

The Roosman Album

The Roosman Album contains essays and postage stamps of the Caritas issues 1936-1940. The Roosman Album probably served the Ühisabi charity, responsible for the design of the Caritas postage stamps, as archive album and only one such album is known to exist. Additional Albums were probably not produced or kept, perhaps because of an insufficient quantity of essays of 1936, as shown by the inclusion in the Album of 10S and 15S essays of 1936 with diamond/double perforation errors, instead of essays without perforation errors. The album and its cover page were designed by Axel Roosman, who also designed the Caritas postage stamp issues 1936-1937.

Album pages

The cover page shows the Caritas heart, as symbol for Ühisabi, with oak leaves surrounding the Caritas heart, similar to the oak branches surrounding the three leopards on the official coat of arms of Estonia. The cover page bears the title „Ühisabi heategeva otstarbega postmargid“ (=Ühisabi charity postage stamps). The first page of the Roosman Album shows on beige watermark paper the Decree authorizing the Caritas postage stamp issues of 1936-1940, with charity surcharges for Ühisabi. The subsequent five gray album pages bear the title „Väljaanne“ (=issue) and contain the final essays and the postage stamps of each issue year 1936-1940. The cover and album pages of the Roosman Album are 226x345mm.

Metallic inks

The gray pages of the Album were printed with three different metallic inks. The purpose of using metallic inks was to enhance the appearance of the Album. Golden metallic ink was used to print the Caritas heart and the album title on the cover page. A mixture of silver metallic ink and green ink was used to print the oak leaves on the cover page. A mixture of bronze metallic ink and purple ink was used to print the issue years and the dotted-line frames for the postage stamps and essays. The beige sheet with the Decree was printed with non-metallic purple ink.

Stamp fields/frames printed on album pages: Too small for the Essays of 1939-1940

A header with the issue year is printed on each gray album page, together with 4 small fields 26x31 mm for the postage stamps and 4 large fields 52x62 mm for the essays. The postage stamps of 1936-1940 were all of the same size and fit nicely into these pre-printed fields, with an empty space of 1 mm around them, also the essays of 1936-1938, with an empty space of 2 mm around them. The essays of 1939-1940, however, were slightly larger than the essays of 1936-1938 and have little empty space around them. The printing of album pages with fields too small for the essays of 1939-1940 indicates that the Roosman Album was printed at a time when the actual size of the essays of 1939-1940 was not yet known.

Designer Axel Roosman and date of design

The cover of the Roosman Album shows a Caritas heart surrounded by oak leaves. Axel Roosman was the resident artist of Ühisabi, even preparing the artistic decorations of the annual Ühisabi charity balls. Axel Roosman can be identified as the designer of the Album by the striking similarity of the Caritas heart on the cover of the Album and on pencil drawing AK-4D. Both designs also show oak leaves, a favorite ornament of Roosman. The cover of the Album and pencil drawing AK-4D were designed around the same time in late 1935 because both show an early form of the Caritas heart with a flower bud and two petals.

Vladimir Kuusik

The inside cover page of the Roosman Album bears the bookplate/ex libris „V.Kuusik“ of Vladimir Kuusik, who was a philatelist and judge at the Tallinn district court. Judge Vladimir Kuusik acquired the Roosman Album probably during the liquidation of the assets and dissolution of Ühisabi 1940-41. The Roosman Album was inherited by Vladimir Kuusik's daughter, Anna Golobova, who sold it at an auction in 1999.

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Lot 253: The album cover page of the Roosman Album, designed by Axel Roosman,

*The following lot nos. 248 to 253 will be auctioned individually. If requested subsequently, all six lots will be auctioned as a group together. In that case the minimum offer for the group of six must exceed the total of the hammer price of the six individually sold lots by 10% or it must exceed the total of the hammer price for the sold lots of the group plus the starting price of the unsolds (whereby lot 253 would be calculated at EURO 50,-) by 10%.

* Die folgenden Lose 248 bis 253 werden einzeln versteigert und zugeschlagen. Wenn gewünscht werden die sechs Lose in ihrer Gesamtheit anschließend als Gruppe (Gesamtlos) versteigert. Voraussetzung dafür ist, dass das Mindestgebot die Addition der Zuschläge für die sechs einzelnen Lose um 10% übersteigt, bzw. die Addition der Zuschläge plus dem Ausrufpreis der unverkauften Lose (wobei Los Nr. 253 mit EURO 50,- angesetzt wird) um 10% übersteigt.

Los-Nr	Mi.-Nr.			Ausruf
* 248	109-112	(★)	1936, 10-50s. postage stamps and essays of the Caritas issue of 1936, hinged on gray carton sheet of the Roosman Album. Double/diamond perforation at the top of the 10 s. and 15 s. essays, the only known essays of the Caritas issues with diamond perforation. The use of essays with double/diamond perforation in the Roosman Album shows the rarity of the essays of 1936: Ühisabi probably did not have other 10 s. and 15 s. essays for the Roosman Album, without perforation errors <i>(Photo = 50)</i>	150
* 249	127-30	(★)	1937, 10-50 s. postage stamps and essays of the Caritas issue of 1937, hinged on gray carton sheet of the Roosman Album. The essays of the Caritas issues of 1936 and 1937 are very rare <i>(Photo = 50)</i>	150
* 250	131-34	(★)	1938, 10-50 s. postage stamps and essays of the Caritas issue of 1938, hinged on gray carton sheet of the Roosman Album <i>(Photo = 51)</i>	150
* 251	142-45	(★)	1939, 10-50 s. postage stamps and essays of the Caritas issue of 1939, hinged on gray carton sheet of the Roosman Album <i>(Photo = 51)</i>	150
* 252	152-55	(★)	1940, 10-50 s. postage stamps and essays of the Caritas issue of 1940, hinged on gray carton sheet of the Roosman Album <i>(Photo = 51)</i>	150
* 253			The album cover page of the Roosman Album, designed by Axel Roosman, also the page with Decree <i>(Photo = 51-52)</i>	Gebot



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Designs by Axel Roosman for playing cards sold by the Estonian Red Cross, the origin of the Caritas heart and of the pre-perforated cardboards. Submitted design for a playing card by Axel Roosman, on cardboard 65,5x43mm with rounded corners, in pencil, the heart in read watercolor. On the back four glue marks, where the design was attached. The heart on playing cards was, according to the son of Axel Roosman, the origin of the Caritas heart. Axel Roosman had made designs of playing cards for the Estonian Red Cross, which was granted in 1923 the monopoly for the production and sale of playing cards for charitable purposes (E.F. 24-25, pp.163-170).

The submission to Alexander Koenig of postage stamp designs on pre-perforated cardboards probably had its origin in Roosman's design of a playing card. One of the designs of a playing card was submitted to the Estonian Red Cross on a pre-cut cardboard with rounded corners, looking like a playing card. Similarly the designs submitted to Alexander Koenig were on perforated cardboards, looking like postage stamps. In addition another design for a playing card by Axel Roosman, in pencil, on paper with a red sticker of the Estonian Red Cross. Four glue marks at the back and a hole at the top. Both of the designs are from the estate of Axel Roosman.

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