

# The Cover Story

## Alf Kjellin - Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!

by Mike Schumacher

While searching through a tub of Scandinavian covers at the recent Chicagopex, I happened upon the postcard **figure A1 on front cover**. It caught my eye even though it wasn't an Iceland cover. What caught my eye was the "Lund" cancel (as I have an SCC friend who collects and exhibits Lund postal history). What is so unique about "Lund"?

Figure A3



Lund is located in south-west Scania, Sweden's largest agricultural district, about 10 kilometers from Oresund Strait and about 15 kilometers from Malmo. Lund is believed to have been founded around 990 when King Sweyn I Forkbeard relocated the settlers of Uppakra to the new site which was considerably more defensible situated on the high point of a plain in Scania which was part of Denmark.

From 1103, Lund was the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese & the Lund

Cathedral (**figure 2 on front cover**) was built between 1145 - 1190 and still stands at the center of town. Lund was ceded to Sweden in the treaty of Roskilde in 1658, when Denmark-Norway were forced to give up a third of their territory to save the rest. Lund University was established in 1666 and is today one of the oldest and largest Scandinavian institutions for education and research, which has led to Lund becoming a center for high-tech industry in southern Sweden. Lund University was honored on a Swedish stamp (**figure A3**) in 2016. Lund's rich and important history can be found at the Lund Museum which was honored on a stamp in 1982 (**figure A4**). That's a very short version of the history of Lund.

The photo on the postcard (**figure A5**) is of the Sculpture of Gustav Vasa by Carl Milles in Stockholm.

Gustav Vasa (1496 – 1560) was born Gustav Eriksson, also known as Gustav I, King of Sweden from 1523 until his death in 1560. He rose to power by leading the rebel movement following the "Stockholm Bloodbath," in which his father was killed.



Figure A5

Figure A4

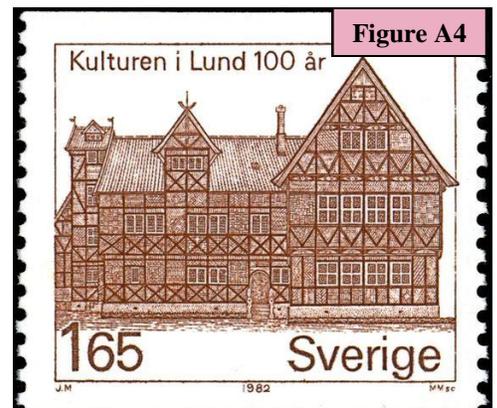




Figure A6

So of course, I also had to investigate who “Alf Kjellin” (**figure A6**) was, and it turns out that he was a Swedish film actor & director and was born in Lund, Sweden (Feb. 28, 1920). He initially studied for a theatrical career but was swept into movie stardom due to his appearance in the Ingmar Bergman scripted film “Hets” (1944), later released in the U.S. as “Frenzy”. Alf Kjellin made his Hollywood debut in MGM’s “Madame Bovary” in 1949. He appeared in a number of other films over the following years mostly as second leads and villains. His directing debut was “Girl in the Rain” (1957). Most of his directed films were not very memorable, however he did achieve an excellent reputation as a director of episodes of the TV series; “The Alfred Hitchcock Hour”; “Dr. Kildare”; “I Spy”; “Columbo”; “Man from U.N.C.L.E.”; Mannix”; “Hawaii Five-O”; “Gunsmoke” & “The Waltons”. He also had roles in the films “Ice Station Zebra” (1968) & “Zandy’s Bride” (1974) and

the TV series “Mission Impossible”.

Oh, the things you can learn stamp collecting! All of this for a \$3.00 postcard.



## How About this for Stunning!



This eye-catching cover recently was in a mixed lot that sold at a cried auction. The 35 examples of the 2 cent Yorktown Issue from 1931, added a total of 70 cents to the fee paid to mail this item. It is rather odd to realize that 35 first class letters could have been mailed with these stamps in 1931 – and today it would take 28 of them to meet the current rate of 55 cents – and over pay the rate by 1 cent.