

Thank ye, Ms Dunderdale!

In March 1990, during the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention and Exhibition, Anne Dunderdale, accompanying her husband Iain, who was there to promote Invergordon, a Scottish port in Cromarty Firth, sparked the idea of establishing an organisation tasked with getting northern Europe on the cruise itinerary map (back then dominated by the Caribbean and Alaska). Fast forward to today, and Cruise Europe is celebrating its 30th birthday, having been officially set up in December 1991 in Copenhagen. Initially comprised of 21 members, the organisation was 93-strong when celebrating the 15th anniversary, nearly 120 - ten years later, and now consists of 130 ports and 15 associated members. The industry, booming till the coronavirus pandemic

(not even the financial crisis could make a dent in cruise statistics), is resurfacing thanks to vaccinations and new safety protocols. Cruise Europe is hoping for another 30 years of promoting Europe as the world's leading sustainable cruise region. Or as the Port of Rouen's Jean Werbowy said three decades ago, "Europe is truly a whole wealth of untapped beauty and centres of interest to discover – the New World is in Europe as far as the future development of the cruise industry is concerned." True then, true now. Happy birthday!



Smokey art

Supplementing the *Collector's corner's* story on Princess Dagmar's Jewels, we should note that Adam Werka's paintings, although excellent, are wrong about one detail, namely smoke. Only the work depicting *Pulaski* as a troopship plying across the Indian Ocean is realistic. Because she used to run on poor quality Indian coal, her convoy comrades would mock her 'Smokey Joe.' During peacetime, however, boilers of passenger steamers were fed with good bunker coal, making smoke not worse than that of modern motor ships (well, at least since specific environmental regulations came into force). Take the 1932 picture from the Norwegian Åndalsnes as evidence. We can see *Kościuszko* that just dropped the starboard anchor, her engines are working 'slow astern' (please note a back wake under the stern!), but what we cannot see is what we're looking for – where's the smoke from the ship's six working boilers?



The blunt truth



We are back reporting on the interwar over-the-Pond postal cooperation between NDŁ and Lufthansa. Although we published a similar picture last year, we have a good reason for doing it again. First, the cameraman is in a different location. Second, the man pressing the shutter seems to be standing on another vessel. Only the Ju 46 plane remains the same. While the previous image was taken from the walking deck of *Europa*, this time, the lens is farther away from Bremen's portside. In the lower-left corner of the postcard, we can see the outer side of a lifeboat, suggesting that the camera was somewhere "in the air," maybe on a temporary outrigger? Nah, the blunt truth is that the photographer was on a bridge, which was wider than the ship and its arms protruded both ways, providing a good aft view.

Commemorating Czesław Ślania

The philatelic world is celebrating Czesław Ślania's 100th birthday (born in the Polish Czeladź on 22 October 1921), including postal administrations issuing commemorative stamps with his portraits. Known as the 'genius of engraving,' Ślania authored and co-created 1,070 stamps, of which about 100 came with maritime motifs – ships, ports,



seascapes, fishermen, etc. Here, we would like to focus on two portraits of training vessels. First, the Polish *Dar Pomorza*, engraved in 1952 at the very beginning of his prolific career. Second,

the older by 20 years work showing the Swedish *Falken* in Karlskrona. Ślania's art prints appeared with the face names of 32 post offices. Among them Sweden (the first stamp in 1960, 430 pieces in total), the country he had been residing in since 1956, followed by Denmark (1962, 260), the Faroe Islands (1975, 100), Greenland (1963, 50), Iceland (1967, 18) the Åland Islands (three in 1994), Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (one joint 1992 edition), and Germany (one stamp in 1995). And, of course, his homeland (47 works), where he published since 1951 till his untimely passing in 2005.



Photo: Office de la Poste Guinéenne