



The Finnish Philatelist

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The Finnish Philatelist

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

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Editor's Message:

Once again I find myself somewhat behind on various stamp projects and commitments. So, I had time only for a 12 page format. We have many articles and notes on the period through the end of WWI in reserve, but would like to receive contributions on other stamp issues and areas of postal history to broaden the newsletter's coverage and promote more interest in the period from 1920s to the 1950s. Your comments and contributions are always welcome.

The Scandinavian Collector's Club will meet at Napex, June 1-3, 2007 at the Hilton Hotel in Tyson Corners, MD, a suburb of Washington, DC. Several new Finnish area exhibits will be displayed.

If you purchased an earlier version of the WWI censorship CD, a revised and updated version is now available and will be shipped free of charge to FSG members with the May newsletter. Please e-mail your request before May 1st.

Again, many thanks for your e-mails and contributions, especially Hal Vogel, Morten Närstad, Jon Iversen, Leonard Tann, Alan Warren, David Skipton, René Hillesum, Roger Bryne, Janne Sahlstein, J.A.J Van Dijk, Ed Fraser, Walter Albach, Kauko Aro, Harold Fritz and many others.



Helsinki Censor Stamp No. 20, Mark 15. This card was sent from Helsinki, 25. X. 1916 to Philadelphia, PA, USA, a difficult destination during the wartime period. On departure it was inspected at the Helsinki censor office by censor No. 15, who struck his mark on the address side. This personal date mark, 28. X. 1916 is earlier by one year than the previously known earliest known usage or this mark, October 2, 1917. Most new extreme dates extend the usage by just a few days or months, but the one year gap between usage may indicate that the mark was taken out of service after the October 1916 usage. This nice find is from the collection of Jon Iversen of Denmark. See page 12 for additional finds.

This mark has been rated **R** (6 - 15 known) by Termonen & Keturi in their catalogue, Postisensuuri Suomessa, 1914 - 1918, published in 1999. In 2005, Roger Quinby issued a CD with updates on the Finnish censorship marks. A 2007 edition is now available.

Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 16

By Alan Warren

Earlier columns have been presented in approximately chronological order. This time we make an exception to examine a recent acquisition of a 1947 Finland first day cover that was intended to go to China but never made it there.

This is a first day cover of two stamps issued by Finland on the same day, June 2, 1947. The gray 10 Fmk stamp (Norma 352) commemorated the peace treaty signed with the Allies in Paris in 1947 and the blue 10 Fmk stamp (Norma 353) marked a sports festival held in Helsinki that year. Instead of receiving the usual Helsinki first day cancel the cover was mailed on the day of issue from the town of Vasa and addressed to Harbin in northeastern China. It was to be sent via the trans-Siberian railroad for which Russia received foreign currency payments for handling such mail.

However, in 1947 there was a civil war going on in China and Communist China was tightening its grip so that service was suspended. In Moscow the letter was intercepted and a return-to-sender label was applied June 13 over the address. It was returned to the sender in Veikars, near Vasa, receiving a way mark on the back in Helsinki.



The Form. This label is Soviet Form No. 11, a way-bill for a mail sack. The text at the left has spaces to indicate the destination, dispatch or transit location, bag No., and whether the bag contains postage due items and amount due. The list in the box upper right is used to indicate registered letters, parcels, money orders, etc. It appears that this side of the form was left blank.

The writing on the front of the Soviet form indicates in French that the item is being returned in the absence of a mail exchange [at the destination].

The covers are not to scale and the bottom illustration is a dark gray as a result of a scanning malfunction.



1900 10 Penni Postal Card from Åggelby or SPB to Berlin Hand Carried from Åggelby to St. Petersburg or Misleading Dateline?

At first glance this common 10 penni Finnish postal card appears to be a fairly typical protest card from the summer of 1900, but on closer inspection it is five weeks too early to fit the normal protest criteria for that period. The dual penni-kopek franking is redundant because both frankings were accurate and valid by themselves until August 14th, after which the penni franking to abroad was invalidated. Also of note is the fact that there is no Finnish postmark on the card; nonetheless, the card is datelined “Åggelby, 9. Juli 1900,” addressed to Charlottenburg – Berlin.

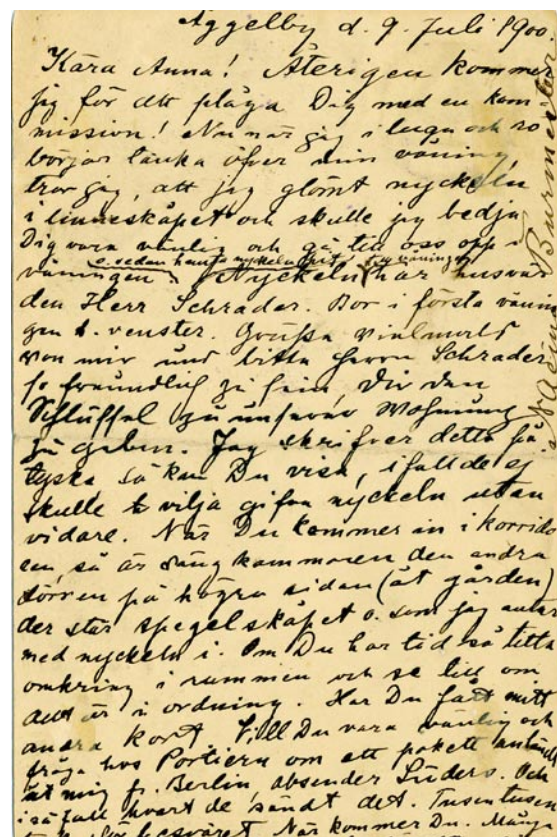
Somehow the card is transported to St. Petersburg and cancelled with the number 3 station numeral cancel and a SPB transfer cds dated 27. VI. 1900. Missing is the “iz Finlandii” (from Finland) handstamp normally applied on uncanceled mail from Finland at branch post office No. 7 near Finland Station. From SPB, the card arrives 12. 7. 00 at its destination as indicated by the Bestellt cds.

The question that remains is: By what manor of conveyance was the card delivered to St. Petersburg? The normal manner of conveyance was by train. Åggelby is just a few kilometers north of Helsinki and it would be normal for mail from that post office to reach SPB by the H:fors-SPB train. However, there is no Åggelby cds nor is there a railway postmark on the card. On the other hand, the card may have been deposited in a ship’s letter box and on arrival in SPB, taken to post office No. 3, cancelled, and put in a sack of mail to Berlin by train.

But there is still another possibility that the card was hand carried to SPB and the postal clerk at the SPB No. 3 post office refused to recognize the Finnish stamp and the 4 kopek Russian definitive stamp was purchased and applied there and not in Åggelby, Finland. This last explanation seems most likely to me and the clue may be found in the message.

The message requests a friend to retrieve a key that she had forgotten and left in the linen closet in her apartment and instructions how to get there, and also to tell the German landlord, Schrader, to let her into the apartment. The balance of the message asks her friend to inquire of the doorman about a package from Berlin and where the package was then sent.

So, it is likely that the writer carried the 10 penni Finnish postal card with her to Germany and wrote the message on the train back to Finland when she remembered she had forgotten her key. At SPB when she mailed the card, she had to add the 4 kopek Russian franking to meet the foreign card rate to Germany.



Naturally, she datelined the card at Åggelby, her hometown in Finland. But this dateline had me asking the wrong questions until Mrs. Parker translated the message, which revealed another line of inquiry.

Although the writer’s return address and date line is valuable evidence of place and date of authorship, it is not always conclusive and must be taken together with other information before a final judgement can be offered.

Helsinki Ho. 1 3 Registration Label on Package Card to Black Sea



Registered parcel card for an atlas from Helsinki Ho. 1 (branch post office), 4. III. 16, with 3-registration label to Gagry, Black Sea Provinces. The contents were refused and returned with the card to Helsinki, 4. III. 16 via Byeloostrov Customs House and Petrograd. The card and contents were censored on its return to Helsinki as indicated by the four-line personal CS No. 7, CM No. 38. Is this the only 3-registration label from a Helsinki branch post office?

3 Registration Label on Cover from Åbo/Turku to Sweden



The purposes of the 3-registration labels with Finnish town names was two fold: first to complete the address side of covers and other mailed items to Russia with only Russian language address information and, secondly, to make it easier for the Russian postal clerks, unfamiliar with Roman style text, to facilitate the processing of mail from Finland.

Therefore, beginning in 1910, 3-registration labels were printed for the towns and cities with substantial volumes of mail to Russia. About 28 different labels have been identified to date.

The Åbo 3-registration label on this cover is unusual because it is addressed to Sweden and not to Russia. Ordinarily, the Finnish-Swedish registration label would have been used. So, surely, the 3-registration label was applied at the request of the sender or recipient, Stockholm stamp dealer Harry Wennberg. Requesting the 3-registration label from an accommodating postal clerk for use on a registered cover to Sweden may have been the most convenient and practical way to acquire one of these rare labels on cover because at the time the political situation in Russia was rapidly deteriorating. Mail connections were subject to disruption and there would be the uncertainty of the cover not being returned to the sender.

The route of this unusual philatelic cover was rather straight forward: Turku, 24 X. 17, to Helsinki 24. X. 17, censored and released the next day, stamped on back with Censor Stamp No 20, Mark No. 8. Also on the reverse side is Stockholm international arrival cds, 28. 10. 17.

Roger Quinby

1890 – 1909 Russian Postal Cards Used in Finland

By Morten Naarstad

Russian stationery cards were valid franking in Finland from 1891 to 1918. These cards are listed in several catalogues listing Russian stamps used in Finland. They are, of course, also listed in catalogues dealing with Russian stationery. To the best of my knowledge no catalogues listings of these stationeries used in Finland are complete. This also includes those listing Russian stationery in general. It appears that they have never been widely collected or studied as used in Finland. There might be several reasons to this. Fagerholm publishes the only study I know about in 1969. Fagerholm used the Ascher catalogue when classifying the different stationery cards. According to Ascher the 1890 to 1909 cards can be split into several Types. Fagerholm reports several cards from the various Types, also card Types not listed in Ascher. There are very many cards he did not find used in Finland. One purpose of this article is to provide a more comprehensive and accurate listing of the three series of Russian postal cards sold by the Finnish Post.

This study includes Russian stationery cards from model 1890, 1906 and 1909. All these cards have been sold from Finnish post offices. Russian stationery cards that were valid franking in Finland, but not sold from Finnish post offices are not included in this study.

When I first started to classify my cards I was not aware of all the Types existing, and therefore concentrated on address line Types I and II as listed in Facit. Later on, after purchasing the Ascher catalogue, I discovered the existence of Type III and the



Figure 1. 1890 Open Letter 3/3 kopek compete doublecard, additionally franked with 1 kopek stamp to meet foreign post card rate. From Helsinki, 20. VIII. 04, to Christiania (Oslo), Norway. Type II address lines. Length of ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО is 54 mm making it Type b.

different headings on the 1909 4 kopek card.

As used in Finland in the period from 1891 to 1918 Russian stationery cards model 1890 and 1906 exists in two Types. Model 1909 exists in four Types.

The Norma catalogue lists all cards except the 1906 4/4 kopek double card. Norma does not split cards into various Types.

Below you can find a description of those Types I am aware of existing. In addition we can find a 3 kopek 1909

single card produced for the Russian army. This can also be found used. The printing on this card is blurred and the paper is of a much poorer quality than those meant for ordinary commercial postal use.

Below you can find a catalogue of those stationery cards found used. Note that this list does not comply with

1890 Open letter		
	#	Used in Finland
3 k	1I	√
	1II	√
3/3 k a) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 56 mm b) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 54 mm	2Ia	√
	2Ib	Not found
	2IIa	Not found
	2IIb	√
4 k	3I	√
	3II	√
4/4 k a) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 43 mm b) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 42 mm	4Ia	√
	4Ib	Not found
	4IIa	Not found
	4IIb	Not found

Table I 1890 Open Letter



Figure 2. 1906 Open Letter 3 kopek single card. Domestic use from Kannus, 18. VI. 10, to Helsinki. Type 1 address lines. Length of ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО is 66 mm making it a Type a.

listings found in Norma, Facit, Michel, Standard Collection or Ascher catalogues. My listing is based upon the examination of 326 cards in addition to those described in the survey by Fagerholm in 1969.

Whether all these Types were sold at Finnish post offices or at Telegraph stations we do not know.

Delivery and Amount

Facit Special edition 1980 reports the amount of cards sold at Post offices in Finland. For the time being any data regarding deliveries to The Finnish Post or accurate figures on how many cards were sold at Finnish post offices is not available. In later editions of Facit Special these figures are removed from the listings. These listings are incomplete.

Printing and Types

Cards from 1890, 1906 and 1909 issues are printed in typography at the Russian State Printing Office in St. Petersburg. They all have size 140 x 90 mm and printed with red text, value stamp and address lines only. Variation in cardboard size, thickness and color nuances is not a part of this study.

lines. From the 1909 issue we also find cards with address lines combined from Type I and II. These are listed as Type III. 1890 3/3 and 4/4 kopek double cards have two Types of text lines each, Type a and b. Additionally, 4 kopek single cards from the 1909 issue have two Types of text lines, Type a and b.

Period of Validity

Russian stationery cards came into sale from Finnish post offices from late 1899. The 3 kopek 1890 single card was the first to be delivered to The Finnish Post in March 1899. Russian stamps and stationery became valid franking in Finland from May 1, 1891, but then only when delivered in mailboxes. For general use they became valid franking from April 5, 1899. The 3 kopek postal cards "open letter" issued 1890 and 1906 were demonetized on January 14, 1911. Domestic, Russian postal cards were valid until November 29, 1917. To Russia they could be used until early May 1918 from Red Finland, exact date is uncertain. To abroad they were valid until March 12, 1918.

1906 Open letter		
	#	Used in Finland
3 k a) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 66 mm. b) ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО = 64.5 c) Vignette open d) Distance between ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО and upper address line is 20 mm. e). Distance between ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО and upper address line is 21.5 mm.	5Ia	✓
	5Ib	✓
	5IIa	Not found
	5IIb	Not found
	6I	Not found
3/3 k	6II	✓
	7Ia	Not found
4 k a) Length of first address line is 80 mm. b) Length of first address line is 89 mm	7Ib	Not found
	7IIa	✓
	7IIb	Not found
	8I	Not found
4/4 k	8II	✓

Table II 1906 Open Letter

All cards are made with address lines in two Types; Type I 25 dots/2cm on address lines, Type II 32 dots/2cm on address

Tables and Datas

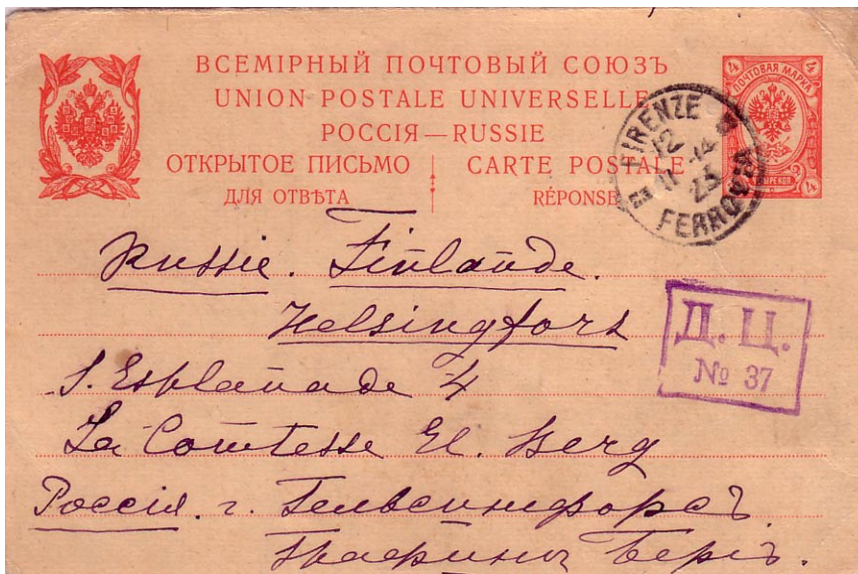
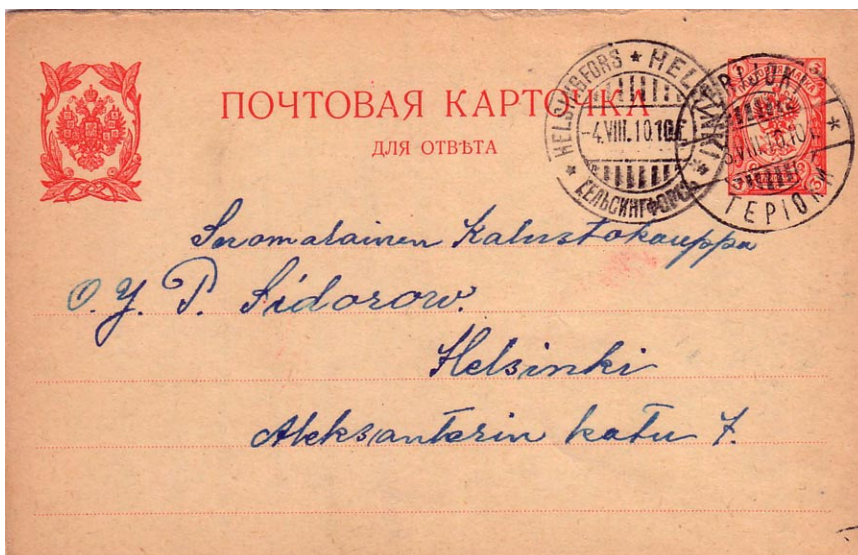


Figure 3. 1906 Open letter 4/4 kopek double card, reply half. Returned from Firenze, 12. II. 1914, to Helsinki. Type II address lines. Censored in Russia.



Figure 4. 1909 3/3 kopek double card, message half. From Terijoki, 17. IV. 1913, to Helsinki. Type III address lines.



The 3 kopek single card have been found in both Type I and II, with Type II in high numbers (>350) and relatively few from Type I (10), including Fagerholms survey. Period of usage is 1891 – 1917.

From the 3/3 double card a total of 7 cards have been found, including half cards and complete cards. The Types Ib and IIa have not been found. Period of usage is 1893 – 1907. According to Standard Collection catalogue Type b appears on printings from 1900. I have found a Type b card used in 1895, bearing both departure and arrival postmarks.

From the 4 kopek single card both Type I and II have been found. From Type I 15 cards have been found and from Type II only one card. This does not include Fagerholms numbers as he reports 62 cards not separating between Type I and II. Period of usage is 1899 – 1910.

From the 4/4 double card a total of 9 cards have been found, including only one complete double card. Both Type I and II have been found, but only one from Type II. Whether this card is Type a or b cannot be stated. Period of usage is 1902 – 1911.

The 3 kopek single card has been found in Type I with a total of 19 cards. From these 17 are Type Ia and 2 are Type Ib. Fagerholm reports 4 cards Type I and 36 cards Type II not separating Type a and b. Regarding the Types listed as c), d) and e) in the table these are known to exist and have been found used in Finland. Still the amount of cards are very low and I have so far not been able to state possible combinations with the other Types. Period of usage is 1907 – 1917.

From the 3/3 double card a total of 4 cards have been found, including half cards and complete cards, with only one complete double card. All cards found are Type II. In addition to this Fagerholm reports 2 cards, not separating Type I and II. Facit is the only catalogue listing Type I. The existence from this Type can be questioned, even though, Type I is listed in the table. Period of usage is 1908 – 1912.

From the 4 kopek single card only Type IIa have been found in an amount of 12 cards. Type I and b have not been found. This does not include Fagerholms numbers as he reports 7 cards not separating between

Figure 5, left. 1909 3/3 double card, reply half. Returned from Terijoki, 4. VII. 1910, to Helsinki. Type II address line.

1909 Post card		
	#	Used in Finland
3 k	9I	√
	9II	√
3/3 k	10I	√
	10II	√
	10III	√
4 k a) Length of ПОСЦИЯ – RUSSIE is 35.5 mm b) Length of ПОСЦИЯ – RUSSIE is 41 mm	11Ia	√
	11Ib	Not found
	11IIa	√
	11IIb	√
	11IIIa	√
	11IIIb	Not found
4/4 k	12I	√
	12II	√
	12III	√

Table 3 1909 Postal Cards

Type I and II. The Ascher catalogue separate only between Type I and II, not a and b. SC catalogue separate between Type a and b. Period of usage is 1909 – 1915.

From the 4/4 double card a total of 6 cards have been found, 3 of these are complete double cards. All cards found are Type II. Facit is the only catalogue listing Type I. The existence from this Type can be questioned. even though Type I is listed in the table. Period of usage is 1911 – 1915.

The 3 kopek single card have been found both in Type I and II in quite high numbers, with more than 100 Type I and more than 200 Type II including numbers from Fagerholms survey. Type III is not listed in any catalogue and is not found on this card. Period of usage is 1910 – 1918.

The 3 kopek single card is also produced and delivered to The Russian Army. These cards are similar to the ordinary 3 kopek single cards, but printed in a poor and blurred quality on poorer paper. These cards have never been sold from Finnish post offices and are not included in the table. Possibly they have been sold at Russian field post offices in Finland. Nevertheless, 5 copies have been noted and all Type I and used in 1917.

From the 3/3 double card a total of 13 cards have been found, including half cards and complete cards, with two complete double cards, one complete double card Type II and one Type III. In addition to this Fagerholm reports four

cards Type I and four cards Type II. Period of usage is 1910 – 1918.

From the 4 kopek single card we have found over 100 cards spread over Type I, II and III. Types Ib and IIIb have not been found and they are not listed in Ascher catalogue. The existence of these Types can be questioned. However, they are listed in the table. Period of usage is 1909 – 1918.

From the 4/4 double card a total of six cards have been found, only one of these are complete double card. They have been found in Type I, II and III. The existence of Type III is questioned in Ascher catalogue. Period of usage is 1916 – 1917.

Endnotes

This survey is not complete in any matter, but hopefully with help from other collectors the above listings can be made more complete and accurate. Anybody who can provide additional information or find used cards not listed or listed as not known is encouraged to provide this either directly to TFP or to the author. The result of this study would be of a lesser caliber if it has not been for the kind help from other collectors. Many thanks to Jon Iversen, Dirk Vorwerck and especially to Roger Quinby.

1890 Open letter					
	Ascher #	Norma #	Michel #	Facit special #	Standard Collection #
3 k	13	SVK3	P13	RP1	12
3/3 k	15	SVK4	P15	RP2	14
4 k	14	SVK5	P14	RP3	13
4/4 k	16	SVK6	P16	RP4	15
1906 Open letter					
3 k	17	SVK7	P17	RP5	16
3/3 k	19	SVK8	P19	RP6	18
4 k	18	SVK9	P18	RP7	17
4/4 k	20	NL	P20	RP8	19
1909 Post card					
3 k	21	SVK10	P21	RP9	20
3/3 k	23	SVK11	P23	RP10	22
4 k	22	SVK12	P22	RP11	21
4/4 k	24	SVK13	P24	RP12	23

Table 4



Figure 6. 1909 3 kopek postal card, Russian army type. From Koria, 24. III. 1917, to Helsinki. Type I address lines.

References:

Ascher catalogue, Norma catalogue, Michel catalogue, Facit Special catalogue, Standard Collection 1845 – 1917 Specialized catalogue. Circulärs from the FGPO. Roger P. Quinby's exhibit "Russian Postal Cards Used in Finland". Natalie Krasheninnikoff's exhibit "Cards Issued by the Russian Postoffice 1872-1918 and their Reuse," as shown at Nordia 2006.

The Cork Cancel Corner – Finnish “Figure Cancels”

Continuing the Hunt for New Cancel Discoveries - An Unusual Cork Cancel on a 10 Penni 1885 Type Stamp

By Ed Fraser

Sometimes a page from a small collection in a starter album offers something to examine further – and that is the candidate for this issue. It is a three or more segmented black cancel on an otherwise normal 10 penni 1885 issue stamp with no other cancellation, shown here as Figure 1.

At first pass the style resembles lettering in a straight line handstamp of some kind – and perhaps that is what it was made from. However, there is no definite resemblance to the “grids” being worn letters, or being made from letters.

There are similarities to the Laitinen-Hellman 1974 book questionable cancels on page 109, second row, 4th column cancel with 4 bars - but it definitely is not a match. In the catalog, #22A is the right period, but seems a very uncertain match unless the 22A cancel could have been longer, or have been longer slightly earlier. Cancel 22A is shown in Figure 2, along with cancel #25. The #25 is surely closer in style, even though known only on the next issue of 1889. The other cancels like 27, 27A, and 28 don't really match, and are from a much earlier period (see Figure 3).

Figure 4 is an enhanced photo of the cancel, which if only a 3 segment short-bars pattern, it measures 6mm wide by 15mm long.

However, it may be a somewhat symmetrical pattern like Figure 5 with 4 or 5 segments, possibly, with the left end of it accounting for the 4th right most cancel spot on the Figure 1 stamp from a second strike of the cancel. It is hard to tell if the cancel device might be a soft or hard material.



Figure 1. A 10 penni 1885 issue with a black cancel.



Figure 2. A rough drawing of the Figure cancels #22A and #25.



Figure 3 Drawings of the cancels #27, 27A, and 28 as commonly found on the 1875 issue.

Figure 4, below left. Enhanced photo of original cancel.



Figure 5, above right. Other full patterns imagined possible.

It is also always possible to be genuine, but to be another country's cancel, although this 10 penni value was most frequently used on domestic mail

As stated before in this “Cork Cancel Corner,” without other examples or significant additional information, this cancel's status is uncertain. It would be interesting if it were a proper “cork” cancel!

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

If readers can present information and a scan or a good copy of any examples they have of cork 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

The cancel illustrations shown as Figures 2 and 3 are from the reference catalog by Aaro Laitinen Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Preiskatalog, The Figure Cancellations of Finland – Price Catalog, c. 1981 – softbound 247 pages – Presented in 4 languages –German, Finnish, Swedish, and English.

*The detail about possible cancel measurements: The approximate measurements appear to be, down the length of the cancel (with total rounding losses of .5 mm), a 2mm wide bar, a 3.5mm space, a 1.5mm bar, a 4mm space and a 3.5mm bar (or perhaps a 1.5mm bar that is smudged). There is then a space of 4mm to another possible partial bar – which whether part of the cancel, or part of a second strike, is unclear. If the wide 3.5mm bar is in fact a smudged 1.5mm bar, then the final separating spacing to the unclear bar would be 6mm instead of 4mm. This is shown in Figure 6.

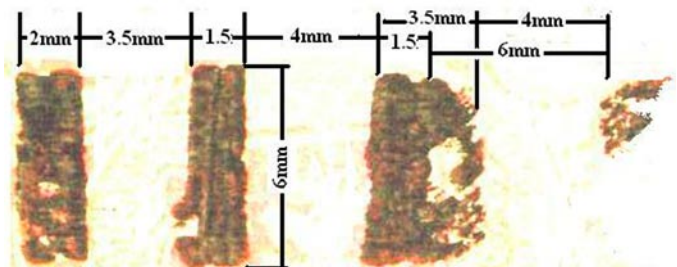


Figure 6. Enlarged to show the rough measurements.

Second Day of Censorship - Tornio, August 16, 1914

By Leonard Tann



We are very grateful to Hannu Kauppi and the Finnish stamp journal *Filatelisti* for showing this beautiful cover.

When the First World war broke out on August 1, 1914 with Germany's declaration of war against the Russian Empire (Western date, as in use in Finland as well), Finland was also at war. The 'war front' meant that all communications from Russia via Europe were now blocked. All the railway and postal communications ceased. The Central powers, Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey, meant that these sprawling lands of central Europe severed France, Belgium and other western powers from Russia in the east.

The Russian and Finnish post offices had to find alternative routes for mail destined for western Europe, other Scandinavian countries and the Americas. Examples of mail from Russia's far-eastern territories, which would have normally traveled on the Trans-Siberian Railway and across central Europe were rerouted by ship from Vladivostok.

In northwest Finland the town of Tornio was situated at the mouth of the Tornio river where it flowed into the Gulf of Bothnia, marking the frontier between Russian-Finland and Sweden. The Finnish railway ran up to Tornio and this remote town suddenly became a major center for the passage of mail through neutral Sweden to Great Britain and western Europe. Tornio was designated the primary location for the censoring outbound mail to western Europe. It was formally opened on August 15, 1914.

Tornio was totally unprepared for this sudden focus of mail and frontier attention. During spring and summer, mail was taken by boat from Tornio to Haparanda on the Swedish side. In winter the mail was carried by sledge.

At the beginning of 1917, a rope bridge was set up spanning

the frontier – can we imagine the trepidation of postman carrying mail on this precarious rope-bridge. A rail link was not built until 1919. In TFP, Vol. 9, No. 1, February 2004, an article by Ilkka Teerijoki, on the Tornio mail center pictured the accumulation of bags of letter mail and parcels, which overwhelmed this small rural office.

Hannu Kauppi's beautiful cover was registered at Helsinki on 12. VIII. 14, the 12th day of the war. It was addressed to Stockholm, Sweden and franked with twenty 2 kopek 1909 Russian issues, obligatory for mail from Finland to abroad. The foreign letter rate was 30 kopeks up to 45 grams and 10 kopeks registry fee. This



is the largest reported block of the 2 kopek stamps used in Finland.

The cover is marked with the Tornio cds 16. VII. 14 k 11a, (morning). Unfortunately this is the only readable Tornio cds, but in as much as there is no Tornio resealing label, (the wax seals were removed or fell off) we cannot be sure of the departure date, but it must have been August 16th as this is the date resealing tapes were first used at the censor office. Instead, the censor wrote by hand under the stamps, *Appnadt af kriegscensuren* in Swedish (= Opened by war censor) and sent it on its way. Possibly the Tornio cds is a departure mark and the resealing tapes had not yet been delivered to the censor office. In any event, the turn-around is remarkable because a great deal of mail was piled up for several weeks at the Tornio office awaiting the attention of the censors.

If anyone might have a similar item such as the multiple use of the Russian 2 kopek stamp or a cover with a handwritten censorship notation, please send them to the Editor for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter.

Discovery Items

I am continually drawn to Finnish stamps and postal history for the single reason that it is so rich in material and the possibility of discovery. Where else can we find new destinations? And in the area of WWI censorship we only need to fix our Hubble telescope on that sector of the philatelic universe to find new marks, extreme dates and other revelations.

Right. We have two items which extend the usage of Helsinki censor stamp No. 20, mark 89 in both directions. On the top is a post card to Denmark with an exit date of 28. IV. 17, which is later by four months of the previous last known use. On the bottom cover from Helsinki the departure date is 28. X. 16, earlier by 3½ months. From the collection of Jon Iversen of Denmark.



Left. Stamp collectors were important correspondents to distant lands before the outbreak of WWI. On the left is a post card from Forssa to Mr. Giles at the Military Hospital in Gibraltar seeking to exchange stamps. It is the only reported item prior to WWI. Surely other items are possible. See the charts of elusive destinations in the May 2006, TPF, Vol. 11, No. 2.

Right. As a result of an article in TPF last May and my discussion on foreign destinations at NORDIA 06 before the Finnish and Swedish postal history societies, two new destinations have been reported. On the right is a wonderful 10 penni postal card to the Danish General Counsel in Bogota, Columbia. For the period from 1856 to 1918, this is the only reported item.

This wonderful card was submitted by Janne Sahlstein of Espoo, Finland.

