

# American fire engines in the Nordic Countries

With the title "Our Yankee Fire Rigs" the Danish fire enthusiast Søren Rislund releases his eighth book on subjects related to fire fighting and fire engines.

It is the first time Rislund is writing in English, and as the title might suggest, the content is (at least partly) of American origin. It is a high-quality pictorial document celebrating the fire and rescue vehicles of the Nordic countries based on American chassis- es in the years 1945-1980 approximately.

*"It might sound a bit élitist and nerded," Rislund agrees, "but these rigs represent the best of an era when technologi had not become electronics, and chrome had not been replaced by plastic. Regarding design as well these vehicles represent a heyday."*

The time when big Ford-, Chevrolet and International trucks were common on the Nordic roads is at an end. For decades the base for fire trucks in Scandinavia has been entirely European.

Also fire appliances manufactured on american WWI surplus chassis- es are shown in the book.

Rislund has researched and written the book over a period of three years, and he has been generously helped by fellow fire enthusiasts, historians and documentarist in all Nordic countries.

In the period concerned the fire engines in Iceland all were of classic American construction, and American built with an open hosebed and midmounted pump. These rigs have not been documented in a book before.

Likewise in Iceland Søren Rislunds book project created a spinoff: The attention on his enquiry on the old fire trucks promoted the idea of a joint exhibition on the history of fire fighting in Iceland. Thus in Keflavik Slökkviliðsminjasafns Íslands -The Fire Museum of Iceland was opened in March 2013 with 21 veteran fire appliances as the main attraction.

Finally we get Søren Rislund's book.

## **Our Yankee Fire Rigs**

Søren Rislund 2013

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