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Bits & Pieces

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Bits & Pieces



Swedish American of the year 2017: Jan Eliasson

Jan Eliasson was born September 17, 1940, in Gothenburg and is a well-known Swedish and international diplomat.

The Vasa Order of America has designated Jan Eliasson as the Swedish-American of the Year for all the fantastic work he has done and is continuing to do for world peace and understanding across the borders.



Jan Eliasson was the Swedish Ambassador to the United States 2000-2005. In June 2005 he was the first Swede to be elected Chairman of the UN General Assembly, a mandate that lasted to 2006. In 2006 he was appointed Swedish Foreign Minister.

He has a profound interest in water issues, in particular for the developing world and was the first chairman of Water Aid, Sweden.

Jan Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations from July 2012 to December 31 2016.

He will take part in the annual John Ericsson Day celebrations in Filipstad and Karlstad on 5 August 2017.

(From a press release from the Vasa Order of America).



New valid Swedish bills!



These are the new Swedish banknotes of the lower denominations, that are the only valid ones from 1 July 2017.

For the higher denominations, up to a 1000 SEK, there are also new banknotes.

All coins, *except* the 10 SEK, have been replaced with smaller copper colored coins, and the old ones are no longer valid. [Link to the Swedish National Bank \(Riksbanken\)](#) on p. 26.

Late news: Gold for the Swedish Ice Hockey Team!

The Swedish Ice Hockey team, called *Three Crowns* (Tre Kronor) became the world champions in the 2017 tournament. They defeated Canada at last, after penalties.



Big celebration at Sergel Plaza in downtown Stockholm. [Jersey is yellow, crowns blue].



Congratulations to Canada on their 150th Anniversary!

In 1867 Canada became the name of the new federal dominion extending ultimately from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Arctic coasts.

Many Swedish immigrants took the shorter route to Canada before taking a train to the U.S., but many also stayed in the country.

Read all about that in Elinor Barr's "Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants" (2015).



Interesting exhibits in Minneapolis

An exhibition called "Still Life" by Swedish painter *Karin Bros* opened on 14 July and closes on 29 Oct. Karin Bros has studied painting in The Netherlands, and then moved to Värmland, where she and her husband Marc still lives. Her pictures are mostly focused on homelife, and Värmland nature.

On 14 July another exhibition opened and closes on 6 Aug. It is called "A to Zääö: Exploring ASI's Collection."

The ASI welcomes *Tara Sweeney* and *Nate Christopherson*, a St. Paul-based mother and son creative team, who will illustrate a series of 29 objects from the historic ASI collection, each representing a letter from the Swedish alphabet.