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RPSL Zoom

25 February 2021



The Royal Philatelic Society London



Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks, 1895-1980

# The Post

- 14 May 1849: The Copenhagen footpost was taken over by the Post Office.
- 1 May 1851: The Post Office issued a 2 RBS stamp to pay for local delivery in Copenhagen. Other larger towns followed, mainly from 1 January 1861.



- 7 January 1871: *Lov om Postvæsenet* Law on The Postal Service.
- 1 January 1875: Currency reform had postal implications. The 2 Skilling local rate became 4 øre.
- 1 July 1875: Denmark joined the General Postal Union.
- 9 February 1876: Footpost closed and integrated into the general post office.
- 1870s: Complaints about quality of postal delivery service

# Local Post

- 19 July 1879 private posts were legalised in Denmark by a Royal decree.
- December 1879ff: Københavns By- og Hus Telegraf established ... others followed.



- 1 October 1888: a new postal law was introduced forbidding the establishment of new local posts or the expansion of existing ones.
- 1892: Of the 17 local posts in business in the 1880s. Only one remained.
- However, this did not affect independent parcel delivery services.



# Telephone



11 December 1879: Kjøbenhavns By- og Hustelegraf (Copenhagen City and Home Telegraph), set up public telephone stations and began also to offer installation of telephone lines to private customers.

15 January 1881: The American *Bell International Telephone Company* established a telephone service in Copenhagen, supported by Carl Frederik Tietgen (1829-1901), a financier.

21 August 1882 The *Bell International Telephone Company* was taken over by *Kjøbenhavns Telefon Aktieselskab (KTAS)*, a company founded by Tietgen.

Bell aimed at customers from the Copenhagen upper classes, the financial and business sectors, particularly the Copenhagen Stock Exchange. With no competition the company could fix subscriptions for a quick return on investment.

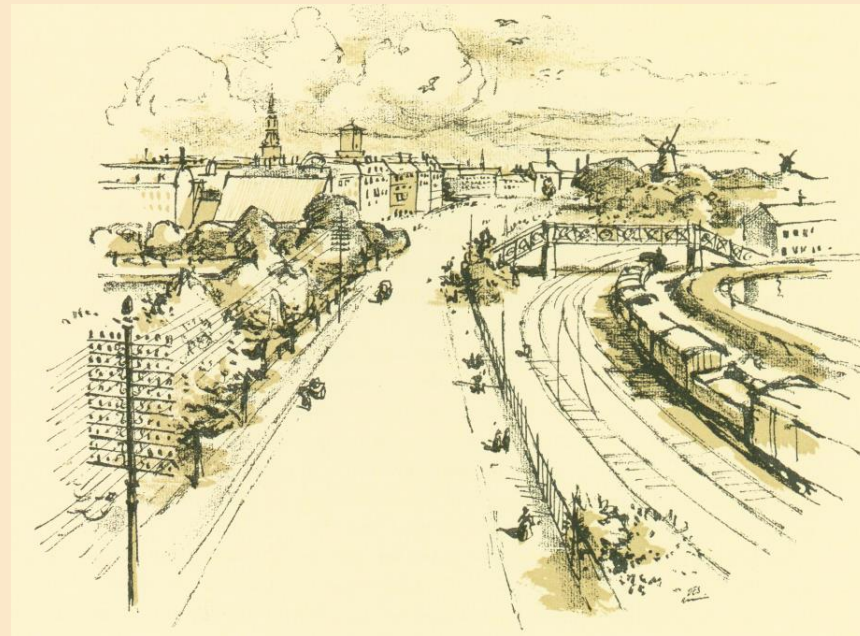


This strategy was continued by KTAS which by 1889 had only 1,487 subscribers out of a population of more than a quarter of a million people in Copenhagen.



## The Telegraph Service ...

- 1852: *Loven om Telegraflinien Helsingør - Hamburg.*
- 2 February 1854: Telegraph line completed from Helsingør to Hamburg.
- 31 November 1861: Telegraph service open to the public.



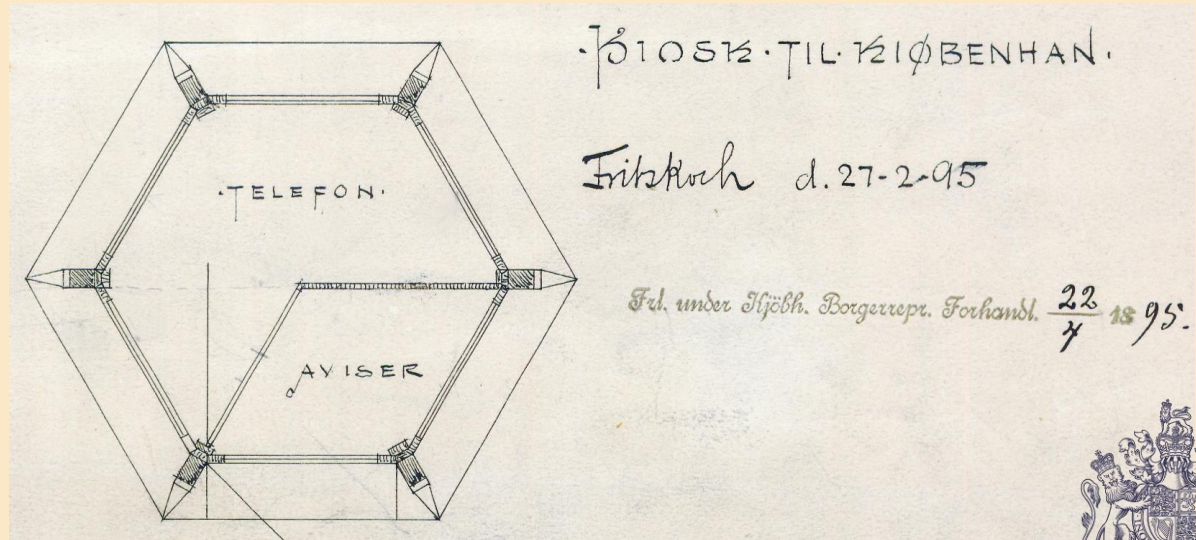
# By og Hustegraf – Greetings Telegram



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

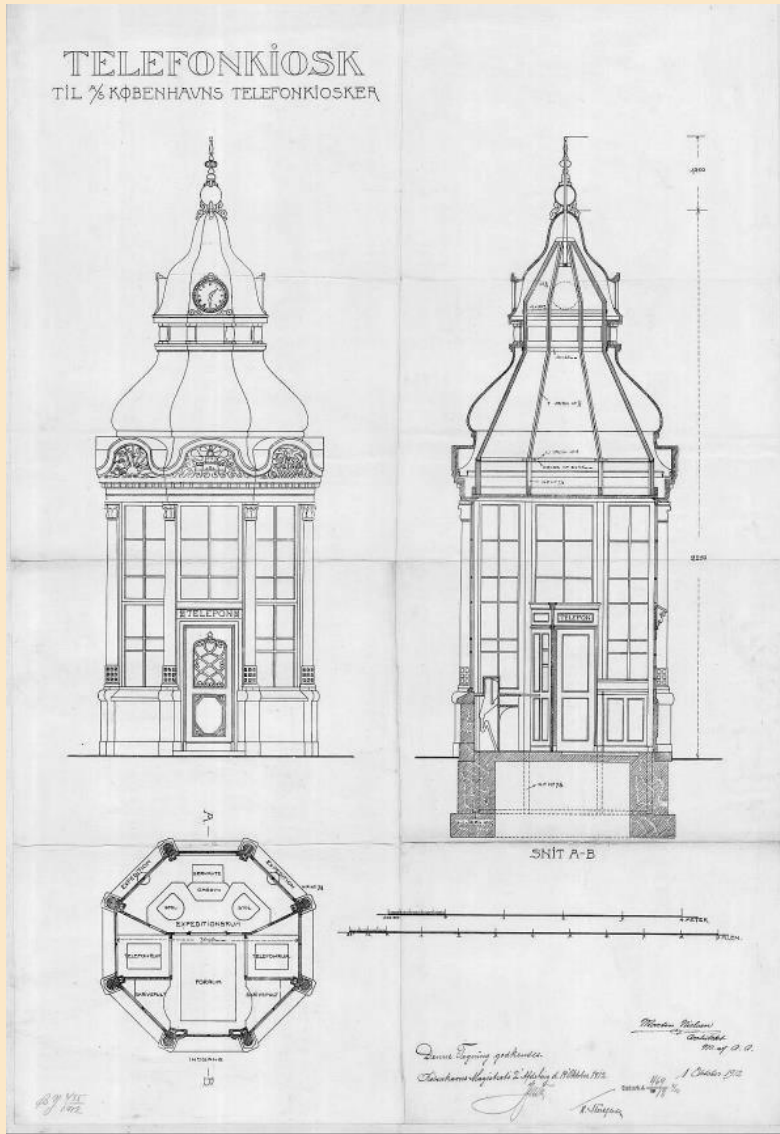


- 🏛️ 3 September 1895, *Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab* obtained a concession from the Copenhagen city authorities for the installation and operation of up to 15 telephone kiosks for a 15 year period.
- 🏛️ Fritz Koch, an assistant to the city architect, was charged with the design of the new kiosks.
- 🏛️ These were nine metres tall, hexagonal and with a floor area of approximately nine square metres, constructed in pine wood on a granite plinth.





# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



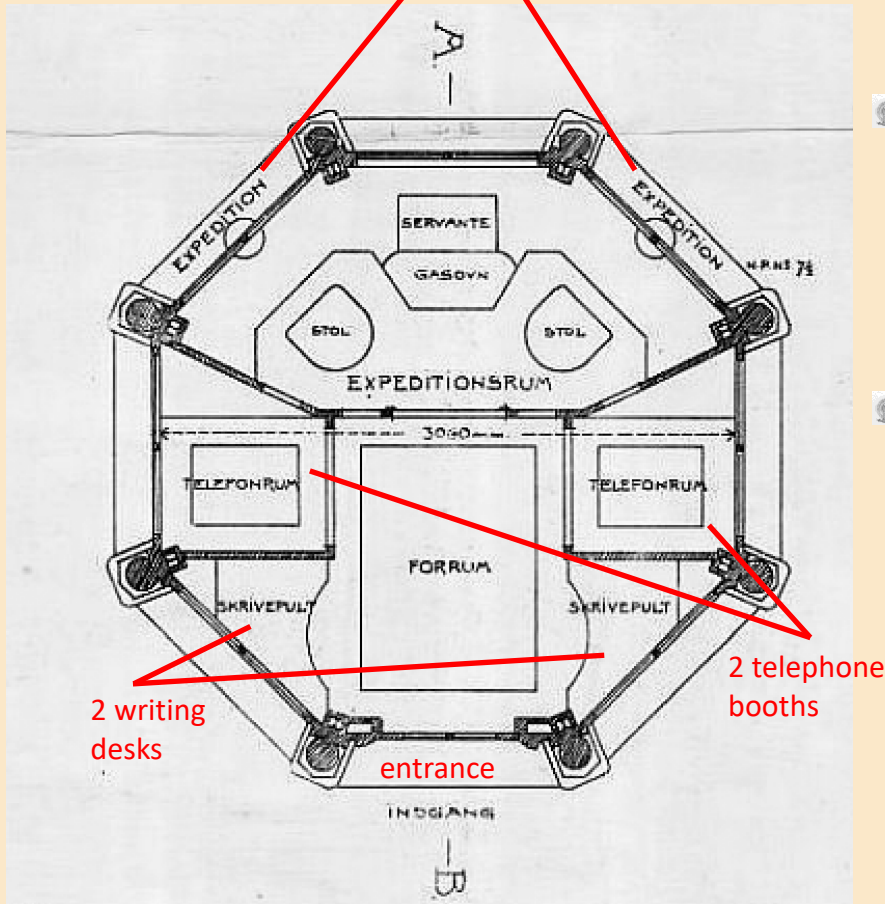
- ❶ Fritz Koch died in 1905. Another architect, Martin Nielsen, created a design for new and somewhat larger telephone kiosks in 1913.
- ❷ They replaced many of Koch's kiosks and were also built in a number of new locations.
- ❸ The new design was criticised, and in 1929 when the company once again wanted to install new telephone kiosks, the city insisted that they should be built in the old design.

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# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



- ☪ Sunday 24 April 1898: 'Puk' was a late nineteenth century Danish satirical [magazine](#) founded in 1893 based on *Punch* in Great Britain, and *Puck* in the United States.
- ☪ Front page illustration of a young woman on the telephone in her kiosk.
- ☪ *"Hello, is that the exchange? Could you please ask Kiosk 6 if she would like to have lunch with Kiosk 9?"*
- ☪ The two 'kiosks' can be seen walking together in the 'bubble' on the left.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



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# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

## Kiosk locations





## Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

The kiosks were open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. in the summer, and 10 p.m. in winter. Four eventually offered a 24-hour service, and each kiosk contained two telephones.

Kiosks also sold items such as:

- 📰 Newspapers and magazines
- 📧 Stamps
- 🎫 Theatre and Concert tickets
- 📄 Insurance policies
- 📦 Box numbers – Poste-Restante



Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



- Advertising space: From small ads to posters.
- It was also possible to ring the telephone kiosk to leave a message, which would then be sent to the recipient by bicycle messenger.
- Kiosks acted as agents for newspaper advertising, and as an address for responses to small ads in city Newspapers.
- From the beginning telegrams could be sent, including very attractive greetings and special occasion designs.
- Later, parcels which missed the Post Office opening hours could be left for forwarding to the night or morning trains, and taxis could be booked.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

A bicycle messenger.

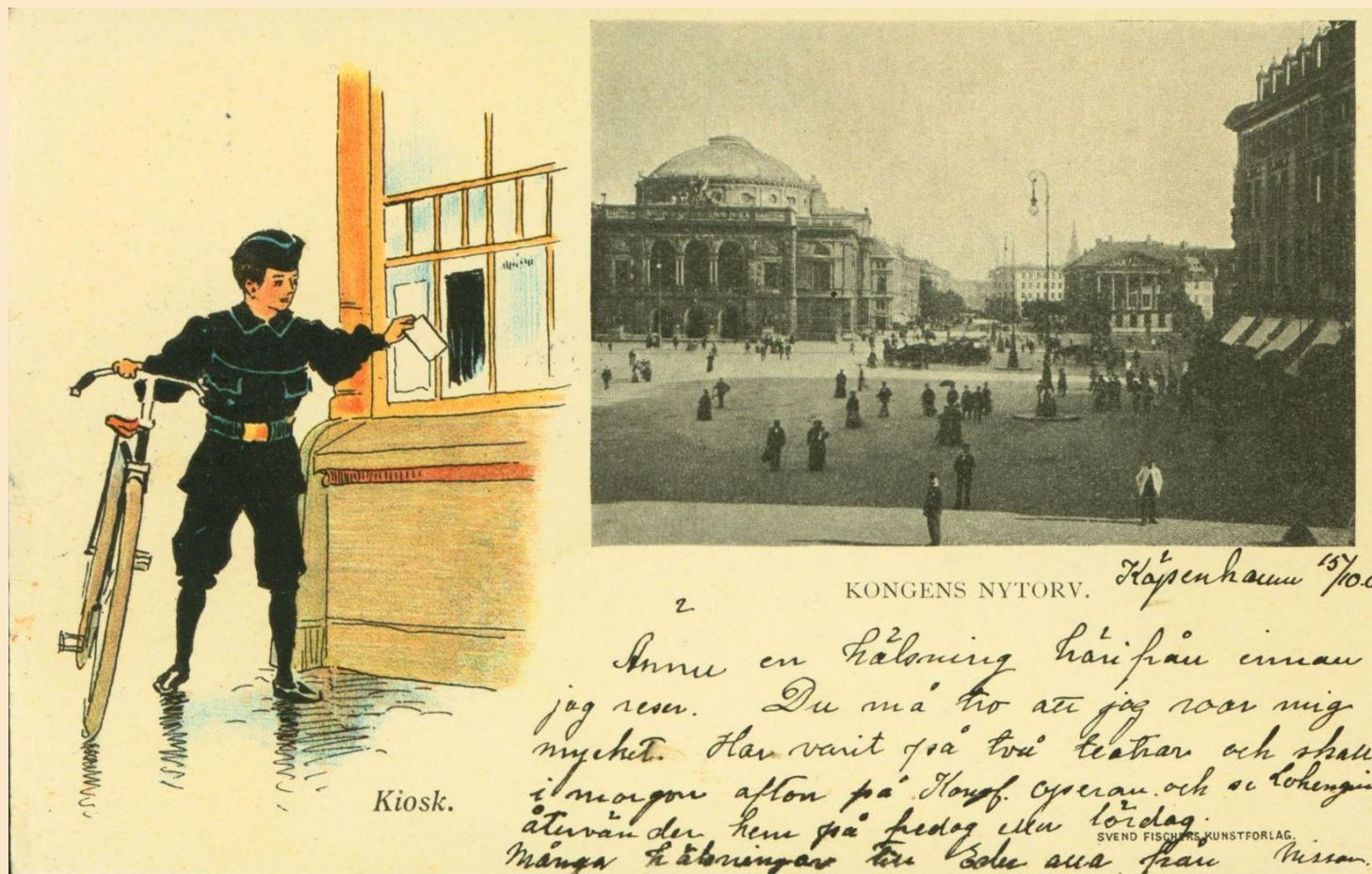


A.K.T.K.: Aktieselskab Kjøbenhavns Telefon Kiosker

K.T.A.S.: Kjøbenhavns Telefon Aktie Selskab



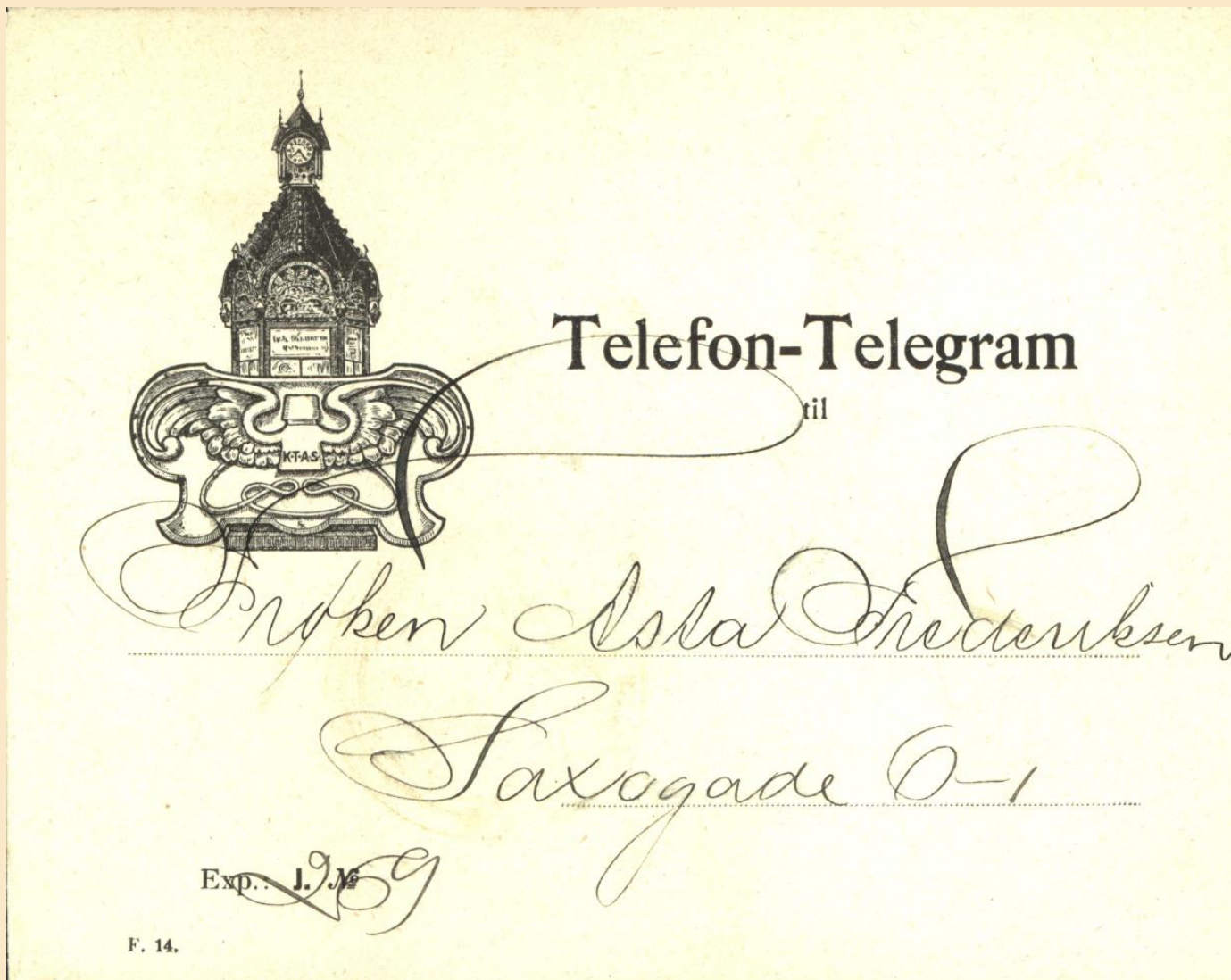
# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



17 October 1901: Card showing bicycle messenger – price 20 øre or express, 35 øre.  
Card by Svend Fischer Kunst Forlag



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab







# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

Stamps were issued from the beginning in 1896 ...

Radiating lines



Horizontal lines



20 øre dull red  
Type I is missing.

20 øre on 10 øre  
red is missing.

Lighter window

Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Telegram sealing labels c. 1904. Pre World War One



'Stamps' also used as sealing labels 1920s.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



New design, probably after 1935.



København's Telefon-Kiosker:  
 Hovedeksped. Raadhuspl. 16.....★Central 445  
 aaben 7-23  
 Nateksped. 23 Aft.-7 Morg..... Central 63 45  
 Grundlagt 1895.

**Kioskernes Belliggenhed**

1. Kongens Nytorv v. Hesten
2. Grønningen
3. Nytorv
4. Raadhuspl./Frdbergg.
5. Kultorvet
6. Kg. Nytorv v. Magasin
7. Vesterbros Torv
8. Sølvtorvet
9. Dr. Louises Bro
10. Vesterbrog./Helgolandsg.
11. Ll. Triangel
12. Christianshavns Torv
13. Vesterbrog./Værnedamsv.
14. Enghaveplads
15. Nørrevold/Fiolstr.
16. Skt. Hans Torv
17. Jagtv./Østerbrog.
18. St. Kongensg./Nyboder
19. Skt. Jakobspl.
20. Raadhuspl./Industribyg.
21. Gyldenløvesg.
22. Blaagaardsplads

**KIOSKBUTIKER**

26. Nørrebrog. 168
27. Gl. Kongev. 150
29. Amagerbrog. 94
30. Frdsundsv. 173
31. Toftegrdsallé 13

*Kiosk 4 Raadhusplads &  
 Kiosk 7 Vesterbros Torv  
 aaben hele Døgnet.*

*Eft. Postkontorernes Lukketid  
 modtager Kioskerne 1, 4, 7 og 9  
 Postpakker til Forsendelse  
 med Nat- og Morgenlogene.  
 Billetsalg til Kgl. Teater.  
 Pr. Telf. eller ved Hen-  
 vendelse i Kioskerne.*

**Budbesørgelse.**

**Annoncer til alle Blade.  
 Gave- og Festtelegrammer.  
 Bestill. paa Lillebiler.  
 Lodsedler fornyes.**

Insp. Anthon Jensen Tonysv. 5.....Ordrup 42 45  
 Sekr. Frk. Rigmor Smith Dalgasboulev.29.Gothåb 44 45  
 Prokur. Aage Carlsen Østerled 4.....Ryvang 50 45  
 Dir. Generalkonsul Ernst Carlsen Øster-  
 brog. 2.....Central 70 45

KTAS telefonbog 1937

Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980

# Kjøbenhavn's Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

## Kioskernes Belliggenhed

1. Kongens Nytorv v. Hesten
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19. Skt. Jakobspl.
20. Raadhuspl./Industribyg.
21. Gyldenløvesg.
22. Blaagaardsplads



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KTAS Telephone Book 1937.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab - Postmarks



1. Kongens  
Nytorv



2. Grønningen



3. Gammel  
Torv



4. Rådhuspladsen



5. Nørre  
Boulevard



6. Sankt  
Annæ Plads



7. Vesterbros  
Torv



8. Sølvtorvet



9. Dr. Louises  
Bro



10. Vesterbrogade

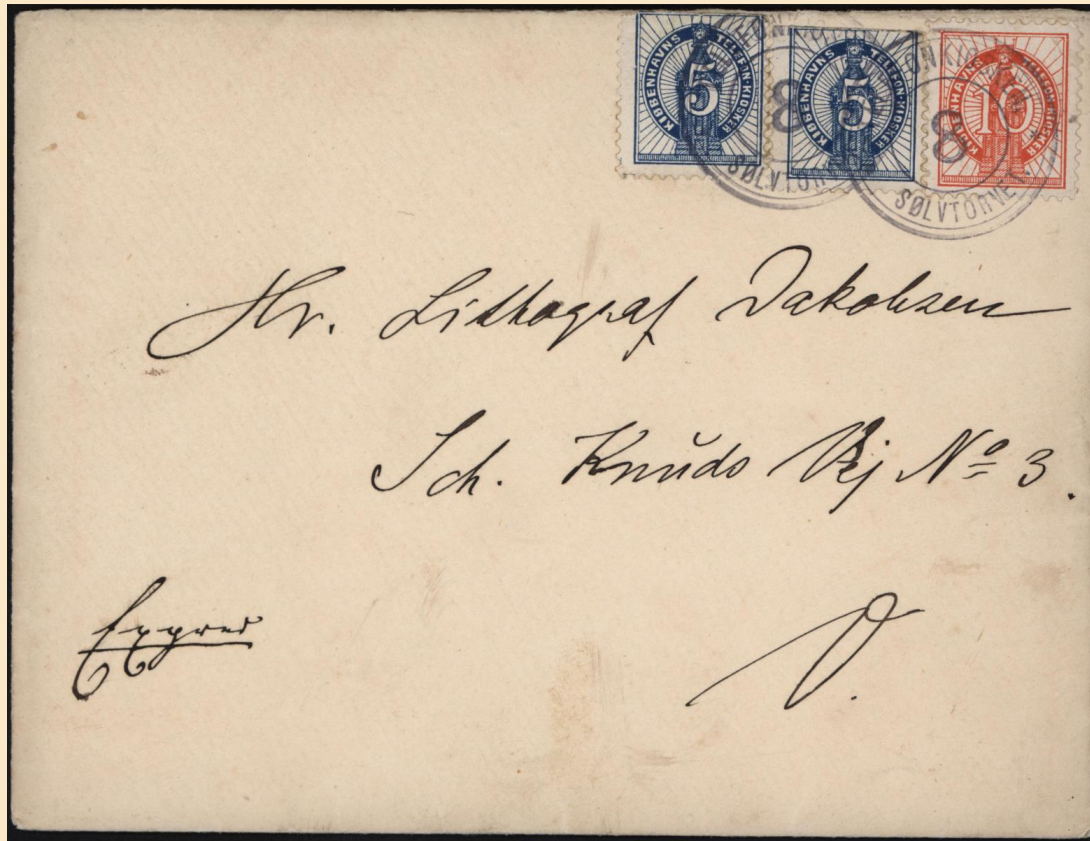


# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



HOVED KONTOR STUDIESTRÆDE – also KULTORVET 3 and NØRREGADE 2.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab - Express



28 January 1897: Envelope with contents sent *Express* within Copenhagen through the kiosk system with two 5 and single 10 øre Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker labels cancelled **TELEFON KIOSKEN 8. SOLVTORVET** This kiosk opened on 1 June 1896 and it seems probable that stamps were available from that date.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



6 September 1909: Divided back postcard showing the Kiosk in Sølvtorvet.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Unused: Divided back postcard showing the Kiosk in Sølvtorvet.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Undated: Envelope sent 'express' – 30 øre within Copenhagen through the kiosk system with single 10 and single 25 øre Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker labels cancelled **TELEFON KIOSKEN 4 RAADHUSPLADSEN.**

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Packet Post



Undated: Envelope marked *Hermed / Pakke* accompanying a parcel to Martin Groell, a bookseller. Sent within Copenhagen through the kiosk system with two 10 øre Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker labels cancelled **TELEFON KIOSKEN 3. GL TORV.**



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Gammel Torv: 25 July 1912: Divided back picture postcard showing the kiosk at Gammel Torv, captioned *København, Nygade*.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Poste Restante



3 January 1915: Envelope sent from Göteborg in Sweden to *Frk. Else Brun c/o Kiosk 11 at Lille Triangel, København* - a square on Østerbro in Copenhagen where five streets intersect. It's an unofficial name which was later changed on the postmark to **TELEFONKIOSKEN 11. ØSTERBRO**.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Poste Restante



25 August 1907: Postcard showing Østerbrogade in Copenhagen.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Box Number



9 April 1920: Envelope without contents sent within Copenhagen to Kiosken Kultorvet with receiving handstamp **TELEFON-KIOSKEN 5. KULTORVET** and 25 øre Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker label overprinted 20 øre. Presumably sent to box number 8471.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Undated photograph: Kiosk in Kultorvet.

Unknown date and photographer.

Courtesy Kbh billeder.dk (Copenhagen Museum, the Copenhagen City Archives, Nikolaj Kunsthal and Thorvaldsens Museum.)

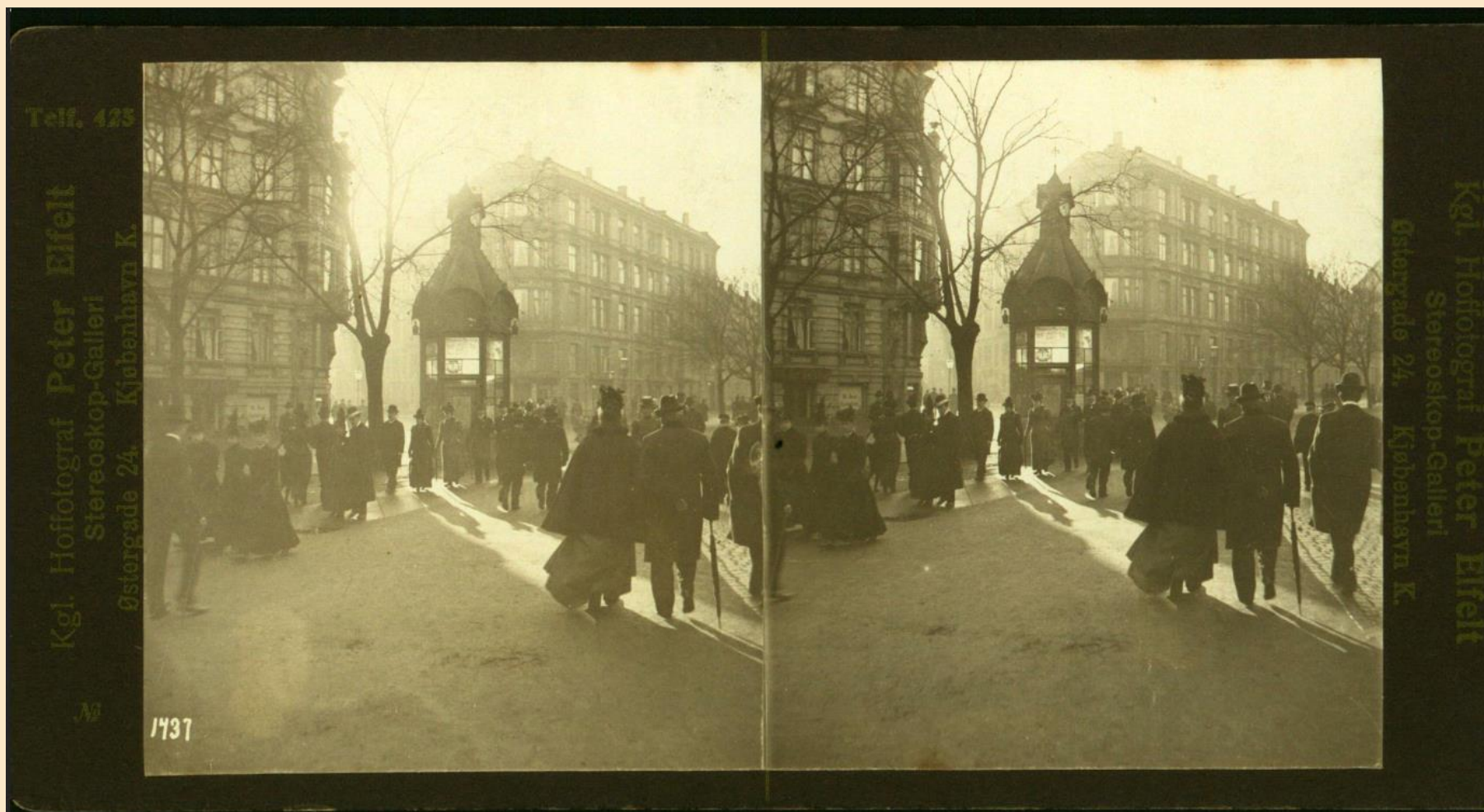
# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Poste Restante



10 October 1922: Envelope sent from Middelfart to *Kiosk Nr. 2 Grønningen* with 20 øre Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label. This is presumably a post restante fee. Note the purple receiving mark presumably from Grønningen, handstamped on receipt at the kiosk with the stamp affixed over the receiving mark.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



*Kiosk Nr. 2 Grønningen c. 1900*

*Kgl. Hoffotograf Peter Eifelt [Peter Lars Petersen] (1 January 1866-18 February 1931),  
Stereoskop Galleri, Østergade 24, København K.*

Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980



The Royal Philatelic Society London

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – Forwarded to Night Train

- By using the telephone-kiosk carrier, the letter caught the last train to Funen and Jutland and arrived in Tarm in Jutland between 06:00 and 07:00 in the morning, where it was delivered as a normal letter during the first mail delivery walk that day.



Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980

- 5 October 1902: Mixed franking between the Copenhagen kiosk stamps and Danish postage stamps. A letter card handed in at Kiosk 3 in Gammel Torv, with the local stamp cancelled **TELEFON KIOSKEN 3. GL TORV.**
- The 5 øre telephone-kiosk stamp paid for quick local delivery by messenger to the post office.
- In this case the Railway Post Office at the Copenhagen Central Station - whereas the 10 øre letter card paid for the onward transportation to Tarm by the Post Office.

Courtesy of Henrik Mouritsen FRPSL





# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



6 December 1917: Letter card sent within Copenhagen to *1915 Kiosken Dr. Louisesbro (København) N.* Forwarded or held by the Kiosk with 10 øre Copenhagen kiosk stamp cancelled **Er Betalt / Kiosk 9.**

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



20 May 1928: Postcard sent from Berlin to *Kiosken paa Nytorv* with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label handstamped 25 øre. This is probably a post restante fee. Addressed to Frk. Sander by Carl ...



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

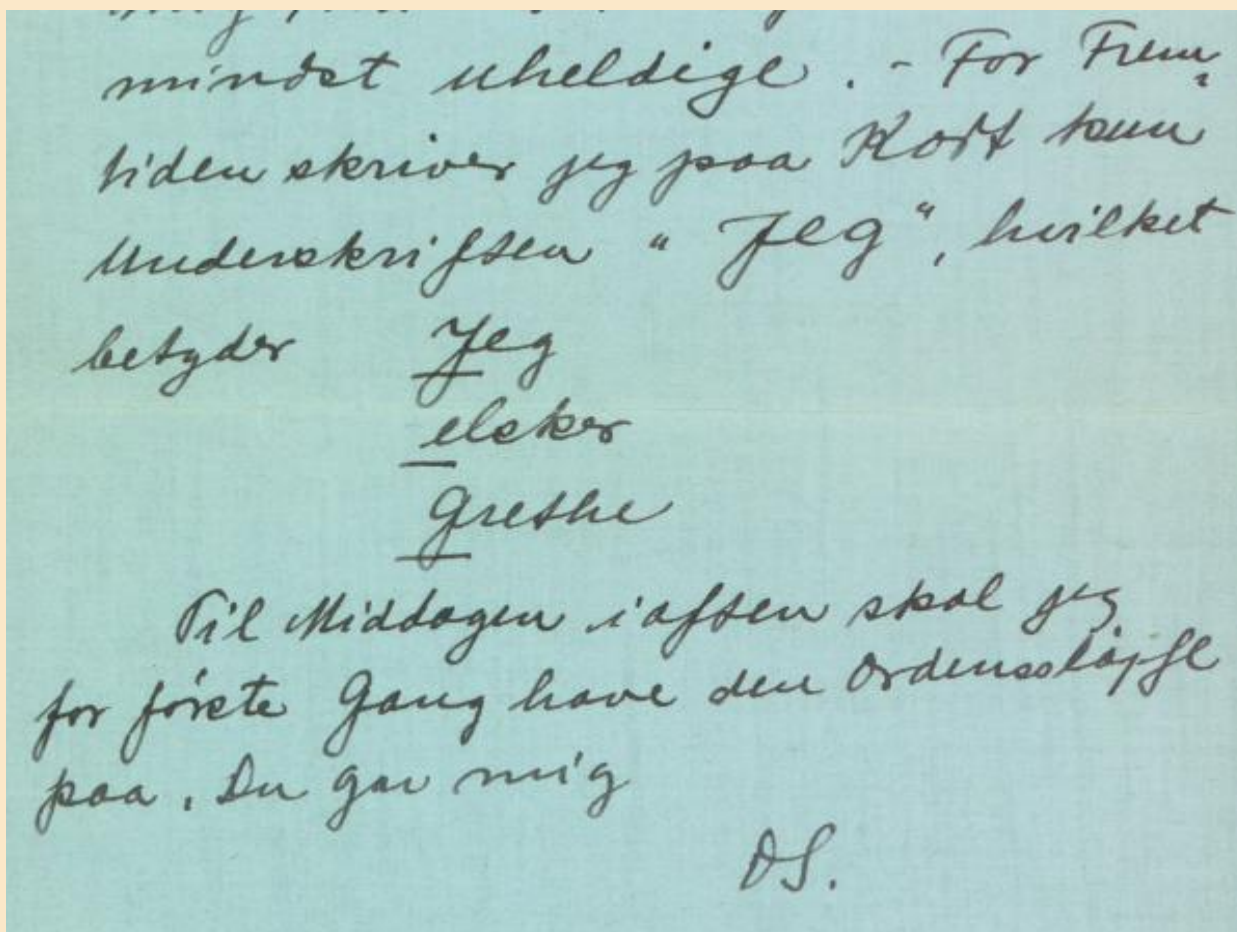


22 May 1928: Envelope with contents sent from London to *Kiosken paa Nytorv* with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label handstamped 25 øre. A love letter addressed to the same Miss Sander as the postcard from Berlin, but from a different correspondent. It seems that the kiosks were a convenient go-between ...

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

For  
fremtiden  
skriver jeg  
paa kort  
kun  
underskrift  
en "Jeg"  
hvilket  
betyder

Jeg  
Elsker  
Grethe



mindet uheldige. - For Frem-  
tiden skrives jeg paa Kort kun  
underskriften "Jeg", hvilket  
betyder Jeg  
Elsker  
Grethe  
Til Middagen i aften skal jeg  
for fjerde gang have den Ordensløjfe  
paa. Du gav mig  
D.S.

In future, I  
will only  
write on  
the card  
the  
signature  
"Jeg"  
which  
means

I  
Love  
Grethe

22 May 1928: Envelope with contents sent from London to *Kiosken paa Nytorv* with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label handstamped 25 øre. A love letter addressed to the same Miss Sander as the postcard from Berlin, but from a different correspondent. It seems that the kiosks were a convenient go-between ...



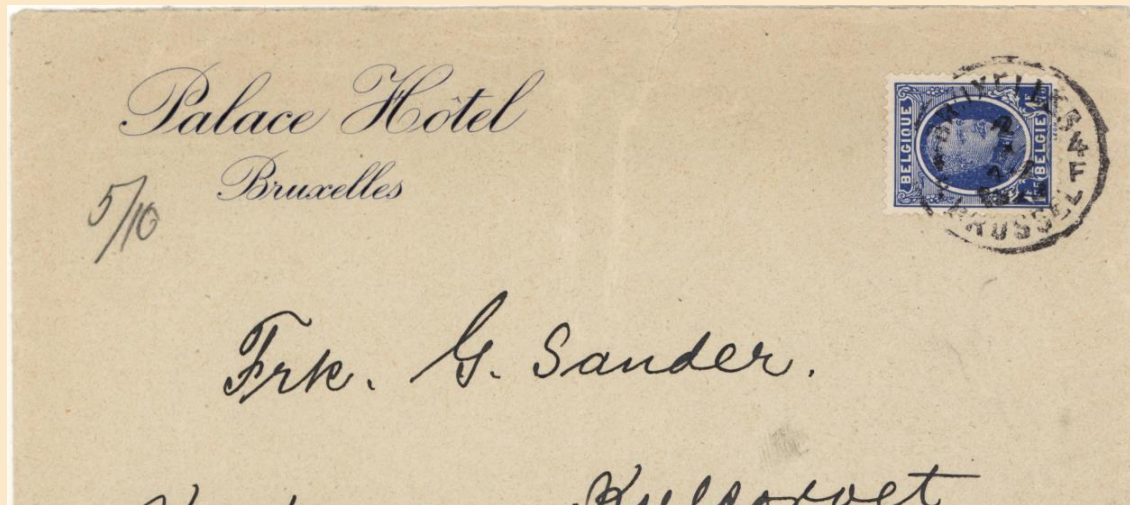
# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



1 October 1929: Envelope with contents sent from Brussels to *Kiosken paa Kultorvet* with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label handstamped 25 øre.

A love letter addressed to the same Miss Sander as the letter from London, signed *Jelg* (jeg elsker Grethe - I love Grethe), and addressed *My dear love, little Grethe*.

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Frk. G. Sander.

Kjære Grete  
og sender Dig hermed alle de Kærtegn, jeg  
har opsparret til Dig paa Turen. Du faar  
nok først Brevet, efter at jeg selv er hjemme  
igen, men det gør jo ikke noget.  
Kæreste Grete, jeg elsker Dig, Dine Jelg.

1 October 1929: Envelope with contents sent from Brussels to *Kiosken paa Kultorvet* with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker label handstamped 25 øre.

A love letter addressed to the same Miss Sander as the letter from London, signed *Jelg* (jeg elsker Grethe - I love Grethe), and addressed *My dear love, little Grethe*.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



15 February 1931: Envelope without contents sent from Copenhagen to Kiosken hjørnet Østerbrogade og Jagtvej with Kjøbenhavns Telefon-Kiosker redesigned label handstamped 25 øre. Addressed to Opera Singer Miss Karen Marie Nielsen (1907-1989).

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Frederiksberg Frimærke Forening was founded on 5 March 1935, and while there is no known record of the printing of these stamps, this envelope gives an indication of the period.

After 5th March 1935: Envelope sent locally from Kiosk Number 20 with 25 øre Københavns Telefon-Kiosker label cancelled **Er Betalt Kiosk 20** from Rådhuspladsen.



# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab – How did they pay?



**26th August 1905:**

Bill for one krone and 29 øre for sending a telephone telegram from telephone number 9565.

The cashier has called to collect the money for the first time and will return.

Note the office address:

Studivestryde 30, **2. S. o. G. 9-3**

Meaning **2 Sal**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, **o. G.**, over Gaard, across the courtyard.



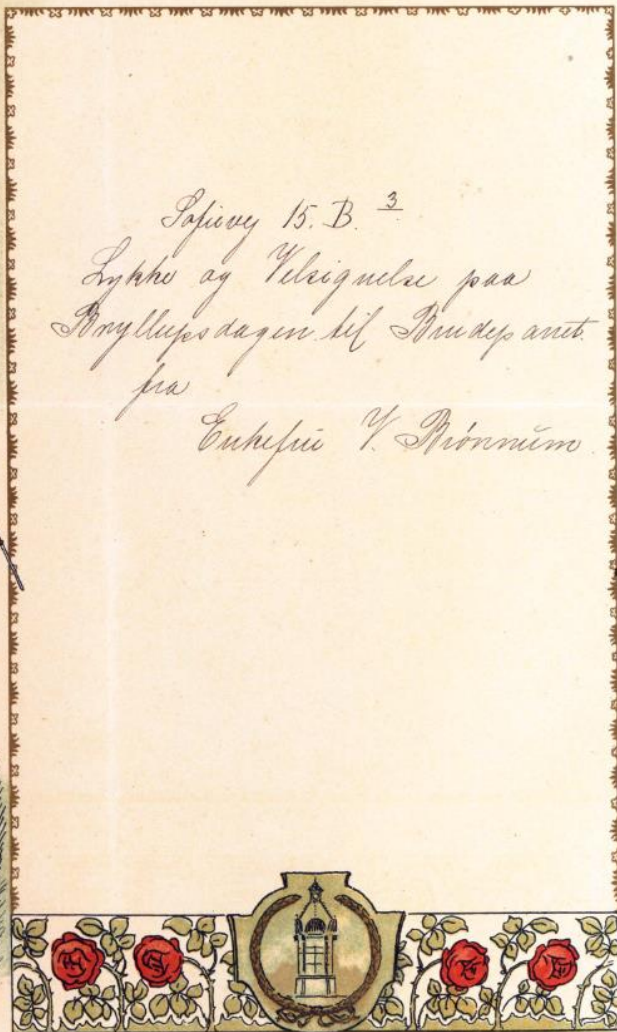
- 20 November 1898: Greetings Telephone Telegram sent locally in Copenhagen.
- Printed for Københavns Telefon Kiosker by Vilhelm Søborgs Efterfølgr.
- Lithographers, Book Printer, and Wholesale Paper Supplier, founded in 1853 by Vilhelm Theodor Søborg (1823-1897).
- Frederik Solem (1859-1930) took over the business in 1893.





# LYKØNSKNINGS TELEGRAM

Nr. 377, indleveret 20/11 1898, 7 T 35 M. Eff.



Lofte og Velsignelse paa  
Snylleses dagen til Dine deo anset  
fra  
Eusebio V. Piornimo.

KJØBENHAVNS · TELEFON · KIOSKER.



20 November 1898:  
Greetings Telephone  
Telegram sent locally in  
Copenhagen.



As before, printed for  
Københavns Telefon  
Kiosker by Vilhelm Søborgs  
Efterfolgr.



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25 June 1899: Greetings  
Telephone Telegram sent  
locally in Copenhagen.

No reference to printer or  
artist – as is often the case.



Nr. 229 , indleveret 25/6 1899. T. 46 M. Fern. Eform.

Restaurant Andersen  
Rådhusstræde 7.

AKTIESELSKABET KØBENHAVNS TELEFON-KIOSKER.



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- 21 April 1903: Greetings Telephone Telegram sent locally in Copenhagen.
- Designed by Christian Frederik Beck (1876-1954).
- Printed for Københavns Telefon Aktie Selskab (KTAS) and Aktieselskabet Københavns Telefon Kiosker (AKTK)



27 May 1904: Greetings  
Telephone Telegram sent  
locally in Copenhagen.

Printed for Københavns  
Telefon Kiosker.

Initials CFB, Christian  
Frederik Beck (1876-  
1954) 1903 at base of  
pier under the third and  
fourth urns from the left.







1 May 1909: Greetings  
Telephone Telegram sent  
locally in Copenhagen.

Printed for Københavns  
Telefon Kiosker by  
LLEIVSON JUNR  
KØBENHAVN.









1 March 1908: Greetings Telephone Telegram sent locally in Copenhagen.

Printed for Københavns Telefon Kiosker.

F KRAUL, Danish painter Fritz Kraul (1862-1935) at lower right.





- 24 July 1921: Greetings Telephone Telegram sent locally in Copenhagen.
- Printed for Københavns Telefon Kiosker.
- On the right under the oak leaves. L. MEIER.
- Marked STORM & TRIER 73 below centre.
- On left Eneret i H. t. Lov af 1/4 1912. A law protecting the rights of authors and artists.
- Lov om Forfatterret og Kunstnerret af 1. April 1912*





# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab



Copenhagen Telephone Kiosks 1895-1980

# Kjøbenhavns Telefonkiosker Aktieselskab

The End

