

¿ When will postage stamps stop being issued??

By : Enrique Sánchez García



There's a saying in our Mexican culture that goes "time will tell...," and curiously, it's time that has made me believe in its effectiveness..

From the middle of the last decade of the last century (1990-1999), when the Internet began to be marketed to the general public, it was very common to hear in the philatelic world the question of whether philately would die as a consequence of the decrease in the use of letters as a means of written communication between humans. This last point certainly caused a lot of controversy, and I recall that my position or opinion was always the following: "The use of letters may well end, and with it the printing of new stamps, but philately will survive; it will simply become more expensive. This is due to the inevitable economic formula that regulates the price of goods according to the relationship between supply and demand. The printing of new stamps stops or is reduced, the number of existing stamps freezes, the population increases, and with it the potential number of collectors, which puts a strain on the supply-demand relationship, causing an increase in the prices of collectible stamps. We will also see an increase in the average age of collectors, as they will need to be people with purchasing power, leaving children who don't yet have income with less opportunity to acquire stamps from other collectors, and without the possibility of obtaining them used in correspondence, since we assume that the latter will decrease or cease to exist".

Let us recall chronologically how "interpersonal and remote written communication" has occurred among humans in broad terms:

- a) 3,500 a.C. **Writing** was created (approximately 5500 years ago).
- b) 550 a.C. Written **communication systems** are created, primarily for governmental or military use.

- c) 1650 The first **mail services** are established (paper letters transported by authorized third parties and for public use)
- d) 1830 The **telegraph** is invented and begins competition with written mail.
- e) 1910 **Telex** is created
- f) 1964 The use of public **fax** machines is established (the technology was created in 1843)
- g) 1995 Public **email** is created (the technology was created in 1971)
- h) 1999 Public **social networks** are created (the technology has been created since 1978)
- i) 2026 Denmark decides to **suspend postal letter service** (delivery and collection within its territory)

We can then say that electromechanical mail took 200 years to begin **displacing manually written mail service**, that is, from 1830 to 2026..

Many countries will be watching Denmark very closely to decide whether it is advisable for them to eliminate their internal mail systems..

The news source published online by the Danish postal service itself can be found at the following link:
<https://www.postnord.dk/postnord-i-danmark/presse-og-medier/nyheder/2025/det-sidste-brev-markerer-et-nyt-kapitel-for-postnord/>

Which we transcribe here:

".....The latest letter marks a new chapter for PostNord

At the end of the year, PostNord will deliver its last letter in Denmark. A new campaign marks the end of 400 years of mail history and the beginning of a PostNord focused entirely on parcels..

When PostNord delivers its final letter on December 30, 2025, it won't be just any letter. It's designed as a direct greeting from PostNord to the Danes, who, in addition to being the final recipients, now also star in PostNord's new campaign video.

With this final letter, PostNord celebrates 401 years of postal history. Letter volume has decreased significantly with digitization, while the need for parcel delivery grows year after year. Therefore, starting in 2026, PostNord will cease letter delivery and focus entirely on parcel services.

We quickly realized that our final letter would not go unnoticed. "That's why we decided to use this medium one last time to speak directly to all Danes and close this chapter of history with dignity, while at the same time, in a

simple and respectful way, guiding Danes through the development we have undergone as a society," says Andreas Brethvad, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at PostNord Denmark.

The story of change

In the campaign video, the familiar voice of Ellen Hillingsø reads PostNord's final letter. This letter describes the end of the letter's role in everyday life and the transition to the new ways we connect today.

With the letter, we wanted to encompass both the past and the future. The campaign shows how relationships endure, even when communication methods change. "The final letter is a positive story of change and marks a turning point not only in PostNord's history, but also in Denmark's," says Andreas Brethvad, Director of Communications and Public Affairs at PostNord Denmark..

Watch the full campaign video here. The campaign will run in Danish cinemas and on social media from December 22 to January 4, and on television and streaming platforms from January 1. It was developed in collaboration with James Godfrey and the creative branding agency Snild..

PostNord's last letter is on display at ENIGMA, Copenhagen's Museum of Posts, Telecommunications and Communication. Images

The above suggests that in Denmark, postage stamps will be replaced by printed labels for parcel delivery services; however, it's unclear what will happen with outgoing international mail. Nevertheless, it does indicate that this is the trend.

Here in Mexico, we've seen a substantial reduction in post offices in all cities, as well as a decrease in the frequency of deliveries and collections between post offices and distribution centers. Not to mention that mailboxes for depositing letters away from post offices, like those now being removed from the streets in Denmark, here in Mexico have been gone for many years. And I don't recall a time in Mexico when mail carriers collected letters from homes, they only deliver them.

Could we proudly claim to have overtaken Denmark?