

Built-in security

Sweden Post prides itself on its ability to incorporate innovative security functions into its stamps to combat counterfeiters. This involves everything from unique perforation designs to the development of special paper. Here are just a few of the innovations that can be used.

Special colours

Combining intaglio with offset print gives the designer many different colour options to work with.

Multi-colour intaglio printing

Multi-colour intaglio printing provides additional security as it facilitates so-called iris-printing. This enables a continuous line to change from one colour to the next without interruption, a technique that is impossible with conventional printing.

Intaglio print

Sweden Post has a long history of intaglio printing and its expertise in this area is world class. This high level of printing excellence is reflected in its many award-winning stamps.

The motif is reproduced from an engraved steel plate or die. Apart from the extremely attractive, high quality result, this method contributes to security. As the ink is raised above the surface of the paper the very thin, fine lines have a special tactile feel.

UV reflecting ink

Multi-coloured intaglio and offset inks can be mixed with security components. Various types of "effects" can be added such as fluorescent, phosphorescent, iridescent, holographic or metallic inks. At least one of the inks used for printing Sweden Post stamps contain a component that changes colour under a UV lamp.

Microtext

Various tiny word combinations can be included in the design, so-called microtexts. This is a classic security element which gives added protection and is also fun for collectors to study under a magnifying glass.



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Security perforation

Irregular perforation makes a stamp difficult to forge, thereby increasing security. Sweden Post offers a wide range of different perforations to make it as difficult as possible for counterfeiters.

Micro perforations

For self-adhesive stamps security can be increased by incorporating special complicated die cut patterns into the design, such as small micro perforations.

Self adhesive paper

When it comes to self-adhesive paper, Sweden Post can offer the same high quality engraving, intaglio printing and security functionality as stamps printed on conventional paper.

OBA free paper

Strong and durable stamp paper, free of optical brightening agent (OBA). This means that the paper does not reflect under UV light like conventional paper. However, other types of security paper can be used, such as with phosphorescence or specific threads or particles in the paper structure.

Stopping the cheaters

To make it difficult for those who try to reuse stamps that have already been used, special die cuts can be incorporated into the design. These make the stamp tear apart if an attempt is made to peel it off an envelope.

The engraver – a master of his art

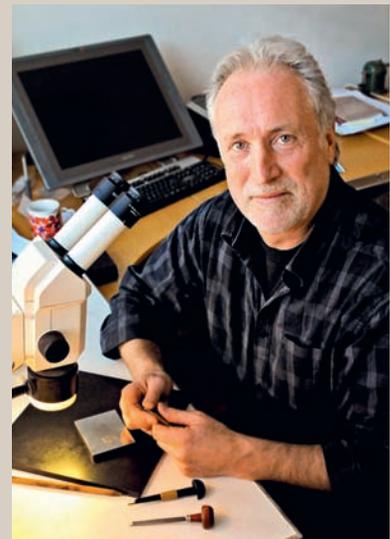
We at Sweden Post are used to working with the world's foremost engravers. Craftsmen with a unique passion and talent that characterizes the Sweden Post stamp collection.

Lars Sjööblom would be the first to admit that he is "old school". After more than 40 years as an engraver and having produced innumerable engravings, he is today recognised as a master of his art.

Specialising in manual engraving, Lars' work is well documented for all to see. But is engraving by hand a dying art? Is it destined to be replaced, for example, by laser technology?

Lars smiles and shakes his head. "Laser engraving is becoming more and more commonplace, but it can never replace the lustre and quality of an engraving done by hand", he says.

"Computerization, on the other hand, is a great help to engravers. We are using computers to assist us in the engraving process. But at the end of the day, a fine stamp engraved by hand has that special, human touch that everybody loves."



Lars Sjööblom.