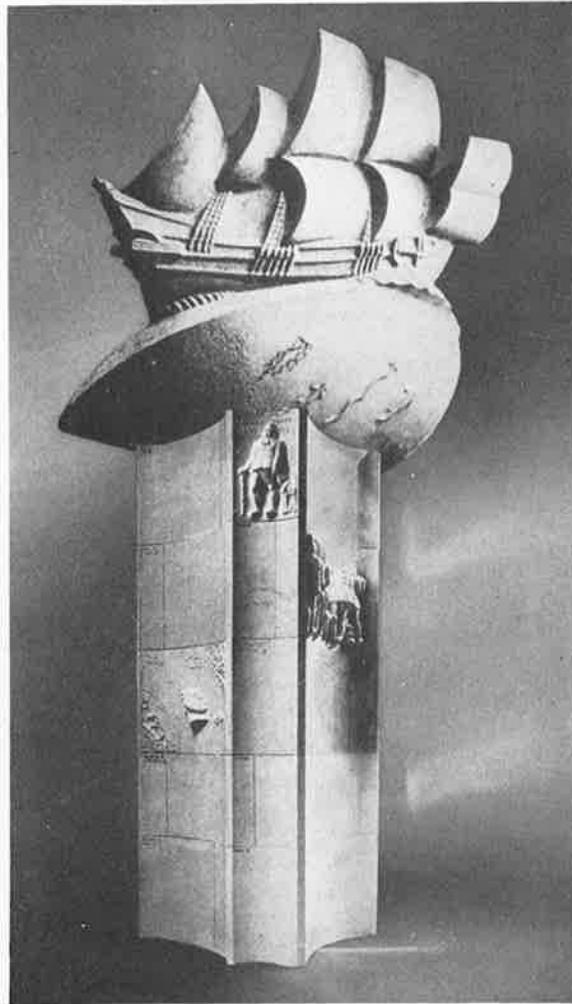


#15

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THE "NEW SWEDEN" TERCENTENARY



MODEL OF NEW SWEDEN MONUMENT BY CARL MILLES

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American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE "NEW SWEDEN" TRICENTENARY IN 1938

by NABOTH HEDIN

ON President Roosevelt's invitation, as authorized and requested by Congress, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden and Crown Princess Louise, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria of Great Britain, will head an official Swedish delegation to attend the principal festivities in the United States at the end of next June to celebrate the tricentenary of "New Sweden", the original colony founded by permanent Swedish settlers in the Delaware River Valley in 1638.

On board the motorliner, "Kungsholm", flagship of the Swedish American Line, and escorted up the Delaware River by a Swedish man-of-war, probably the hyper-modern airplane carrier, "Gotland", the Swedish delegates, including members of the government and leading private citizens, as well as royalty, will arrive direct from Sweden on June 27, 1938, at Wilmington, Delaware, the original landing place of the first colonists. Here they will be greeted as soon as they step ashore by President Roosevelt himself and special representatives of the United States Government as well as by official commissioners from more than half the States of the Union. It will be a dramatic and significant moment. Three hundred years earlier the Swedish colonists, coming in a small wooden sailing vessel, were met at the same spot by native Indian chiefs.

After participating in the principal Tricentenary ceremonies in the states of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, parts of which were included in the original New Sweden area, the royal Swedish guests will pay their respects to the President at the national capital, where they have been invited to be his personal guests at the White House. After that they plan to make brief visits to a few of the most important Swedish American centers in the East and Middle West, but owing to lack of time they cannot make as extensive a tour of the United States as they did in 1926, when they came to attend the unveiling of the John Ericsson monument in Potomac Park in Washington, D. C. That they again will be received with great enthusiasm by the American people may be taken for granted. During the past ten years Sweden itself has become better known in the United States.

Swedish People to Give Monument to America

This time, too, the high point of the royal visitors' trip will be the dedication of a monument. It is a gift from the people of Sweden to the United States, to commemorate the hardy Swedish colonists who were the first to establish a permanent civilization in the Delaware Valley only eighteen years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. This monument will be placed at the very rocks where they made their first settlement on the



H. R. H. Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden

banks of the tributary to the Delaware which to this day is known as the "Christina", the name given it by the first Swedish settlers in honor of their young queen. These rocks, a natural pier in a neighborhood that was originally swampy, are still there and are perhaps better authenticated than almost any other "first" landing place in the United States. In Swedish American history it is, of course, a sacred spot—an objective of pilgrimages for many years to come.

The monument to be dedicated as a marker of this spot for future generations will also be something out of the ordinary — a welcome deviation from the usual type of such memorials. It will be neither a stiff stone column nor a drab figure in bronze, but a dashing representation in highly polished black granite from the famous quarries at Glimåkra in southern Sweden, of the "Kalmar Nyckel", the little seventeenth century frigate, which was the Swedish Mayflower. Shown under full sail, floating as it were in the air, it will be set on top of an irregular octagonal column, about twenty-five feet in height, and should therefore be imagined as being seen from below or at a considerable distance.



H. R. H. Crown Princess Louise of Sweden

with all sorts of sea animals and even traditional mermaids. The stone "wave" which carries the boat is decorated with all sorts of sea animals and even traditional mermaids. The creator of this monument is Professor Carl Milles, Sweden's most noted sculptor, who now has his main studio at the Cranbrook Foundation, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where he is an artist-in-residence for part of every year.

It is the Milles theory that historical monuments need not always be solemn in every detail since life itself, even at momentous and critical junctures, sometimes takes playful turns. He calls to mind Carl Sandburg's whimsical line, "I saw a famous man eating soup". Not only has he carved sea serpents, dolphins and sportive mermaids on the wave, but on the sides of the supporting column he has modeled in a human and informal manner contemporary historical scenes and characters. Queen Christina, who sometimes emulated men, is seen on a massive charger, which perhaps symbolizes the new empire which Sweden had recently gained out of the Thirty Years War, but which was too much for her frail hands to manage. In another scene the friendly Indians return to the Swedish colon-



*Model of Fort Christina State Park,
First Swedish Landing Place, Wilmington*

ists a shame-faced and scrawny looking horse which has strayed off into the woods. A typical Swedish dog barks angrily at the culprit. The incident is supposed to represent the friendly relations between the two races. Then there is William Penn with his heavy Quaker hat, buying land from three Swedish farmers, the brothers Swensson, for the site of Philadelphia, including the ground on which Independence Hall stands today. In their turn the Swedes had bought the land on both sides of the Delaware River from the Indians and on the sides of the monument the original purchasing scene is also pictured.

Delaware to Provide Memorial Park

For this monument the State of Delaware has generously undertaken to furnish a suitable setting in the form of a newly created state park of about three acres between the Christina River and the "Old Swedes" or Holy Trinity Church. Near the landing rocks stood the first redoubt and trading post, called by the Swedes the "Christina Skans" or Fort, and in memory of this primitive stockade the park is to be known as "The Fort Christina State Park". In order to conceal the surrounding industrial plants and shipyards, the park will be encircled by trees and a brick wall. Later it may be expanded and even connected with the "Old Swedes" churchyard, which was used as a burying ground even before the present church was built.

Under the name of "Christinehamn" or "Christina Port" this was the first permanent settlement of any

European nationality not only in the State of Delaware, but in the entire Delaware Valley, and since it was later fortified in the War of the Austrian Succession and in the Revolutionary War and in the War of 1812, it is a real landmark, not only in the history of the Delaware Valley region, but also in the early history of the entire United States. This was the permanent beginning of the colony which later became the nucleus of two of the original thirteen states, Delaware and Pennsylvania, making Sweden one of the three European mother countries of the first Union, the others being England and the Netherlands.

The Delaware State Legislature has moreover renamed a new highway leading toward Philadelphia, "The Governor Printz Boulevard", in honor of the stout Swedish military governor who ruled the colony for ten years from 1643 to 1653. He was a veteran of the Thirty Years War in Germany. The legislature has furthermore corrected the corrupted spelling of "Christiana River" to the original "Christina". On the other hand "Shellpot Creek", an English corruption of the original Swedish "Sköldpadde" or Turtle Creek, will probably retain its more convenient form. Finally, the Delaware Legislature has appropriated \$50,000 toward the celebration expenses and has authorized the State Highway Department to acquire the landing place as an historical site of special interest.

Pennsylvania's Gift to Sweden

The Pennsylvania Legislature has so far appropriated \$40,000 toward the celebration in that state. Part of this money will be spent for a memorial to be presented by Governor George H. Earle in person to the King and people of Sweden. It will be placed in the City of Gothenburg from which the two first Swedish ships, the "Kalmar Nyckel" and the "Fogel Grip", sailed at the end of November, 1637. This memorial will be in the form of two bronze plaques with suitable inscriptions in English and Swedish, respectively, to be attached to a stone column in front of the Marine Museum of Gothenburg. The Governor, who can boast of some of the original Swedish colonial blood in his veins, will be accompanied by Mrs. Earle and members of his official staff. While in Sweden he will probably be received by His Majesty, King Gustaf V, and will be shown other appropriate honors. In his own state Governor Earle has announced an educational campaign to acquaint the school children with the Swedish era, the beginnings of which preceded the arrival of William Penn by forty-one years. In fact, the Swedes established permanently a civil government on Pennsylvania soil before Penn was born.

In New Jersey the Legislature has appropriated \$5,000 for preliminary expenses, but plans are afoot for a larger appropriation at the next session. Details of the celebration program are also being worked out.

Over half the other states have appointed official commissions to represent them at the festivities in old "New Sweden". Some have set aside money for travel expenses while others have only conferred the honor of official representation.

Official Swedish Participation

In Sweden the Government has appointed an official New Sweden Commission to take charge of the country's participation in the American celebration. Its President is J. Sigfrid Edström, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Swedish General Electric Company and for many years Sweden's representative on the International Olympic Committee. On the New Sweden Commission are represented the country's activities in education, science, religion, government, industry, journalism and letters by leading exponents of each. For the expenses the Riksdag or National Parliament has appropriated about \$75,000, but in addition to that the people themselves have subscribed voluntarily over \$50,000 toward the cost of the Milles monument. Most of these subscriptions were made in very small amounts. Altogether there were over 200,000 individual givers whose names will be preserved in the American Swedish Historical Museum of Philadelphia. The drive for this fund was started by the Prime Minister, Per Albin Hansson, in a radio address on New Year's Day. All provincial governors acted as heads of local committees and in almost all factories and other industrial plants nearly all the workers signed the subscription lists. The money, therefore, did not come from a few wealthy persons alone.

Relics of New Sweden to be Shown

In order to make more vivid the early Swedish period in American History, the New Sweden Commission in Stockholm is now collecting documents and articles sent back by the Swedish colonial governors and clergymen, including Indian relics never before shown in present-day United States. These actual objects connected with this period, the rarest of early Americana, will be shown next spring at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia and possibly also at Wilmington, Delaware. They come from various sources in Sweden and have never before been assembled anywhere. After the American exhibition is over, they will be shown publicly in Sweden so that the Swedish people themselves may see what interesting relics from the American colonial period they possess. It would seem logical, however, to retain the collection here for the World's Fair in New York in 1939, so that more people may see it than can possibly travel to either Philadelphia or Wilmington.

Tercentenary Exhibit of Swedish Art

The same may be done in regard to the Tercentenary Exhibit of Swedish Art, which is scheduled to be shown in a number of leading American museums throughout



One of two Memorial Plaques Presented to Sweden by Pennsylvania

the 1937-38 season. Already several requests have been received from Canada as well as cities in the United States for showings in addition to those already arranged. There are no vacant dates until the middle of the summer of 1938, as shown by the following table:

Rockefeller Center, New York.....	Sept. 24—Oct. 6
Worcester Art Museum.....	Oct. 15—Oct. 31
Minneapolis Institute of Arts.....	Nov. 10—Dec. 1
Cleveland Museum of Art.....	Dec. 10—Jan. 4
City Art Museum, St. Louis.....	Jan. 11—Jan. 26
Art Institute, Chicago.....	Feb. 3—March 6
Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh.....	March—March
Toledo Museum of Art.....	March 28—April 11
Corcoran Gallery, Washington.....	April 19—May 17
Delaware Art Center, Wilmington.....	June 1—June 21
Penn. Museum of Art, Philadelphia.....	June 24—July 10

The initiative for this exhibit came from a group of American Museum directors who met in New York in May 1936 and, thanks to the New Sweden Tercentenary, their proposal was regarded by the authorities in Sweden as especially opportune. In consequence, there has been assembled the most remarkable art exhibit that ever left Sweden or was ever shown in one place within the country itself. Never before have the art and historical museum di-



"Old Swedes" Church of Wilmington, dedicated July 4, 1699, on American Half Dollar

rectors allowed such rarities to pass out through their doors, and never before have some of the things of this type, such as genuine rune stones, been shown in America. It contains relics from the Stone and Bronze Ages, as well as from the Iron Age, the Viking period, and the Middle Ages. Then there is a section of native or peasant art, on which the modern decorative arts of Sweden are partly based and, finally, a display of the best paintings from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including works by such well known artists as Anders Zorn, Carl Larsson, Bruno Liljefors, Ernst Josephson, Prince Eugen, and some of the famous painters of the earlier Gustavian Era, never before represented in America. The Viking section includes not only rune stones, but swords, battle axes and ornaments in gold and silver.

The executive committee in charge of this exhibit consists of Wollmar F. Boström, Sweden's Minister to the United States, Dr. Sixten Strömbom, Royal Commissioner for the exhibition, Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Worcester Art Museum, Russell A. Plimpton, head of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and George N. Jeppson of Worcester, First Vice President of the Swedish American Tercentenary Association, and Chairman of its Art Committee. Local executive committees are formed in each city where the collection is shown. The one in New York consisted of G. Hilmer Lundbeck, Chairman, Dr. Henry Goddard Leach, President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Reginald T. Townsend, and Naboth Hedin.

The other members of the General Committee in charge of the Art Exhibit are: Hon. Martin Kastengren, Swedish Consul General at New York; Neilson Abeel,



"Kalmar Nyckel", first Swedish ship to arrive in America, on United States Memorial Coin

Secretary, American-Scandinavian Foundation; George W. Eggers, City College of New York; Robert B. Harshe, Director, Art Institute of Chicago; Fiske Kimball, Director, Pennsylvania Museum of Art; Henri G. Marceau, Secretary, Fairmount Park Art Association, Philadelphia; C. Powell Minnigerode, Director, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.; Meyric R. Rogers, Director, City Art Museum, St. Louis; Gordon Washburn, Director, Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo.

Tercentenary Lecturers from Sweden

Another cultural project in connection with the New Sweden Tercentenary is a series of lectures before American University audiences by eminent Swedish specialists, including winners of Nobel Prizes in Science. The chairman in charge of arrangements in the United States is Dr. Henry Goddard Leach, Editor and Publisher of *The Forum*, as well as President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Other members of the special committee are Consul General Martin Kastengren, Professor Adolph B. Benson of Yale University, and Naboth Hedin, Manager of the American-Swedish News Exchange in New York.

The first Tercentenary lecturer to arrive was Professor The Svedberg of Upsala University, winner in 1926 of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and recipient in 1936 of an honorary degree of Doctor of Science at the Harvard Tercentenary celebration in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is the inventor of the so-called "Ultra-Centrifuge", an instrument enabling scientists to see, in the words of the Harvard citation, "beyond the microscope". Several of these high speed machines are now in use in various American chemical laboratories. Professor Svedberg's first lecture was given at the University of Delaware on October 15, when he spoke before a conference of noted chemists from all parts of the



"Sweden Remembers New Sweden"

United States, held in connection with the dedication of a new chemistry building. The next day he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Delaware. Later he lectured before a number of technical institutes, colleges and universities, returning to Sweden on November 6.

Other Tercentenary Lecturers, now scheduled to arrive, are Professor Gunnar Asplund of the University of Stockholm, chief architect of the Stockholm Exposition of Decorative Arts in 1930; Professor Knut Lundmark of Lund University, an eminent astronomer who has previously studied in America and lectured before the Harvard Summer School; Professor Eli Heckscher, famous economist of Stockholm University and adviser to the Swedish Government, and Dr. Gunnar Holmgren, President of the Swedish Academy of Medicine which annually awards the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, who will come as a special guest of the American Otological Society and will attend the Society's annual meeting at Atlantic City on May 5 and 6 next year.

Harvard University has named Professor Gunnar Myrdal, a brilliant young Swedish economist, who is professor of Economics at the Stockholm University, as its Godkin Lecturer for 1938. Professor Myrdal, who like Professor Heckscher has served on various occasions as an adviser to the Swedish Government, will come in May when he will give a series of lectures on "The System of Public Finance and the Business Fluctuations". These lectures were established about a generation ago in honor of the late Edwin Lawrence Godkin, a native of Ireland, who was editor for many years of the New



*Profile of King Gustaf V on Memorial
New Sweden Two Kronor Piece*

York Evening Post and The Nation. Professor Myrdal may be accompanied by Mrs. Myrdal, who is in her own right an able lecturer on public health and social work. With her husband she was the co-author of a recent work on the problem of re-population which caused both a tremendous popular interest and then several pieces of legislation in Sweden.

Negotiations are under way for several more Tercentenary lecturers, but until a sufficient number of engagements have been arranged for each scholar to make his trip worth while, no advance details will be available.

Correspondence Between School Children

Still another educational activity initiated by the official Swedish Tercentenary Commission is direct correspondence between the school children of Sweden and the United States, chiefly those living within the confines of the old New Sweden Colony and those of later Swedish ancestry in other parts of the country. Over seven thousand names of such children have already been sent to Sweden by a Tercentenary Association committee, of which Miss Agnes Samuelson, Superintendent of Public Instruction in the State of Iowa and former President of the National Educational Association, is the chairman, while Professor George H. Ryden, of the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, represents the committee in the New Sweden territory. Names of additional children who wish to correspond may be sent to either of the above or to Nabeth Hedin, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, for transmission to Sweden. These names will be distributed in Sweden to school children of corresponding ages, and for the first answers there will be available special postal cards with prepaid replies. In some cases American children of Swedish

descent have already written their first letter in Swedish, of which they seem to be very proud and, no doubt, the recipients will feel the same way. Similar correspondence has been carried on for some years between the children in Sweden and those of the other Scandinavian countries and also Germany. It has been found to be very helpful in broadening their minds and in promoting better international understanding.

Memorial Coins and Stamps

Special "New Sweden" postage stamps will soon be issued in both the United States and Sweden and both American and Swedish commemorative coins have already been minted. The first issue of 25,000 Delaware Tercentenary Half Dollars for the benefit of the Delaware Commission has been nearly sold out. Half of it was subscribed for by collectors in advance. The coin bears a representation of "Kalmar Nyckel", on one side and Holy Trinity, or "Old Swedes" Church of Wilmington, on the other. The nominal price for this coin is \$1.75, but coin catalogues already list it at \$2.00. Applications for purchase should be addressed to the Equitable Trust Company, Wilmington, Delaware, accompanied by checks or money orders or other forms of remittance. While the initial issue lasts, the price to individual purchasers will be held at \$1.75.

The nominal value of the Swedish commemorative coin is two kronor or practically the equivalent of the American half dollar, but the retail sale price in the United States has not yet been decided on, nor has the method of distribution. On one side the coin has a profile of King Gustaf and on the other a design of Kalmar Nyckel, superimposed by a royal crown with the inscription "Novae Sueciae Suecia Memor" (Sweden Remembers New Sweden.) It is a beautiful coin, sure to be treasured by professional collectors as well as by amateurs for purely sentimental reasons.

Special Tercentenary Publications

In connection with the Tercentenary, the Swedish Commission will issue a series of publications in English about modern Sweden, to be known as the Tercentenary Booklets. They will run to from one hundred to two hundred pages each. The first one issued was the catalogue for the Art Exhibit, which was in effect a brief history of Swedish art from the earliest days to our own times. The others are a new text for "Social Work and Legislation in Sweden", which like its predecessor of 1928 is prepared under the auspices of the Royal Social Board, "The Nobel Prizes and Alfred Nobel", "How Sweden Conquered the Depression" by Professor Arthur Montgomery, "Seed Culture" by Professor Åke Åkerman, "Education" by Börje Knös and Fred Sandberg, and "Architecture" by Professor August Hahr.

As a unique relic of the American colonial days the Swedish Commission will also re-publish in facsimile the Lutheran Catechism translated for the American

Indians by the Rev. Johan Campanius, who served the New Sweden colony from 1643 to 1648, the most prosperous years when Johan Printz was Governor. It was not printed in Stockholm until 1696, but as a curiosity in American religious history, it ranks with the "Indian Catechism" published in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by the Rev. John Eliot in 1653. The lessons are printed alternately in the quaint Swedish of the period and the native "American-Virginian" language of the aborigines, as it sounded to Campanius.

The Swedish American Tercentenary Association, for its part, has under way a rather ambitious work about the various contributions to the growth of civilization in America during the past three hundred years by people of Swedish stock. The editor-in-chief is Professor Adolph B. Benson, Chairman of the Department of Germanic Languages at Yale University, and each



"Old Swedes" Church of Wilmington Delaware on New Commemorative Dinner Plate

chapter is being written by a specialist in the subject it covers. The book will be a distinct contribution to Swedish-American history.

In connection with its tercentenary the State of Delaware will publish a number of historical monographs, most of them by scholars at the University of Delaware. The official State Commission has already begun a series of bulletins, edited by Christopher L. Ward, Executive Chairman, whose earlier work, "The Dutch and the Swedes on the Delaware", will now be republished in so far as it relates to New Sweden. Of this shorter edition there will also be a Swedish version to be published in Stockholm, and judging by the origi-

nal book it will be a very readable account. A short history of Delaware in colonial and revolutionary times, to be written by Dr. George H. Ryden, Professor of History at the University of Delaware and State Archivist, will be published by the Delaware Tercentenary Commission and distributed among the school children of the state. An old fashioned almanac with Delaware historical dates in chronological order will also be issued by the Commission. The same body is having made in England a series of tercentenary dinner plates, each showing a notable historical building in the state, the first one being the Wilmington "Old Swedes" Church, the oldest Protestant church in continuous use in the United States, having been dedicated July 4, 1699. The designs have been made by Albert Kruse of Wilmington. The first issue has been over-subscribed in advance.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also plans to publish Tercentenary books. The first by Dr. Amandus Johnson will deal with the excavations made recently on the site of the residence of Governor Johan Printz on Tinicum Island, and later the Historical Commission of which Major Frank W. Melvin is the Chairman, plans to issue a volume of original documents relating to New Sweden and photographed in the Swedish state archives by Dr. Johnson.

Essay Contest for School Children

A first prize of fifty dollars and thirty-two other prizes are offered by The American Swedish Monthly in an essay contest for which the subject is "Why do we celebrate the New Sweden Tercentenary?" The contest, which closes on January 31, 1938, is open to boys and girls under eighteen years of age, who are enrolled in an elementary or secondary school in the United States, and who are of American citizenship. For further information regarding the rules and other details address "Essay Contest, The American Swedish Monthly, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y."

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