



# The Finnish Philatelist

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## The Finnish Philatelist

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## Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 9

By Alan Warren

The Lahti Ski Games were held in 1923 for the first time. The idea of bringing the games to this Finnish city belonged to Lauri Pihkala. He felt Lahti was an appropriate site due to its central location and the highly variable terrain. The Lahti ski games continued every year or two although once in a while they were cancelled due to lack of snow.

In 1938 the event was held in a new stadium and with a new ski jump hill. For the first time the attendance exceeded 100,000. On January 17 that year, Finland released a set of three semipostal stamps to help raise funds for the event. This is the first time that the FIS, Fédération Internationale de Ski (International Ski Federation), sponsored the World Ski Championships in Lahti.

The first stamp in the set, 1.25 + 0.5 Fmk, depicts two men in a ski relay. The 2 + 1 Fmk shows a ski jumper in flight, and the 3.50 + 1.50 Fmk marks the slalom. Figure 1 (illustrated on page 12) is a first day cover with the set of three stamps cancelled at Hanko. If the cachet design looks familiar, it is no doubt because it is the same type of English language cachet used for Finland's 1938 Red Cross semi-postals discussed in the February 2005 issue of *TFP* (page 2). This one is again addressed to someone in Vienna, Austria and is backstamped there January 20.

Please turn to page 12



Figure 2. This registered FDC was cancelled January 17, 1938 at Mikkeli.

# The M/30 Stamps - The First Entirely Finnish Definitive Series

By Hannu Kauppi, Risto-Matti Kauhanen & Carl Appelberg

Translated by Carita Parker, edited by Sheldon Tobin

## DEFINITIVE STAMP USE

### 1. The Canceling of the Stamps

Usually a stamp is canceled with a postmark, and the mark is generally made with a metal or rubber cancel. An actual postmark is a mark that indicates, at least, the origin location and the date. During the Type 1930 stamp period these kinds of cancellations most often used were the circular bridge cancels with the location on the top, the date in the center, and on the bottom the Post's distinctive one or two posthorns. Dual language locations have, in place of the posthorns, the locality name of Finland's other official language, Swedish. Above and below the date, there are a variable number of wide vertical lines that due to the margin lines, seem to appear as spindles on a bridge. The mark diameter varies. The old pre-independence Russian trilingual/bilingual cancellers with the Cyrillic text removed have the largest diameters; and during the type period, these cancellers were widely used. The most common, of course, are the single or dual language marks made in the 1930s with additional marks manufactured as new post offices opened. Especially in the 1940s, circular date cancellers were used without the 'bridge spindles.' New cancels made for locations that initially during the war were relinquished and then for a time reclaimed are very much in demand and difficult to find. In the 1950s the so-called circular cancellers without the bridge design became more common.

Of the same shape as the previous cancels are the mail car (TPO = traveling post office) marks used by Finland's state railroads (VR) where the number is indicative of the mail car route. It is best to research these marks from the Post's circulars because the numbers and the routes might have changed annually as new routes were, from time to time, added and others discontinued. During wartime the changes were plentiful. On the postman railcar cancels, the large letters signified the car station of departure and destination, for example in 1945 the route L-R meant Laurila - Rovaniemi. And here again the Post's circulars provide the best aid in the research of these cancels. Marks were used also on private rail sections, and sometimes even the railroads' own official cancels were used to mark postage stamps. In such cases the shape of the mark is rectangular and on top the letters VR.

The wartime field post office cancels are also circular. The mark has the 'Kenttäpostitoimisto' (= Field post office), but the office name is but a number in order not to reveal the office location. The Post's spare cancels are circular, too, with

only the text 'Postitoimisto' (= Post office) and space for the marking of the date by hand. The location name, also, had to be marked by hand. These marks, too, are quite commonly seen, but regrettably the markings by hand, for one reason or another, are very often totally missing. In case the spare cancel for some reason was missing, the cancelling, in a pinch could be done by hand. The rural letter carrier number cancels are plentiful during the m/30 period. These were not supposed to



From left to right. Figures 39, 40, 41 & 42, right. Superb town cancellations: Lahdenpohja, 25. VI. 43; Kotka, 19. XI. 37; Turku, 7. VII. 45; Sortavala, 5. XII. 31. The numbers continue from the February newsletter.



Figure 43 left. Superb Zeppelin cancellation, Helsinki, 24. IX. 30. Figure 44, right. A rare superb cancellation on a 100 Fmk RWFP stamp, Ilommantsi, 18. I. 46.



Figure 45, left. Jäniskosken Voimalaitos (Jäiskoski power station) post stop cancellation from the power station job site in the Soviet Union. Figure 46, right. Postal clerk's hand written mark at Merimasku, 16. 12 (?).



From left to right, Figures 47, 48, 49 & 50. Keuruu k.k. rural mail carrier route number, Öja village post stop, Viiri village post stop in the Rovaniemi rural district and Helsinki harbor ship cancel.

be struck on the stamp itself, rather the mark was supposed to go next to the stamp, but quite often the marks, nonetheless, are on the stamps and beautifully canceled at that. This often means favor, preferred or forged markings.

In the 1890s there were post stops in Finland that had their own straight-line cancels that are closely related to the numeral cancels. The post stop marks are often called village cancels because the mark has only the post stop name on it. These cancels require a companion post office postmark with date and location. Often times the village cancels were confused with the post stop row-like marks used by the VR at stations on official documents. It takes quite a lot of expertise to distinguish these cancels. All of the aforementioned marks were struck by hand, and also the cancels used on boats and ports belong to the cancellations 'by hand' category. The UPU rules indicated that cancellations be struck at the arrival port of destination, but this did not always happen. The marks on mail carried on ships consist either of row, boat design, or round cancels. Further known are mail and stamps marked by the ship's bursar with the ship's own cancel. Besides marks by hand, cancelling machines have often been used to obliterate stamps. The machine-made chain marks have a circular or oval ring with the location and the date. The rings between them have either horizontal or wavy lines. On the lines there are often advertisements or instructions for general benefit as was the custom during the war and thereafter. These are known as message marks. Related to the chain cancels are the hand-used roller marks. On both, the moving roller made the mark.

**2. The Universal Postal Union Color Specifications**

During the entire type 1930 issue period Finland adhered very strictly to the UPU color specifications for its various postage stamps. However, the color specification applied only to the lion stamps resulting in some lion stamp denomination with as many as five different colors, for example the 2 Fmk stamp. All other stamps of different colors



Figure 51. A postcard to Melbourne, Australia, forwarded to Geelong.



Figure 52. A printed matter postcard to Java with 1940 Olympic cancellation.

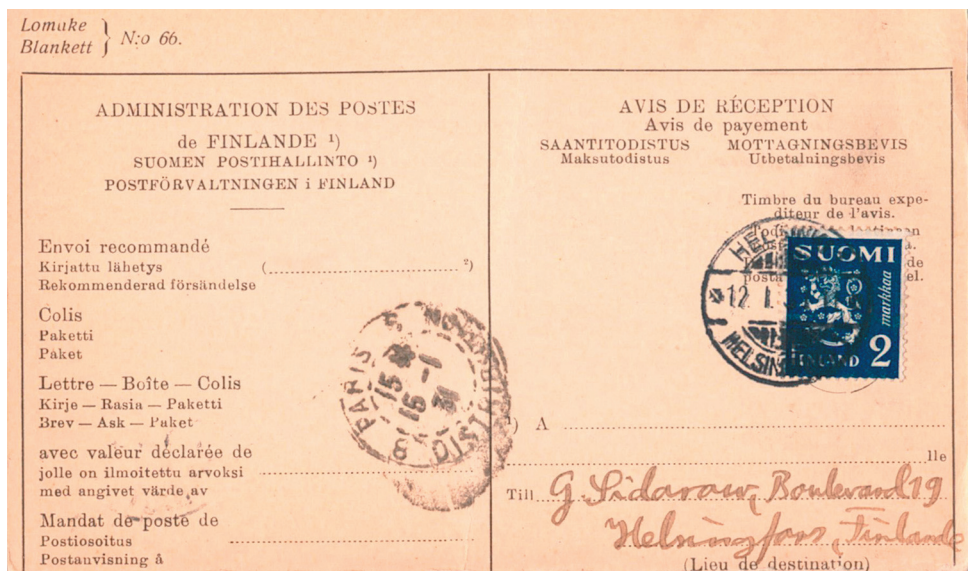


Figure 53. A receiving receipt from Paris, France, fee same as foreign letter rate.



Figure 54. A letter from Tampere by sea to the USA, 18. VII. 40. The ship carrying this mail, S/S Ester Thorden was captured by the Germans and taken to Norway. The mail was sent to Berlin where it was partially censored and forwarded. Arrived Oak Forest, October 25, 1940 (mark on back) and then redirected to Chicago.



Figure 55. The rate for a printed matter card to abroad from October 1, 1942 until June 30, 1945 was 1 Fmk. During this rate period, less than five green 1 Fmk printed matter cards addressed other than to Sweden are known.

were supplemental values, that is for other postal uses. The picture stamps did not adhere to the color specification because they were mainly meant for parcels, registered, and insured mail. The UPU color specification for the stamps is as follows: 1) yellow = inland postcard; 2) red = postcard abroad; 3) violet = inland letter; 4) blue = letter abroad; green = printed matter abroad. When selecting postal items for collections that include the type dealt with here, it is important to keep the UPU color specifications uppermost in mind. Furthermore, the stamp use can be presented as follows: Since the violet stamp on inland letter is too common for a quality collection in its place an inland

letter receiving receipt, which is always the rate of a domestic letter, is a better option. If a collection is built around paper types, then in conjunction with the initial paper type the stamp use can be presented, and then with the second and third paper type other possibly more interesting and attractive stamp usages can be shown.

### 3. Postal Agreements

Geographically the homeland and foreign countries are unambiguous, but from the philatelic perspective these distinctions become muddled. Ever since the 1920s an agreement on postal rates has existed between the Nordic nations that adhere to Finland's domestic rates. At one time the agreement also included Estonia, Latvia, and during WWII, Germany and its allies as well as German conquered territories. As part of the alliance agreement, Finland joined the German-led European postal and rapid information union on April 1, 1942. Initially this included Germany, its allies, and the countries and territories occupied by Germany. And with every German conquest, more countries would join. As for Finland, the agreement officially ended on September 8, 1944 when Finland signed the peace treaty. However, the final postal connection with Germany had, apparently taken place on September 2, 1944

The aforementioned agreement involved mainly letter and postcard mail by surface transit with Finland domestic rates. If additional mail service was requested such as airmail, registration, insurance, etc. then the rate abroad applied, or if by country then the domestic rate sufficed. The airmail rate to Germany equaled the inland rate whereas, for example, the registration fee adhered to the foreign rate.

The most comprehensive agreement was that between the Nordic nations. The rate books and postal circulars are indicative of the states, territories, and the agreement periods of validity as well as rules and restrictions for each country. The most confusion about rates was caused by printed matter because this class of mail did not belong in any international postal agreement. All printed matter anywhere outside Finland adhered to basic foreign rates including that to the Scandinavian countries.

### 4. Uncommon Destinations

The question is often asked about uncommon country destinations, and generally mailings to the furthest destinations are the most rare. But this is a half-truth because items to

really distant places and exotic countries are often exceedingly uncommon. The matter, however, is considerably more complicated, because a rarity listing is impossible to compile, but some directional points may be brought forth. When defining degrees of rarity, the following observations spaced over long periods have to be utilized. During the M/30 initial periods in the 1930s, there was plenty of correspondence from Finland to various places around the world, and so objects even far away are rather common. However, during this period it can be said that mailings to 'exotic' countries were rare, for example, mail to Australia. Of the Asian countries, due to Finnish missionaries serving abroad, there was correspondence with China, but other mail to China as well as to destinations in the Far East, is difficult as are other Asian countries closer by. And so are the African nations except South Africa where mailings, again by missionaries, exist, but other mailings are practically non-existent. South American countries, except Argentina and Brazil, are rare whereas North America has always been common as an object destination as have the Eastern European countries.

During WWII and thereafter in the 1940s, mail slowed down and the exotic far away countries still remained uncommon object destinations, although now such destinations were found considerably more accessible. Wartime put its own restrictions on mail delivery and states would add their own restrictions as to what could be sent and in what manner. This was the case after the war as well even as postal connections slowly opened up. Postal connections were off for a long time between enemy nations and also after the war with Germany.

Figure 56, below. 5 Fmk rate surface rate to abroad in effect from July 1 to August 31, 1945. However, surface mail only resumed at the end of July, only four items known, second most valuable M/30 cover.



Figure 58, right. French Guiana is one of the most uncommon foreign destinations. Arrival mark indicates that the journey by ship took two months.



Figure 57, above. All mail to China during the period of the civil war (1947-1949) is extremely rare.



Figure 59, left. A special post card rate to Germany of Fmk 1.75 was in effect from April 1 to August 31, 1942. Only two cards with this franking are known to exist.

In this connection, mail to the Soviet Union and the Soviet bloc countries after the war is quite uncommon and mailings to these countries have scarcely survived. After the reopening of postal connections to these countries surviving mail remains very elusive. In fact mail to the eastern bloc countries under Soviet influence remained very difficult throughout the 1950s.

### 5. Postal rarities

The following list contains single stamp mailings with rates meant for those particular stamp issues. This is of utmost importance when selecting mailings covers, post cards and other mailed items for a collection. The rare paper types on some of the stamp values on mailings must also be taken



Figure 60. Diplomatic letter to Washington, DC. Beginning December 1939 two way diplomatic mail was allowed between Finland and the USA. The letters were unsealed and franked with the correct Finnish postage, delivered to the Finnish foreign service, placed in a sealed diplomatic pouch (uncensored) and sent to New York, then to the Finnish Consul in Washington for delivery to the US postal service for delivery to the addressee, hence the US postmark and stamp indicating that the cover was mailed from the country shown on the postage. Only a few examples of this mail have survived.

into consideration, since due to their great rarity these play a decisive role when determining the value of a collection. However, these need not be single stamp mailings, but simply a stamp on any postal item to make-up the accurate rate. This following list is compiled on the basis of my long time experience collecting and exhibiting M/30 issues. Among the type 1930 ten most rare postal items:

a) The 3 Fmk red on postcard to abroad July 1 - August 31, 1945 (Because surface postal traffic did not open up until the end of July, the period of validity without the Post's additional services was, in reality, only a little more than a month, about 5 weeks).

b) The 5 Fmk blue on letter to abroad July 1 - August 31, 1945 (see explanation for the previous item).

c) The 1.75 Fmk yellow with special postcard rate to Germany = inland postcard rate April 1 - August 31, 1942.

d) The 5 penni wood free paper (WFP) stamp on any kind of mailing (in use from the end of 1944).

e) The 10 penni (WFP) stamp on any mailing (in use from the end of 1944).

f) The 1 Fmk green, printed matter abroad October 1 - August 31, 1945 (outside of the Nordic countries).

g) The 9 Fmk postal building on registered letter to abroad Oct. 1, 1942 - June 30, 1945.

h) The 20 Fmk postal building registered letter to abroad September 1, 1945 - January 15, 1946.

i) The 6 Fmk red postcard to abroad September 1, 1945 - December 31, 1946.

j) The 3 Fmk green, printed matter to abroad January 1 - June 30, 1948 outside of the Nordic countries (due to the stamp issuing in use February 9 - June 30, 1948).

When examining the objects it becomes obvious that all of the most rare specimens originate from the war period or immediately thereafter. What make them rare are the brief rate periods. Due to inflation the currency rapidly lost its value and thus postal rate increases occurred in rapid succession. Furthermore, connections abroad were not yet quite up to pre-

war exchanges and people were unaware of the possibilities of sending mail abroad. Consequently, these rare mailings are mainly made up of foreign bound items. Information about the opening of connections as well as what to send and how was spread by newspapers and post offices. Also, there are quite interesting postal mailings involving payments for and/or combinations of airmail, registration, postal order, C.O.D. and insurance. Furthermore, rare destinations add even considerably to the value of the items. Not to be forgotten are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. weight class mailings. Noteworthy, too, are the various payment forms pertaining to the Post's other services such as inquiries, reimbursements, C.O.D. changes, receiving receipts, post-rates, etc. These provide added interest to a collection and should be included in appropriate numbers.



Figure 61. Three years after the end of war in Europe, mail to the Soviet Union remained very elusive. The foreign postcard rate was 9 Fmk from July 1, 1948 until October 31, 1949.

## 6. Definitive Stamp Use in Postal Service.

Initially Finland's Post carried only the Crown's official and private letter mail. But the Post's services expanded beginning in the 1700s. In 1707 the Post was allowed to charge extra for registered ('rekommenderas,' in Swedish) letter mail and beginning in 1709, the sender, for a fee, received a receipt

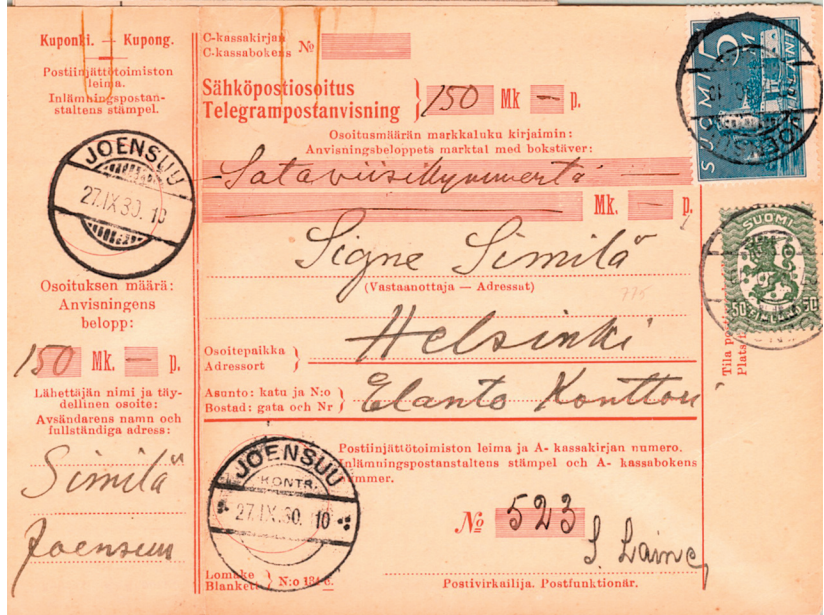
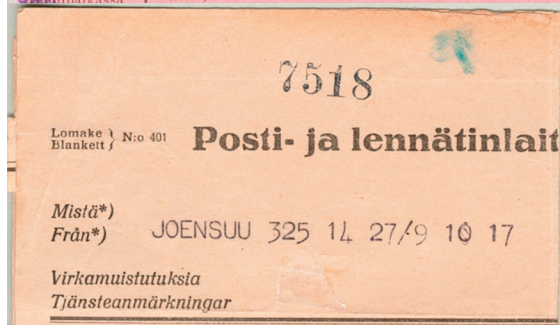
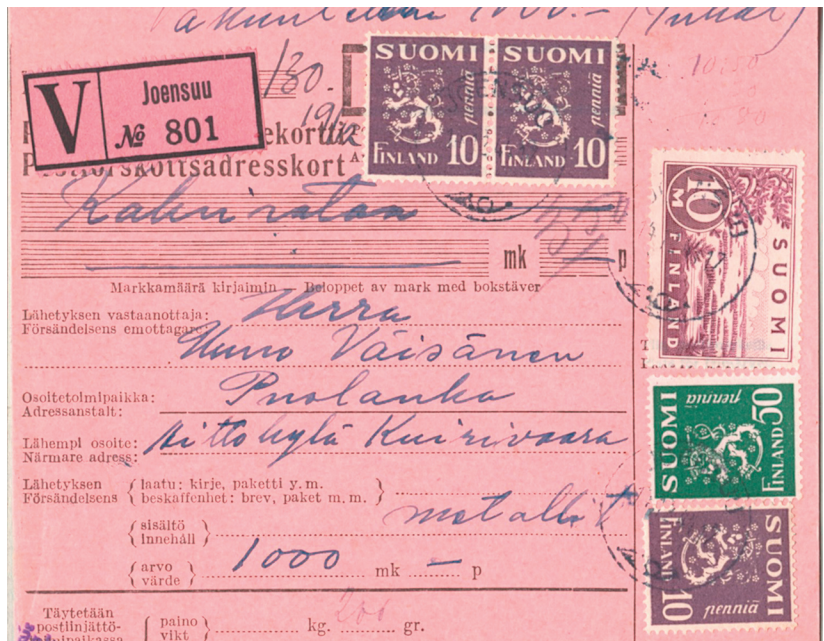
for a registered letter. From 1772 a lost, insured money letter was reimbursed for its full value. In 1812, during the Russian rule (in Finland), newspaper post with reduced rates was accepted and later, letters containing documents could be registered. In 1827 the Post standardized the mailing of insured letters and postal parcels; and in 1867 reduced rates were introduced for wrapped items such as printed matter and product samples. Four years later came the postcard, receiving and return receipts, and in 1881 local letters were handled at reduced rates. Furthermore, that same year the postal order, the inland C.O.D., and the parcel card came into use. The beginning of air traffic in 1924 brought with it airmail and air postal rates.

The M/30 definitive stamps were used in most of the required payments for postal service. As the above list indicates most of the services had been in effect from the previous century. The interest value of an M/30 collection can be increased by including, in addition to rate letters and postcards, those types of mailings with less expensive normal rates such as printed matter, documents, product samples and letters in Braille. Services add to the postal rate such as C.O.D.s, various registered mailings, receiving receipts, insured items, added express and airmail rates as well as added fees for parcels. Also of interest are postal parcel cards, postal orders, and small packets as are the different services such as inquiries, address changes, reimbursements, and the use of the M/30s as customs payment for foreign-bound parcels. The depth and rarity of a collection may be increased by including local mail such as letters, printed matter, documents, and product samples; and also with the inclusion of different weight classes or printing emissions of various mailings. Inquiries abroad and address changes, as well as reimbursements, are also of interest. The large M/30 definitive stamps were used less on mail than the lion specimens, and so add to the rarity and variety of a collection.

**JUDGING AN M/1930 TRADITIONAL EXHIBIT**

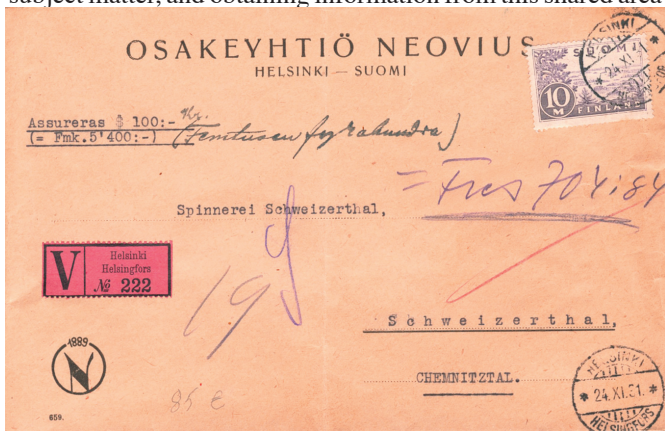
Collecting often stops at the level of accumulating stamps and covers in an album or loose leaf binder. However, postage stamp collecting provides an excellent way of making an interesting collection with stamps and covers with which to partake in one of the annual shows either in a competition category/class or outside of it. Postage stamp catalogues, handbooks and other pertinent literature are helpful when preparing the collection for an exhibition. Stamp shows are important from the point of

presenting and spreading this pursuit and, besides, a finished display collection is a source of joy for the collector. The shows also provide a chance to meet other collectors with the same



Top. Figure 62. An insured C.O.D. parcel card, Joensuu, 14. XII. 44. This card was franked with WFP 10 penni stamps, less than five mailed items are known. Bottom. Figure 63. Mixed issue M/17 and M/30 telegram postal money order. Telegram postal money orders are rarely seen, especially with the telegram attached.

subject matter, and obtaining information from this shared area



**Top.** Figure 64. Single light gray Lake Saimaa 10 Fmk is rarely encountered on an insured cover. **Middle.** Figure 65. A registered letter to Belgium with gold bracelet enclosed that was assessed a 3,50 francs customs fee. **Bottom.** Figure 66. A partially burned cover from the Swedish postal plane 'Småland' which crashed on July 6, 1934. The plane went down on its maiden flight from Stockholm to Älmhult, near Malmö. Although the cover lacked additional franking for airmail service, it was a fairly common practice to include surface franked mail in airmail dispatches if there was space available.

of interest. Collection building makes it clear what objects are missing and/or what is too much, so that duplicates can be sold or exchanged for other items.

There are stamp shows from small stamp club exhibits to national, Scandinavian and European; and in Canada and the US, the national shows are open to collectors from around the world. Finally, for the advanced collector there are the FIP international shows. Pertaining to international shows, the FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) has compiled several rules of which the general rules for evaluating collections (GREV), and for each class of competition special rules for evaluation (SREV) including instructions for interpretation. These rules also apply in Finnish national shows and NORDIA shows because the entrance into international shows depends on good results at home, whether Finland, Canada or the US. The aforementioned rules define the work of the judges and guide the exhibitors in the development and types of material to include.

The show judges begin the collection competition category evaluation by comparing the initial title page information with the actual material presented in the collection. The headline, the introduction page data, and the presented collection must correlate with each other. The total number of points a collection receives qualifies it for a medal. And the maximum number of points that a collection may receive after being judged according to various evaluation criteria are: Treatment (of the subject) and philatelic significance (30); philatelic information, personal and scientific research (35); quality and rarity of material presented (30); and the manner of presentation (5).

The medals in Finnish national show competition categories adhere to the following minimum points: Bronze 55; silver-bronze 60; silver 65; large silver 70; vermeil 75; large vermeil 80; and gold 85. In FIP international and the Nordic NORDIA shows there is a 5-point higher requirement. Furthermore, in international shows, a large gold medal is given that requires a minimum of 95 points. The various competition categories and the objects accepted in these differ from each other. The following examines the traditional category evaluation criteria for an M/30 collection. The requirements for the traditional and the postal history categories differ clearly from each other. A traditional collection starts with the examining of the stamp itself, its beginnings, manufacturing, features of appearance (printing appearance, color, perforation and so forth), exceptionalities, and various uses. According to the postal history SREV rules in article 2: 'A postal historical collection contains the official, local, and private, or other such related material carried by the postal service. The objects generally indicate postal routes, rates and markings of handling, uses, as well as other postal-related perspectives, services, operations, and tasks pertaining to the postal service history of development.'

In their outer appearance these collection categories clearly differ from each other as the postal historical collection contains pursuant to the main rule, whole objects (cards, letters, forms, etc.) whereas the traditional collection includes used or unused stamps alone or in multiples that are separated by watermarks, color hues, gums, perforations, paper, or printing appearance.





On postal items in a traditional collection, the stamp uses are indicated, and in a high standard collection there must be as much as possible of an all-around selection of different rates and unusual object countries, without forgetting the forms used by the Post that bear such stamps.

It is acceptable in a collection to include essays, proofs and forgeries as long as an explanation about the facts is included in the text, as well as mixed uses of the M/30 along with the preceding and subsequent stamp issues.

An advanced M/30 collection must separate the stamp issues by paper type, the mixed paper was used only a brief time so most of the whole objects with that type of paper are rare as is the correct use of the 5 and 10 penni wood free paper (WFP) stamp whole objects. The preferable order is the chronological and as a sub-category the paper types. If a collection is built in order of the denominational values of the stamps the display becomes illogical and difficult to follow.

Very rarely does an exhibitor have enough space to display all of his material. The items for the collection must be chosen so that the title subject is dealt with from all perspectives by using the most difficult objects possible. There is room for much ordinary material in an M/30 collection, and plenty of stamps can be acquired inexpensively both used and unused. Likewise, there is no shortage of the basic

**Top.** Figure 67. A Winter War period insured letter to Hungary. Only four insured mailings are known from Finland to Hungary in 1940. **Middle.** Figure 68. A very rare 100 Fmk RWFP single use. The rate paid for an express letter with receiving receipt fees, a lovely combination for this stamp. **Bottom.** Figure 69. An inland airmail letter from Kemi to Helsinki. Domestic airmail letters during the WWII period and immediately thereafter are very difficult.



Figure 70. An airmail letter from Helsinki, 29. X. 45, to a German P.O.W. in Leicester, England. Note that the trilingual airmail label includes German text.

rate letters and cards. According to the special rules pertaining to the evaluation of a traditional collection the following is stated in article 4.2: "If a stamp is a regular definitive issue used or unused, but rather uncommon on a cover or used in a certain combination, then displaying the cover or the combination in a collection is sufficient to demonstrate the requisite philatelic knowledge of the subject area. On the other hand, a collection that page after page contains undefined objects as to color hues or other distinguishing characteristics, or displays several pages of postal mailings with the same rate will suffer regardless of the commercial value of the objects." In other words, if mint/never hinged specimens are included in a collection, then this must be based on the presentation of ink color variances. The favored of whole objects (covers) are those where the postage paid for, if possible, required only one stamp. Such objects indicate the purpose for which the postage stamp was issued in the first place. Although often rare, they give a collection a less busy appearance, too.

The planning of a collection should be clear and logical, as well as present the material in balance with the weight and importance of the items displayed. Clear and concise texts of explanation make it easier for the viewer and the judges to comprehend the collection material, and also demonstrate the exhibitor's knowledge. There is ample literature on many of the traditional philatelic subject areas. A collection should indicate the extent of the presenter's expertise in a particular subject matter. In many areas, however, new scientific discoveries cannot be made, but this fact does not lessen the value

of a collection as long as the exhibitor's knowledge is apparent in the selections of the objects and the accompanying texts. The quality of the subject matter is essential to a good traditional category collection, although objects of lesser quality may be introduced if very rare. The inclusion, however, of poor quality ordinary objects only contribute to lowering the number of points that a collection will receive. The manner of presentation is up to the exhibitor, and thus any exact guidelines are not provided because the goal is not for every M/30 collection to look like every other exhibit in the same class. Furthermore, a general aesthetic impression is important, too. In this age of computer technology it is easy to have the collection pages, or at least the texts, to be neat and clearly comprehensible. Each collection page should have about the same number of objects without the pages being

monotonous copies of each other. The top and bottom rows of the objects in the pages that are next to each other should be at the same height, etc. Although the manner of presentation receives only 5 points maximum, a well-built collection still affects the understanding of it and additional points may be awarded in other categories.

In the space allowed here the giving of more detailed information is not possible. Useful information can also be obtained from those M/30 collectors that previously have participated in shows as well as from the judges.

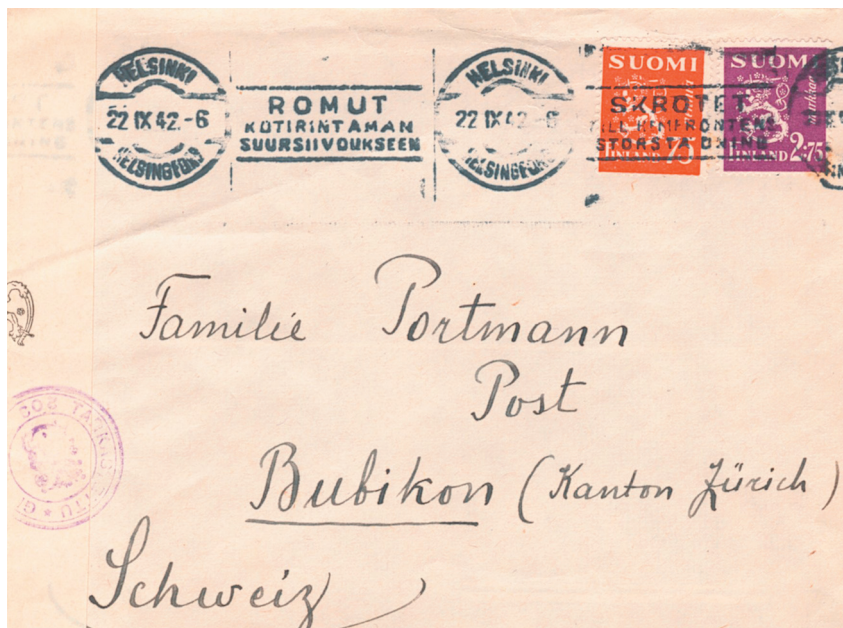


Figure 71. The foreign letter rate from January 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942 was 3.50 Fmk. The 75 penni stamp was issued for use with the 2.75 Fmk (of which there was an oversupply) to meet the 3.50 Fmk domestic rate that was to go into effect on September 1, 1942. During the entire month of September the foreign and domestic rates were the same and this combination was possible on letters to abroad. To date, this cover from Helsinki, 22. IX. 42, is the only reported combination of these issues on a letter to abroad.



Figure 73, left. The rate for a registered letter to abroad was 9 Fmk from October 1, 1942 until June 30, 1945. Letter rate was 4.50 Fmk and the registry fee was also Fmk 4.50. Only two covers are known.

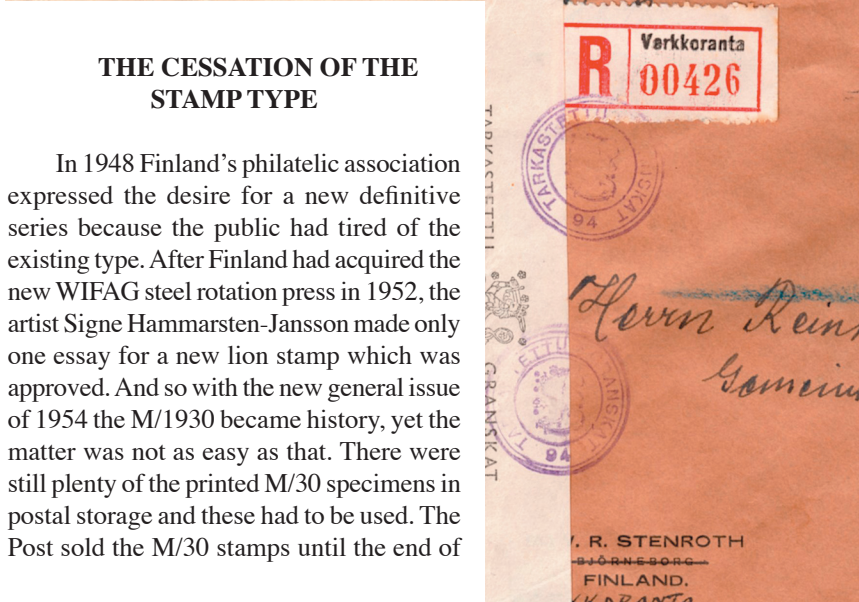


Figure 74, below. The rate for a registered letter to abroad was 20 Fmk from September 1, 1945 until December 31, 1946. The basic letter rate was 10 Fmk and the registry fee was 10 Fmk. Less than five covers are known.

### THE CESSATION OF THE STAMP TYPE

In 1948 Finland's philatelic association expressed the desire for a new definitive series because the public had tired of the existing type. After Finland had acquired the new WIFAG steel rotation press in 1952, the artist Signe Hammarsten-Jansson made only one essay for a new lion stamp which was approved. And so with the new general issue of 1954 the M/1930 became history, yet the matter was not as easy as that. There were still plenty of the printed M/30 specimens in postal storage and these had to be used. The Post sold the M/30 stamps until the end of



Figure 75, left. A 1952 receiving receipt from Tehran, Persia (Iran).

1962, when these stamps were demonetized. Many stamps remained unsold, including substantial remainders of the 1 Fmk green, the 6 Fmk orange, red, and green, the 12 Fmk red, and the 24 Fmk stamps. However, due to the copious amount of stamps, the post offices would still, until the end of June 1963 with the tacit approval of the Post, use up their stock of the stamps on parcel cards, but on other types of mailings these stamps have not been encountered. The aforementioned use happened for certain, at least, in Lahti. The Post seemed to have

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| C 5<br>SUOMEN POSTI- JA LENNÄTINHALLINTO<br>POST- OCH TELEGRAFFÖRFÄLTNINGEN I FINLAND<br>ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES ET DES TÉLÉGRAPHES<br>de FINLÄNDE  |  | Saanti- <del>maksu</del> odistus <sup>2)</sup><br>Mottagnings-<br>Avis de réception  |
| (Lähtötoimipaikan täytettävä). (Ifylles av inlämningsanstalten).<br>(A remplir par le bureau d'origine).<br>Kirjattu lähetyksen<br>Rekommenderad försändelse } (Lette) 1), 2)<br>Envoi recommandé<br>Kirje - <del>Paketti</del> - Paketti } Brev - <del>Ack</del> - Paket 2)<br>Lettre - <del>Cour</del> - Cour<br>jonka arvoksi on ilmoitettu<br>med angivet värde av<br>avec valeur déclarée de } ..... mk ..... 3)<br>Des<br>Lähetysmaksu<br>Mandat de poste de }<br>postitetu toimipaikassa<br>inlämnat ..... å anstalten i<br>déposés ..... au bureau de poste de }<br>den ..... p:nä Sept. 1952 under 458 koh-<br>le ..... 25 ..... dallas<br>lähettänyt<br>avsändt av } A. Hienkoski<br>expédit par M }<br>ja osoitettu<br>och adresserat till } HASSAN SHAHBAZ<br>et adressé à M }<br>à } P.O. Box 324 TEHRAN<br>} PERSIA |  | Todistuksen palautus-<br>toimipaikan lehti<br>Beviset återlämnas<br>anstalts stäm-<br>Timbre du bureau :<br>l'avis.<br>(Lähetäjän täytettävä, joka alempana ilmoittaa<br>täydellisen osoitteensa) - (Att ifyllas av avsändaren,<br>som här nedan uppgiver sin fullständiga adress) -<br>(A remplir par l'expéditeur qui mentionnera ci-des-<br>sous son adresse complète)<br>Tili<br>M } A. Hienkoski<br>% John Nurminen Oy<br>HELSINKI<br>(Katu ja N:o - Gata och N:o - Rue et numéro)<br>i ..... ssa<br>ä .....<br>(Osoitepaikka - Adressort - Lieu de destination)<br>(Suurella käsialalla - Med stor stil - En gros<br>caractères)<br>SUOMI - FINLAND - FINLANDE<br>Postiasia - Postsak - Service des postes |

approved the use of these stamp types still until the end of 1963, or perhaps inadvertently slipped through postal screening. So, even the currency renewal of 1963 was not the ultimate end to this type. All of the early 1963 uses are real philatelic gems, not to mention the type 1930 and 1963 mixed uses.

#### Editor's Note:

Part III of the M/30 series will continue in the August newsletter. Please note that some of the illustrations have been reduced and/or cropped to fit the space available. Included with this issue is a cumulative Index covering Vols. 1-9.

CDs are now available for all back issues of the newsletter

except for whole numbers 1-6. An up-to-date CD of Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1918 is also available from the Editor.

The enclosed Cumulative Index covers all issues through November 2004.

Many thanks for your contributions and compliments on the newsletter. The color illustrations were well received and we will continue with the all color format. May will be a busy month. We will attend the SCC meeting at the RMSS in Denver and NORDIA 2005 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Until then.

Roger Quinby

#### FDC - 9 Continued from Page 1

The FDC is slightly overpaid with the full set of stamps. The surface rate to a country other than a Nordic one was 3.50 Fmk and registration was 2.50 for a total of 6 Fmk. The actual postage shown amounts to 6.75 Fmk. Figure 2 is another registered first day cover sent domestically from Mikkeli to

Inkeroinen. It bears a small handstamp in the lower right corner indicating first day cancel. The cover was backstamped at Inkeroinen January 18.

Figure 3 is sometimes incorrectly described as a first day cover. It is also registered and is addressed to Sweden. The cancel date is February 24, 1938 at Lahti, and the cds contains the federation's initials F.I.S. This date was the actual opening day of the world ski championships.

Figure 3. This cover was cancelled on February 24, 1938 at Lahti on the opening day of the 1938 F.I.S. ski competition.



Figure 1. FDC cancelled at Hanko, 17. I. 58.

