

The Royal Philatelic Society London
 15 Abchurch Lane
 EC4N 2BW London
 United Kingdom

Postage
Stamp

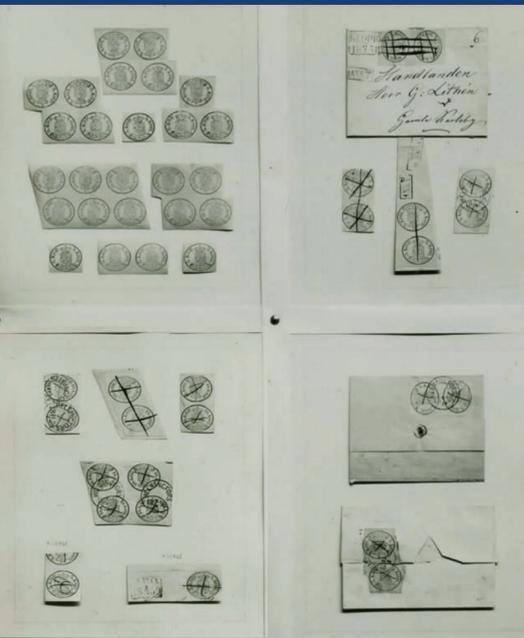


Mårten Sundberg and Tomas Bjäringer have a shared interest in philatelic literature.
 (Photo: Jonas Hällström)

As a grandson of Harry Wennberg, Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon FRPSL was born with philately in his blood. Tomas Bjäringer has had a successful career as exhibitor and lecturer on Swedish philately. He is co-author of two major works on the topic: *Swedish Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1855–1895* (1986) and *Sweden Number One / The Three Skilling Banco* (2005). He has an important philatelic library and is a member of the expert committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Mårten Sundberg FRPSL worked for 40 years as a reporter and editor at a local newspaper in the Åland Islands. Philatelic articles by him have been published in journals in Finland, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands. In the exhibition catalogue for STOCKHOLMIA 2019 he wrote the key article "The Centre of the Philatelic World" on the daily life at The Royal Philatelic Society London. He is a researcher of philatelic history rather than a stamp collector.

Back cover illustrations:
 Four sheets with sixteen oval issue tête-bêche items exhibited by Agathon Fabergé in Helsinki in 1928, and portraits of famous owners of tête-bêches.



TÊTE-BÊCHE Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

Tomas Bjäringer
 Mårten Sundberg



Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon FRPSL Mårten Sundberg FRPSL



TÊTE-BÊCHE

Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland



TÊTE-BÊCHE

Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

This work tells the stories of the rare tête-bêches of the oval issue of Finland 1856–1858, rarities which are highly prized by philatelists the world over. Appreciation of these rarities arose at a relatively late date, but amongst the former and present owners are many of the most acclaimed collectors in the history of philately including Agathon Fabergé, Philippe de Ferrari, Arthur Hind, Théodore Champion, Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Alfred H. Caspary, Alphonse Mayer von Rothschild, HM King Carol II, Maurice Burrus, Leo Linder, Rolf Gummesson, Hiroyuki Kanai, Christian Sundman, Gustaf Douglas, Luis Alemany Indarte and William H. Gross (all depicted on the back cover). Collections of classic Finland with tête-bêches have been awarded Grand Prix at international exhibitions on eight occasions.

Each of the sixty-eight recorded tête-bêche items is presented with a comprehensive biography including provenance. Four previously unlisted items have been added, but more thrilling is the story of the items that have been dismissed from previous listings. With the help of Leo Linder's reference archive earlier recorded items that obviously were fakes are detected.

One hundred and four owners are presented in short biographies. One chapter deals with collectors who reportedly owned tête-bêches, but the relevant individual items could not be identified. Reprints and forgeries of tête-bêches are described, as well as reconstructions of large tête-bêche blocks.

Agathon Fabergé claimed to know that all unused tête-bêche blocks came from the same source, and that a dealer divided full sheets that he had bought. The book presents a chain of circumstantial evidence that suggests who this dealer was.

A comprehensive index of 20 pages helps the reader find relevant information.

Front cover illustrations:
 Tête-bêche pairs 5KS-10, 10K-12 and 5KL-04.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS • Edition 100 (+12 Authors' edition) • Linen thread bound in blue leather • Format 216 x 279 mm • Colour 4+4 • Paper 120 g/m2 uncoated offset paper • Slipcase 3 mm • Gold on cover, spine and slipcase • Printed by Ringöns Tryckeri AB, Gothenburg, Sweden.



New Book Launch

Prospect & Invitation to Subscribe

The Publications Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London, cordially invite you to subscribe on the new book to be launched in the near future.

TÊTE-BÊCHE

Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

The authors and their book are herewith presented, together with the scope of the book and its sale information. This book is not only an achievement in its performances, but also unusual in its presentation with the binding and its slipcase which are both hand-crafted in leather. The edition is only 100. This invitation advertises the sale of this book on a first to come basis. **Purchases are limited to one book per person. All books will be dispatched from the printer in Sweden, directly to the buyer.**

Price • RPSL Members £290 • Non-Members £320
 Shipping costs: Sweden £20 • Europe £50 • Rest of the world £65

Orders should be placed online at <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Publications>, or by using the subscription form attached, to be sent to the Society's office. Orders will be confirmed upon receipt of payment. Subscribers' name will be listed on the book's second title page.

The Royal Philatelic Society London • 15 Abchurch Lane • EC4N 2BW • London
 E-mail: adminsecretary@rpsl.org.uk

