

Information about the Semi-automatic **key B8** in OH6NT key collection.

Reference: <http://www.tronico.fi/OH6NT/keys.htm>

My key was bought from Radiomuseum in Gothenburg during 2017, and I did not get any information about it. In June 2018 I was contacted by a fellow collector, Mr Claudio Ruggieri, IZ0KRC, who had the following amazing story about this bug.

The information is an excerpt of OM Claudio's story about Sture Jönsson, SM7XY. I hereby give the research participants all the credit for the information; see OM Claudio's note at the end of the story. I have edited the text somewhat for readability. June 2018 / Thomas, OH6NT.

The Swedish "Harlösa" bug

These bugs (in three models) was made by Mr. Sture Jönsson in the town of Växsjö in the county Småland in southern Sweden. He was born in 1905 and went SK in 1974. He got his amateur certificate and the callsign SM7XY in 1934.

Mr. Jönsson built several types of keys. A vertical straight type and bugs in the period 1946-1949 as well as paddle manipulators in the early 1950's.

After WWII, Mr. Jönsson was encouraged to build his first bug due to the difficulty and high costs for importing them from the U.S.A. He collaborated with a company, "Radiolaboratoriet" located in the Harlösa village, who sold his bugs at their workshop, hence the name **Harlösa-bug**. The price of a Harlösa-bug in 1946 was 90 SEK.



His reputation for excellent craftsmanship quickly spread throughout Sweden. Many local hams purchased his bugs, and he is estimated to have produced between 100 and 200 of the bugs. His workshop was located in the basement of his home. In the picture above he's sitting at his home station.

How is the Harlösa-bug built?

The pivot axis is mounted in a T-shaped steel bar like the McElroy Standard, which may have inspired Mr. Jönsson. The cast iron base has a characteristic dark olive-green color, three red rubber feet, and a rod for short circuit/tune. The contact strips under the base are made of sheet metal insulated with red bushings. The key has no type or makers' plate or serial number.

Mr. Jönsson made three different models of the Harlösa-bugs, although the differences are minimal. Below some photos provided Herman VK2IXV.

At the left is the third model, the second model is in the center, and the first prototype model is at the right. *OH6NT's bug is of that model.*



Mr. Jönsson always maintained a low profile and worked full time for the Swedish National Telegraph and Telephone Society of Sweden. In 1972 he appeared in a radio recording in Swedish National Radio, where he was interviewed about his life in general, but not specifically regarding his accomplishments as a key maker. Mr. Sture was interviewed in the program by Göran Nilsson SM7AYB, an amateur who worked for the Swedish National Broadcasting.

Thanks to Jan SM5LNE, who have completed the details on the life of Sture Jönsson. Also tanks to Peter DK7JC and Mr. Herman VK2IXV for helping me complete this story. Tanks to Harald SM6CSB, who has known Sture directly, for telling me the story of how he built his first workshop for the bugs. This demonstrates Mr. Jönssons handy work, in addition to other real-life stories. Tanks to Bruno SA5AXR, for the info about the relationship between the Harlösa-bug and the Royal Swedish Navy. Thanks also to all the other Swedish hams, who have participated in the Harlosa research.

First edition October 2012. Updated July 2013. / Claudio, IZ0KRC

NB: Claudio's complete story is on his website at:
<https://cwcorner-iz0krc.jimdo.com/europa/harl%C3%B6sa/>