



The Finnish Philatelist

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The Finnish Philatelist

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Editor's Message:

In this issue we feature three articles on Russian stamps used in Finland. In the first article we have attempted to provide a survey of the purely Russian ringless stamps used on Finnish mail to abroad from 1900 to 1918. To the best of our knowledge this is the first attempt to offer a comprehensive overview of this usage based on an empirical search of catalogues, internet (mostly eBay) offerings and private collections. With the help of our readers this survey may be updated in two ways: by advising us of newly identified destinations, and secondly, by reporting additional items in categories 4 and 5 with earliest dates of usage. General comments on the classification of destinations are welcome. The other feature articles cover the charity stamps of 1905 and 1914/1915.

Last month my wife, Sue, and I attended the 2006 Finnish national show at Järvenpää. The show offered more than 700 frames of high quality exhibits and an international bourse with dealers from Russia and Sweden as well as Finland. We enjoyed many philatelic discussions over robust Finnish coffee (absolutely neutralizes jet lag) with friends Kaj Hellman, Jorma Keturi, Kari Rahiala, Heikki Reinikainen, Jeffrey Stone and Jussi Tuori. The SFFF, on the recommendation of the Finnish Postal History Society, awarded me the Pro Philatelia silver medal for "work done in promoting Finnish postal history" and for "excellent work as editor of the *Finnish Philatelist*." I was surprised and honored to receive this medal, pictured above.

The Postal Museum in Helsinki is featuring an exquisite display of the history of the Finnish Post from 1856 to the present commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Finnish postal stamps, which is the theme of NORDIA 2006 to be held this October in Helsinki. I would love to have you join us for a memorable philatelic weekend in sunny Finland. Please drop a note to me if you are interested in attending this important event.

And of course I will be at Washington 2006 May 27-30. Please stop by the SCC table and say hello or stay awhile for a discussion on Finnish philately.

We welcome the following new members to the Finnish Study Group: Bob Hisey, Paul Miller, Albert Aldham, Wolf Hess, Wolfgang Toterotot, Hannu Elo, and John Godfrey. A hearty thank you for kind words, philatelic and monetary contributions from Dirk Vorwerck, Morten Nærtstad, Jon Iverson, Jorma Keturi, Lynn Minneman, Hal Vogel, Gary & Carita Parker, Ed Fraser, Eric Hopper, Paul Albright and Matt Hedley.

Wolfgang Toterotot sent this message, "I thank you very much for sending the issues of *The Posthorn* and 'The Finnish Philatelist' which arrived last week. In the meantime I contacted Mr. Brent to enter the SCC's service and he promptly responded, so that I am in the fortunate position to send many greetings as a newcomer in SCC membership. With many kind regards." Matt Hedley wrote: "Enclosed is my contribution for your excellent journal. Lately I have begun to catch up on back issues. What wonderful articles." Eric Hopper wrote: "Enclosed please find my contribution for TFP. I continue to enjoy the magazine very much. Keep 'em coming."

Roger Quinby

Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 13

By Alan Warren



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

On September 6, 1938 Finland issued a set of four values to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the country's postal service (Norma 232-235). The stamps depicted the old post office in Abborfors in 1787 (50 p), an ice-boat from the 1700s for delivering mail across the Åland Sea (1¼ Fmk), a Junkers Ju-52 commercial airplane for airmail delivery (2 Fmk), and the main post office in Helsinki (3½ Fmk).

Figure 1 bears the complete set on a commemorative postal service envelope sent to Brazil. The stamps are tied with a violet handstamp with "Finnish Postal Service" in the double ring in both Finnish and Swedish languages. This special envelope comes in two sizes: a smaller one measuring 162 by 115 mm, and this larger one measuring 175 by 125 mm. The rate for surface mail abroad at this time for up to 20 g was only 3.50 Fmk. Thus the letter is

overpaid, which happened frequently when the entire set of stamps was used on a first day cover.

Figure 2 shows a pair of the 2 Fmk value tied with a machine cancel and sent to a bank in Lithuania. Such preprinted envelopes were often used by the banking industry for large volumes of mail. Since the rate was 3.50 Fmk, the letter appears to be overpaid by 50 p. Another possibility is that the bank clerk or postal clerk assumed the destination was a Nordic country, in which case the second weight step required 4 Fmk.

Collectors were already using their imagination to send FDCs from other than the capital city. Figure 3 is cancelled at Lahti and sent to the United States. Figure 4 went to Sweden but was registered (4 Fmk) and included a COD charge (5.5 Fmk) for a total franking of 9.5 Fmk.



Figure 4

Russian Franking from Finland to Foreign Destinations 1900-1918

A Preliminary Overview

By Roger Quinby with Morten N rstad, Dirk Vorwerck & Jon Iversen

One of the most formidable challenges for the Finnish postal historian covering the period from 1856 until the early 1920s is to find covers to unusual foreign destinations. In the 2005 edition of *Facit*¹, the editors attempted to list all the combinations of stamped covers, inland and to abroad, up to the 1875 issue in perforation 11. From 1875 to 1890, the editors listed only the more important inland covers because of the many different franking possibilities.

The *Facit* editors correctly point out that there are few covers from this period and whereas the number of covers to foreign destinations greatly increases in the 1890s and continues to increase exponentially thereafter into the wartime period of 1914-1918. Nonetheless, both the number of covers to foreign destinations and the number of different foreign destinations remains relatively small as compared to Finland's Scandinavian neighbors, Sweden and Denmark.

Throughout the 1890s most mail to abroad, except to Russia, was franked with the Finnish coat of arms issues of 1889 and 1895. However, from January 1, 1892 postal regulations imposed by the Russian Interior Ministry directed that mail franked in

the Finnish penni/mark currency was invalid to Russia and "letters and wrappers going to locations in other parts of the Empire are to be furnished with imperial postage stamps"² (that is, kopek stamps with or without rings).

From August 14, 1900, the Finnish currency stamps with the coat-of-arms were invalidated to all foreign destinations.³

The *Facit* study is instructive in showing how few covers to different foreign destinations have been reported. Among the 23 foreign destinations listed in *Facit*, several are noteworthy, including Portugal, Malta, Algeria, Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Turkey and Java. The political map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire changed several

times from the 1878 Congress of Berlin to its breakup in 1918. It contained lands that later became known as Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and parts of

Russia, Poland, and Italy.⁴ *Facit* reports just four covers to this vast Empire including one stampless cover to Turkey. We encourage the *Facit* editors to extend their survey on mail to foreign destinations until August 1900 when the penni franking to abroad was demonetized.

From May 1891, ring and Russian ringless stamps were valid franking to all foreign destinations. Nevertheless, penni



Figure 1. This registered commercial cover addressed to the inspector of the S. Croix sugar factory is the only known mailing to the Danish West Indies with definitive Russian stamps. Other mail to the West Indies or wider Caribbean area is virtually unknown prior to the early 1920s, including mail to the British, French and Dutch controlled islands.



Figure 2. Kuopio attorney Granfelt was a one of Finland's best known collectors and correspondents in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who sought postal communications with other lawyers and philatelists in distant lands. Additional covers from Granfelt to other Caribbean and Central American destinations is possible.

Russian Definitive and Co-Runner Issues Common Foreign Destinations 1900 - 1918

Europe	Rarity	The Americas	Rarity
Austria-Hungarian Empire	3	USA	2
Denmark	1	Canada	3
Estonia (Russia)	2		
France	2	Africa	
Germany	1		
England	2	Egypt	2
Italy	3	South Africa	3
The Netherlands	3	German SWA	2
Norway	3		
Russia	1	Asia, ANZ & Pacific	
Sweden	1	China	2/3
Switzerland	3	Hong Kong	3

Table 1A.

coat of arms stamps remained the franking of choice until they were invalidated on mail to abroad in August 1900. The Finns strongly resented the ring stamps and the loss of their national identity on these postage stamps so they were used sparingly during the period when they were optional franking to abroad, that is from May 1891 to August 1900. There are few ring stamp franked covers to abroad and fewer still of the Russian ringless stamps during this period.

According to *The Ring Stamps and Postal Stationery Centennial May 1, 1991*⁵, uncommon European destinations include Norway, as well as countries on the fringes of the continent such as Turkey, Greece, Ireland, and the Azores. All North American destinations are very rare except the USA and Canada. South African addresses are more common than any other African country. Very few covers

have been reported to Oceania, Asian and South America countries. No comprehensive survey of ring covers to abroad has been undertaken, although this would nicely compliment our knowledge of Finland's postal communications during a period of greatly increased industrialization, commerce, travel, immigration and scientific exploration.

From August 1900 until May 1911, the Finnish ring stamps in kopek denominations were used concurrently with the Russian

ringless stamps on mail to abroad. After demonetization of the ring stamps in May 1911⁶, only Russian definitive stamps and co-runners were valid franking to abroad.

This survey of mail from Finland to abroad is limited to the Russian "ringless" definitive issues of 1889-1906, 1909 and the various co-runners, Russian stamps valid for franking

within Finland but not sold by the Finnish Government Post Office (FGPO). The survey lists are broken down to three categories: Common Foreign Destinations, Known Unusual Foreign Destinations, and Unknown Foreign Destinations combined with Unlikely Foreign Destinations. Each category is further classified by four general geographic regions: Europe, The Americas, Africa, and Asia including Australia-New Zealand (ANZ) and

Pacifica. The country destinations are identified according to the political maps of the world from 1871 to 1914 and 1914 to 1918 as shown in *The Stamp Atlas*.⁷

At this early phase in developing a census of uncommon destinations from the kopek period it is striking to note that there are so few known covers to the British Commonwealth countries worldwide, the French,



Figure 3. When tourist travel emerged in the formative years of faster steamships and trains, tourist agents such as Cook's served as a general post office for visitors to receive mail from home. Frontstamped Yokohama and the Cook's travel office. Less than five mailings reported to Japan from 1900 to 1918.

Continued on page 8

Russian Definitive & Co-Runner Issues Known Unusual Foreign Destinations 1900 - 1918

Europe	Rarity	The Americas	Rarity
Belgium	3/4	Alaska - (noticed)	5
Bulgaria	4/5	Argentina	3/4
Cyprus	5	Brazil	4/5
Greece - (noticed)	5	Chile	5
Iceland	4/5	Costa Rica	5
Ireland - (noticed)	5	Cuba - (noticed)	5
Malta - (noticed)	4/5	Danish West Indies	5
Portugal	5	Guatemala - (noticed)	5
Romania	5	Haiti - (noticed)	5
Scotland	4	Hawaii - (noticed)	4/5
Spain	5	Jamaica, BWI	5
Turkey	5	Mexico	5
		Panama (Canal Zone)	5
		Uruguay	4/5

Africa	Rarity	Asia, ANZ & Pacific	Rarity
Algeria	5	Australia	4/5
Angola	5	East India	5
Belgium Congo - (noticed)	5	Iran - (noticed)	5
Egypt	3	India - (noticed)	4/5
German SWA, Incling Nambia	3	Japan	4/5
South Africa, Including Natal	3/4	Manchuria (3)	4
Tunisia	5	Malaysia (Federated States)	4/5
		Netherlands East Indies	3/4
		New Zealand	5
		Philippines	5
		Singapore	5
		Russia - Eastern Siberia	4
		Russia - Harbin	3/4
		Russia - Lithuania - (noticed)	4/5
		Russia - Poland	3/4

a. Finnish Ring stamps are not included in this survey.

b. **Noticed** = Reported or seen, but copy of cover unavailable to editor at time of publication.

c. Unusual or uncommon destinations are defined by the number of known covers to the destination country. The most desirable destinations are listed in Table 3 (no known items) and those destinations rated 4 or 5 in Table 1B above.

Table 1B above; Table 2 below.

Rarity Scale

Rarity Valuation	Quantity	Description
1	51 plus	Very Common
2	26-50	Common
3	11-25	Uncommon
4	6-10	Rare
5	1-5	Very Rare

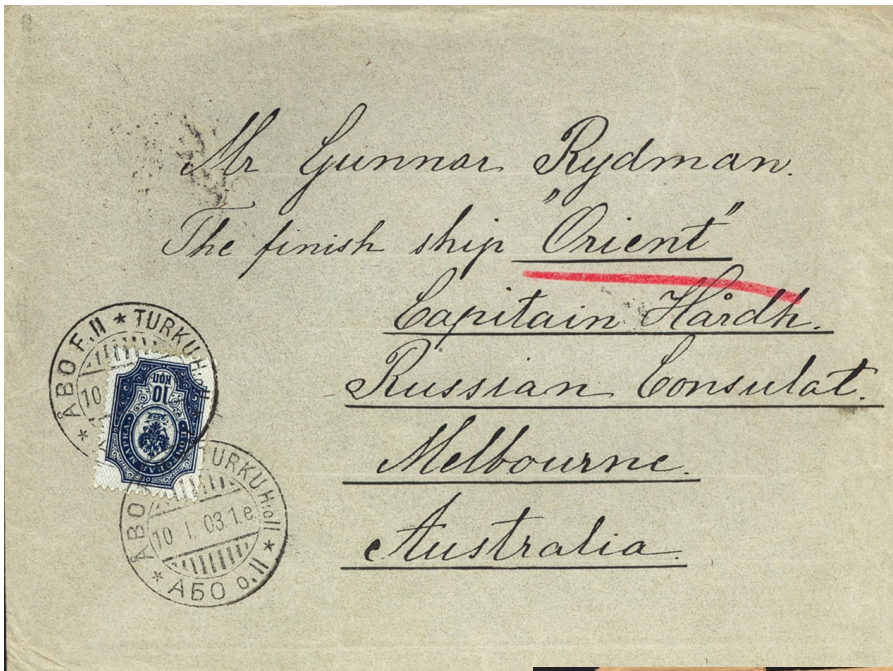


Figure 4. This 1903 cover is the only reported mailing franked with the Russian definitive issues to Australia through 1918. The Facit survey does not report a single cover to Australia. However, one earlier registered cover to Australia is known cancelled with a 20 kopek ring stamp, from Nystad, 11. 9. 93, to Hochkirch with an October 20, 1893 arrival cds. During the period from 1891 to 1918 there was continuous merchant traffic between Finland (Mariehamn) and Adelaide, Australia with timber and other products being shipped to Australia and wheat carried on the return voyage to England. Certainly, there must have been correspondence between the Finnish and Australian brokers and merchants to facilitate this important trade, but apparently, no covers have survived.

Figure 5. This December 1915 wartime missionary cover addressed to Gloom, East India was returned via Calcutta and Bombay in March, 1916. Other mail to India has been noticed, but we have not received any scans or photocopies of them.

South Asia destinations are all difficult. Covers to India, East India, Burma, Siam (Thailand), Netherlands East Indies, Portuguese colonies in India and China, and the French and British colonies, including Straits settlement are virtually non-existent.

The Facit survey does not record a single cover to India and South Asia: however, several ring covers and wrappers are known.



Figure 6. Tourist card to Constantine, Algeria, frontstamped, 21 JUL, 02. We have confirmed only two examples of cards or covers addressed to Algeria with the Russian stamps, and Facit reports a single item franked with a 25 penni 1885 issue. Except for mail to Egypt, the three recorded covers to Algeria and one cover to Tunisia are the sum total of mail from Finland to North Africa until after WW I.

Unknown and/or Unlikely Foreign Destinations 1900 – 1918

The Americas	Europe	Africa	Asia, ANZ, Indian Ocean & Pacifica	
British Honduras	Albania	There is known missionary mail to German South West Africa, tourist mail to Egypt and several South African states, otherwise there is no recorded mail to other African states.	British Indian Ocean	
British Guiana	Bosnia & Herzegovina		British Pacific Islands	
British West Indies	Faeroe Islands (DK)		Formosa (Jap.)	
Bolivia	Gibraltar		French Colonies	
Columbia	Greenland (DK)		French Indian Ocean	
Dominican Republic	Lichtenstein		French Polynesia	
Dutch West Indies	Luxembourg		German Colonies	
Ecuador	Montenegro		British East Africa	Iraq
French Guyane	Norway - Spitzbergen		Ethiopia, Eriteria Somalia, Obock, Zanzibar, etc.	Korea
Newfoundland	Serbia		French Equatorial Africa	Madagascar & Islands
Paraguay		French West Africa	Persian Gulf States	
Peru		German Colonies	Portuguese Colonies, Goa, Macau, etc.	
San Salvador		Mozambique		
Suriname (Dutch Guiana)		Portuguese Angola & Colonies	Thailand (Siam)	
Venezuela		Sudan	South Asia countries	

Table 3, above.



Figure 7. There are just three reported items addressed to Iceland franked with Russian definitive stamps . This card was mailed from Lappvik in June, 1917 and passed by the Helsinki censor on July 8, 1917.

There are quite a few destinations in Europe that are elusive and difficult as any destination in Asia or South America. We have not confirmed mail addressed to Albania, Montenegro, Faeroe Islands, Liechtenstein, and several other countries on the fringes of the continent.

The Facit survey does not report a single postal item in its survey addressed to Iceland and we have not confirmed any mailings franked with the Finnish ring stamps.

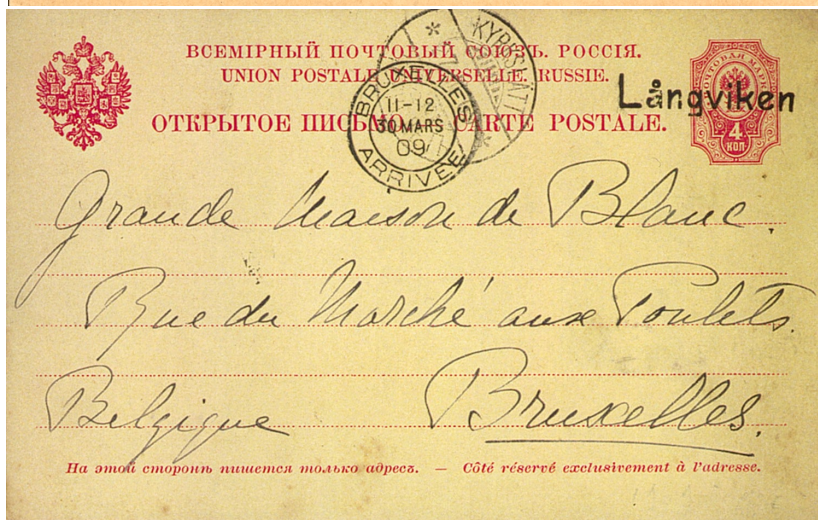
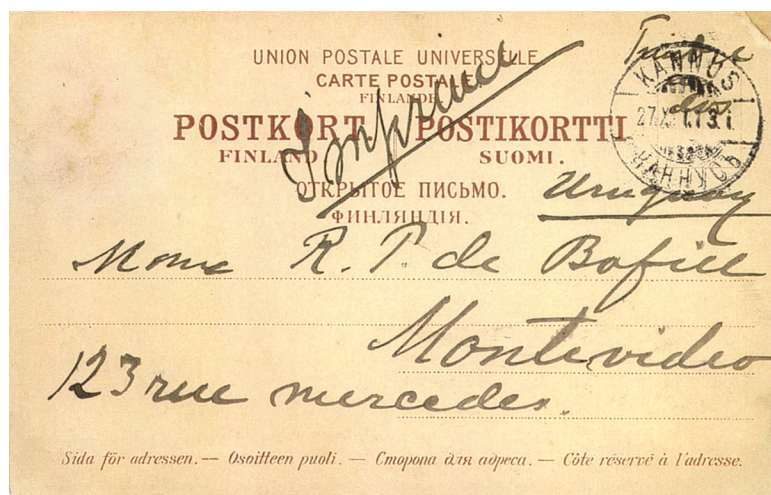


Figure 8. In our initial outreach to collectors we received important information on new destinations and confirmed mailings to several destinations such as Belgium. At first we had just a few confirmed items to Belgium, but Dirk Vorwerck submitted two cards from small post offices. One is a 1912 post card with a straight-line railway station cancel at KILO (not pictured), and the other, shown here, is from the small rural village of Långviken, via Kyrkslätt, 7. XII. 09, to Brussels.



Figures 9 (front) & 10 (back). Postcard from Kannus, 27. XII .01, franked at the printed matter rate (*imprimé*) to Montevideo, Uruguay. Under the Kannus cancellation is the phrase, "Timbre au dos." stamp on backside.

Argentina and Uruguay are the only South American destinations where we can confirm more than five mailings with the Russian definitive stamps during the period from 1900 to 1918.

The Facit survey reports a single cover to Argentina and two covers to Brazil franked with the coat of arms issues of 1875 and 1885. Ring stamps are known on covers to Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

Continued from page 6

Belgium, Portuguese and German colonies in Africa (except the missionary mail to South West Africa), the Caribbean island countries and all of the countries of South America. Possibly philatelists have not taken notice of mail from Finland to the world and then again it is possible that these postal communications did not fully develop until the post WWI period. The main purpose of this preliminary survey is to reach out to collectors to report unusual destinations from 1900 to 1918.

This survey to date is based on my own rather extensive collection, the listings in *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*⁸, a review of three private collections, correspondence from collectors and a limited review of auction catalogues from the several prominent Finnish auction firms from the past 20 years.⁹

The distribution and rarity tables are based on reports from collectors and the sources noted; the lists and rarity assessments are therefore tentative and somewhat shaky. Your cooperation

is solicited and greatly appreciated. Please provide the editor with information on your covers to uncommon destinations.

End Notes

¹ *Facit 2005 Special*, Facit Förlaga AB, Västerås, Sweden, 2004

² FGPO Circular No. XII (23), April 20, 1891

³ FGPO Circular No. VII (14), July 4, 1900

⁴ *The Stamp Atlas*, W. Raife Wellsted & Stuart Rossiter, Facts On File Publications, New York, NY & Oxford, England, 1986, pp 79-81, 113-127

⁵ *The Ring Stamps and Postal Stationery Centennial May 1, 1991*, Seppo Arvelin, et. al., Hangon Kirjapaino Oy, Hanko, Finland 1991

⁶ FGPO Notice to all Post Offices, No. 17558, March 29. 1911 and others.

⁷ *The Stamp Atlas*, p 7

⁸ *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*, Vaalter V. Johansson, privately printed, Pargas, Finland 1993

A Note on Finnish Ring Covers to Uncommon Destinations

From 1891 to 1911 Finnish kopek ring stamps were valid franking to abroad. Two important exhibition collections, Kari Rahiala of Finland and Steve Kaplan of the USA, show covers to a number of uncommon destinations including some that are the only recorded examples. European destinations include Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Portugal, African destinations include Ponta Delgada on the Azores, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Port Elisabeth in South Africa, and the Sudan.

New world destinations include Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and San Salvador. Indian Ocean, Asian and Pacific island destinations include Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, Sumatra, Java, Indochina and the Hawaiian Islands.

The ring covers to abroad only confirm the paucity of general commercial and tourist correspondence from Finland to destinations outside its immediate trading sphere of Sweden, Russia, Denmark, and Germany. The ring covers reveal several additional destinations, however, the general distribution and rarity tables describing the purely Russian franking used to abroad are not materially affected.

Roger Quinby



1905 Semi-Postal Charity Stamps

by Roger Quinby with Dirk Vorwerck



Figure 1, Complete set of the charity stamps with various Finnish town and railway cancellations. including: H.FORS-ST.P.BURG RR, Kellomäki, and Viborg, The Finnish cancellation on the 10 kopek stamp is difficult to read.

These stamps with an additional 3 kopeks surcharge were issued in December 1904 in five different perforations, (12 x 12.5, 13.25. 11.5, 11.5 x 13.25, 13.25 x 11.5)¹ to raise funds for widows and orphans of military personnel in active duty in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905. The stamps were issued by the Imperial Women's Patriotic Association, which also arranged for the printing and distribution of the stamps throughout Russia.

On February 15, 1905 The Postal Administration of Finland (FGPO)² issued a bulletin (see full text below) to all post offices that The Empire Main Post & Telegraph Administration authorized the Imperial Patriotic Women's Association to issue postage stamps in denominations of 3, 5, 7, and 10 kopeks to benefit the children left behind of soldiers employed in active service. The colorful commemorative stamps were the first pictorial stamps used in Finland. The 3 kopek stamp pictures the Admiral Kornilov

Monument in Sevastopol, the 5 kopek stamp pictures the Pozharski and Minin Monument in Moscow, the 7 kopek stamp shows the Statue of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg, and the 10 kopek stamp illustrates the Alexander II memorial and the Kremlin.

The bulletin further noted that the stamps could be used as franking for all types of departing correspondence in the same manner as the regular issues of the Empire. Finally, post offices were cautioned that mail arriving from the Empire bearing these stamps was not to be considered unfranked. Although post offices were advised that samples of the new charity stamps would be distributed to them, it is not clear if in fact notices were actually distributed. According to the *Handbook*³, stacks of these stamps in perforated and imperforate full sheets. Some imperforate and others compound perforated 12 x 12.5⁴, overprinted OBRAZETS (SPECIMEN) remain in the FGPO central warehouse to this day. Despite the difficulty proving a "negative," considering the fact that after 100 years no post office bulletin has been discovered with the specimen stamps affixed, it is reasonable to conclude that these bulletins were never printed and distributed to branch post offices.

The charity stamps were not offered for sale at Finnish post offices, but philatelists and travelers

The Postal Administration of Finland
Helsingfors
February 15, 1905

To All Postal Institutions

Postal institutions are hereby notified that according to information from the Empire Main Post and Telegraph Administration, the Imperial Patriotic Women's Association has obtained the right to issue postage stamps in denominations of 3, 5, 7, and 10 kopeks to benefit the children left behind of soldiers employed in the active army. The stamps will be sold in the Post and Telegraph institutions of the Empire and can, like the Empire's own postage, be used for the franking of all kinds of departing correspondence.

Furthermore, postal institutions are notified that mail items arriving from the Empire bearing the aforementioned stamps must not be considered as non-franked. Postal institutions are instructed that they will receive samples of the stamps provided by the Postal Administration.

Helsingfors Postal Administration, February 15, 1905

P. Jamalainen

Figure 2. Postal Administration bulletin concerning validity of charity stamps. Translated by Carita Parker.



Figure 3. A 5 kopek Charity stamp on card from Johannes, Viipuri Province, 29. VII. 05, to Sweden. The card is one kopek over rate.

Figure 4, below. There are at least three confirmed cards franked with different Charity stamps mailed on 29. IV. 05 with the K.P.XP railway cds to the same addressee in Stockholm. All three cards were also marked with the boxed T and the notation "10 c" in blue pencil indicating amount due calculated according to UPU rules. Apparently the railway postal clerk was unaware of the Postal Administration bulletin that clearly spelled out the validity of these stamps. The Stockholm postal clerk treated the card as unfranked and assessed a 40 öre postage due for an unfranked post card from abroad.

brought these stamps to Finland where they were used on covers and post cards. They are classified as co-runners, Russian stamps valid for franking mail in Finland for domestic and foreign traffic, but they were not sold by the Finnish Post. Sven Fagerholm, who undertook an exhaustive empirical study of Russian stamps used in Finland, reported 22 items cancelled in Finland.⁵ The Fagerholm study did not breakdown the known items by number of covers, post cards and loose stamps.

My recent worldwide survey among collectors indicates that there are at least 43 1905 charity stamps known with Finnish town and railway cancellations. Covers with complete sets are known addressed to Philadelphia Pennsylvania,⁵ Stockholm, Berlin and Moscow, accounting for more than one third of all the known stamps. At least three overfranked post cards



addressed to Stockholm are also known. Oddly, several of these cards and at least one letter were struck with the boxed T postage due mark. Although the charity stamps were valid franking in Finland for both domestic and foreign destinations according to the bulletin, if the circular was not issued with specimen stamps, postal clerks unfamiliar with the charity issue might have believed they were not valid franking. All reported usages are dated during the 1905 calendar year. The earliest cancellation is known on a 22. III. 05 cover to Moscow and the latest cancellation is found on a loose stamp from Kellomäki, 15. X. 05.

Neither the Fagerholm nor the 2005/06 survey separately list these stamps by perforation. The stamps were perforated in five different gauges and some stamps are known with compound perforations 12 x 12.5, nevertheless, there are altogether so few of these stamps known with Finnish cancellations that the stamps used in Finland are all rather scarce, regardless of perforation.



Figure 5. Correctly franked cover from Helsinki, 30. III. 05, to Moscow and forwarded according to the attached routing slip. This is one of the finest single usage Charity covers. Collection of Ed Fraser.



Figure 6. Extraordinary third weight registered cover from Helsinki to Moscow franked with a complete set of the charity stamps plus a 3 kopek Russian definitive issue to meet the 28 kopek rate. To date, this is the earliest known 1905 charity cover cancelled in Finland.

1905 Semi-Postal Charity Stamps		
Value	1969 Survey	2005/06 Survey
3 kop	4	9
5 kop	8	10
7 kop	3	14
10 kop	7	10
Total	22	43
Types of Items		2005/06 Survey
10 covers		27 stamps
5 post cards		5 stamps
Loose stamps		11 stamps
15 postally traveled items		
		April 8, 2006

Table 1. 1905 Charity Stamp Distribution Table.

Despite the fact that our survey has identified nearly twice the number of 1905 Charity Stamps used in Finland as previously reported by Fagerholm, these stamps remain scarce and fairly expensive, especially on cover. In fact, of all the co-runners, these stamps are among the most expensive, only surpassed in value by the Romanov ruble stamps on cover. Both *Norma 2002* and *Lape 2004* price the single stamps from 100 to 125 €, but the *Norma* prices for covers are slightly

higher, ranging from 400 to 600 €, up to 150 € more than *Lape*. Condition, appearance, single or multiple usage and destination are all factors that affect the relative value of these scarce stamps on cover. Condition is always an important factor in considering the purchase of single stamps; however, the clear identity of the town postmark as Finnish and an identifiable date of cancellation are very important for assessing value of these stamps.

These stamps are infrequently offered at Finnish auctions, but when offered, the prices will reflect collector interest at the moment as well as completeness and clarity of the Finnish town cancel and, of course, condition. A complete set of the loose stamps is rarely offered in one lot, so the collector must be patient to acquire them one at a time and leap at the opportunity to purchase these stamps on cover whenever offered.

Additional information on dates of use and demonetization of these stamps is welcome. Also, please submit your items for inclusion in the usage survey to the editor.

End Notes

- ¹ Michel Ost Catalogue 2005/2006, p 607
- ² Postal Administration (FGPO) Bulletin dated, February 15, 1905, Helsinki.
- ³ *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*, Vol. 2, Suomen Filatelistiliitto ry, Helsinki, p 195
- ⁴ Johansson, V. V., *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*, Pargas, Finland, 1993, pp 63-67
- ⁵ Fagerholm, Sven, *Das Fehlende Glied*, Helsinki, 1969, pp 7, 17
- ⁶ Johansson, V. V., *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*, Pargas, Finland, 1993, pp 63-67

1914 and 1915/1917 Russian Semi-Postal Charity Stamps

By Roger Quinby with Dirk Vorwerck

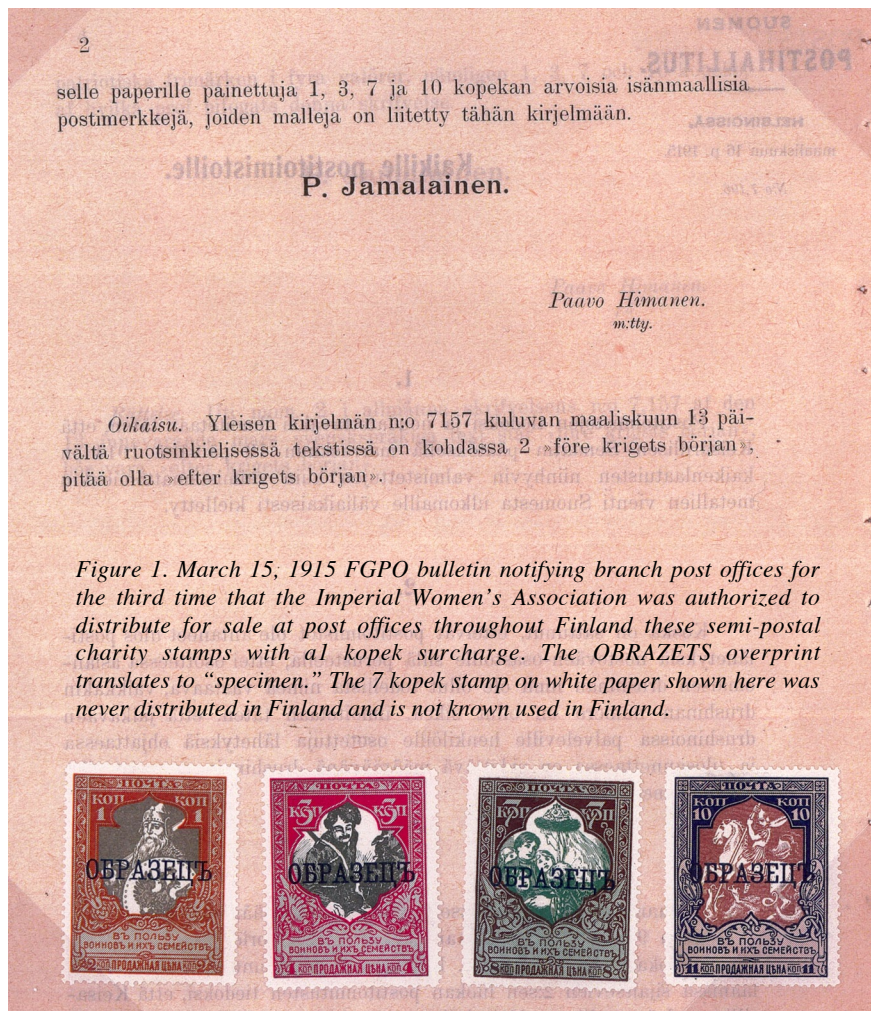


Figure 1. March 15, 1915 FGPO bulletin notifying branch post offices for the third time that the Imperial Women's Association was authorized to distribute for sale at post offices throughout Finland these semi-postal charity stamps with a 1 kopek surcharge. The OBRAZETS overprint translates to "specimen." The 7 kopek stamp on white paper shown here was never distributed in Finland and is not known used in Finland.

In September 1914 the Russian Interior Minister authorized the Imperial Patriotic Women's Association, whose leader and benefactor was the Russian Czarina, to issue four multi-colored stamps with an one kopek surcharge for the benefit of wounded soldiers and their next of kin. The first stamps were printed on colored paper and in 1915/17 in changed colors on white paper, in perforations 11.5, 12.5, and 13.5 as well as imperforate (Norma Nos. SV 54-SV 57; Facit Nos. RV1-RV7; Michel Nos. 96-104 A-D). The imperforate stamps were not known used in Finland.

The four stamps included a 1 kopek value of the legendary Russian hero Ilya Murometz, a 3 kopek value showing Don Cossack bidding farewell to his sweetheart, a 7 kopek value illustrating the symbol of charity and a 10 kopek value of St. George slaying the dragon.

The stamps were issued by the Imperial Patriotic Women's Association in St. Petersburg, which also handled the distribution of the stamps to the post offices in Russia and Finland. The additional surcharge was in this respect similar

to the 1905 charity stamps and even if not overprinted with a red cross, served the same purpose as the Red Cross stamps later issued by many countries.

There were several announcements from the Finnish Postal Administration (Finnish Government Post Office - FGPO) concerning the validity of these stamps. On February 1, 1915 a general letter, No. 6492¹ was issued to Finnish post offices that "because some post offices in Finland have refused to accept for delivery postal items that have been franked with the special Imperial Patriotic Women's Association patriotic postage stamps...(post offices are) notified that said stamps are allowed to be used alongside the regular postage stamps." A little more than a week later, on February 9, 1915, the FGPO issued a second letter, No. 6666², to all first class post offices and to all second class post offices in Wiipuri province concerning the sale and distribution of the charity stamps in Finland. The bulletin spelled out the details of the four stamp values, and specimen stamps on colored paper were attached. The stamps were overprinted "OBRAZETS" (SPECIMEN). Further, the letter specified that the patriotic charity stamps were valid franking for all classes of postal services and charges including telegrams. Then on March 15, another bulletin³ was issued with copies of the stamps overprinted

"OBRAZETS" (SPECIMEN). Some of the bulletins included the 7 kopek stamp on white paper, which was not known to be used in Finland. See Figure 1. I found in the Kemppainen collection a set of the loose specimen stamps on white paper cancelled Helsinki, 18. III. 15.

Substantial numbers of these stamps were used in Finland. Sven Fagerholm⁴ recorded 2,342 items in only three years of use with cancellations from 77 (6 additional town cancellations confirmed) localities throughout the country. With certainty it can be stated that these stamps were sold in Finland at a number of post offices; however, no definitive list has been compiled of the post offices that sold these stamps. The stamps were not ordered from the FGPO central administration; rather they were ordered directly by the local postmaster from the Women's Association, which delivered the stamps by mail to the post offices and arranged separate accounts for receiving "the amount decided on by the Association."⁵ The Association then transferred the amount of postage to the Russian Postal Administration and only the 1 kopek surcharge was retained



Figure 2. Typical 10 kopek rate cover from Nikolaistad, 3. II. 16, to stamp dealer Eric Åkesson in Helsingfors.

for charitable purposes.

The 1914 series of stamps, on colored paper, were sold between September 1914 and January 1915 and the second series, on white paper, went on sale beginning in February 1915. The most rare charity stamp is the 7 kopek on chamois (colored) paper perforated 12.5. Fagerholm did not cite a single example in his 1969 survey, but I recently found two examples. Other scarce stamps on colored paper are the 3 and 10 kopek values perforated 13.5, and on white paper the 1, 3, and 10 kopek values, also perforated 13.5. Of the stamps



Figure 3. On October 4, 1917 the inland kopek rate was raised to 24 kopeks and the charity stamps were already demonetized on September 28, but unnoticed. The 10/7 overprint on the 1909 definitive issue was the only valid franking on this cover. Technically the cover was 14 kopeks underfranked. Kavaleff was a very active collector from Åggelby whose family correspondence was always franked with various Russian co-runners or charity stamps. Censorship of domestic mail ended in March 1917.

perforated 13.5 printed on white paper, only 27 of the 1 kopek value, 13 of the 3 kopeks value, and 12 of the 10 kopeks value have been reported with Finnish cancels, according to the Fagerholm census. Fagerholm did not further classify the stamps as loose stamps or stamps on cover.

The charity stamps were very popular with philatelists, and dealers and by the number sold, apparently with the general public as well. Covers addressed to or from Åkesson, Granberg, Gyllenberg, Jansson, Kavaleff and Pehrsson, to mention the most prolific correspondents, are almost certainly philatelic. For this reason and possibly because the stamps were never ordered, distributed and sold by the FGPO, and because the commemorative subjects were all Russian without any Finnish link, they have never been held in high esteem by Finnish collectors. Nevertheless, the charity covers from collectors and dealers, philatelic or not, are important because they represent the overwhelming number of surviving postally traveled items and continue to command a premium in the auction market.

The charity stamps are also important in their own right in the history of Finnish philately for two reasons: they were the first multi-colored commemorative stamps and secondly, the first semi-postal charity (precursor Red Cross) stamps sold in Finland at Finnish post offices. Therefore, they cannot be classified merely as co-runners, Russian stamps that were valid for franking in Finland but were not sold by or at Finnish post offices. They belong in their own classification for the aforementioned reasons and should be distinguished from the 1905 charity stamps that were never sold by the FGPO or at Finnish post offices with the cooperation of the Women's Patriotic Association, the sponsor of both the 1905 and 1914 charity stamps.

Although many covers were prepared and survive to this day, the charity stamps are not often found combined with Finnish penni franking on domestic mail, with other kopek definitive issues, or on mail to abroad except Sweden. To date no use of these stamps has been reported on telegrams, parcel cards, money orders, insured money letters or on covers addressed to uncommon foreign destinations. However, registered and express covers are known and shown here in Figures 4, 5, and 6. The low franking value, 10 kopeks was the highest value, and large size may well account for their non-appearance on money orders and other items requiring high value franking and multiple stamps.

The charity stamps were demonetized on September 28, 1917⁶ in Russia and Finland by the Russian Postal Administration but continued to be used in Finland for franking letters until all kopek franking was invalidated for domestic mail on November 28, 1917. For some reason, the FGPO never issued a notice to local post offices that these stamps were no longer valid franking. Not one cover franked with the charity stamps between September 28 and November 28, 1917 was marked with “= 0” for invalid franking or the



Figure 4. Several Express covers with various charity stamps and co-runners are known. This elaborate cover includes charity stamps on colored and white paper, 10 kopek Romanov and 10/7 Romanov overprint issue. The rate for a registered express letter was 50 kopeks, this 1916 cover is 1 kopek over rate.

Town & RR Cancellations for the 1914 and 1915/1917 Charity Stamps

Alastaro (N)	Kellomäki	Nikolainkaupunki / Nikolaistad	Terijoki
Bennäs	Kermäki (N)	Nikolaistad F	Toijala
Björnberg / Pori	Kilpua	Nystad (N)	Tölö (N)
Brahestad / Raahe	Kimito	Nådendal	Torneå/Tornio
Ekenäs / Tammisaari	Kivennapa	Ollila (N)	Tuovilanlahti
Eura	Korkeakoski	Oravais	Turku/Åbo
Gamlakarleby / Kokkola	Koski	Oulu / Uleåborg	Vainikkala
Gammelby	Koski As	Oulu As/ Uleåborg B	Wiborg/Viipuri
Grankulla	Kouvola	Perkjärvi	Wiborg B
Halila	Kuopio	Pikäranta	Viitaniemi Dorfst.
Hangö/Hanko (N)	Kuopio As	Raivola	Wilppula
Harlu	Kuopio B	Raantasalmi (N)	Åbo B / Turku As
Helsinki / Helsingfors	Kyrkslätt	Raumo / Rauma	Åggelby
Helsinki As./ Helsingfors B	Källby	Riihimäki	H:Fors-P-Grad No. 1 and No. 2(N)
Helsingfors F	Kärkolä	Röykkä	
Helsingfors FII	Kuusankoski (N)	Siilinjärvi	K.P.XP No. 4 (N)
Hovinmaa	Lahti	Simo	K.P.XP No. 5 (N)
Högfors.	Lahti As	Simpele	K.P.XP No. 6 (N)
Ingå	Lovisa / Loviisa	Snappertuna	K.P.XP No. 8 (N)
Pietarsaari/Jakobstad	Maarichamn	Sordavala / Sortavala	K.P.XP No. 10 (N)
Joensuu	Mikkeli/St. Michel	Tampere / T:fors	Postilj.v. H-P (N)
Jorvas Dorfst.	Mustamäki	Tampere As.	
Juuka	Männätä	Tavastehus	

Table 1. Absent official documents from the local post offices such as orders for stamps, receipts, accounting sheets indicating distribution of funds from the sale of stamps, it is quite impossible to know which post offices sold the charity stamps. Fagerholm suggests that the stamps were most likely sold at Helsinki, Oulu, Joensuu, Turku, Lahti, Viipuri, Tampere, Terijoki, Harlu, Kuopio, and Raahe. This survey table shows the original 77 town locations identified by Fagerholm and six new locations identified from my collection and the Kemppainen collection. They are noted by (N) =new. Fagerholm did not separately identify the TPO cancellations. They are shown here are also marked (N).



Figure 5. Registered 10 kopek charity stamp on white paper with 10 kopek Romanov co-runner from Helsinki, 23. III. 15, to Koski As. The cover was passed by the Turku censor office and struck with Censor Stamp No. 1, a general mark without censor office or censor's identification and date.



Figure 6. Unusual mixed franking of charity stamps on registered 20 penni entire from Koski As., 1. X. 16, to Villmanstrand (Lappeenraanta). The 1, 3, and 7 kopek charity stamps overpaid the registration fee by 1 kopek. This cover was censored at Viipuri.

Continued from page 13

boxed **T** and a notation for postage due.

Finland's two major stamp catalogues, *Norma 2002*⁷ and *LAPE 2004*,⁸ have priced the 1914 and 1915/1917 charity single stamps at a premium against the normal definitive issues of corresponding values. *Norma*, long considered the benchmark Finnish catalogue has established rather high prices for many covers, including those franked with the 3 kopek stamp on colored paper perforated 13.5 at 600 €, 3 kopek on white paper perforated 13.5 at 300 €, 7 kopek on colored paper perforated 12.5 (250 € as a single stamp) at 850 €⁹ as the most expensive charity stamp on cover and the 10 kopek

stamp on white or colored paper perforated 13.5 at 185 €. *LAPE* has across the board higher prices for both stamps and covers but its top prices for the most scarce covers are substantially lower than *Norma*, some by as much as fifty percent. The stamps perforated 11.5 are generally fairly common and inexpensive. Single stamps and covers franked with the more expensive 12.5 and 13.5 perforated stamps are thinly traded and subject to greater price fluctuations according to the demand at the time of sale.

The beautifully designed multi-colored charity commemoratives illustrating real and mythical heroes are exceptional stamps and surely would be an excellent subject for a one frame exhibit. This set of stamps is the only issue sold at Finnish post offices that were ordered by the local postmaster from a private organization and not the FGPO. They are the only stamps sold in Finland that belong in their own category. The challenge for collectors is to find unusual usages, mixed franking covers, parcel cards and other items that expand the range of use of these lovely pictorial adhesives.

Endnotes

¹ FGPO general letter No. 6492, February 1, 1915, repeating an earlier letter (No. 3461) notifying post offices and customers of the validity of the stamps.

² The FGPO general letter No. 6666 dated February 9, 1915 to all 1st class post offices, branches, postal expeditions (railway coach car with postal compartment) and traveling postal cars. Specimen stamps on colored paper attached.

³ FGPO general letter dated March 15, 1915 with specimens of the charity stamps on white paper attached.

⁴ Fagerholm, Sven, *Das Fehlende Glied*, Helsingfors, 1969, pp 20-21.

⁵ The FGPO general letter No. 6666. Under numbered paragraph 4, "the Association will deliver (the stamps) in advance and pursuant to the statement of accounts for the amount decided on by the Association."

⁶ See Facit Special Catalogue 2005, p. F-698.

⁷ *Norma Special Catalogue 2002*, Käpylän Merkki Oy, Helsinki, p 531.

⁸ *LAPE 2004 Special Stamp Catalogue, Suomen Filateliapalvelu Oy*, Turku, pp 652-653.

⁹ Fagerholm does not record a single example of this stamp used in Finland. See *Das Fehlende Glied*, p 20. However, *Norma* prices this stamp on and off cover; obviously the editors were convinced that at least one single stamp and one stamp on cover is confirmed. *LAPE* does not price the stamp on or off cover. See Endnotes 7 and 8 above.

References

- Fagerholm, Sven, *Das Fehlende Glied*, Helsingfors, 1969
 Johansson, Valter V, *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*, Pargas, Finland, 1993
 Vorwerck, Dirk, *The Use of Russian Postage Stamps in Finland 1890-1918*, Hildesheim, Germany, 1990

Finnish “Figure Cancels” - Hunt for New Cancel Discoveries

An Unusual Cork Cancel on a 20 Penni 1885 Type Stamp

By Ed Fraser

Over 10 years ago, an unusual “Double Ring” style cancel on a orange-yellow 1885 Issue 20 penni stamp came from the collection of a serious European collector of Finnish stamps who had moved to the New York area some time before. His collection included several hundred “cork cancels” with some scarcer ones and a fair number of misidentified ones, but they seemed to somewhat follow the 1961 E.A. Hellman book which he may have been familiar

with. While there were a group of unidentified cancels, this being one, the others that were clear strikes were ultimately identifiable. The example for study is shown in Figure 1.

The cancel is apparently incomplete, but because of its uniformity, it seems a good assumption that the cancel is much larger than the size of a stamp, and it is a two concentric

ring pattern. The uniformity also suggests that the cancel device might have been made of metal, or hard wood. The inner ring has an inside diameter of 10mm and appears to have an outside diameter of 20mm, while the outer ring would probably have an inside diameter of 22mm and an outside diameter of 30mm. The inner ring is almost 5mm wide and the outer ring is about 4mm wide.

There are two groups of cork cancels that resemble this Figure 2 example. The first group is all numbered under the type “cancel No. 4.” The Laitinen Catalog on page 22 says that “this group originated in those cases where the metallic part of the [cancel] device with exchangeable dates was removed and stored in the Post Office safe on Sundays, and the handle of the canceller was left outside. This handle sans date [and town name] was used to cancel mail that had to be posted on Sunday.” I do not know if this would have been the case back in the late 1880’s, though. Those shown in the catalog are all either single ring or double ring cancels, and some are shown



Figure 1, left. Cancel in black ink on an 1885 Issue 20 penni stamp. Figure 2. Rough drawing of the possible appearance of the complete cancel.

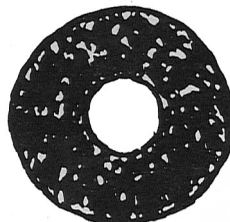


Figure 3, from left to right, figure cancels Nos. 4, 4a, 4b and 4c. None of these cancels match the cancel in Figure 1. These measure, in order, 28.5-29.5mm, 29mm, 30mm, and 29mm respectively. The illustrations in Figures 1-4 are not to scale.

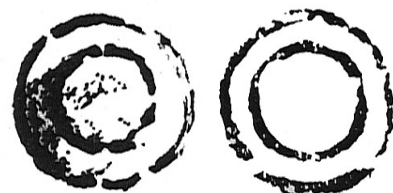


Figure 4. Figure cancels Nos. 12, left, and 13, right, are known used long after the period of validity for the 1885 issues. Also, the rings are too narrow.

here in Figure 3.

Drawings from the Catalog of No. 4, No. 4A, No. 4B, and No. 4C. These measure, in order, 28.5-29.5mm, 29mm, 30mm, and 29mm respectively.

The No. 4 cancel is known used from Nurmes on a 2 Mark 1936 issue. The 4A cancel is known on a 20 pen 1889 issue and a 10 pen 1895 issue. These are the two earliest listed uses of this type of cancel.

The second group of similar cancels is numbered 12 through 16, and are cancels with one or more circles in the pattern. Two have a double ring style, No.12 and No. 13, and they are shown in

Figure 4. The No. 12 is known on a 1917 20 pen issue, and the No.13 is known on a 10 pen and 20 pen 1919 issue – both long after the 1885 to 1890 usage period of the 1885 issues.

While none of the cancels in the Catalog or in Figure 3 or Figure 4 match that of Figure 1, I would guess it could be a cancel made from a “type 4” situation. The earliest use listed is #4A which would be just after the time of this Figure 1 usage. Also the exact size of this Figure 1 cancel, about 30mm, corresponds almost exactly to most of these No. 4 type cancels, which are all right around 29 to 30mm in diameter. (Note No. 4A is listed as 29mm.)

There are apparently no other examples known either on or off cover. The plusses are that it is on a stamp denomination – 20 pen – that was predominately used on domestic mail, and the stamp is undamaged and moderately scarce unused. However, it still can certainly be a foreign cancel, or even a non-postal creation. As stated before in this “Cork Cancel Corner,” without other examples or significant additional information, it is not the practice to certify new unique cork cancel discoveries and assign them a new number.

If you have a stamp with a similar cancel, even if not Finnish, please let us know. Send any information, or comments, to the Editor, or to Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, or to efraser@msn.com

The three books by E.A. Hellman and by Aaro Laitinen, are the regularly used references, and are listed in the February 2006 TFP article.

To be continued in the August newsletter.