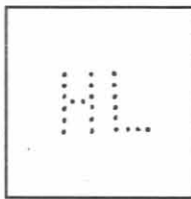


Colonel Hans Lagerloef, Swedish pulp trader and philatelic benefactor

Donald Anderson (#293) sent along a clipping from a 1996 issue of *The Posthorn*, the journal of the Scandinavia Collectors Club, which provides some background information about U.S. perfin H98.

The U.S. catalog identifies the user as the Lagerloef Trading Company of New York. According to the *Posthorn* article, the owner of the company was Colonel Hans Lagerloef, a specialist in wood pulp trading, who was born in 1880 and died in 1952. In 1907 he and a partner formed the Scandinavian American Trading Company in New York. After he became a U.S. citizen, Lagerloef formed the Lagerloef Trading Company on January 1, 1918. The firm represented pulp companies in Sweden and Finland, distributing their products throughout the Americas. Colonel

Lagerloef was a stamp collector most of his life and won numerous international awards with his philatelic exhibits. He was a significant benefactor to the Swedish Postal Museum and was honored with a special exhibit at the museum in 1996. The U.S. perfins catalog notes that the HL pattern is known on 1908 through 1914 issues, which doesn't exactly



correlate with the founding date of the Lagerloef Trading Company. Because *HL* are clearly the Colonel's initials, it is possible that the perfin pre-dated the company and may be found on covers from the Scandinavian American Trading Company as well. Leif Bergman (#1109) reportedly has a 1919 cover showing

the location of the Lagerloef Trading Company at 15 East 41st Street in New York.