

Synopsis: Albatross – a dramatic event during WWI

Introduction

This exhibit has been issued five times previously. It was at first in 2009 and 2011, both times with 86 points. The third time, with a largely rebuilt exhibit, was at Nordia 2014 in Lillestrøm (90 points), the fourth at Wernamo 2015 (91 points) och the fifth at Finlandia 2017 (88 points).

To develop the exhibit, I have in recent years been reading even more literature on the Albatross and I have now inserted the Albatross in its social context during and even before the First World War: the causes of the war with the conditions, particularly in Europe, the arms race and how the war "crept up" starting from 1912. In addition, I try to tell more about the events that can be associated with the Albatross men on Gotland, in Oskarshamn and in Skillingaryd.

I have also worked quite a lot with the presentation and the idea, plan and processing of the theme. The goal has been to get a story in space and time, which following a brief introduction, goes back 100 years and the closer to the first world war it comes, the more information and postcards there will be. The exhibit includes 40 A3 sheets, i.e. five frame sides.

Latest changes

Last this exposition was posted on Finlandia 2017 and 88 points, two lower than before, although a lot improved.

The jury in principle had the following suggestions for improvement:

- Include printing methods for the postcards
 - Short in the texts something
 - Let the map cards more harmonize with each other from one left to one right side
 - Complete the plan somewhat and do a little more detailed bibliography
 - Reduce the number of items where the stamp page is visible - it is now reduced from seven to two
 - Make sure the headings of the subheadings of the sections are clarified
 - Do not overlap (exist in 3 places)
 - Explain in Synopsis a little more about the rarity
- All this is done now (except overlap), with 10 more ordinary postcards removed from the exhibit.

In-house research and rarities

I have continued to study literature and often give lectures about the Albatross.

Rarity is a difficult concept in the postcard world.

Most unusual are obviously almost always privately shot postcards, and there are a lot of those here. Many of the other cards are also rare. Such known for at most about five specimens have a red frame in the exhibit.

Here are the exhibits 10 key items in the order they appear in the exhibit

1. Shipyard in Bremen where Albatross was built



Albatross built in 1907 at the shipyard in Germany Bremen.

2. The crew of Albatross



There are only a handful of known postcards of collective groups of Albatross crew. This is one of them.

3. The boat Albatross



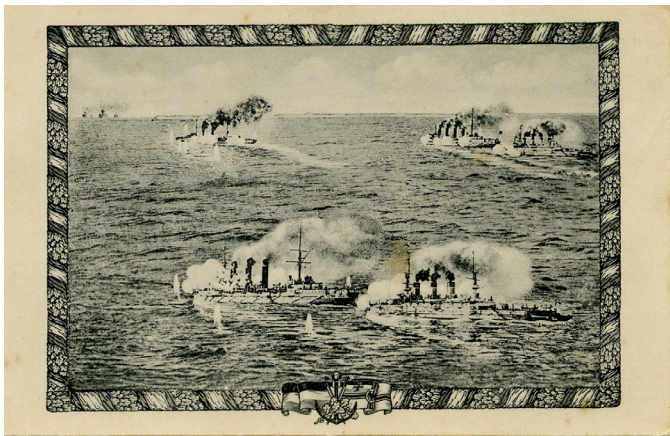
There are certainly at least 20 known different postcards of Albatross but this is one of the rarer. The boat is here located in Oskarshamn.

4. The First World War begins



After several years of turmoil in Europe the assassination of archduke Franz Ferdinand will be the spark: World War I begins.

5. The battle off Gotland July 2, 1915



On July 2, 1915 the Albatross is attacked in the Baltic Sea and the damaged ship takes aim for Swedish waters off the island Gotland. This drawn postcard is quite rare.

6. The funeral



Many of the crew of the Albatross were killed in the battle. The funeral was followed by the survivors and the Swedish military and civilian. This postcard is a private one and probably has a small edition.

7. The stay on Gotland

Most of the crew of the Albatross were interned 1915– 1917 on Gotland where they get to work in the camp, but they can also get parole. This is a private photo with only this known copy.



8. The detention in Skillingaryd



1917–1918 the detention place is Skillingaryd in Småland instead of Gotland. This postcard shows a social gathering with Skillingaryd girls. The card is a private one with only known copy.

9. The crew member Georg Rauch

About 30 of the around 200 cards in the exhibit are sent to or from Georg Rauch. This is a studio photo with lined back. There are probably only a few cards with this design that has been preserved.



10. Albatross scrapped



Last trip of the Albatross is to Kiel, where she was scrapped. Albatross is gone but a piece of war history, with strong ties to Sweden lives on in for example Skillingaryd, Oskarshamn and Gotland.