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

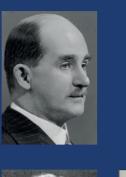
As a grandson of Harry Wennberg, Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon FRPSL was born with philately in his blood.

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

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









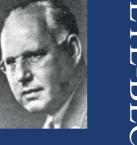


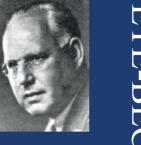




































TÊTE-BÊCHE

Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon FRPSL Mårten Sundberg FRPSL

#### TÊTE-BÊCHE

Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

This work tells the stories of the rare têtebêches of the oval issue of Finland 1856–1858, rarities which are highly prized by philatelists the world over. Appreciation of these rarities the former and present owners are many of the most acclaimed collectors in the history Philippe de Ferrari, Arthur Hind, Théodore Champion, Alfred F. Lichtenstein, Alfred H. 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 Grand Prix at international exhibitions on eight

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 that he had bought. The book presents a chain of circumstantial evidence that suggests who

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

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

## New Book Launch Prospect & Invitation to Subscribe

The Publications Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London, cordially invite you to subsribe 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.

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Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL

### A masterpiece in its completion, its importance, and its beauty too

In retrospect, addressing philatelic importance, we know that the most prominent philatelists are compliant with having one thing in common: they seek for certain criterion of attraction connected with the stamp issues they commit to. Very often, such stamp issues are of provisional status, and/or primitive design. Finland was early to implement uniform postal rates in 1845, with corresponding postal stationery stamped envelopes. However, Finland was relatively late in 1856 to issue their first stamps. The 1856 adhesives are of oval design, primitively printed and manufactured, and supplied in very low quantities. They were hand-printed one by one in a process causing tête-bêche positions. All these facets of Finland's first adhesives make them philatelically important, and they have attracted many prominent philatelists, and the authors to this book too.

The authors, Tomas Bjäringer RDP Hon. FRPSL and Mårten Sundberg FRPSL, have many things in common. They are fascinated by the history of philately generally, of philatelic provenances and legends, of census registrations, and not least to connect all their fascinations in philately into this one publication. They are also very passionate members of The Royal Philatelic Society London. However, their most common practice relates to the classic Finland oval design adhesives, and their tête-bêches, and here we are in this book. This book is a complete census of all recorded tête-bêches, a complete volume of all their recorded provenances, and a complete biographic census of everything known to date being published about the tête-bêches.

The Royal Philatelic Society London as the most prestigious philatelic publisher in the world, is the publisher of this work too. Addressing this masterpiece in its completion, its importance, and its beauty too, the format on which it is published follows a tradition from Tomas Bjäringer's previous philatelic authorships. The book is published in 100 + 12 and offered on pre-subscription only. The binding and its slipcase are hand-crafted and conclude what this book is about: an important monograph, reflected by its perfectionism in performance, and its final presentation addressing philatelic connoisseurs, and philatelic bibliophiles.

I want to congratulate the authors to have accomplished their mission. At this final presentation, it all proves to have been worth the efforts. I thank you for the education the book gives, and its reference to further exploration not only into the tête-bêches, but also deriving the roots to how our hobby has evolved through history, including our hobby's many prominent characters.

Jonas Hällström RDP FRPSL



Bearing C. H. Sundehin

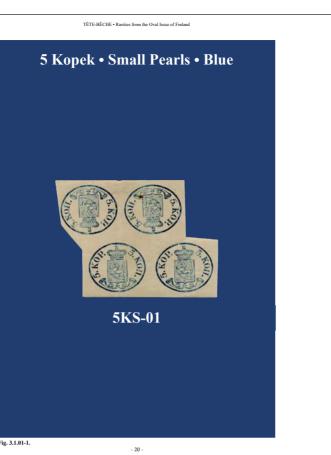
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TÊTE-BÊCHE • Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

Chapter 6

**Reconstruction of Large** 

**Tête-bêche Units** 

As we can see in the extract below [Fig. 6-1] from an article by Agathon Fabergé he claimed that all

available photos and scans. There are some discrepancies in the matching of the margins, but a perfect match

hen they were divided some 125 years ago. Differences of colour, as in the Photoshop reconstructions on

larger sums for individual rarities, and also they did
not yet understand that old classes stamps in beautiful Fig. 6-1. Agathon Faberge's three part article was
large blocks deserve a far higher valuation than smaller
pieces. Even today you can still sometimes find that
the value of blocks is calculated by multiplying the number of tiems by their individual value! Due to the lack of
philatelic avareness by the dealer not one single original sheet exists anymore. — Blocks of the 5 kopek with large
pearls I have never seen. (translated from German, ed.).

Fabergé Agathon: "Die Ovalmarken von Finnland" (The Oval Stamps of Finland), Studier och Meddelanden, No. 2, May 1932, pp. 25–29.

cannot be expected without the originals at hand and without being sure that they are in the same state as

the next page, are unavoidable if all the original items are not photographed or scanned with the same device

Agathon Fabergé wrote in 1932: Of blocks, i.e. tête-

Section 1 accept where in 1722 by notices, i.e. teet-beches, I know a few unused blocks of four of the 5 Kop, with small pearls, and 10 Kop., and of the latter as the largest piece a block of six. Of used pieces are known to me only one, with the big circular Helsingfors-

oostmark cancelled on 2. 8. 1858, block of four of the

0 Kop. stamp. I also can establish that all unused blocks of 5 Ko

with small pearls and 10 Kop. (only pale-rose) c from the company Paul Wahl in Warkaus. Abou

years ago on the occasion of a reconstruction in the Viborg company office a number of these stamps were

found and sold to a stamp collector, who was also dealer. He divided the sheets immediately to get rid

em faster and easier and to make money; it v

Chapter 3.1 Biographies of Tête-bêches – 5 Kopek • Small Pearls • Blue 5KS-01 On the reverse, the red 'FABERGÉ' mark is on Pencil notations 'Mertens I' and 'pdyx-K / Rob F / Mertens / recognisable handwriting. 

Also in pencil in a different handwriting 'Scheindling'.2 Provenance 1890s 1890s 1900 Castle, Marcellus Purnell Mann, William Woodham Mertens, Robert Fedorowitsch

Fabergé, Agathon Lichtenstein, Alfred F. / Boyd Dale, Louise Amundsen, Lars Kanai, Hiroyuki<sup>3</sup> Philatelic Culture Museum, Kobe, Japan<sup>4</sup> References
1906 Phillips Charles J.: Notes and News, Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal, Vol. 16 No. 189, 31 March

1906, pp. 180–182.
"I have priced the following books since the last announcement. [...]

INLAND.

This is an exceptionally strong book and one to which Mr. Castle gave a great deal of attention. [...] Amongst the rare things we draw attention to—The issue of 1856, small pearl in the post-horn, 5 kep, blue, a mint block of four printed *tête-bêche* [...] 10 kop., rose, a superb block of six, with the stamps printed *tête-bêche*, with full gum [10K-01]...".5

1. Agathon Fabergé had the habit of making notes on the reverse of items that he bought. He usually wrote the price paid in code, also the month and year of purchase and the name of the seller, but not always all of these facts. The red handstamp mark is actually in two lines and reads FERRARUFABERGE (the accent over the letter E gradually faded with use). It must have been made to mark the Zemstvo stamps that Faberge bought at the Ferrai auctions. On Finand stamps only the lower part of the handstamp was used. Zbigniew S. Mikulski RDF FRPSL (1925–2017), the eminent collector of Russia, deciphered the code for price paid: p-1, r-2, z-3, c-4, d-5, m-6, i-7, a-8, t-9, y-0 (Mikulski Zbigniew S Agathon Fabergé, fra gioiellei e francobolli, II Collectonista, No. 7-8 2005, pp. 32-35). On some items there is als  $m \sim m$  in continuous with the price code. It is unknown what it represents. "Rob F stands for Robert Fedorowists". In Kanai's write up it says "Ex Ferrari – Fabergé – Caspary – Lichtenstein – Amundsen", but neither Ferrari nor

spary ever owned this block.

The museum was founded by Hiroyuki Kanai.

Chapter 6 – Reconstruction of Large Tête-bêche Uni

Architect Luis Alemany Indarte followed the example
His collections of Spain, Argentina and Brazil wor

of his father, who had been responsible for planning six Grand Prix in EIP exhibitions between 1991 a

big construction projects for many decades, and was 2017. Alemany started collecting Finland in 2000

Chapter 9

**Biographies of Owners** 

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the time of writing, June 2021).

Tête-bêches; 5KS-12, 10K-18, 5KL-08

Alemany Indarte, Luis (1940-2020), Spain

Fig. 6-4. 5KS-05 + 5KS-03 + 5KS-08 + 5KS-07 + 5KS-02. 5KS-08 + 5KS-07 was the block of four 5KS-06 until the



10K-01, which was divided sometime between October 1967 and September 1969. When we are to assess Fabergé redibility regarding the Paul Wahl story it is very important

ere part of a full sheet (two rows with ten stamps in each row) there four stamps missing in the upper row, and three in the lower. For

are four stamps missing in the upper row, and three in the lower. For example a horizontal pair in the upper row to the left, a single stamp below, and a tête-bêche pair (that have been lost) or two singles to the right. One can also think that the unit above should be turned upside-down and then we can imagine a margin tête-bêche pair to the left. Of course, this reasoning is just mind games. Agathon Faberge's wording die bogen (the sheets) and existiert nun kein einziger Originalbogen

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A. Thiele & Comp.: 17

responsible for the construction of Madrid's AZCA

313, 357 Christian L. Dull (Philadelphia): 83, 195 Corinphila (Zürich ): 45, 62, 68, 91, 140, 182, 188, 210, 222, 229, 244, 245, 252, 302, 343, 344, 362, 371,

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occasion to show my fellow members pieces Fig. 9-8. of my collection and to contribute somehow to the RDP 195 so very interesting work of the Society" King Carol A wrote to The Royal Philatelic Society London upon b

Prior to the exhibition he was invited to The Royal Street in Philatelic Society London on 27 April 1950 to give a of A.H. C paper and a display on the 'First issue of Moldavia'. This firm The paper was read by the President of the Society, Herbert Weston Edmunds (1881–1954), since the King and his collection had been delayed. Harmer, Rooke in New York sold parts of the collection in 1951 (see p. 41, footnote 1), but the 1929.

Alfred H. Caspary's collection of classic stamps

contradicting the information above: "When Carol in Life Magazine in 1954. The individual 16 auctio costs his throne during World War II, his stamp catalogues by H. R. Harmer, Inc. during 1955–58 with funds for the rest of his life. [...] much of it was sold to Nestor Jacob of the [Filatelia] Galvez firm sources for philatelic scholars. Finland was sold in sal (Madrid) in the early 1950s."

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| Postiljonen (Malmö): 38, 39, 96, 97, 113, 148, 160, 161, 223, 237, 278, 291, 296, 315, 323, 334, 345, 359, 362 | Puttick & Simpson (London): 349 | S

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At LONDON 1950 King Carol exhibited a Y spectacular array of 'Moldavian Bull's Heads'. a

The remainder of the collection was for some eason stored in a couple of railway carriages in quality of its many rarities. He was specially noted to the supervision of the collection was for some as well-known throughout the world for the supervision. Mexico. The material was bought by Nestor Jacob and his knowledge of Hawaii and the USA, and his advice his company Filatelia Hobby in Madrid, probably in the early 1970s. Nestor Jacob sold a lot of items from collection contained only one stamp produced after King Carol's collection at his auctions, but he revealed 1900: the one cent 1901 Pan American issue with King Carols scolection as naturalizations, but her versus of the material on very few occasions. La Galería Filatélica de Barcelona sold the remainder of the collection in its second international auction in The Philatelic Foundation, both in New York, and he

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the collection in its second international auction in February 1987. The Finland collection was exchanged for a collection of the Philippines, in a deal where two philatelists from the USA were involved. John the source says that Nestor Jacob bought King Carol material already in the 1950s, not necessarily Finland items) from his collection were illustrated in 1957, in 86 lots including his four tête-bêches
 Tête-bêches: 5KS-03, 10K-05, 10K-14, 5KL-09.

elist, Vol. 116 No. 1342, January–Februar

ardo Escalada FRPSL, provided by Vinco

v Alfred Henry (1877-1955) USA

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Rarities from the Oval Issue of Finland

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uctions and private treaty with tête-bêches

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a hinge upon the signature 'Scheindling'. The hinge was placed as Fabergé would have don it. See the text at the bottom of next page.