



M/S Selandia is the motif on the third coin in the ship series

On 17 April 2008, Danmarks Nationalbank issues a new 20-krone coin with M/S Selandia as its motif. This is the third coin in the ship series. The series will depict different types of ships, selected to cover various aspects of Danish maritime history. The Selandia coin will be issued in an edition of 1.2 million coins in ordinary circulation.

In addition, a very limited number of collector's coins, only 1,500, will be minted in the very fine proof quality. This quality is minted using extremely well-polished dies and with extra strokes, which provides a silky smooth clearly embossed motif. The price for a proof coin, delivered in a box, is DKK 95.00.

The coin was presented on 16 April at MAN Diesel's museum, DieselHouse in Copenhagen. M/S Selandia was the world's first ocean-going ship powered by diesel. It was built at the Burmeister & Wain (B&W) shipyard in Copenhagen for the East Asiatic Company as a combined passenger and freight vessel. The new diesel technology caused quite a stir internationally, and when the ship docked at London during its maiden voyage in 1912 it was received by Winston Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty at the time. The Selandia marked the transition from steam ships to motor ships and was innovative in terms of both technology and architecture. It had two Burmeister & Wain 8-cylinder, 4-stroke diesel engines invented by Rudolf Diesel from Germany. The vessel was 112.78 metres long, 4,964 GRT. It could reach a speed of 11 knots.

In January 1943, the Selandia grounded off the coast of Yokohama in Japan, and on 30 January it broke in half and sank – 30 years after its first test voyage.

In 1903, B&W began to sell usable engines for e.g. power stations. The DieselHouse in Copenhagen (www.dieselhouse.dk) provides an



authentic setting for the story of the diesel engine, which is a core technology of the industrialised society. Around the mammoth-sized B&W diesel engine from 1932, you can follow the development of diesel technology from the late 1800s to our day – accompanied by the sound and smell of the old, working engines.

The motif for the new ship coin was designed by the sculptor Professor Torben Ebbesen, who was also the artist behind the Nightingale fairy tale coin. The artist has created a relief with M/S Selandia at sea and a stylised engine. The relief appears both vivid and deep, although the actual depth is only 2 mm on the model.

The new ship coin can be purchased from banks. However, the proof version can only be purchased from Danmarks Nationalbank (Banking Services) and via the website of The Royal Mint, www.royalmint.dk. The next ship coin is expected to be issued around August 2008.

