

# OEMC 2007 Memorial Mahjong Set

For the Open European Mahjong Championship 2007 in Copenhagen a limited edition mahjong set has been manufactured. The special tiles are designed by Robert Bonde Jensen and reflect important artefacts and buildings from the Danish cultural heritage.

## Flowers: Historical Artefacts

### *Flower 1: Viking Ship*



*Origin: Collective term for ships used during the Viking Age (800–1100) in Northern Europe.*

The longship (or dragonship) was used for trade and commerce, and for raiding coastal and inland settlements. It was also very seaworthy, and thus used for exploratory voyages to Iceland, Greenland and beyond. The longship was a graceful, long, narrow, light wooden boat with a shallow draft designed for speed. It was equipped with both sails and oars. The largest longship so far found, measuring 35 meters in length, was uncovered in Roskilde harbour in 1997. Another uncovered ship was used as model for the world's largest reconstruction of a Viking ship, "Havhingsten af Glendalough" (the sea stallion from Glendalough near Dublin, Ireland). It took four years to build it using the same tools and methods the Vikings used. A cruise is planned from Roskilde to Dublin in the summer of 2007. The original was recently included in a canon for Danish culture.

### *Flower 2: The Trundholm Sun Chariot*



*Origin: Trundholm moor, West Zealand County. Late Nordic Bronze Age artefact discovered in 1902 (probably from 14–15 century BC).*

The Sun Chariot is a bronze statue of a horse, placed on four wheels, and connected to a big bronze disk on two wheels. The disk is about 25 cm in diameter and gilded on one side. It is interpreted as a depiction of the sun, as the sun was central in the religious beliefs during the Bronze Age. The gilding on one side is thought to be due to the belief that the sun is drawn across the heavens from East to West during the day, showing its bright side, and back from West to East during the night, showing its dark side. The Trundholm Sun Chariot was recently included in a canon for Danish culture.

### **Flower 3: Golden Horns of Gallehus**



*Origin: Gallehus near Møgeltonder, North Schleswig. Believed to date to the fifth century, the larger horn uncovered July 20, 1639 and the smaller April 21, 1734 not far from the first.*

The horns are made from solid gold and covered with figures and runes. The figures probably depict events of a Norse saga or from Celtic mythology. In 1802 the horns were stolen by a goldsmith and destroyed to recycle the gold. The culprit was apprehended about a year later and confessed. He was imprisoned from 1803 to 1840. The gold (7.5 kilos in all) was returned but used for making coins rather than re-create the horns. The horns now on exhibit are created based on sketches of the original horns. The Danish poet Adam Oehlenschläger (1779–1850) wrote a poem about the horns shortly after the theft. The poem is to this day well known in Denmark.

### **Flower 4: Mjøltnir, Hammer of Thor**



*Origin: Norse mythology.*

The hammer of Thor has a prominent place in many of the adventures of Thor's exploits and is his most prized possession. It symbolizes both regeneration and destruction. It is used by Thor, the Viking god of lightning, thunder, wind and rain, to battle his foes, revive his goats and create thunder and lightning. The hammer always hits what it is aimed at, and it returns to the hand it was thrown by. In modern times Mjøltnir is used for ornaments, and it is a symbol of the old Norse religion. The religion has about 500 organized followers in Denmark and is also practiced in the other Scandinavian countries.

## **Seasons: Copenhagen Cultural Highlights**

### **Season 1: The Little Mermaid**



The statue, sitting on a rock in the Copenhagen harbour, shows the title character from Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale in which a mermaid is willing to give up everything to gain the love of a prince and an eternal soul. The statue was commissioned in 1909 by Carl Jacobsen, son of the founder of the Carlsberg brewery, after he had been fascinated by a ballet about the fairytale. The sculptor Edward Eriksen created the statue, which was unveiled on 23 August 1913. He used his wife

Eline Eriksen as the model. The statue has been vandalised several times since 1964 where its head was sawn off and stolen by politically oriented artists of the

situationist movement. But the sculpture has been restored after every occasion of vandalism, and now the local government is considering moving it further out in the harbour to avoid repetitions. The relatively small size of the statue typically surprises tourists visiting for the first time. The Little Mermaid statue is made of bronze, only 1.25 meter high and weighs about 175 kg.

### **Season 2: The Round Tower**



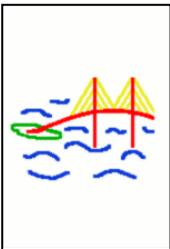
Rundetårn (“The Round Tower”) of Copenhagen is like several other well-known buildings in the city built upon request from King Christian IV. Completed in 1642, it is designed by architect Hans Steenwinckel the Younger and features a unique 7.5-turn helical corridor leading to the top instead of stairs. The tower is part of the Trinitatis complex whose purpose was originally to provide the scholars of the 17th century with an astronomical observatory, a student church and a university library. Among the astronomers who have observed from Rundetårn is Ole Rømer, the scientist who made the first quantitative measurements of the speed of light. In Denmark, heights of buildings are often compared to the height of Rundetårn, 35 metres (which is then supposed to be well known).

### **Season 3: Rosenborg Castle**



Rosenborg (“Castle of Roses”), built as a country summerhouse in 1606, is another example of Christian IV’s many architectural projects. It was built in the Dutch Renaissance style, typical of Danish buildings during this period, and has been expanded several times, finally evolving into its present condition by the year 1624. The beautiful castle has been open to the public since 1838 and is popular with tourists to Copenhagen as it is conveniently and centrally located, easily reached by train and public bus routes. It houses a museum and an exhibition of the Crown Jewels and the Danish Crown Regalia.

### **Season 4: Øresund Bridge**

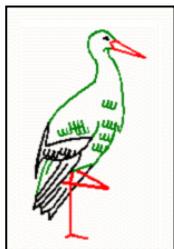


The Øresund Bridge is the culmination of the Danish 20th-century tradition of constructing great bridges. It crosses The Sound (the Øresund strait) and connects Denmark and Sweden. With a length of 7.8 kilometres, it was opened to traffic on 1 July 2000. A combined two-track rail and four-lane road connection, the bridge has one of the longest cable-stayed main spans in the world at 490 metres. The height of the highest pillar is 204

metres. Initially the usage of the bridge was not as high as hoped, which was generally attributed to the expense of crossing. However, recently there has been an increase in the volume of traffic on the bridge. This is mainly due to Danes buying homes in Sweden and commuting to their work in Denmark, mostly for tax reasons.

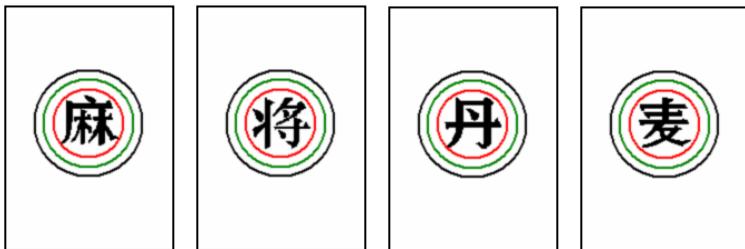
### Other Special Designs

#### *1 Bamboo: Stork*



A stork is a large, long-legged, long-necked wading bird that builds nests in high places. In Western culture the stork is a symbol of childbirth. Earlier it was quite common in Denmark, but now there are only very few breeding couples left, so they receive much attention in the press. The world famous Danish fairy tale writer, Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875), has used storks in several of his fairy tales, most notably *The Ugly Duckling*.

#### *1 Circle: Mahjong Denmark*



The Chinese characters inside the four distinct 1 Circle tiles read: “Mahjong Denmark”.



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