

## About the illustration on the folder

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Thank you for being a nerd too and show your interest in Nerd Tours by reading this. This is the childlike explanation for the drawing on the leaflet that hopefully tempted you to check out Nerd Tours.

It is of course the many towers of Copenhagen that was the starting point for my version of the city's history. The towers are placed on a circle to show that we get a 360 degree look on the past (almost). Back then there were also sense impressions, sex, slapstick and sorrow – and tens of thousands of other phenomena just as today.

I have painted all copper verdigris because it is a much nicer and fresher color than the boring brown one we see today, and in a few years it will be correct....

The circle is inspired by the city arms with the three towers and crescent and two stars. The background is dark blue color like the one on the street signs of Copenhagen, and I just love the 120 degree tripartite.

### THE TOWERS

**Østre Gasværk, Eastern gasworks** was drawn by Martin "Town Hall" Nyrop and in use 1878-1969. From 1979 the building has been used for theater shows. The building is smart and has a most appropriate shape and height for me to stand on it and welcome you. My blue ribbon might have a royal look, but is really just a practical remedy to show that I'm the guide. The ribbon is quite handy even on a big coat and does look as silly as an umbrella in sunshine.

**Børsen, the Exchange** is erected from 1620-40 by the king Christian the Fourth who were quite happy to build and construct (we can enjoy the buildings now, but back then people thought his motto was: The empire lacks money. He was a rather expensive king). The four dragons, whose tails entwine and make up the spire, are made by a pyrotechnist, Ludvig Heidritter, who also made very elaborate centerpieces used for fireworks. And as many persons of the Baroque Christian the Fourth was much thrilled by fireworks and a full 86,000 pieces were fired on his coronation 1596.

Dragons are able to emit fire and that has perhaps protected the Exchange that luckily never burned in the big fires that has affected Copenhagen (1728, 1795 and 1807). Here they have come to life and waves at us. One of them listens to music which dragons, as we all know, love and flies the rainbow flag that since 1978 has been a beautiful sign for the LGBT-people.

**Rundetårn, the Round Tower** from 1642. The wonderful and strange building King Christian the Fourth let be constructed as an observatory – astrology was a serious science at the time and it was of great importance to be able to accurately

interpret the stars. Today we are more into *astronomy* and one can practice that a bit if one goes up on evenings in the autumn and winter and has a look through the dashing telescope from 1929 (depicted here).

The reason why there is a cyclist on top, is because the cyclist Ole Ritter sped down the spiral staircase in 1971 in 55.3 seconds and thereby won over Leif Mortensen's 60.3 seconds. Oh yes, the king's little picture puzzle has been replaced with an NT for Nerd Tours – I am quite confident that even he would have good time on a nerd tour and would have advertised a bit for me.

**Københavns Rådhus, the City Hall of Copenhagen**, inaugurated in 1905 and drawn by Martin Nyrop (1849-1921). Not much has been done to the tower. The little ants at the clock are “the Olsen gang”, from a series of movies about a three piece gang of petty criminals. The 14 films were very popular in the 1970's (a big hit in East Germany as well!). They always wind up in impossible situations and of course dangled at the hands in 1978 “The Olsen gang goes to war”. And then the bell has transformed into a condom – thumbs up for safe sex.

**Christiansborg, the seat of the Danish Parliament** (and Supreme Court and the State Department!) is drawn by Thorvald Jørgensen (1867-1946) and inaugurated in 1928. Instead of the three crowns on top I have put in three eyeglasses, two nerdy ones and one Dame Edna-like. The orbs turned into breasts. Actually there are 8 figures (that look very gloomy and Gotham City-like) on the tower symbolizing the crafts of Denmark, but the works of Axel Locher (1879-1941) were skipped due to lack of room.

**Vor Frelzers kirke, the Church of Our Savior** got its beautiful tower in 1752, designed by Lauritz de Thurah (1706-1759). The church itself is from 1696. On top, on a globe, is Our Savior looking over the city. In my version he holds his nose because it stinks. Even Jesus wouldn't have liked that the city's cesspool was just behind the church until 1779... Actually Christianshavn, now a fancy part of town, reeked back then, but you can hear much more about that on a smelltour or a lecture about the stench in the city.

That was the reasons behind the choices and I hope you had a good time just as I had when I drew this, and I look forward to welcome you on a nerd tour with much more to come.