

Europe, July to September 2026

August 17, Copenhagen

A day at sea and then our final stop on this leg of the trip. But first (there seems to be a lot of “but firsts” in this blog) I remembered another interesting fact about the Swedish royalty, The year was 1818 and the royal line in Sweden was about to end with no successor, male or female. The powers that be in the country convened to try to come up with a solution. It was a unique opportunity and all they knew was that they needed a strong person, someone who could control the military against invaders. As fate would have it, this was about the same time Napoleon was campaigning successfully in the neighborhood around France.

The Swedish PTBs¹ sent an envoy to France, not to talk to Napoleon, but to his general, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, to ask if he wanted to become king of Sweden. Seems like it was a step up from his current position so, over the objections of his wife, he accepted. His new name and title were King Charles XIV John of Sweden and Norway. Kind of like winning the lottery without buying a ticket. I did not make this up. The Wikipedia article is [here](#).



Now, Copenhagen. Our tour took us (wait for it, big surprise) to a castle! This is the Rosenborg castle. The word is not based on a Jewish name, it was named for one of the king's lovers he called Rose. As a matter of fact, in going through the castle, the guide talked about each room, the king or kings who lived there, and divided those kings into two groups. The first group were kings that had lovers on the side, the second group were those who did not. The second group, as it turns out, was empty.

We went to this castle because the one we were supposed to go to closes on Mondays. That's today, Monday. One would think the

cruise line would know in advance that this week Monday would be the day following Sunday.

¹ Powers That Be



This is a room inside the castle much like inside any other castle. It has the infamous “room of many tapestries”. All castles in Europe have a room of many tapestries, as do many of the museums.

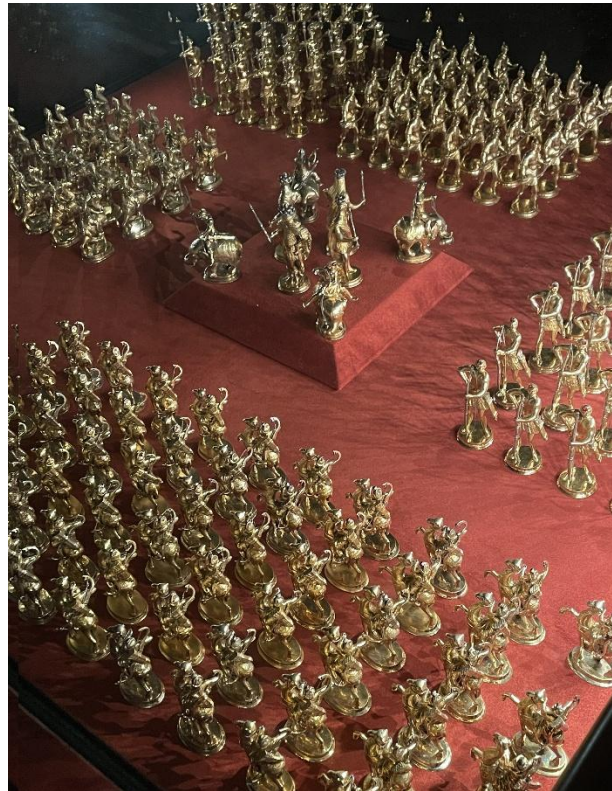
This one also has a “room of the telephone operator lion” according to our guide. For some reason, there are many lion statues in Denmark, most of them from years ago, years ago during the time when almost no one had seen a lion. But one person did, drew a sketch from memory, and gave it to a sculptor who made a statue of a lion. And maybe another sculptor used the first lion statue as a model for one of his own. Kind of like the kid’s game where a phrase is whispered from one person to another around the room. What the last child hears is often not when the first one said. Anyway, our guide claims that the Danish lions look nothing like those in Africa.





There was a neat fact relayed about Danish royalty. They were all required to learn a skill, any of their choosing, but one they frequently perfected in their studies. A skill making pottery or metalwork or something useful. But they could never use their skill to make something to sell. That would be taking income away from one of their subjects. They did use it to make objects, but kept them in the castle. Here is a display case containing some of those.

And here is another of someone who liked to make army men. Notice the center which depicts the first “fighting elephant brigade.”



There was also a jewelry section, although I am told that crowns are not worn anymore, just maintained for display.



Outside the castle were some nice grounds, and signs.



I found it interesting that these were the only signs presented only in English. There were no Danish equivalency warnings, or German, or French.

There was also a common sight just past these signs.



We had time to visit one more castle. Outside only. Timing was great as we got there for changing of the guards.



Last stop was to see the Little Mermaid statue. No picture. You can get a better one online. But it was a shocking visit. Turns out the story depicted by Disney is quite opposite to the story related by Hans Christian Andersen. His was a dark tale with an unhappy ending. Again, look it up on Wikipedia if you want. I just don't know what I'm going to say to Ariel the next time I see her.