

# Pärlor i skilling banco- utgåvan

*Av Tomas Bjäringer och Gustaf Douglas*

Denna artikel är ursprungligen skriven på engelska varför presentationen av författarna och källförtreckningen finns i den engelskspråkiga versionen. Texten i övrigt har översatts till svenska av redaktören som valt att utlämna en del uppgifter om ägande-förhållanden och försäljningspriser, beroende på att dessa uppgifter ändå ges i en för svenskar högst begriplig form i den engelskspråkiga versionen av artikeln.

## Inledning

Under årens lopp har vi haft möjlighet att utbyta åsikter med varandra och med våra mentorer inom filatelin. En av de saker vi diskuterat har varit hur en samling klassiska svenska frimärken kan byggas upp. Det gäller både ur rent principiell synpunkt men också med utgångspunkt från de principer vi själva tillämpat då vi byggt upp våra egna frimärkssamlingar. Efter hand har vi byggt ut samlingarna med rent posthistoriska objekt. Samtidigt har vi fascinerats av att studera de ägarkedjor som uppstått vid köp och försäljning av dessa unika objekt.

Under många år har vi deltagit i forskning kring förekomsten av stora enheter av de tidiga emissionerna när det gäller obegagnat, begagnat och förekomst på brev. Detta arbete är dokumenterat från 1969 och framåt i Facit och Sverige-Katalogen. Vi har också studerat portosatser till utlandet för att kunna dokumentera förekomsten av

brev, framför allt till ovanliga destinationer.

I denna artikel har vi inte strävat efter att ge en heltäckande bild av förekomsten av rariteter inom skilling banco-utgåvan. Istället försöker vi presentera objekt av exceptionell kvalitet, vilka kombinerar skönhet med filatelistisk betydelse och sällsynt-het.

Begreppet ”pärlor inom filatelin” (Aristocrats of Philately) skapades av John Boker och Norman S. Hubbard vid Anphilex '71 i New York vid Collectors Clubs 75-årsjubileum. Vid tre senare tillfällen – Interphil '76 (Philadelphia), Ameripex '86 (Chicago) och Anphilex '96 (New York) – ställdes de samman ett urval av filate-listiska objekt från hela världen, vilka kän-ntecknades av en kombination av sällsynt-het, skönhet och övergripande betydelse inom filatelin.

I denna artikel har vi valt att presentera pärlorna i följande ordning:

Obegagnade frimärken  
Förstadagsstämplade frimärken  
3 skilling banco gul  
Otandad variant  
Frimärken på brev  
Brev till utländska destinationer  
Blandfrankering

## **Obegagnade skilling banco-frimärken**

Det finns få bevarade större enheter av dena utgåva. Perforeringsverktyget som användes fram till 1865 bidrog till att göra dessa större enheter sällsynta eftersom tandspetsarna blev smala. Andra faktorer som bidragit till sällsynthen är frånvaron av frimärkssamlare vid denna tid och den effektiva förstöringen av dessa frimärken vid övergången till öre-upplagan 1858.

Den fullständiga listan över bevarade större enheter ser idag ut så här:

### **3 skilling banco**

ett par med bevarad marginal från det nedre högra hörnet

### **4 skilling banco**

ett kvartsark (25 frimärken)  
fyra 4-block  
två 4-strip (ett med hörmarginal)  
två 3-strip  
några par

### **6 skilling banco**

ett par med bevarad marginal från det nedre högra hörnet

### **8 skilling banco**

tre par (ett med bevarad övre marginal)

### **24 skilling banco**

inte ens ett par

Av ovan nämnda objekt ingår fem bland pärldorna. Samtliga dessa objekt är av utomordentlig kvalitet och fräschör vilket gör dem extra attraktiva. Det finns knappast något enstaka skillingfrimärke i denna höga kvalitet.

**3 skilling banco**, vertikalt par, hörmarginal med marginalvattenmärke från de senare leveransernas blågröna nyans på tunt papper.

**4 skilling banco**, leverans 11, turkos nyans.

**4 skilling banco**, kvartsark med 25 frimärken, hörmarginal med marginalvattenmärke och originalgummering.

**6 skilling banco**, vertikalt par, hörmarginal med marginalvattenmärke från de första leveransernas grå nyans på tunt papper.

**8 skilling banco**, par i övre marginalen med marginalvattenmärke från de första leveransernas orange nyans på tunt papper.

Albert Lindström var den ledande samlaren av vår första frimärksserie omkring 1900. Hans samling köptes av frimärkshandlaren Heinrich Lichtenstein 1911 för 227,500 kr. Erik Leijonhufvud köpte merparten av samlingen, däribland det obegagnade kvartsarket som Lindström köpt i Paris. Det påstås att arket en gång påträffats i en kontorspärm.

I Lichtensteins katalog över Leijonhufvuds samling, när denna senare var till salu, angavs att bud önskades på kvartsarket och att priset förutsattes bli femsiffrigt. Arket blev emellertid inte sålt utan byttes mot andra objekt i Postmuseum i januari 1924. Det är idag det finaste objektet i museets samlningar av skillingfrimärken.

## **Förstadagsstämplade frimärken**

Det finns endast ett fåtal skillingar som är förstadagsstämplade. Eftersom dagen var en söndag postades relativt få brev denna dag.

Av förstadagsstämplade exemplar av 4 och 8 skilling banco finns endast ett tiotal bevarade av vardera. De övriga existerar endast i ett fåtal exemplar. Två "förstadagsbrev" är kända, båda frankerade med ett 4 skilling banco, stämplade i Uppsala och sända till Stockholm.

Det ena av dessa två brev visas här. Brevet är med sin enda perfekta stämpel en skönhet med högt filatelistiskt värde. Brevet återfanns i ett familjearkiv på 1950-talet och har ställts ut fyra gången i inbjuden klass under de senaste 25 åren.

Det avbildade 6 skilling banco-frimärket är det enda förstadagsstämplade som vi känner till. Det tillhörde den kände filatelisten Erik Blomberg och har varit utställt två gånger de senaste 50 åren. Det har tidigare avbildats i 1964 års handbok.



4 skilling banco, unused quarter-sheet of 25, corner margin with the marginal watermark and original gum.

4 skilling banco, kvartsark med 25 frimärken, hörnmarginal med marginalvattenmärke och originalgummering.

Det avbildade brevet med 24 skilling banco skickades till Carl Östberg, Homburg v.d. Höhe i Tyskland. Det är den enda bevarade förstadagsavstämplingen av en 24-skilling på brev. Ytterligare två brevframsidor är kända, båda skickade en söndag (den 8 resp. 24 juli) till samma adressat och med samma handstil.

### 3 skilling banco gul

Såvitt vi vet finns det endast ett bevarat exemplar av ett skillingfrimärke som tryckts i

fel färg. Det är det berömda 3 skilling banco gul istället för grön.

Den svenska språkige läsaren hänvisas när det gäller beskrivningen av detta frimärke till artikeln "Skilling banco – Sveriges första frimärken", där en utförlig redogörelse för tillkomsthistoria och ägandeförhållanden ges av Robert Mattson.



Cover to Germany with 24 skilling banco, cancelled the first day of issue. Front only.

Förstadagsstämplat brev till Tyskland med 24 skilling banco. Endast framsida.

### Otandad variant av skillingfrimärkena

Av skillingfrimärkena finns endast otandade varianter av 6 och 8 skilling banco. Dessa har troligen tillkommit genom att fel uppstätt på tandningsnålarna vid arktandningen (fem till sex ark perforerades åt gången). Denna förklaring stöds av det faktum att det finns en delvis tandad 8 skilling banco, vilken avstämplat samma dag och på samma ort (Karlshamn) som en av de otandade åttaskillingarna.

#### 6 skilling banco

Av de otandade sexskillingarna finns det ett par och fyra singelfrimärken kända. Alla är stämplade i Karlshamn (som stavades med C vid denna tid) under sommaren 1856, av ljusgrå nyans från de första leveranserna på tunt papper. Det påstås att ett brev med två otandade par av sexskillingar upptäcktes i Hamburg 1880. Frimärkshandlaren som köpte brevet lär ha planerat att dela paren och sälja frimärkena ett och ett. Turligt nog insisterade en spekulant på märkena att få köpa ett par så att det inte skulle kunna råda någon tveksamhet om äktheten hos de otandade märkena.

Av de fyra enskilda exemplaren av 6 skilling banco finns ett i Postmuseum, donerat

av Eric von Rosen 1929. Ett annat exemplar finns i den s.k. Taplingsamlingen i British Museum, dit det donerades 1891 av T. K. Tapling. De två övriga finns i privata samlingar.

Paret beskrevs första gången 1922 i *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* av Harry Wennberg, den ledande frimärkshandlaren vid denna tid. År 1926 ställdes paret ut för första gången vid en frimärksutställning i samband med Stockholms Filatelist-Förenings 40-årsjubileum. Det har sedan ställts ut vid de tre Stockholmiautställningarna 1955, 1974 och 1986.

#### 8 skilling banco

Det otandade 8 skilling banco är endast känt i två exemplar. Båda är stämplade Karlshamn den 11 februari 1858. De härstammar från den åtonde leveransen med utflytet tryck på medeltjockt papper. Det ena märket ingick alltså i Eric von Rosens donation till Postmuseum 1929 och har även tillhört Erik Leijonhufvud.

Denna raritet upptäcktes inte förrän 1921, sannolikt båda exemplaren samtidigt. Nils Strandell beskrev i *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* nr. 4 år 1921 att frimärkshandlaren W. T. Wilson hade köpt ett exemplar och skickat det till honom för attest. Det andra ex-

emplaret köptes sannolikt av Erik Leijonhufvud 1923 och var upptaget i katalogen när hans samling såldes samma år; det såldes då till Eric von Rosen.

Vad hände då med det andra exemplaret? Vi vet att den otandade 8-skillingen fanns i Johan Rambergs samling när han på hösten 1924 köpte den gula treskillingen av C. A. Tamm genom förmedling av frimärkshandlaren Dagmar Hellman. Ramberg ställde ut båda frimärkena vid flera utställningar, senast i september 1936. Frimärket erbjöds till försäljning i Harry Wennbergs andra auktionskatalog i oktober samma år men förblev osålt. Senare köptes det av Erik Kihlblom som ställde ut märket åtskilliga gånger åren 1940–1955. Han sålde det 1963 hos Edgar Mohrman i Hamburg då det köptes av Frimärkshuset i Stockholm. Företaget behöll märket tills det såldes på deras novemberauktion 1976. Siste kände innehavare var Lauson H. Stone, som köpte det 1978.

Domestic cover sent 1857 with a block of four of 3 skilling banco and one 8 skilling banco.

Inrikes brev från 1857 med 4-block av 3 skilling banco och 8 skilling banco.

### Skilling banco-utgåvan på brev

Av de fem valörerna i skilling banco-utgåvan är endast treskillingen sällsynt på brev. Vi känner totalt till ett sjuttiootal brev med 3 skilling banco.

Detta frimärke var avsett som komplement till andra valörer, vanligen två eller tre sexskillningar på brev till Tyskland. Fyra treskillingsmärken utgjorde också enkelportot till Danmark eller tredubbla inrikes portot, istället för den vanliga frankeringen med ett 4- och ett 8- resp. två 6-skillingsfrimärken.

Två pärlor finns bland breven frankerade med 3 skilling banco. Den mest uppseendeväckande är ett brev som har ett något separerat 4-block av 3 skilling banco, tillsammans med ett 8 skilling banco, dvs. sammanlagt 20 skilling banco. Detta utgör femdubbla inrikes portot under skillingsperioden. Brevet har skickats från Åmål den 13 januari 1857 och beskrevs för första gången av Hans Lagerlöf i *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* i april 1927. Lagerlöf, Postmuseums störste donator genom tiderna, skänkte brevet till museet i samband med sin sjunde donation i februari 1930.



Den andra pärlan bland treskillingsbreven är ett hopvikt brev, skickat från Halmstad den 6 april 1857 till Aalborg och transitstämplat Köbenhavn 6.4 1857. Brevet är känt i den filatelistiska litteraturen sedan 1917.

#### Fyrblock av 4 skilling banco

Tills för ca. 20 år sedan trodde vi att det endast existerade ett enda fyrblock på brev av skilling banco-utgåvan. Då utbjöds en korrespondens, bestående av ett 100-tal brev, däribland ett 20-tal skilling banco-brev, till försäljning. Korrespondensen var riktad till familjen Nordenskiöld i Helsingfors och gällde tiden 1855–1875. De flesta brev kom att försäljas privat; det finns alltså få prisnoteringar från auktionsfirmor.

Det avbildade brevet är skickat från Stockholm den 18 maj 1858. På brevet finns ett fyrblock av 4 skilling banco och ett enskilda frimärke, alltså 20 skilling totalt. Detta var portot för ett brev av första viktklassen till Finland vid denna tid. Vanligtvis utgjordes frankeringen av en fyra-skilling och två

åttaskillingar. Tidigare hade vi endast känt till två stämplade fyrblock men inget på brev.

#### 6 skilling banco

Bland försändelser med 6 skilling banco är det förnämsta objektet Postmuseums brev till England med sex sexskillingar (två par och två enskilda) i den gråbruna nyansen från de sista leveranserna på medeltjockt papper. Det är det största kända antalet sexskillingar på brev, dvs. 36 skilling banco, vilket utgjorde enkelportot för ett brev till England 1855–1858. Vanligtvis utgjordes detta porto av ett 4-, ett 8- och ett 24-skillingssfrimärke eller två 6- och ett 24-skillingssfrimärke.

Mottagaren var pastor Th. Carlsson som tjänstgjorde vid den svenska legationen i London åren 1856–1858. Han sålde sedermera sin korrespondens till Harry Wennberg i

Cover with a block of four of 4 skilling banco plus a single stamp, sent to Finland in 1858.

Brev med 4-block av 4 skilling banco och ett enskilda märke på brev till Finland år 1858.





Cover with six copies of 6 skilling banco, sent to London in 1858.

Brev med sex exemplar av 6 skilling banco på ett brev till London år 1858.

mittan av 1890-talet. Wennberg berättar i *Fälalistiska Meddelanden* 1920:9 att korrespondensen innehöll ett 50-tal skillingbrev. Vad vi känner till är detta brev det enda som överlevt till våra dagar; de övriga har sannolikt lagts i blötlag för att frimärkena skulle tas tillvara. Frimärkssamlarna vid denna tid ville ha frimärken att sätta in i sina förtryckta album och hade inte plats för hela kuvert.

Brevet skickades den 7 juni 1858 med den preussiska postångaren *Nagler* som avgick under sommarhalvåret varannan torsdag från Stockholm med destination Stettin. Varannan vecka trafikerade den svenska postångaren *Nordstjernan* samma rutt. *Nagler* anlände till Stettin den 10 juni och brevet skickades därefter med tåg via Berlin till Hamburg. Det anlände sedan med båt till London den 12 juni enligt ankomststämplen.

#### 8 skilling banco

Det största antalet åttaskillingar på brev, fem stycken, finns på ett brev till Finland. Portot utgjordes således av 40 skilling banco.

co, dvs. dubbelt porto för ett brev som betalats till destinationsorten. Frimärkena är från den nionde leveransen med rent orange märken med klart tryck på medeltjockt papper.

Brevet skickades från Stockholm den 15 januari 1858. På grund av den svåra issituationen i Ålands hav skickades det via Haparanda.

#### 24 skilling banco

Det finns ett antal brev kända med ett enskilda 24 skilling banco. Detta var brevpörtot till flera europeiska länder, bl.a. Frankrike, Tyskland och Österrike. Det största antalet 24-skillingfrimärken på brev, fem stycken, finns emellertid på ett brev från 1858 till Australien.

Brevet i fråga är det enda kända skillingbrevet överhuvudtaget till Australien. Det är adresserat till en sjökaptens bostad i Sydney. Portot uppgår till 132 skilling banco, dvs. dubbla portot, via Stralsund, Ostende och Southampton. Det är avgångsstämplat Gefle 2.6 1858 och har en ankomststämpel Sydney Ship Letter Au 17 1858.

Utöver att brevet har det största antalet 24-skillingar har det den största frankering-

en överhuvudtaget under skillingperioden. Det är ett exceptionellt objekt med sina 24 skillingar från den åtonde leveransen i brunröd nyans på medeltjockt papper.

### Brev till utländska destinationer

Förutom brev från skillingperioden med största kända antalet frimärken i de olika valörerna har vi också studerat förekomsten av brev till avlägsna destinationer.

Toppobjektet när det gäller brev till utlandet torde vara det ovan redovisade brevet till Australien. Huvudkonkurrenten utgörs förmodligen av ett brev med innehåll, sänd till Argentina år 1857. Det är frankerat med en 4 (skiffergrå med utflutet tryck), en 6, en 8 och två 24 skilling banco, tillsammans 66 skilling banco. Detta var gällande enkelpento till Argentina via Stralsund, Ostende och England vid denna tid.

Brevet skickades från Luleå den 8 oktober 1857 och är adresserat till ärkebiskop Nathan Söderbloms svärfar, sjökaptenen C. A. Forsell på den svenska briggen Knut Åkerhielm via den svenska konsuln i Buenos Ai-

res. Detta brev är ett av två kända till Argentina före bildandet av UPU 1874. Det är dessutom ett av två kända med fyra olika skillingvalörer – det finns inget brev känt med samtliga fem valörer.

### Blandfrankering skilling banco- och öre-frimärken

Det finns ett enda brev känt vilket utgör exempel på samtidig användning av skilling banco- och örefrimärken på ett brev till utlandet. Brevet ifråga är sänd från Göteborg den 23 juli 1861 och är som de flesta bevarade skillingbrev till Ryssland adresserat till firman Sterky i S:t Petersburg. 24 skilling banco motsvarade 75 öre, varför det tillsammans med 24 öre utgör portot för ett brev av första viktklassen till Ryssland åren 1858–1865. Portot är också noterat i övre vänstra hörnet.

Hans Lagerlöf donerade brevet till Stockholms Filatelist-Förening vid dess 50-årsjubileum i september 1936. Det finns fortfarande kvar i föreningens ägo.

# Aristocrats of Swedish Philately from the Skilling Banco Issue

By Tomas Bjäringer and Gustaf Douglas

## Introduction

Over the years we have had the opportunity to exchange views with one another as well as many of our mentors in the field of philately. One of the persistent themes has been what focus a collection of Sweden should have. This is not only a strictly Swedish theme but also a topic in relation to other countries and their classic issues. We have pursued the theme of how to build a good collection of Sweden both from an academic viewpoint but also very much as a theme for our personal collections. Over the years we have seen a growing interest in postal history and also the added quality given by the often fascinating chains of ownership, similar to those of trophies in sports. We have shared the joy of acquiring many of these trophies. But today our greatest enjoyment is really to have been part of an adventure, remembering our sometimes very dear mentors and our intense discussions regarding which items that really belonged in the Hall of Fame.

For many years we participated in research regarding the existence of large units of the early issues unused, used and used on covers. This pursuit is documented from 1969 onwards in the Facit and SFF catalogues. We also conducted work on the postage rates trying to document the existence of covers, especially those sent to rare destinations. In this article we do not aspire to be complete but rather attempt to present items of an exceptional quality com-

TOMAS BJÄRINGER, (born Wennberg 1946) is a wine producer in south western France. His collection from early on also focused on the classic issues of Sweden. He received large gold medals at Internaba 1974 (Basel) and Interphil 1976 (Philadelphia). He has written a number of articles in the philatelic press, including articles in the *Postryttaren*. He has also published a book "Swedish Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations 1855–1895" together with Jan Billgren and Lauson H. Stone. Bjäringer signed "The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists" in 1978 as one of the youngest ever. At present he is, together with Douglas, in the final stages of concluding an extensive study of the 3 skilling banco on cover.

GUSTAF DOUGLAS (born 1938) is an industrial entrepreneur who early focused on the classic stamps of Sweden. He received large gold medals at Belgica 1972 and IBRA 1973 (Munich). At the Stockholmia 74 he was runner up for the Grand Prix. His collection of covers to St. Barthélemy was invited to the Court of Honour at Stockholmia 86. Together with Bjäringer he was invited to the Courts of Honour at Philatokyo 1971 and at Anphilex 1996 at the Waldorf Astoria, New York, to commemorate the 100th year of the Collectors Club New York.

bining beauty, philatelic significance and rarity. This is of course a subjective selection. If it can provoke a debate we welcome it since debate promotes further research in our hobby.

The phrase 'Aristocrats of Philately' was coined by John Boker (1913-2003) and Norman S. Hubbard (b. 1935) at Anphilex '71 (New York) in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Collectors Club, New York. At three later occasions, Interphil '76 (Philadelphia), Ameripex '86 (Chicago) and Anphilex '96 (New York) they brought together a world selection that took into account "a combination of rarity, importance and overall significance in philately". Although some of the individual items have varied, they have all met the criteria that distinguish them in the world of philately. An 'Aristocrat of Philately' has to be an outstanding philatelic item, that represents something beyond the ordinary from a perspective of quality, beauty and rarity if not uniqueness.

In this article, we will present our aristocrats in the following order:

Unused stamps  
Stamps used the first day  
The 3 skilling banco yellow  
Variety imperforate  
Stamps on covers  
Covers to foreign destinations  
Mixed franking

### **Skilling Banco unused**

There are very few remaining multiples of the skilling banco issue. The tools used for perforation until 1865 contributed to making unused multiples rare. The absence of collectors in those early days as well as the effective destruction of the left-over skilling bancos at the time of the change-over to the öre issue in 1858 have contributed to the scarcity.

The complete list of multiples is today as follows:

#### **3 skilling banco**

one pair, with the lower right corner margin

#### **4 skilling banco**

one quarter sheet (25 stamps)  
four blocks of four  
two strips of four  
(one with corner margin)  
two strips of three  
some pairs

#### **6 skilling banco**

one pair, with the lower right corner margin

#### **8 skilling banco**

three pairs (one with the upper margin)

#### **24 skilling banco**

not even a pair

There are a number of aristocrats among the stamps mentioned above. All these are of an exceptional quality and freshness adding to their attractiveness. You would hardly find this quality among single mint skilling banco.

#### **3 Skilling Banco, unused vertical pair, corner margin with the marginal watermark**

Blue-green shade of the later deliveries on thin paper. Sold at the fourth Ferrary auction sale in Paris 14-16 June, 1922 as lot 517 together with 4 skilling banco unused pair and unused vertical strip of four, both with corner margins with watermark together with unused 24 skilling banco margin copy, estimate 4.250 F. The bidding started at 1.800 F and Erik Leijonhufvud (1862-1943) from Bournemouth, England was the successful buyer at 3.800 F (US\$ 333) plus tax of 17½%.

#### **4 Skilling Banco, unused quarter-sheet of 25, corner margin with the marginal watermark and original gum**

Albert Lindström (1853-1910) was the leading collector of first issue Sweden around 1900. His collection was purchased by the firm H. Lichtenstein 1911 for 227.500 SEK. Erik Leijonhufvud was the main buyer and

acquired the unused block of 25 of 4 skilling banco, which Lindström had bought in Paris. Tradition has it that the block of 25 was found in an office binder. In Lichtenstein's catalogue of Leijonhufvud's collection the block is marked 'bids wanted' and the expected price was said to be in five figures. The block was not sold and finally an exchange was done in January 1924 with the Post Museum, Stockholm. The block is today the finest item in the Museum's collection of the first issue of Sweden.

#### *4 Skilling Banco, delivery II, turquoise shade, mint*

Among the shades of skilling issues those of the 4 skilling are of course the most popular, since there exist enough stamps to exemplify the shades. Also the number of deliveries from the Post to the post offices, 14 in all, produced a good number of different shades. The most interesting of these deliveries is the eleventh one. It consists of three sub-groups. Those are the normal group with dense background, the slate group with blurred print and the turquoise group with blurred print. They were all delivered in 1857 in connection with the change of printers of stamps. The blurred print give the stamps an attractive handmade appearance.

The turquoise group has always been the favourite and it is also the most difficult shade of the 4 skillings in used condition. In mint condition there are only a handful of copies of delivery II left. The prize item is the unique mint turquoise 4 skilling which we include as the finest representative of the favourite area of study and collection among the skillings.

6 skilling banco,  
unused vertical pair, corner margin  
with the marginal watermark.

6 skilling banco,  
vertikalt par med hörnmarginal  
och marginalvattenmärke.

3 skilling banco, unused vertical pair,  
corner margin with the marginal watermark.

3 skilling banco obegagnat vertikalt par,  
hörnmarginal med marginalvattenmärke.





4 skilling banco, delivery II, turquoise shade.

4 skilling banco, leverans II, turkos nyans.

This stamp belonged earlier to the collections of the following philatelists: Fredrik Benzinger (1868–1953), Stockholm, Herbert Dieden (1889–1980), Malmö and Lauson H. Stone, Brooklyn, New York.

#### *6 Skilling Banco, unused vertical pair, corner margin with the marginal watermark*

Grey shade of the first deliveries on thin paper. Sold at the sixth Ferrary auction sale in Paris 25–27 April, 1923 as lot 587 illustrated in the catalogue. Erik Leijonhufvud was represented at the sale by the stamp-dealer Erik Lichtenstein (1888–1954), Stockholm. The pair was estimated at 1.700 F and the bidding opened at 5.100 F. Lichtenstein bought it at 5.600 F (US\$ 824) plus tax of 17½%.

To our knowledge the two pairs of 3 and 6 skilling banco were shown for the first time at the International exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London 14–26 May 1923. Erik Leijonhufvud showed his collection of Swedish rarities out of competition. Leijonhufvud's collection was sold by the firm H. Lichtenstein of Stockholm just six months after the exhibition in London. In Lichtenstein's fixed priced catalogue of Leijonhufvud's collection the 6 skilling banco mint pair was missing. The 3 skilling banco pair was offered as lot 2 for 2.500 SEK and turned up next in December 1928 in the Béla Sekula auction No. 7 in Luzern valued at 30.000 F.

Fredrik Benzinger, Stockholm showed the two pairs at Iposta, Berlin 1930 next to Alfred Lichtenstein's (1876–1947) Switzerland and Arthur Hind's (1856–1933) Spain.

The two pairs would from now on never be separated. Benzinger's last big manifestation on the international scene was in London 1950 where his selection of Sweden and two frames 'Early classic issues of the world' opened the Court of Honour next to 'Sex-tus Afranius' i.e. Maurice Burrus (1882–1959) with seven frames of world rarities.

George Menzinsky (1907–1981) took over after Benzinger's death and showed the two pairs five times in the Court of Honour during 1955–1971. Lauson H. Stone (1904–1999), the only non-Swedish speaking 'heavy weighter' in classic Swedish philately, bought most of Menzinsky's first issues in the early 1970's and showed the pairs three times in competition – Stockholmia '74, Grand Prix National; Interphil '76, Philadelphia, Large gold with special prize, felicitations and runner-up to the Grand Prix International. Further, they were shown in London 1980, Large gold with special prize and twice in the Court of Honour, Stockholm '86 and World Stamp Expo '89 in Washington D.C.

The writers of this article were invited to represent Sweden at Anphilex '96, Waldorf Astoria, New York including the two pairs in their exhibit. The present owners were invited to 'Rare Stamps of the World', London 1999. This concludes the international exhibitions where the two pairs have been presented.

For almost a century the pairs of the 3 and 6 skilling banco have belonged to the best Swedish collection of its time and as such rank among the most important pieces existing of Sweden. The pairs have not been offered in the open market since 1928 and 1930 respectively.

#### *8 Skilling Banco, unused pair, upper margin with the marginal watermark*

Orange shade of the first deliveries on thin paper. Sold at the sixth Ferrary auction sale in Paris 25–27 April 1923 as lot 586 together with a mint strip of three with margin of the 4 skilling banco. The lot was estimated at 850 F and the bidding started at 1.400 F



8 skilling banco, unused pair, upper margin with the marginal watermark.

8 skilling banco, obegagnat par i övre marginalen med marginalvattenmärke.

to be sold at 2.100 F (US\$ 142). The pair has belonged to the Norwegian collector Aage Biering. The two other pairs do not have a margin.

Cover with 4 skilling banco, cancelled the first day of issue in Uppsala.

Brev med 4 skilling banco, förstadagsstämplat i Uppsala.

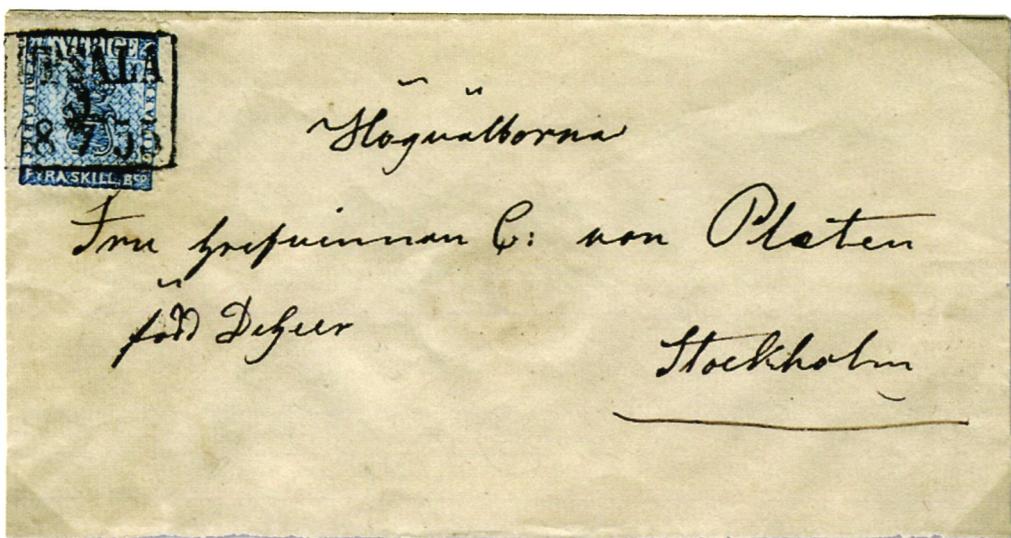
### Skilling Banco used the first day – 1 July 1855

There are only a few of the skilling banco stamps that have a first day cancellation, i.e. 1 July 1855. Since this was a Sunday few letters were mailed that day.

4 and 8 skilling banco used first day exist in less than ten copies each. Together the 3, 6 and 24 skilling banco first day cancellations exist in just a handful of copies. The 'first day' is known on two letters each franked with a single 4 skilling banco both cancelled in Uppsala and sent to Stockholm. One of the two letters is shown here. This item with its single perfect cancellation is a beauty of high philatelic value. The letter was found in a family archive in the 1950's and has been exhibited internationally four times on invitation during the last twenty-five years. The other known letter was sold at David Feldman SA in 1990 in Zürich for 529.000 SF.

The 6 skilling banco first day usage is to our knowledge unique. It belonged to Erik Blomberg (1898–1965) and has been exhibited twice the last 50 years. It is illustrated in the 1964 Swedish handbook.

Regarding the 24 skilling banco, this cover was sent to Carl Östberg in Homburg v.d. Höhe in Germany. This is the only





6 skilling banco,  
cancelled the first day of issue.

6 skilling banco,  
stämpplat den första dagen.



The famous 3 skilling banco,  
yellow instead of green.

Det berömda färgfeltrycket,  
3 skilling banco gul istället för grön.

cover front known with a 24 skilling banco used in the first day. The front belonged to E. H. R. Green (1868–1936), New York, USA until 1943 and came to Borås, Sweden and Georg Simonsson (1911–1991) in the 1960's. As a curiosity there are two more fronts of covers known, cancelled Upsala 8 July and 22 July again on a Sunday respectively to the same recipient and in the same handwriting.

### 3 Skilling Banco yellow

As far as we know, there only exists one copy of a skilling banco stamp printed in a wrong colour. It is the famous 3 skilling banco yellow instead of green.

It was, however, the printing of the 8 skilling that gave birth to the rarest stamp of Sweden – the 3 skilling banco yellow – of which only one copy exists. This stamp came into being as a result of the inadvertent insertion of a 3 skilling banco cliché in the 8 skilling banco printing plate being used to print the seventh delivery of the 8 skilling banco. The 3 skilling banco cliché was intended to replace a damaged 8 skilling banco cliché to fill the frame of 100 clichés. The fact that only one copy has been found is probably due to the erroneous cliché being inserted late in the printing process. The stamp is cancelled at N(ya) Kopp(arberget) on 13.7.1857.

The authenticity of the stamp has been verified as a result of careful examination by a number of experts. The stamp is printed on the medium thick paper – which was

not used in printing the 3 skilling banco. The pigments are chemically the same as those used for the seventh delivery of the 8 skilling banco. Thus, it might be labelled a variety of the 8 skilling banco!

A schoolboy found the stamp in 1885 or 1886 in his grandmother's correspondence. He sold the stamp to a dealer in Stockholm, Heinrich Lichtenstein (1853–1907). The stamp was listed in Lichtenstein's catalogue published in 1894. Lichtenstein sold the stamp to Philipp von Ferrary (1850–1917). The Swedish collector, Erik Leijonhufvud, bought the 3 skilling yellow at the fourth Ferrary auction in 1922. Leijonhufvud sold it to Claës A. Tamm (1867–1940) who sold it to Johan Ramberg (1901–1981). During Ramberg's ownership, the schoolboy Georg Wilhelm Backman (1871–1947), by then a retired Lt. Colonel, gave a sworn testimony in court concerning his finding of the stamp. In 1937, Ramberg sold the stamp through Harmer's in London to King Carol of Romania (1893–1953). René Berlingin (1911–1986) bought the stamp in 1950 and since 1984 David Feldman has offered the 3 skilling banco for sale on three occasions through public auctions, the last time in 1996.

More details about this stamp and its history up till today are given in the article about the skilling banco issue, written by Robert Mattson.

## Variety Importunate of the Skilling Banco Issue

Of the skilling banco issue only the 6 and 8 skilling banco exist in an imperforate variety. This variety most probably is due to the failure of the perforating needles to perforate all the sheets. This explanation is supported by the existence of a partly imperforated 8 skilling cancelled the same day at the same place (Karlshamn) as one of the imperforate 8 skillings. Of the imperforate 6 skilling banco there are one pair and four single copies known, all cancelled in Karlshamn in the summer of 1856 in the light grey shade from the early deliveries on thin paper. It is said that in 1880 a cover with two imperforated pairs was found in Hamburg. The stamp-dealer who acquired the cover planned to split up the pairs and sell them as singles. Fortunately, one prospective buyer insisted on buying a whole pair so that there could be no doubt whatever as to the imperforate state of the stamps. Thus, one such pair remains today.

### 6 Skilling Banco

Of the four single copies of the 6 skilling banco, one is at the Post Museum in Stockholm, donated 1929 by Eric von Rosen (1879–1948). Furthermore, one copy is in the Thomas Keay Tapling (1855–1891) collection, donated to the British Museum 1891. The collection is on display at the British Library in London.

Among the four copies on private hands, two constitute the only known pair, which was described for the first time in

*Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* 1922 in an article signed Harry Wennberg (1872–1927), the leading stamp-dealer at the time. At the 40 years anniversary of Sveriges Filatelist-Förening an exhibition took place in Stockholm 1926 and the pair participated for the first time. It has been exhibited in all three world exhibitions in Stockholm 1955, 1974 and 1986 and has belonged to Johan Ramberg and Lauson H. Stone. The pair has been sold officially only once at the Béla Sekula 21<sup>st</sup> auction in Luzern in 1930.

### 8 Skilling Banco

A major variety of the 8 skilling banco (apart from the yellow 3 skilling banco), is the imperforate variety. There are only two copies known. Both are cancelled 'Carls-hamn' on 11 February 1858 from the eighth delivery with blurred print on medium thick paper. One of the two stamps belongs to the Post Museum in Stockholm and has belonged to Erik Leijonhufvud and Eric von Rosen. The latter donated it to the Post Museum in 1929.

It was not until 1921 that this rarity was found and most probably the two copies at the same time. Nils Strandell (1876–1963) stated in *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* No. 4, 1921 that the stamp-dealer W. T. Wilson (1847–1932) in Birmingham had acquired one copy and sent it to Strandell. The second copy was probably bought by Erik Leijonhufvud 1923 and was included in the catalogue when his collection was sold the same year. Eric von Rosen bought this copy.

Pair of 6 skilling banco, variety imperforate.

Otandat par av 6 skilling banco.



8 skilling banco, variety imperforate.

Otandad 8 skilling banco.



What happened with the second known copy? When Johan Ramberg bought the yellow 3 skilling banco from C. A. Tamm through the stamp dealer Dagmar Hellman (1885–1953) in the autumn of 1924 the imperforate 8 skilling banco was already included in Ramberg's collection and he exhibited 'the Yellow' and 'the Imperforate' on several occasions, the last time in Stockholm in September 1936. One month later in Harry Wennberg's second auction catalogue the stamp was offered with an estimate of 5.300 SEK. The stamp, however, remained unsold. Erik Kihlblom (1901–1973) became the next owner and exhibited 'the Imperforate' many times between 1940 and 1955. He sold it at an Edgar Mohrman auction in Hamburg 1963 where Frimärkshuset, Stockholm bought it for 20.000 DM. The firm kept it out of circulation until 1976, when it sold 'the Imperforate' for 144.650 SEK at their November 1976 auction. Lauson H. Stone bought it two years later.

## The Skilling Banco Issue on Cover

### 3 Skilling Banco

Apart from the first day cancellations on cover, we also have studied the existence of the skilling banco stamps on cover. Of the five denominations, only the 3 skilling is rare. In total we only know of about 70 covers bearing the 3 skilling banco.

The 3 skilling banco green was meant to complement other values rather than being intended to be used for a specific postage rate. A 3 skilling banco stamp normally complements two or three 6 skilling banco stamps on covers to Germany. The 3 skilling banco is also found with four of these stamps together as the threefold domestic rate or the basic postage to Denmark instead of the more common franking with 4 and 8 or two 6 skilling banco.

Two Aristocrats are covers carrying the 3 skilling banco. The most remarkable item is the letter carrying a somewhat separated block of four of the 3 skilling banco. The postal rate  $4 \times 3 + 8$  skilling banco, i.e. 20

skilling banco, represents the fivefold rate ( $5 \times 4$ ) for an inland letter 1855–1858. The letter is sent from Åmål 13 January 1857 and was described in an article in *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* by Hans Lagerlöf (1880–1952) as early as in April 1927 and was exhibited by him at the Midwestern Philatelic exhibition in Cleveland, USA the following year. Hans Lagerlöf donated the item among over 1.000 album pages from over 70 countries in his seventh donation to the Post Museum in Stockholm in February 1930.

In the early days of Swedish stamps we had two eccentric gentlemen in the west of Sweden, who for some reason, liked to put odd frankings on their correspondence with one another. This has created several great items of Swedish philately. Unlike in later days, the letters were not made for philatelic purposes. They were apparently only made for fun, as a joke between friends.

The second item of the 3 skilling banco on cover is a folded letter from Halmstad 6 April 1857 to Aalborg and shows the single letter rate 12 skilling banco with transit 'København 6.4. 1857' on back. The letter is known in the philatelic literature since 1917 and was exhibited by Rudolf Lange for the first time in Kristiania (Oslo) 1918. At H. R. Harmer's, London, 'the Lange's sale' in September 1932, Maurice Burrus bought the letter and kept it for the rest of his lifetime. It was for sale at Edgar Mohrman, Hamburg 1962 and fetched 27.500 DM. When Ebel sold Ulf Ivarsson's collection in 1985 the letter reached the highest price so far for a 3 skilling banco letter, that is 460.000 SEK and has not been on the market since then.

### 4 Skilling Banco block of four

The 4 skilling banco stamps was primarily intended for single inland postage and consequently the most common usage.

Until some twenty years ago we thought there only existed one block of four of the whole skilling banco issue on cover. But then a correspondence from 1855–1875 to the Nordenskiöld family, Helsinki of some hundreds covers, including about twenty



Four copies of 3 skilling banco on a cover to Denmark in 1857.

Brev med 4 exemplar av 3 skilling banco, sänd till Danmark år 1857.

skilling banco covers, came on the market. Most of these covers were sold privately.

This beautiful cover is sent from Stockholm 18 May 1858 with a block of four and a single 4 skilling banco to Helsinki via Grisslehamn to pay the 20 skilling banco rate to Finland. Previously we knew of two cancelled blocks of four of the 4 skilling banco, although not on cover. The rate to Finland, paid to destination, was at the time 20 skilling banco, normally made up by one 4 and two 8 skilling banco.

### 6 Skilling Banco

Among the postal items bearing 6 skilling banco the premier item would be the Post Museum's cover to England bearing six copies (two pairs and two singles) of the grey brown shade from the last deliveries on medium thick paper. The post office building where this letter was posted, today houses the Post Museum. This is the largest number known of 6 skilling banco on a

postal object and the ordinary rate to Great Britain 1855–1858. This particular rate usually was made up by one 4, one 8 and one 24 or two 6 and one 24 skilling banco.

The receiver was a Reverend Carlson at the Swedish Legation in London 1856–1858, who sold his correspondence to Harry Wennberg in the mid 1890's. In *Filatelistiska Meddelanden* No. 9, 1920 Wennberg says the correspondence contained about fifty skilling banco covers and to our knowledge this is the only surviving – the others having been “put to water” to yield loose stamps. The collectors then rarely wanted entire covers in their pre-printed albums.

The cover was sent by the Prussian mail-steamer *Nagler* which left during the summer on a Tuesday every two weeks from Stockholm to Stettin. Every other two weeks the Swedish mail-steamer *Nordstjernan* made the same route. *Nagler* arrived in Stettin 10 June, where the letter was sent by train to Berlin with the transit cancellation ‘Stettin-Berlin 10 June 1858’. The letter was

cancelled 'Franco', which indicate the rate was paid and 'Aus Schweden', from Sweden. The letter arrived via Hamburg to London by boat 12 June and received the cancellation 'P', i.e. paid and 'London Ex Ju 12 58 Paid'.

### 8 Skilling Banco

The largest number of 8 skilling banco on a postal object is found on a cover to Finland representing the double 40 skilling banco rate. The stamps are from the ninth and last delivery in the orange shade on clear print.

The letter is sent from Stockholm 15 January 1858 and due to winter conditions in the Baltic Sea the letters were sent via Haparanda in the north of Sweden. For decades the letter stayed in Borås, in Joel Olsson's (1889–1968) and Hugo Josefsson's (b. 1927) Grand Prix collections. They both received Grand Prix awards on world exhibitions in 1966 and 1986, respectively.

### 24 Skilling Banco

There are a number of covers known with a single 24 skilling stamp. This was the rate to several European countries, i.e. Austria, France and Germany. However, the largest number of the 24 skilling on cover is to be found on a cover to Australia in 1858.

There is only one skilling banco cover known sent to Australia, addressed to the captain of a Swedish ship in Sydney (New South Wales). It was franked with the double 66 skilling banco rate from 'Gefle 2.6 1858' via Stralsund, Ostend and Southampton with arrival cancellation 'Sydney Ship Letter Au 17 1858'. The cover has five 24 and two 6 skilling banco stamps and is of particular interest since it has the largest known number of 24 skilling banco on cover and is the largest existing franking during the skilling banco period. It is a beautiful item with the 24 skilling banco stamps from the eighth delivery in the brown red shade on medium thick paper.

Cover with five copies of 8 skilling banco, sent to Finland in 1858.

Brev med fem exemplar av 8 skilling banco, sät till Finland år 1858.





Cover sent to Australia in 1858 with two copies of 6 skilling banco and five copies of 24 skilling banco.

Brev till Australien år 1858 med två exemplar av 6 skilling banco och fem av 24 skilling banco.

The cover was owned by Lars Hedberg (1894–1967), who obtained a Grand Prix 1955 and later Hugo Josefsson. It has been sold once in the open market at Høiland's 20<sup>th</sup> auction in Odense 1998 for DKK 2.415.000.

### Covers to Foreign Destinations

Apart from the covers with extraordinary franking of the various denominations, we have also studied the existence of skilling banco covers to far away destinations.

The prize item of foreign destination during the skilling banco period would be the earlier mentioned cover to Sydney, but its main competitor is possibly a complete letter to Argentina with 4 (in slate grey, blurred print), 6, 8 and two 24 skilling banco comprising the single rate of 66 skilling banco to Argentina. The cover is sent from Luleå 8 October 1857, to the archbishop Nathan Söderblom's father-in-law, the Swedish ship captain C. A. Forsell, on the brig Knut Åkerhielm, care of the Swedish Consul in

Buenos Aires, via Stralsund, Ostend and England. Only two franked covers are said to be known to Argentina in the pre-UPU period (until 1 April 1878). There are only two covers carrying four different skilling banco stamps and none with the whole set. Last time this particular letter was sold in the open market was at Harmer's, London 1967 for GBP 3.500. Lauson H. Stone bought it privately 1976 and exhibited it in London 1980 and in Stockholm 1986.

### Mixed Franking Skilling Banco and Öre

There is one cover known that demonstrates the simultaneous usage of the skilling banco and öre issues sent abroad – a so called mixed franking. The letter is sent from Göteborg 23 July 1861 and like most skilling banco letters to Russia addressed to the Sterky company in St. Petersburg. The 24 skilling banco correspond to 75 öre. Together with the 24 öre this makes up for 99 öre, which is indicated in the upper left cor-



Cover sent to Argentina in 1857 with one each of 4, 6 and 8 skilling banco, as well as a pair of 24 skilling banco.

Brev till Argentina år 1857 med 4, 6, 8 samt par av 24 skilling banco.

Cover sent to Russia in 1861 with a mixed franking of 24 skilling banco and 24 öre.

Blandfrankrat brev med 24 skilling banco och 24 öre, sät till Ryssland år 1861.



ner. This is one of the single rates for letters to Russia 1858–1865 via Prussia.

Hans Lagerlöf donated this cover to the Stockholm Philatelic Association in connection with its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 1936. It is still owned by the Stockholm Philatelic Association as its piece de resistance.

## Final Words

Our presentation of the aristocrats of Swedish philately during the skilling banco period 1855–1858 has now come to an end. We hope you have enjoyed this presentation, as well as the photos of all these extraordinary objects.

We each have our special favourites and they are often shared ones. But there are no final words about a mixture of taste, sense of beauty and facts.

\*

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