

Count Rantzau quoted as typical of public sentiment the fact that a 10-year-old schoolboy spat upon the Kaiser's picture in the course of a celebration of his Majesty's birthday. German residents, he added, were systematically boycotted socially and commercially.

The Imperial Chancellor, in replying, said that anti-German manifestations had already been brought to the attention of the Danish Government "in an emphatic manner," and further steps would be taken to prevent a recurrence of them, because such agitation was not only of local importance, but might easily affect international relations.

The New York Times

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commissioners appointed from the United Kingdom (2), France, Norway and Sweden.

In 1920 the Duchy of Schleswig was divided into three parts for the purpose of determining its future. On 10th February 1920 in the northern third, 75% of the population voted to rejoin Denmark; on 14th March 1920 in the central third, 80% of the population voted to remain German; while in the southern third there was no plebiscite.

Stamps were issued for the plebiscite areas on 26th January and 20th May 1920 including official stamps overprinted C.I.S., as well as definitive stamps in a common design but denominated in

two currencies, German Pfennig and Marks, and Danish Kroner and Øre, with the latter also overprinted 1 ZONE.



1920: C.I.S. Official stamps used on a Postal Order sent to Denmark.

There were changes in postal rates in both zones during the period of international administration, mixed frankings were permitted on four separate occasions, and all classes of mail are found in both currency areas, making the plebiscite a major study in its own right.

On 15th June 1920 the northern part of the Duchy returned to Denmark and Danish stamps became valid from 16th July 1920.

Frame 51: The Plebiscite

The Treaty of Versailles was ratified by the League of Nations on 10th January 1920, and the C.I.S. (*Commission Internationale de Surveillance du Plébiscite Slesvig*) had full authority from then until 16th June. Stamps denominated in Marks and Pfennig were issued on 25th January (1) and the full range of postal services including registration, parcel post and COD were offered (2).



1920: 15th July, 7 Øre postal stationery card paying the 10 Øre postcard rate. Last day of mixed frankings and last day of use of Schleswig Plebiscite stamps. Schleswig was divided.

The Plebiscite was hotly fought with both sides engaging in a very modern election campaign with propaganda (3), public meetings and the occasional sporadic violence.

Official stamps were made by overprinting the Mark values with C.I.S. with only 2,100 complete sets. The higher values saw little proper use and much of the available material is philatelic. All of the values to 1 Mark are shown here correctly used (5-12), with the postal order (11) being a significant rarity. Original voting papers are shown (6-7).

Frame 52: The Plebiscite and Reunion with Denmark

Mixed frankings are shown (1) and an unusual usage on a telegraph form (2). Stamps in the Danish currency were issued overprinted 1 ZONE on 25th May and demonetised on 15th July 1920 (2-4).

DANES AND GERMANS CLASH IN PLEBISCITE

Vigorous Contest Over Schleswig-Holstein Recalls American Election Campaigns.

CENTRES ABOUT FLENSBURG

Danish Sentiment There Said to be Strong—Economic Considerations Have Weight.

FLENSBURG, Schleswig - Holstein, Feb. 3 (by The Associated Press)—The plebiscite, which is now in full swing, recalls an old-fashioned American election campaign. Both sides are waging a vigorous contest making charges and countercharges and using every political trick to gain the desired end. Feeling runs high, but the provocative flag waving and proclamation posting which accompanied the advent of the International Commission in Flensburg have virtually ceased.

In the country districts the rival factions regularly attempt to capture each other's meetings, resulting occasionally in broken heads. But nobody expects serious trouble. The commission to prevent the influx of professional agitators from Germany and Denmark has forbidden non-residents to participate in electioneering on pain of deportation.

At the moment the fight is centring in the northern zone, where the first ballots will be cast. The Danes claim this district by a majority of from 60 to 70 per cent. The Germans concede that they have no chance for victory there, but their papers urge the largest possible minority vote on the plea that every German vote in the first zone is needed in order to save Flensburg to Germany.

The impression prevails among the Germans that, even if they roll up a big majority in Flensburg, which is in the second zone, the commission may recommend that it be added to Denmark, on the ground that it is the principal trade centre for the Danish northern district.

The main struggle centers in Flensburg. A newcomer gets the notion that Flensburg is thoroughly German, but investigation indicated that this is more apparent than real. One rarely hears Danish spoken; even the Danish campaign dodgers are printed in German. Nevertheless, Danish sentiment exists among a considerable element of the population.

The Danes explain this phenomenon as the result of fifty-five years of Prussian rule, with its inhibiting effect upon non-German utterance. "It is only natural," they say.

Adolph Koester, special representative of the German Government, said today: "I am convinced that it is impossible to obtain a decision along nationalistic lines; the economic question will decide. A barber told me that he would vote Danish because a pound of margarine costs twelve marks, whereas if Flensburg were Danish he would have to pay only two kroner.

The Germans generally express confidence of a big German majority in Flensburg, asserting that they will be aided by good voters from Germany, while the Danes will be able to bring in only 2,000 voters from Denmark. Some prominent Germans, however, refuse to take this sanguine view of the situation.

The New York Times

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Overseas destinations are scarce and are shown here to Iceland, Scotland, Norway, Switzerland, USA, Poland, China and Brazil (5-8). The supervisory force was part British, the Sherwood Foresters, and part French, Les Chausseurs Alpins. British soldiers' mail was marked PAID in London (9), and none is recorded for the French. C.I.S overprinted stamps were not valid after 16th June when the Commission closed, and the envelope from Flensburg, returned from Copenhagen had nowhere to return to (10). Danish style bridge cancellers were introduced from May 1920 (11), and finally mixed frankings with Danish and plebiscite stamps were permitted until 15th July (12), after which only Danish stamps were permitted.

The border zone as redrawn in 1920 survived the Second World War; the Danish and German minorities on both sides have no nationalist political divisions, and since the Schengen agreement in 1990, the border is hardly visible.



Denmark's welcome to Southern Jutland.
Postcard published by F. Thomsen in Haderslev.

Map of the Duchy of Slesvig
with Danish Language place names, drawn in 1943

