



# The Finnish Philatelist

Vol.11, No. 1 • February 2006 • Whole Number 38  
ISSN 1536-8807



A newsletter published quarterly by the Finnish Study Group of the Scandinavian Collectors Club

## In This Issue

1875 CD Available in March 2006  
First Day Cover -12  
WWII Letter Mail to Abroad  
1943 Payable Field Post Stamps  
Figure (Cork) Cancels, Part 3  
Editor's Note

## The Finnish Philatelist

**The Finnish Philatelist is published quarterly by the Finnish Study Group (FSG) of the Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC).**

The newsletter will be sent free of charge to all members of the FSG thru 2006. A \$5 (USA & Canadian readers) and \$10 (International readers) contribution to cover printing/ mailing costs is appreciated. Contributions should be made payable to and sent directly to the Editor.

### FSG Newsletter Editor:

Roger P. Quinby  
P. O. Box 738  
Clifton Park, NY 12065.  
E-mail: rpquinby@aol.com  
rquinby@nycap.rr.com

### TFP Associate Editors:

Kauko Aro  
Sheldon Tobin, Ph.D.

### TFP Assistant Editor for Translations:

Carita Parker

### SCC Executive Secretary

Donald Brent, Executive Secretary  
P. O. Box 13196  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
Email: dbrent47@sprynet.com

Manuscripts for publication are welcome. Send all material to the Editor. While due care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. All manuscripts are subject to editing at the discretion of the staff.

TFP is not copyrighted. Articles may be reprinted without permission from the Editor. However, attribution of TFP and the original source, if appropriate, is requested.

## m/1875 CD Available in March

Since 1994, Heikki Reinikainen has published more than a hundred carefully researched articles in *Filatelisti*, the journal of the Finnish Philatelic Federation and *The Finnish Philatelist*, on the arms-type stamps of Finland from 1875 to 1884. This exceptionally large amount of original research has now been translated into English and is now available on a CD. Several articles by Jussi Murtosaari and Jeffrey Stone have been added. The English translation is by Carita Parker and Heikki Reinikainen. Markku Korhonen has been responsible for technical production.

The CD covers all aspects of the issue, including the various attributes of each of the eight denominations, the identification of the many printings, the preliminary work in preparation for the issue and the manner of its eventual discontinuance. The CD also deals with specimen stamps, reprints and after prints, forgeries, postal rates, literature, as well as offering detailed suggestions of how to go about building a collection from the basic to the advanced level. Hundreds of color illustrations of the stamps and rare postal items have been incorporated into the text. With the help of the CD, years of effort will no longer be necessary to become fully acquainted with the issue.

The CD helps the philatelist to identify reprints and afterprints from original issues. Forgeries are a chapter of their own, with many examples presented. One can but wonder at the many different ways that forgers have tried to defraud collectors, particularly as they seem to be more active than ever, with, for example, beautiful mixed frankings on piece currently appearing on the market. In the past, items of that sort did not attract much interest, but now they do and the forgers' response has been beautiful but bogus items at very high prices. The CD helps by showing the mistakes made by forgers.

The *Handbook of Finnish Postage Stamps, Part III* (1993), which covers the stamps of the period 1875-84 is out of print. However, the CD covers the ground contained in the *Handbook*, similarly presenting every printing of all denominations, but it does so in color and lists the identifying characteristics for comparison with other stamps. In addition, the CD updates the information in the *Handbook*, such as the earliest known cancellations.

This high quality CD will be available at the Finnish National Stamp Exhibition in Järvenpää at the end of March 2006 at € 30. The CD will be available through Jay Smith at \$35 postpaid for US delivery and \$37 for Canada and overseas. Jay Smith & Associates, P.O. Box 650-SCC, Snow Camp, NC 27349, USA or e-mail Jay at: <js@JaySmith.com>. MasterCard or Visa is accepted. The CD is an excellent addition to every philatelist's library and a fine present for a philatelic friend.



## Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 12

Alan Warren

Our focus this time is on the 1938 stamp issued on June 1 and often referred to as the Delaware issue or the New Sweden issue (Norma 231). It commemorates the tercentenary of the establishment of the colony by the Swedes and Finns in what is now Wilmington, Delaware and then Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. These pioneer settlers came to America some forty years before William Penn arrived to establish his namesake colony of Pennsylvania. Sweden and the United States also issued stamps to mark this anniversary.

Figure 1 is an unusual 3-way combination first day cover with the correct first day cancels on the Finnish, Swedish, and American stamps (1 June, 8 April, and 27 June respectively). Figure 2 is cancelled with a Helsinki bridge cancel on a cachet (vignette) made by Washington Press, forerunner of today's Artcraft envelopes. Figure 3 is a rather colorful cachet depicting the settlers greeting the native Indians.

Still another cachet used for this issue is seen in Figure 4, a registered letter mailed first day from Hangö (Hanko) to Sweden, where it was forwarded from Vaggeryd to Malmö. FDCs for this issue from Hanko were invariably serviced by the well-known dealer Lauri Peltonen.

Our final figure 5 is from a large letter or possibly a parcel wrapper sent by Peltonen to Sweden. It is registered and bears a cash-on-delivery etiquette as well as the notation "Postförskott 93:-". The block of four stamps is cancelled on the first day of issue.



Figure 1



Figure 4

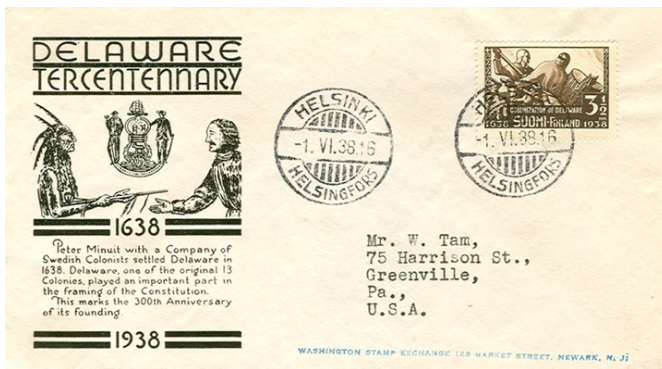


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 5

# The Effect Of WWII On Letter Mail From Finland To Abroad

By Esko Seitsonen, translated by Carita Parker

Reprinted from *Tabellarius*, Vol. 2, 2000

Prior to WWII, letter mail by surface or air could be sent to any country or continent on postal transport schedules that followed previously determined transport routes and regular timetables. At the end of the 1930s, mail transport between the European nations was arranged so that mail-carrying aircraft companies were bound to transport by air all standard and registered letters, postcards, postal orders and other monetary solicitations, the so-called L.C. mail, addressed to

every European country. No actual payment for air transport was required provided there was space in the airplane for such mail. However, mail transportation suffered problems right away at the onset of WWII on September 1, 1939, when the schedules of ship and aircraft companies became irregular in Western Europe or they stopped running entirely. Consequently, mail often times had to be directed along new, distant transportation routes frequently taking months in order to avoid warring enemy territories and their established mail inspections. Especially the inspection of overseas passage through mail set by England in October of 1939, affected also the delivery of letter mail from Finland sometimes by a delay of years.

Due to the actual war activities, mail connections from Finland were completely severed, initially with Poland on September 22, 1939 with the Estonian postal administration notice that it was no longer able to deliver mail to Poland. Over the ensuing years, as the war spread, mail connections from Finland to abroad broke off to the extent that at the end of 1944 the only postal connections left from Finland were to Sweden

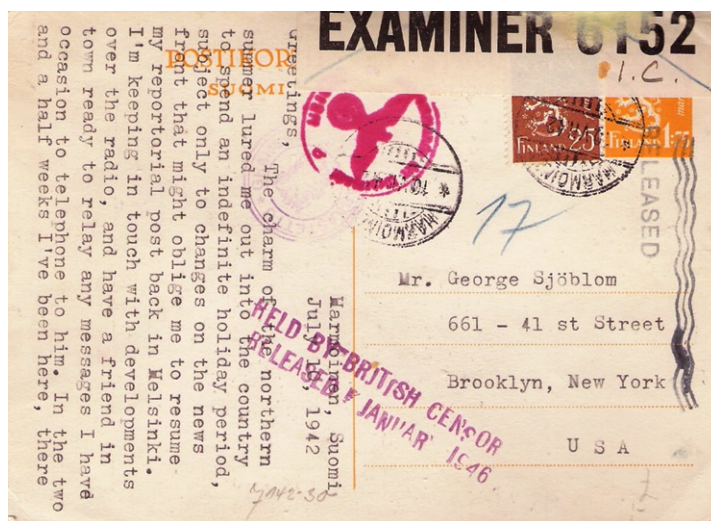


Figure 1. The British censor in Bermuda withheld this card from Harmoinen on 12.7.1942 (July 12) to the U.S., because of the mentioning of the war events.

and Switzerland. The loss of connections were caused either by technical difficulties due to the war or by political obligations (terms of peace).

In the summer of 1939, three new mail delivery air routes had opened over the North Atlantic to North America, two of which were the Southampton-New York route, only to end in September of 1939. The third route Marseille-Lisbon-New York continued throughout the entire war period, albeit with the starting point in Europe changed to Lisbon. Letter mail from Finland to the countries of the Americas was carried on this route only until April of 1942.

After France declared war on Germany, air routes from Germany and France to South America were interrupted, but started anew with the French carrier Air France flights on September 18, 1939 and continued until the spring of 1940. On these flights, mail from Finland to South America and the West Indies, except Cuba and the Bahamas, was carried. Airmail transport from Finland to these countries continued anew in the summer of 1940 on the Italian L.A.T.I. company Rome-West Africa-South America route and ended in December of 1941 when the U.S.A. joined the war. The boat traffic from

the European ports of Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, Cherbourg, and Le Havre, from where connections had been available across the Atlantic to New York, were interrupted. Instead mail to the countries of the Americas had to be directed to ships departing Gothenburg or Bergen for New York.

When Germany occupied Denmark and Norway in April of 1940, it closed off the Baltic traffic to the Atlantic. Thus the ship route across the North Atlantic to New York was



Figure 2. After Germany had declared war on the U.S. on December 11, 1941 the boat traffic between Lisbon and New York ceased. At that time all surface mail in transit, including the pictured card from Turku on 9.12.1941 (December 9) to the U.S., was returned to the senders.



Figure 3. In April of 1942 mail from Finland to America started anew by surface across the Atlantic now on a Spanish company's ships. The British censor on Bermuda confiscated mailings, and thus airmail fees paid for with expensive foreign currency was wasted. This letter to Colombia was sent from Helsinki on 23.5.1942 and censored in Finland, Germany, and the U.S.

interrupted. Mail to the countries of the Americas, excluding Germany's enemy nations, was directed via Sweden and Germany to Italy. And from there, mail was transported by the U.S. American Export Lines company ships from Genoa to New York until Italy joined the war.

Mail connections were also interrupted to Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Great Britain, and France, and their colonies. When connections were reinstated to Denmark in April, 1940 via Germany, international letter rates were charged instead of the reduced Nordic postal rates (as for parcel post international rates, these were realized). In May, southern Norway first got postal connections and at the end of that month, northern Norway.

Only regular and registered airmail letter post via Stockholm, Moscow and Italy was allowed to be sent to Great Britain, France, and their colonies as well as to Ireland. After Italy had declared war on England and France on June 10, 1940, postal connections by air to these countries were also broken off. And because of the German invasion postal connections to the Netherlands, Belgium, and their colonies, and Luxembourg were cut off on May 10, 1940. However, by December, connections with these nations were reopened, albeit with various letter mail restrictions.

With the withdrawal of the Russians from Petsamo after the Winter War between Finland and the Soviet Union, the

Liinahamari Sea Transport Committee was founded that organized boat traffic from the Petsamo Liinahamari port. This became the only neutral Northern European seaport from which a connection to outside Europe was available. Also, postal transport from Liinahamari to the countries in the Americas, excluding Canada and the British- and French colonies, was begun in June. But the tightening traffic control in the summer of 1940 by the British and Germans led to discontinuing commercial traffic and postal transport by way of Petsamo. The British wanted to steer mail-carrying ships to their own inspection ports whereas the Germans would not allow ships from Petsamo to stop at enemy ports threatening to sink the boats if they did.

In September 1940, the traffic temporarily started anew with the American Export Lines company ships on the Lisbon to New York route that carried surface mail to the countries in the Americas, excluding the enemy nations of Germany. But during the autumn the traffic was interrupted several times due to the transport conditions implemented by the company. All letter mail addressed to America was directed during the fall via Siberia to New York. But the boat traffic on this route stabilized in December 1940 and continued until December 1941 when it was entirely interrupted on December 11 with Germany's declaration of war on the U.S.A. Because of the boat traffic cessation surface mail addressed to America was returned to the senders.



Figure 4. The postal connection from Finland to Canada ran from the summer of 1940 to the latter part of June 1941 by way of Siberia. The connection was severed at the start of the Continuation War. The letter addressed to Canada sent from Väärinmaja on 3.3.1941 and carried by air first from Stockholm to Moscow and from there onward by surface mail.

Due to the state of war, the U.S. stopped sending any mail to Finland because the mail would have been carried by way of Germany. Furthermore, there was no postal connection via Great Britain (as there was to Sweden) because on December 6, 1941 England declared war on Finland. But it was still admissible with German permission to send letter mail by air from Finland to the countries in the Americas, except for Canada and the British colonies on the Lisbon - Bermuda - New York route. The Finnish postal administration, however, interrupted the sending of airmail letters from Finland to America in April of 1942. The reason was that the British inspection authorities increasingly confiscated letters in Bermuda. Thus, expensive air transport fees paid in foreign currency were wasted.

The directing of mail was started anew from Finland by surface to all of the countries in the Americas, except Canada, Great Britain, and the colonies of the Netherlands. Mail was transported to New York on the Spanish Ybarra company ships that began running in the winter of 1942. Connections from Finland to this boat route broke off in August of 1944 and at the same time to all of America.

In the summer of 1940, transport of all mail to Canada, Great Britain, France, and to their colonies in the Americas (Germany's enemy countries), as well as to America by way of Siberia, was started. But the postal connections to these nations were interrupted, with the exception of France, when Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June of 1941. At the same time, connections were also cut off entirely from Finland to the other countries of the British Empire and to the colonies of the Netherlands and France in Asia and Australia, the Soviet Union, the Belgian Congo, and Egypt. Letter mail via the Soviet Union to Japan and its colonies and protectorates, China, and Thailand went to New York and from there onward. When the United States joined the war, connections from Finland to these countries were interrupted and at the same time entirely to Australia and Asia. However, connections continued to the Asian part of Turkey, Rhodes, the Sporades, and later then to neutral Macao. Furthermore, postal connections were interrupted also to the British controlled areas of the Faeroes, Greenland, and Iceland. Postal connections to Iran, Iraq, and the Spitsbergen had already been interrupted in September of 1941.

In Europe, postal connections to Estonia had been interrupted, although there was limited letter mail for less than a month in the spring of 1942. In October of 1942 letters of economic matters weighing no more than 20 grams were admissible to all of the Baltic countries. To the occupied part of France, postal connections were opened in August of 1942. Due to

the German authorities postal connections to Yugoslavia and Greece were severed starting in April of 1941 and continued throughout the entire war period. The invasion of Provence in Southern France in August of 1944 severed postal connections from Finland to Portugal, and Spain as well as to all of the Americas and the African countries.

On September 2, 1944, pursuant to the Truce between Finland and the allied countries, all postal connections were immediately severed from Finland to Germany and Hungary. Furthermore, during the autumn of 1944 postal connections were cut off also to the other European nations resulting in connections only to Sweden and Switzerland.

### The Reshaping Of Postal Connections

The reopening of postal connections after the war from Finland to the outer world was dependent on the political will of the Allies; that is, the Soviet Union, England, and the United States. With the permission of the U.S.S.R., regular and registered letters and postcards were allowed by surface from Finland to the Soviet Union starting on January 11, 1945.

It was permissible also from January 29, 1945 to send postal items, such as regular and registered letters and post cards, via the U.S.S.R. to Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and to certain areas in China; and from February 20, 1945 to Bulgaria and Romania, as well.

Postal connections from Finland to the western world opened up on February 19, 1945 when Finland's postal administration received a letter from Great Britain's political representative, commercial secretary L.L. Atkinson about



Figure 5. After the war airmail letter maximum weight to outside of Europe was 30 grams, although heavier letters were allowed if they were urgent commercial letters. The illustrated airmail letter weighing 42 grams to Argentina was sent from Lahti on 22.3.1946. The Turku foreign exchange post office had post-franked the item by adding a 20 Fmk stamp. The post-franking of airmail letters became possible in 1936.

*W*  
**Posti, ja lennätinhallitus**  
 Saap. 19/2 1945  
 U. T. D. No 57145

*J. J. J. J. J.*  
 Office of British Political Representative in Finland,  
 Helsinki.

17th February, 1945.

Sir,

I am instructed by His Majesty's Political Representative in Finland to inform you that he has received a telegram from the Foreign Office stating that postal air service between the United Kingdom and Finland via Sweden will open on the 19th February. The weight limit for letters is 2 ozs (56.5 grammes). Business letters should be confined to the exchange of information and enquiries about facts. Telegraphic communication between the United Kingdom and Finland will open on the 23rd February. Business telegrams should also be confined to the exchange of information and enquiries about facts.

I am instructed to add that His Majesty's Political Representative would be grateful if you could make a public announcement to this effect.

Yours faithfully,  
*J. J. J. J. J.* Secretary  
*M. J. J. J. J.*  
 (Signature)

The Postmaster-General,  
 Helsinki.

*Mr. Edmund Ilmari Kaasinen, Helsinki -  
 tiedoksi, että yllätykselliset kirjeet ovat sallit-  
 tuja ilman rajoituksia. 19/2/45*

*E. 27/45 V. 180/45 on lll...  
 E. 248-249/55*

*↑ on jäljennös tehtä  
 ulkosaaministeriön.*

Figure 6. The letter that opened postal connections from Finland to Great Britain on February 19, 1945. Cropped and reduced.

the terms by which letter mail could be sent from Finland to Great Britain. Then England's postal administration on March 5, 1945 allowed passage-through connections, albeit with various letter mail restrictions, via London to France, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Iceland, Italy (except areas occupied by Germany), Portugal, Africa, Asia (except Japan and the territories occupied by it), Australia, New Zealand, and to all the countries in the Americas except the United States. Postal connections to the U.S. opened on March 6, 1945 according to the communication by the U.S. political representative Randolph Higgs. However, there were conditions set in place by the U.S.A. that allowed only for letters weighing no more than 28.5 grams and pictureless postcards to be sent to the U.S. and all of the countries in the Americas. These restrictions for most destinations were eliminated in October of 1945.

To Finland's neighbors Denmark and Norway limited letter connections were reestablished, after various difficulties, in May of 1945. To Germany and Hungary, postal connections from Finland opened with the permission of the control commission in December of 1946. When connections opened in January of 1947 from Finland to Japan's main islands, only ordinary 1947 postal cards containing personal messages were allowed. Postal connections from Finland to most countries were reinstated between 1945 and 1947. But depending on the country, various letter mail restrictions were in force still for several more years.



Figure 7. Mail to Japan was initially directed to its destination by way of Siberia. But after the start of the Continuation War the connection was severed and the mail was sent via New York. When the U.S.A. joined the war in December of 1941 the connection was broken for good. The Express card from Uusikaarlepyy on 4.12.1941 (December 4) to Manchuria was in transit when the connection was severed and thus returned from the U.S.A. to the sender.

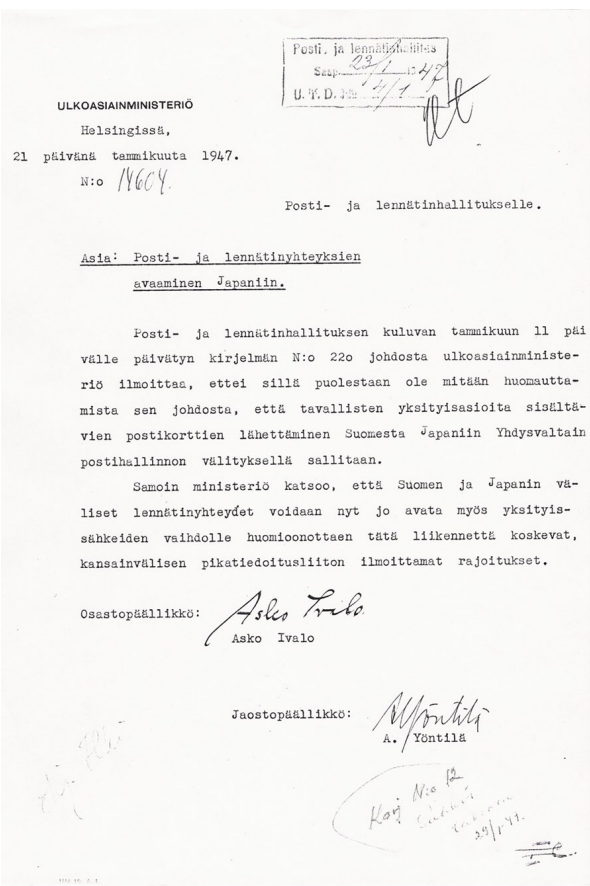


Figure 8. A Finnish foreign ministry letter that deals with the restricted postal connection to Japan. Cropped and reduced.

In order to save on foreign currency several restrictions on letter mail applied of which the most important were:

On September 25, 1939 the value amount for insured mail could not exceed 2,000 francs.

On April 10, 1942 the sending of airmail letters to the countries in the Americas was interrupted.

From November 3, 1945 to October 31, 1948, letters by air had to be written on special airmail paper and had to be sealed in envelopes made of the same kind of paper.

From November 3, 1945 to October 31, 1948 only postcards, and letters, wrappers, small parcels, photographic postal items weighing no more than 100 grams were carried by air to European countries.

From November 3, 1945 to October 31, 1948 only postcards by air, and letters weighing no more than 30 grams were allowed to addresses outside Europe (other letter mail by surface was allowed).

From November 1, 1948 to February 28, 1950 letter mail (postcards, letters, wrappers, small parcels, and photographic postal items) weighing no more than 100 grams allowed.

A special permit could be obtained from the local postal foreman for the mailing of urgent commercial letters where the weight exceeded letter mail restrictions.

## Continuing the Hunt for New Figure Cancel Discoveries - An Unusual Figure Cancel on a 10 penni 1875 Type Stamp By Ed Fraser

Over 20 years ago, just after the Laitinen Catalog had been published, the following previously unknown figure cancel was found as a damaged stamp in a London dealer's stock.



Figure 1.

The stamp is Scott No. 20 or Norma No. 20 SAaz issued in 1881. It is shown in Figure 1, and the cancel appears to be a double row grid pattern with five columns in black ink. What is especially nice is that there appear to be two strikes of the cancel on the stamp at approximately right angles to each other. Two strikes of a cancel on a stamp is not usually considered desirable; however,

for cork cancels, there can be other considerations. When the cancel strikes are done at an angle that makes the cancels crossed, that is distinctive and adds interest.<sup>1</sup> See examples as Figures 6, figure cancel No. 23, and Figure 7, cancel No. 402, discussed below and in a footnote.

Where a cancel may be unusual or a possible new discovery is being evaluated, sometimes there is additional information from the second strike. Here in Figure 1, the bottom of the

vertical strike appears to be a match for the right end of the horizontal strike, suggesting at least one "end" of the cancel. Also, the "10 grid" vertical and the "8 grid" horizontal strikes suggest a soft material, rather than a metal cancel because there appears to be some size variation when comparing the apparent same individual squares between the two strikes.



Figure 2.

Working with only this example, it is not possible to know if the cancel is complete here with five columns, or if there may be six columns or more. In Figure 2, I have made a rough composite drawing of what this cancel might look like as a 5 x 2 pattern.

Checking Laitinen's *The Figure Cancels of Finland* catalog, "square" and "column" patterns are listed from Nos. 106 through 119, with an occasional almost-rectangular grid mixed into the circular grid patterns (for example, see figure cancels Nos. 303 and 313). There are only two cancels listed with a "2 row" or a "2 column" pattern, and they are both cancels with only a 2 x 4 grid pattern. One is No. 106A, without

Continued on page 16

# The 1943 Payable Field Post Stamps

By Uolevi Vapaa, translated by Carita Parker  
Reprinted from *Tabellarius*, Vol. 2, 2000

## Field Postal History

From an examination of postal history, it can be concluded, perhaps rather surprisingly, that field post in some form or another has appeared throughout the ages. This conclusion can, of course, be debated, especially when Finland's postal service carried mainly notices about governmental and military matters. Thus, field post and other mail were linked to each other so as to be difficult to separate. However, without elaborating more fully on postal history, its significance during wartimes must be acknowledged. The objectives of war and the need for service provided a link between the home locations and the troops. An organized field post with its rules can basically be credited to Prussia. The decree by Fredrik the Great in 1716 stipulated that field post be an integral part of service to the army.

The start of field post in Finland can be traced to 1918 when it was seen as essential initially in the service of the White troops. But as a whole, this organized activity was scattered and functioned mostly through postal locations. Field post was permanently organized in the War Ministry presentation of July 7, 1919 when a decision about field post regulations was given by the Cabinet. The military exercises held during the first decades of Finland's independence would, for its part, clarify field post activities. The Winter War of 1939-40 was a 'testing ground' also for the field post. Toward the end of the war, after some negotiations, the new field post rules took effect on March 1, 1940. These rules then became the basis for the later field post regulations issued on June 20, 1941 during the Continuation War.

Free postal services for military personnel in combat or war zones is the central precept of all warring nations, and most often indicated on the mailings by various marks. The quantity of field post mailings in connection with the wars grew to huge proportions. This can be seen especially during the years of WWI and WWII. The number of mailings that generally were unlimited had to be restricted. One remedy was the introduction of both payable and non-payable field post stamps and labels. Austria-Hungary was the first to issue these stamps in 1915. Then in WWII the use expanded to considerably greater proportions. In Finland, toward the end of the Winter War in 1940, there were plans to have field post labels with cover numbers for the units, but due to the impracticality of implementing the idea, it was abandoned.

When the Continuation War erupted, Finland's field post organizers had prepared themselves relatively well for what the situation demanded, and so the activity started on June 27, 1941. Without going into all the field post activity rules and regulations, the considerable increase in the quantity of mail was already evident within a few months. At times, even the sending of field post parcels to certain parts of the war zone



Figure 1. The non-payable and unrestricted letter correspondence from home to the troops ended on October 16, 1943. A new ordinance required that payable Fmk 2.00 and 3.50 field post stamps be used. However, the period of validity for the non-payable stamps continued, but when these ran out payable stamps had to be used.

had to be prohibited, and Headquarters considered curtailing this service. In September of 1941, the officer in charge of printing was given the task of designing a field post label. By an order from Headquarters on October 15, 1941, the first non-payable field post labels were placed in service on November 1, 1941.

During the war years, a total of five different types of field post labels were issued. The usages varied, as did the quantities of label distributions. The general idea for the issuing was the right to a reduced postal rate on parcels and a totally postage free letter mail.

According to the rules, sample specimens and the number of quantities printed of postage stamps intended for international mail had to be submitted to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Switzerland. But contrary to this, however, Finland did not have to report to the UPU the sales of field post labels or the field post stamps that were sold. Thus, the field post labels and stamps on mail from Finland to abroad were against the rules.

Certain classes of mail were not carried as field post to the troops including: merchandise samples, C.O.D., items with insufficient postage, or addressed to synonyms, registered and insured mail.

## Payable Field Post Postage

The prolongation of the war only added to human emotions on both sides. The need to stay in touch by field post seemed only to increase. Thus, the insufficient quantities of the labels were one of the reasons why the payable field post stamps were issued. With an ordinance of September 30, 1943, it was





Figure 2. A letter from Äänekoski to Keskuspk 2 (Central Field Post Office 2) in Viipuri on 16.10.1943 the first day of use, but rerouted to Keskuspk 7, Helsinki, unit 8. IvK(1666). The rate for a letter weighing 40 grams from home locations to the troops was Fmk 3,50 from October 16, 1943 to December 3, 1944.

required that special field post stamps be used and sold to the general public at post office locations. However, the free frank labels were still in use, but when these ran out the payable field post stamps were sold.



Figure 3. A card from Turku on the first day of use, October 16, 1943, to Äänislinna to the unit Aun.PE. Obviously with an address, although the unit had its own cover number (1090). A post card from a home location to the troops was Fmk 2.00 from October 16, 1943 to December 3, 1944.

These stamps in denominations of Fmk 2.00 and 3.50 were made at the Finland's Bank Mint. And the same clichés that had been used in the printing of the Lion series m/30 corresponding main types were also used for their printing. Only the colors were changed and the stamps received the black overprint 'Kenttäposti/Fältpost' (Field post, in Finnish and Swedish). The stamps were meant to be used only for letter mail, that is, on cards and letters. The issue date was October 16, 1943. The stamps were removed from use when field post activities were discontinued on December 4, 1944. Half of the proceeds from the

sale price went to the Post- and Telegraph and the other half to the Field Post Fund that then distributed aid to needy relatives of the fallen. Thus, the nature of these specimens were part aid postage and part field post stamp.

An individual field post letter with the weight exceeding 40 grams required a surcharge pursuant to the general postal rate for the exceeding part of the weight. And from October 16, 1943, the added surcharge was to be made up solely with field post stamps. This requirement caused added expenses for the sender because the stamps were incompatible to the rates: from September 1, 1942 the basic letter rate was Fmk 3.50, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight class (41-250 grams) the rate was Fmk 6.00. So the difference, or the surcharge, amounted to Fmk 2.50. The sender ended up paying one Fmk more because he/she had to use the Fmk 3.50 field post stamp in addition to the label.

During Christmas 1943, a deviation from the rule on the use of payable field post stamps was made. At that time an order was given that a field post mailing containing only a Christmas or New Year's greeting could be franked, from December 10, 1943 until January 10, 1944, with only a 50 penni stamp. The same was in effect also during Easter 1944. The aforementioned special ordinance was understandable, because it would have been unfair to charge, 2 Fmk for a Christmas card when the general postal rate was only 50 penni. Notice the exceptional circumstance that arose. On greeting cards from the home location to the troops there could thus, during the aforementioned period, be five different modes of payment. Pursuant to the rules there were the 1943 non-payable violet and green field post labels, the 2 Fmk field post stamps, the general post 50 penni rate, and the 2 Fmk field post postal cards. Besides these five, a sixth was still applicable on Easter cards, the 1944 violet field post label.

### The Payable Field Post Postal Card

On November 19, 1943, the Post- and Telegraph notified by circular of the issuing of a field post postal card. The value printing was the same as on the general post 1942/Fmk 2 cards with only the color a different reddish-orange as it was on the corresponding field post stamps. The overprint was also the same 'Kenttäposti/Fältpost.' The cards were delivered to postal locations only by ordering, but their use remained relatively minor.

### Final Observations

The war as an exception to normal life, created new exceptions, rules, regulations, and directives.

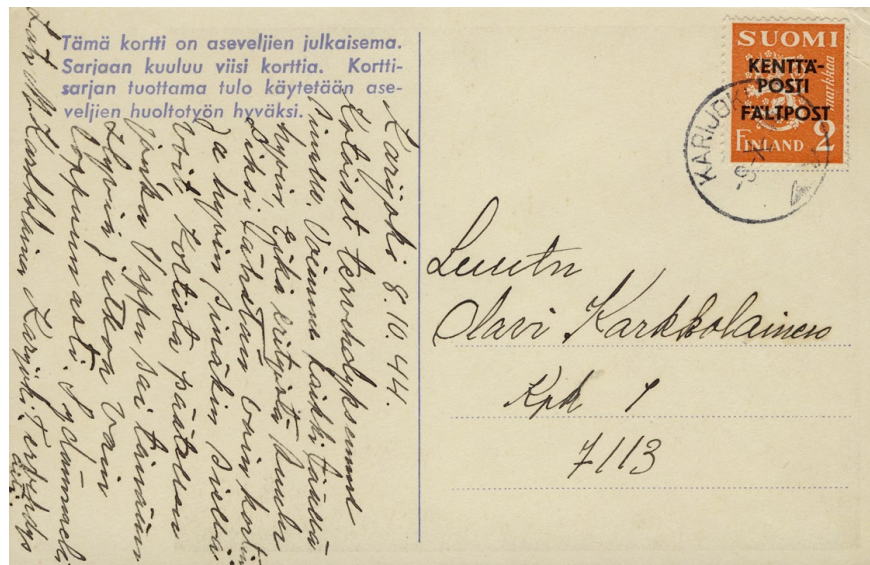


Figure 4. A card from Karijoki 8.10.1944 (October 9) to Keskuspk 1 (Central Field Post Office 1) Pieksämäki - unit 3./KTR 10 (7113). Text on the card: ...'aseveljien huoltotyön hyväksi' (...benefiting the service work of brothers in arms).

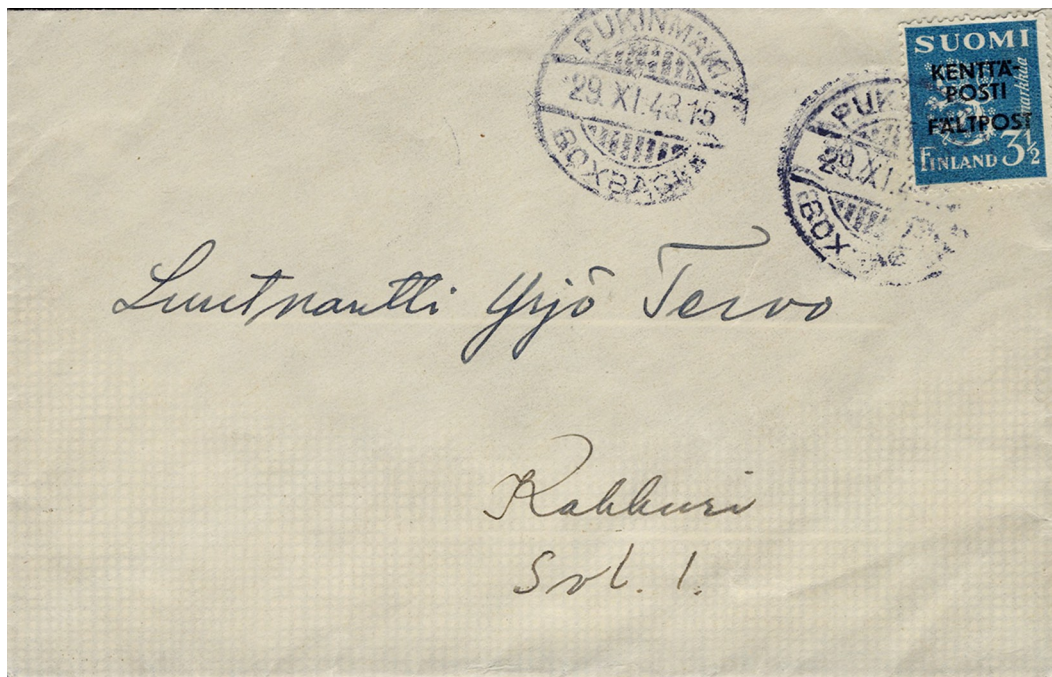


Figure 5. A letter from Pukinmäki 29.11.1943 to Kyöliö - Kakkuri to the unit Sv. Leiri 1. Sent directly to address.

To the researcher and philatelist, field post is enormously challenging. In its many variations it is fascinating and its study is demanding. This study, however, deals with only one area, payable field post stamps. The intention here is to highlight their use in various situations. The field post labels and the payable field post stamps did appear at a time of genuine need.

In Finland an encouraging number of field post literature has been published. For additional information, readers, researchers, and philatelists are encouraged to consult the references listed below.

### Major Finnish References

Kalle Vaarnas: *Filatelian taito*, 1959, (Philatelic skills) *Suomen postimerkkien käsikirja IV* (1969), (Finland's postage stamp handbook)

Martti Honkasalo: 'Suomen sotien kenttäposti' (1986), (The field post of Finland's wars)

Pentti Kopsa: *Kenttäposti 1941-45, 1991*, (Field post)

Continued on page 15

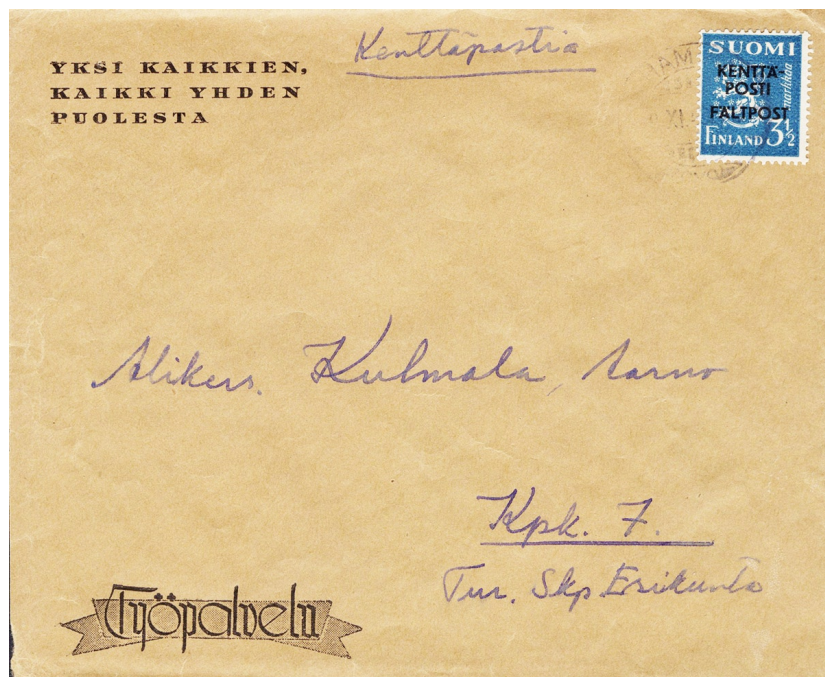


Figure 6. A letter from Hamina 9.11.1943 to Keskuskpk 7 (Central Field Post Office 7) Helsinki to the unit EK/Tur.skp.E. Cover printing: 'Työpalvelu' (Job service).

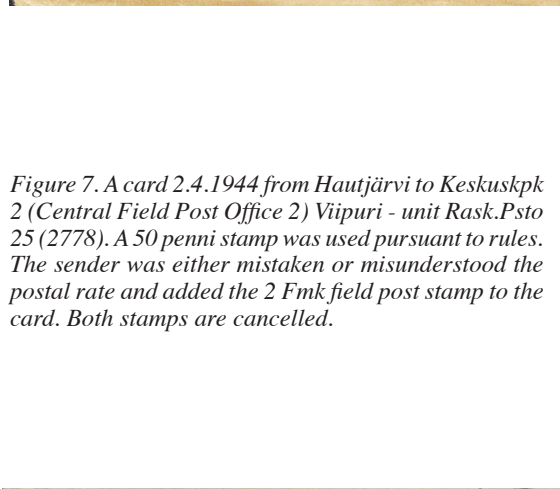


Figure 7. A card 2.4.1944 from Hautjärvi to Keskuskpk 2 (Central Field Post Office 2) Viipuri - unit Rask.Psto 25 (2778). A 50 penni stamp was used pursuant to rules. The sender was either mistaken or misunderstood the postal rate and added the 2 Fmk field post stamp to the card. Both stamps are cancelled.

Figure 8. A letter from Porvoo 26.5.1944 to Keskuskpk 1 (Central Field Post Office 1) Äänislinna - unit JR 13 (7605). The Porvoo machine canceller date circles were inverted.

Figure 9. A letter from the Tauriala post stop to Pälkäne 4.7.1944 (July 4) to Keskuskpk 2 (Central Field Post Office 2) Harju, unit 53. KSOs. (2827). Letter seal: 'Aseveljet' (Brothers in Arms).

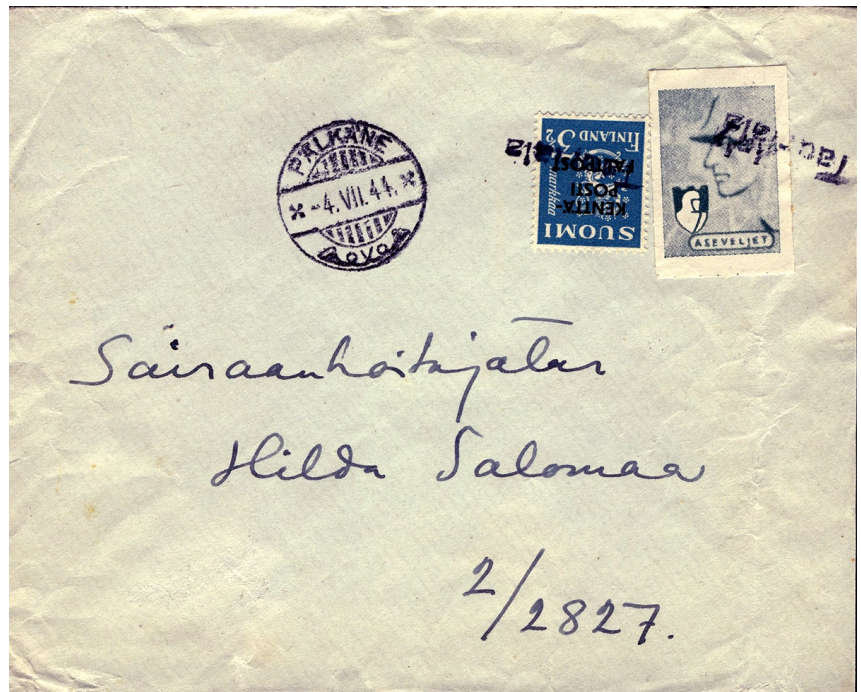


Figure 10. A card from Tornio 18.3.1944 to Keskuskpk 1 (Central Field Post Office 1) Äänislinna to the unit 78. AutoK (7751) diverted to unit 38. Km.Korj.J (7755). Transfer mark from 7751, with the 'kenttäpostia' (field post) directional mark and a machine message canceller. Transfer marks were less often used because an address change could be

Figure 11. A letter from Ojakkala to Keskuskpk 1 (Central Field Post Office 1), then Pieksämäki to Käk.skp.E. With spare cancel 'Postitoimisto' (Post office) and penciled 'Ojakkala' 5.9.44.





Figure 12. A registered parcel card 27.1.1944 from unit 2./Pion.P 34 (5142)–Jp./Kpk 24, Martona to Keskuskpk 9, (Central Field Post Office 9) from Hyrynsalmi to Puolanka. Contrary to rules, address card was franked with Fmk 2.00 payable field postage. The Kpk (field post office), however, accepted the mailing according to the rate. Payable field post stamps were allowed only on letters and cards from home to the troops.

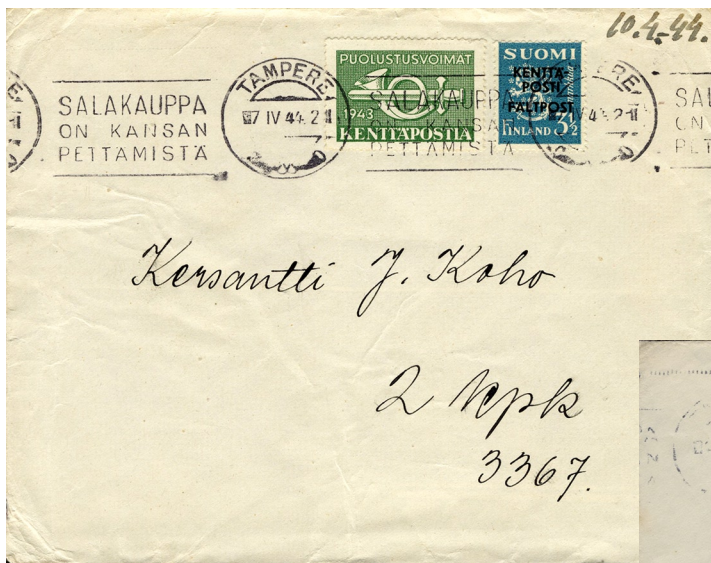


Figure 13. A letter from Tampere 7.4.1944 (April 7) to Keskuskpk 2 (Central Field Post Office 2) Viipuri unit 1./Rask. Psto 12 (3367). The surcharge for an overweight letter was Fmk 2.50. By franking with a 3.50 Fmk payable field post stamp the sender paid one Fmk over rate.

Figure 14. A letter from Tampere on the day of the Truce 4.9.1944 (September 4) to Keskuskpk 5 (Central Field Post Office 5) Matkaselkä to unit 25. SotaS (8016) Pälksaari, diverted (?) - returned to Tampere. The marks of explanation: 'Palautetaan lähettäjälle' (Returned to sender) and 'Siirretty/osoite tuntematon' (Transferred/address unknown).





Figure 15. A letter of mourning from Lemu on 11.8.1944 to Keskuskpk 2 Pieksämäki to unit 8/Täyd.P 8 (3969).

Figure 16, right. A letter from Helsinki 25.7.1944 to Keskuskpk 7 (Central Field Post Office 7) Riihimäki, unit JR 200/AUK (7572). The addressee was an Estonian volunteer. The Estonian volunteers 'Soomepoisid' formed their own troop unit 'JR 200' in Finland, although they served in other units such as the Navy, too.



Figure 17, left. A letter from Varkaus 4.5.1944 (May 4) to Keskuskpk 7 (Central Field Post Office 7) Riihimäki to the unit 103. Kev.Ptri (7888). The overweight letter is franked with field post stamps pursuant to the rate. Between October 16, 1943 and December 3, 1944, weight 41-250 grams/Fmk 6.00 from home locations to the troops.



Figure 18. Card from Kuurila to Keskuskpk 7 Riihimäki, unit 35. SotaS, Hämeenlinna then diverted to unit 54. SotaS, Helsinki SPR (8225) with the (field post office) 'Kpk' 7 machine wavy line cancel as transfer mark on 3.5.44 (May 3). Because of air raid danger the Keskuskpk 7 was moved from Helsinki to Riihimäki. Thus, the cancel center parts with six wavy lines were loaned from the Riihimäki civilian post office. The use of the cancel was only for five days, May 1 to May



Figure 19. A letter from Helsinki to Keskuskpk 1 (Central Field Post Office 1) Äänislinna, unit III/JR 8 (4875). As for the overweight part of the letters from home to the troops, these were initially franked also with general stamps. The Post and Telegraph specified in a circular on November 22, 1943 that payable individual field post letters had to be franked with payable field post stamps.

### Editor's Note:

Several readers have reported problems e-mailing me at my AOL address. I attribute this to AOL's efforts to intercept spam and sometimes they fail to distinguish ordinary philatelic correspondence from the tens of messages sent every day from overseas trying to entice me into the most ludicrous business ventures. In any event I have an unfiltered alterative address: [rquinby@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rquinby@nycap.rr.com)

Once again I would like to thank everyone for the kind words of support and contributions for printing and mailing.

### Other Field Post Literature

- Rainer Ahonius: *Vapaussodan kenttäposti*, 1972, (The War of Independence field post)  
 Hans Moxter: (German) *Finnland-Feldpost* (1978), (Finland-Field post)  
 Teuvo Rönkkönen: *Talvisodan kenttäposti ja sensuuri*, 1989, (The Winter War field post and censoring)  
 Teuvo Rönkkönen: *Talvisodan kenttäposti/ Merivoimien osoitejärjestelmä*, 1990, (The Winter War field post/The Navy address system)  
 Teuvo Rönkkönen: *Talvisodan kenttäposti/ Maavoimien osoitejärjestelmä*, 1992, (The Winter War field post/The Land Forces address system)  
 Pentti Kopsa: *Itä-Karjalan posti 1941-44*, 1995, (The East Karelia mail)  
 Pentti Kopsa: *Keräilijän kenttäposti*, 1996, (The collector's field post)

### English Language Reference

For additional information in English, I strongly recommend, *The Finnish Fieldpost 1939-1945*, by Les Freestone & Eric Keefe, published by the Scandinavian Philatelic Society in 2001. This book covers all aspects of Finnish fieldpost during the wartime period, including the foreign volunteer units, the women's auxiliary organization, censorship, The Lapland war, official mail, hospital and POW mail, naval post, fieldpost of German forces in Finland, Finnish volunteers in German service, stamps and military unit marks and so forth. For order information contact the SPS, <[www.scandps.org.uk](http://www.scandps.org.uk)> or Jay Smith, <[www.JaySmith.com](http://www.JaySmith.com)> or e-mail Jay at: <[js@JaySmith.com](mailto:js@JaySmith.com)>.

### Author's Request

Persons in North America, Europe and the UK who are interested in collecting Finnish field post mail are encouraged to contact Mr. Uolevi Vapaa, Paatsamankuja 3 A 5, FI-36220.

I will be attending Washington 2006 for the first 3/4 days of the show and will be at NORDIA 2006 throughout the show. If you are attending one or both of these shows, I would welcome the opportunity to talk about the newsletter and Finnish philately. Please be in touch.

Finally, does anyone have a cover with the 1915 Emergency Money Stamps cancelled between October 21 and December 18, 1915. If you are fortunate to have a cover from this time period, please send me a color scan at 200/300 dpi JPEG.



Figure 3.  
Figure Cancel No. 106A.

town or location identification, which occurs on the 1885 issue, and one is No. 106B, a number assigned after the catalog was published, and occurs on the 1885 and 1889 issue. These are shown in Figure 3 and 4.

Considering two other cancels, Nos. 20 and 23, suggests another idea (Figures 5 and 6, 6a). Cancel No. 20 is probably derived from the Nyslott low box cancel, and used on 1875 issues. Covers are known dated in 1877<sup>1</sup>. Figure cancel No.



Figure 4.  
Figure Cancel No. 106B.

23 is considered as always done with the edge of the low box Christinestad cancel, although in the earlier 1850s and 1860s period. The Figure 2 cancel resembles the possible size and shape of a postal handstamp, specifically a town low box cancel.

Is it possible that a retired low box town cancel was modified to make this 2-row grid cancel? Perhaps even a rectangular piece of wood or cork or rubber could have been fitted into an old town handstamp, and then cut to create a grid pattern? However, no frameline shows.<sup>3</sup>

### Help from the Expertizers in Finland

This stamp was examined by Aaro Laitinen in the early 1980s, and as stated before in the “Cork Cancel Corner,” without other examples or significant additional information it is not the practice to certify a new unique figure cancel discovery and assign a new number. Aaro Laitinen passed away some years ago, and this cancel example was never followed up on. In recent

inquiries with Reinhard Weber to prepare this article, he advises that he knows of no notes from Aaro Laitinen about this possible figure cancel, no mention in published literature, and has not himself seen an example of it before my current inquiry.

If you have a stamp with a similar cancel, even if not Finnish, please let us know.



Figure 6 and 6a. Figure Cancel No. 23.

### Other New Cancel Discoveries?

The next “Cork Cancel Corner” article for the May 2006 Issue will examine another unique cancel, and also discuss others that are somewhat similar in style. Also, if readers can present information and a scan or copy of any examples they have of figure cancels that are distinctive enough strikes to be clearly identified as not already listed in the Laitinen 1981 catalog, please let the editor know. Send any information, or your comments, to the Editor, or to Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, or by e-mail to efraser@msn.com



Figure 7.  
Figure Cancel No. 402.

### References:

1. E.A. Hellman *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Suomen Kuvioleimat*, 1961, Hardbound 413 pages, German, and parts in Finnish.
2. E.A. Hellman and Aaro Laitinen *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Suomen Kuvioleimat*, 1974, Hardbound 109 pages, German, and parts in Finnish.
3. Aaro Laitinen *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands Preiskatalog, The Figure Cancellations of Finland Price Catalog*, c. 1981, softbound 247 pages, presented in four languages; German, Finnish, Swedish, and English.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> It does appear that at times the postal clerk canceling mail would deliberately cancel a stamp twice, and rotate the cancel between the strikes. This can occasionally be seen on the low box town cancels on the 1856 oval issues, and does also occur with some of the cork cancels. In the future I expect to have a short article on some of the different “crossed cork cancels” I have seen. The Laitinen *Catalog* lists cancel No. 402 with uncertain status (indicated by a star with the number), which I think may be because it is a cancel already listed, possibly No. 56 crossed. (There are other known examples of No. 56 struck twice at different angles, I believe, and they look like No. 402.) Cancel No. 115, done with a metal wheel that served as a roller cancel, often was applied twice, and sometimes both vertically and horizontally. Cancel No. 23 was often struck twice and often crossed in an “X” style as shown in Figure 6a.

<sup>2</sup> Reference 1 is invaluable because it does a good job listing information about covers known to E.A. Hellman back in 1961 when the book was published. For cancel No. 20, it lists two covers and pictures one, showing a 28.9.1877 NYSLOTT single ring cancel on the envelope and the No. 20 cancel on the stamp.

<sup>3</sup> Using the list of low-box cancels from the Norma catalog, there are 37 different ones for 36 towns, and all but two had ceased being used by 1881. The last two, Karis and Uleåborg, were apparently retired in the 1880s.