



# 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:

Firstly, we are delighted to welcome new members Martti Vihanto, John Christensen, Ilkka Mustonen, and Reino Tanner. And, as we face higher mailing and printing costs, we are always pleased to acknowledge our appreciation for your contributions that help defray these expenses.

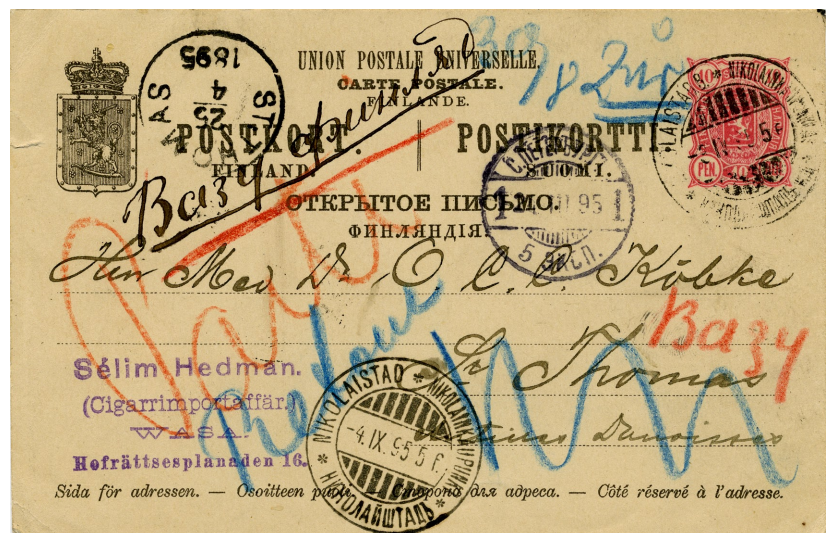
We included a wider range of articles in this issue. The feature article deals with the history of the ATM stamp machines.

A second feature article reveals the different mixed perforations of the 5 penni 1895 issue. In the wings for the August issue is another article on the 1889/95 perforations. The 1889-1895 coat of arms stamps and covers offer the collector an opportunity to explore a subject in depth without having to pay the very high prices of the 1875 and earlier classic issues. Material is available and Pentti Waris' Handbook is an excellent reference with side by side Finnish-English text for those of us who are less than proficient in Finnish.

There are several shorter articles on the figure cancels by Reinhard Weber, Pietasaari No. 6 and Helsinki No. 79. Of course, we continue the search for new marks, but we have not had much success in the past several years.

Several new Wyborg W.W. I censor discoveries are revealed on page 16. In the next issue, Jon Iversen will share with us several new discoveries from the small Rauma censor office.

Tom Sarpaneva has discovered a new paper type on a 1994 Åland stamp commemorating a world sailing competition. The details are found on page 10. Also in this issue we report new postal items to Iceland and the Danish West Indies, see below. We continue to look for elusive covers to abroad. We will endeavor to make this journey through Finnish stamps and postal history educational, challenging, varied and above all, fun. What do you have in your collection to share with the readers of our newsletter?



There are only two reported items to the Danish West Indies. The first reported item is a registered cover with kopek franking to a sugar refinery. This 10 penni postal card is the earliest reported and the only penni franked item to DWI. The card, from Wasa cigar importer Sélim Hedman, was returned via St. Petersburg after a five month journey.



# Frama Automats Introduced In Finland 25 Years Ago

## ATM Postal Mark Stages

By Veijo Heiskanen, Translated by Carita Parker  
From *Filatelisti*, 2/2007



Figure 1. Frama mark FDC 1.4.1982 (April 1) Helsinki-Vantaa Air

### Development of Finland's Postal Automation

Postal automation in Finland started 80 years ago with the mechanically operated postage stamp vending machine. In the 1980s Finland had some two thousand postage stamp machines in public use and tens of them also in post office locations. The machines had and still have a considerable significance in the development of postal automation, as well as in the postal business as a whole. But the metered mail marks have not been of particular interest to collectors.

The next stage in postal automation came during 1930-32 with the introduction of coil stamps followed by the booklet dispensing machines in 1959. However, these were not Finland's first postal booklets because the earliest postage stamp booklet was issued in 1938. In fact, only the booklets gained an interest with collectors and in 1978, Finland's postage stamp booklet collectors' society was formed. The rules in paragraph 2 state that the club's purpose is to "further the knowledge and collecting of vending machine booklets, coil stamps and postal booklets." The society began publishing its own newsletter *Ohjausviiva* (= Guideline) in 1979. The booklet automats were used for over 30 years, the last removed in 1993.

### Modern Postal Automation 1982 - 2005

All of the aforementioned automats were mechanical. Modern postal automation did not start in earnest until electronics and computers were developed. The period began at the turn of the 1960s and continued into the 1970s. Then in

the early 1980s, the actual period of electronic postal automation started in most countries including Finland. The Post acquired three Frama automats which were placed in service on April 1, 1982, an event the Post made sure to inform collectors of in advance. On inauguration day the automats attracted scores of interested postage stamp enthusiasts among them collectors from abroad as well as ATM dealers. The crowds were managed rather well by agreeing on a set time period for each customer. A similar queuing was evident also, albeit with smaller crowds on the first day of the new automats and the new issues. New automats were placed into service practically every year and in 1993 the number of Framas reached 43 in public use in Finland. However, the number of active collectors of marks from the automats did not seem to increase much. Then in October 1991, two Dassault Inter Marketing automated prototypes were placed in service and the word spread far and wide thanks to information provided by the Postage Stamp Center (PSC). These automats would yield entirely new self-adhesive ATM marks with advertising as well as with overprint indicating the purpose of use. A receipt could be obtained upon request.

At events in both Leppävaara and Turku there were many new faces and this field of collecting which seemed to have gained more followers. However, there were only a few dealers present, including Jukka Aho who still wields an important philatelic ATM influence. The vast majority of the postage stamp dealers had for various reasons almost entirely deserted the ATM business. Seasoned philatelists also stayed away. Nevertheless, the prices of the premier Dassault marks increased tremendously on Central-European markets to the great surprise of collectors in Finland.

The first Dassault marks were hardly used at all in the franking of non-philatelic mail, but instead went to collectors mostly who were mostly from abroad. These stamps became rarities or very great rarities because of the small quantity; 47,000 specimens with the advertisement "Kyllä Posti hoitaa" (= The Post will take care) of which the Post sold 21,000 without

overprinting and in Turku only 17,000 specimens with the “Postisi on pankkisi (= Your Post is your bank). According to reports, in Germany record prices of DEM 29,500 and 39,500 were paid for items with the overprinting “Prioritaire Par Avion Express.”

All of the overprinted marks with other advertisements, too, are real rarities because supposedly only a total of 100 specimens exist. Only a minority of collectors knew about the overprinting and did not tell others and neither had the Post nor the manufacturer of the automats informed customers about it. No surprise then that also the later Dassault issues generated great interest. The Dassault prototype was developed by the Inter Marketing Co. and as a result the PA 100A and PA 10 automats came about. The Post showed such an interested in the automats that in 1995, there were already over 60 in use and a maximum of 323 in 1997, though the Post at one point had considered the idea of acquiring 500-600 automats.

In 1994 the move turned to pre-printed marks with pictures of menacing-looking mammals the first of which was an Otter. Crowds of collectors and foreign dealers were again lining up for the marks, but the PSC would not offer these for sale. Also, the number of domestic collectors at the automats did not seem to increase, but then the same type of paper was used in many of them, so the need for everyone to line up at every machine was eliminated.

In 1995, the Post had organized an event for ATM collectors and other interested parties to discuss the automats, but regrettably the meeting attracted only a small gathering who listened to detailed introductions by the Post’s representatives, Ari Vikman and Petri Lukkonen, as well as representatives from Inter Marketing, but the PSC was a no show. After the initial contact we would regularly, for a time, receive from Ari Vikman up to date information about the Post-automats that then were published in the “Ohjausviiva” ATM news column.

The next event later in 1995, the Dassault automat, formerly in Leppävaara, was put into service at the Post Museum with the museum’s own paper. The event was not widely known, because it was not publicized by the PSC and neither were the marks sold there.

The most important event concerning the Framas was the second generation colored pre-printed marks appearing in the markets in 1997 and 1999. This was preceded by the removal from use of all 40 automats for several months. Of these only 25 were refurbished. However, the new Framas did again fire up collector’s interest, though before long it appeared that ATM collecting was winding down. The Post had ultimately lost confidence in the Framas due to technical problems and relatively minor use. With the dawning of the Euro-era in 2002 all of the Frama automats had been removed to the chagrin of collectors. Coinciding with this, the PA 100 and PA 10 were also promptly removed and only 117 automats, all of them type PA 10, were Euro-fitted. The reason here too, was the minor use of the automats especially in remote areas, and the originally anticipated high upkeep and even higher repair costs.

The Amiel Sima 1351T automat was placed into trial use in Turku in the spring of 2001, that is, prior to the Euro-era. The machine was supposedly easy to use even by the general



Figure 2. A Frama FE254 automat 5. And a 1984 maximum card from the Internationale Briefmarken-Messe event.

public. The Amiel coin-circulation was designed to reduce the need for service, but regardless the machine did not interest the Post so that new orders for the automat were not placed. On the other hand the Amiel helped peak the interest of collectors who were well briefed about the date when the automat would be placed into use in early May 2001. Regrettably there were all kinds of problems with the machine and before long had to be temporarily shut down with no information about when it would be back in use. In conjunction with the above on May 22, 2001, some mix-ups happened as well. Not until July 9, 2001 did the value printing start up in earnest when the ink spray was changed to heat printing. All Amiel marks prior to this are rather uncommon or even very rare and many detractors already of earlier ATM-collecting consider the Amiel issues to be next to bogus. The matter was made worse when the Lape listed all three of the marks made during the mix-up as main types in its catalog.

The first concrete sign that the end was near came when Finland’s Post terminated the service contract on the PA automats in 2004, and announced that the automats would henceforth be serviced only for problems that could be handled by the Post’s own personnel. One automat after another was removed from service as useless and in the fall of 2005 the PSC wrote in its information leaflet that Finland’s last PA 10 labels will “now be sold.” The automats still in postal locations were closed down by December 30, 2005. These were used with the papers depicting wild forest reindeer and the red fox with Santa’s P.O. mark. The Post issued two last day covers, one had the forest reindeer and the other the red fox series, thus

ending Finland's ATM era.

The downward trend of the metered mail automats and ultimate removal from use did, nonetheless, come as quite a surprise to ATM collectors. Many had expected the Post to acquire new automats, so that this interesting hobby now free from start-up problems could have continued enhanced by past experiences.

### ATM Collecting Start-Up Problems

The collectors of automat marks were to a large extent already active and knowledgeable collectors of other kinds of postage stamps, though among them were beginners and novices. In addition there were also those who were interested in this field because they hoped and expected that the stamp values would quickly increase. So their motivation was partly that of turning a quick profit. The majority were excited about starting a new hobby that promised to be the future of philately.

From the onset Finland had many metered mark critics and collectors who shunned this entire genre of collecting. Among them were experienced and influential philatelists making their voices heard. The same type of negative attitude was seen elsewhere, foremost in Germany where the country's philatelic organizations and their leadership outright disapproved of the "up-starts." The most glaring example was the scornful statement: "Second class marks" by the then German Philatelic Federation president, Dr. Heinz Jäger. What then would this famous physician have said about the Framas?

The general factor in the negative attitude of stamp collectors most likely is the defending of one's own territory of collecting and protecting the value of that area of collecting. Another reason that makes perfect sense is that an active collector in one or two fields of collecting lacks the interest for anything new.

The critiquing of metered marks was both truthful and non-truthful and involved also ATM collectors. Objects receiving the matter of fact critiquing were:

The exceptional, for example the 0000 marks, the blanks, many marks with reversed burelage and gum printing done by manipulating the automat. All true! Mr. Heikkinen, in his handbook lists as many as 29 Frama mark exceptions of which luckily only a small number are bogus. In the other ATM marks, exceptions are less seen, but still several exist. Some of the exceptions thought to be bogus are the 0000 marks that characterize the ATM collecting speculative nature. It is possible that they were the product of automat disturbances. The plentiful appearance of exceptions should not in and of itself be the determining factor in ATM philately because the attitude of collectors ultimately determines the field of "salon" that is suitable collecting.

The ATM marks are unattractive for sure, especially when it comes to the first generation Framas and Dassaults, although unattractiveness should not, in principle, be a deterrent in collecting them. Nonetheless, this could of course have lessened interest in the marks. It is apparent that very few were used for commercial mail. But the unattractive look of the ATM marks was remedied as was the case with traditional postage stamps so long ago. The second generation color Framas and those with

depictions of the mammals, as well as other pre-printed PA automat marks hold their own in artistic comparison to most of the traditional postage stamps. What a pity that the colors on the ATM stamps do not remain constant, but over the years have a tendency to fade and then nearly disappear. This concerns mainly the Finnish Dassault, PA and Amiels and on these only the value printing, sections of the advertisement and the overprints finished with heat printing. Mr. Heikkinen in his handbook notes that attention must be given to the manner of preservation because the end result may easily disappear. The condition of the marks depends on the paper types used. The unstable quality of the receipt text from these automats is in danger, too. The Michel ATM catalog mentions a similar weakness and writes that the value printing as well as the other texts on the Spanish Epelsa marks are in danger of disappearing, whereas the Autopost and Dassault papers seem to be of good quality.

Marks and receipts stored with care in a dark, cool, and dry place tend to be in good condition still after 15 years. Only on some marks can fading be detected. Very well preserved are the (previously mentioned) stamp advertisements "Kyllä posti hoitaa" and "Postisi on pankkisi" as well as the "Sano se..." (= Say it) and (the same in Swedish) "Säg det..." However, in the other Dassaults fading is seen rather often. This is most evident in some of the Post Museum Dassault mark narrow cardboard receipts, though the texts on all of them are still easily legible.

As earlier mentioned, many a collector even now never consider ATM marks to be equal to postage stamps, and ditto for Finland's Post and the Postage Stamp Center.

The initially used official name was "automatic postal payment label" and the Post held to the word "label" until the end, though later the term was "postal payment label." According to information attached to the machines the second generation Frama automats could dispense postage stamps, too.

Most other postal institutions also use some form of the term "label" for the ATM marks even though they fulfill all of the postage stamp characteristics. The UPU had as early as 1984 decreed the metered marks to be postage stamps printed by means of electronic postage stamp automats.

When the first automats were placed in service all collectors used either the term "postal payment label," "Frama," or just plain "label" for the ATM marks. Only after a few years was the word "stamp" adopted. As earlier mentioned most of the postage stamp dealers were absent from the initial automats and in the end remained almost entirely outside of the ATM business. The reason most often cited was that ATM marks were not in demand. But after having received a rude answer from a dealer to a question about ATM marks, a customer might not have bothered to go back to him again. In Germany, too, big well-known postage stamp dealers experienced these "novelties" as distractions to the traditional postage stamp business. But luckily the market for German metered marks was so large that a great number of enterprises dealing solely in the ATM business soon cropped up. In Finland the business of catering to collectors in this



Figure 3. The last day covers with the forest reindeer marks.

field ultimately fell mostly on the shoulders of Jukka Aho d/b/a “Merkki-Porthan.”

#### Lessons in ATM Collecting from Abroad

What follows is a reminiscing of the atmosphere and circumstances under which the Finnish ATM philatelists began their hobby. As earlier noted, the automats generated both excitement and resistance, but still the collecting took off rather well despite the many technical and organizational difficulties. It was unclear how an entire collection could be assembled based on these new machines that would dispense an almost unlimited quantity of denominational values and where appearance would differ even between automats. There was no terminology, no organization that could have taken the collectors “under its wing,” or have adopted as its own the development of this field of endeavor. However, there was non-organized co-operation between ATM collectors meeting around the automats and thus news about ATM collecting spread swiftly from one collector to another, since there were no catalogs, yet, to be had.

At this stage, connections also with ATM collectors abroad became quite important. In Germany and Switzerland collecting in this field had taken off rapidly and was well organized already in the early 1980s. In Germany attention was given from the start to the terminology. From there originated the term “Automatenmarke” (automat mark) and its abbreviation ATM mark or simply ATM, instead of the earlier used term “postal payment label.” The ATM then became the word used among collectors around the world, except for the English-speaking countries where a label-type term still applies, because there the ATM abbreviation is short for “Automatic Teller Machine.”

Information about the collecting of ATM marks and the principles thereof was available from Central-European countries when the Finns were still learning about this field and making mistakes. The most help in this matter was, of course,

received from Germany. A useful and diverse source of information about ATM marks and the collecting of them is still the RSV Bulletin, a publication by the RSV work group under the auspices of the German Philatelic Federation. The group specializes in coil stamps, postage stamp booklets and since 1980 in metered marks. The Bulletin reports in depth on new ATM issues from every country. Notable information from the field of ATM collecting was found in the “Deutsche Briefmarkenzeitung” publication’s ATM reviews issued regularly in the 1980s. Of more recent German ATM sources the most noteworthy are the ATM- columns in the “Philatelie and Postgeschichte” where Volker Neumann writes about the ATM news of various countries, as well

as the two format information paper Atm-Forum.

Switzerland’s best known ATM philatelist and dealer, Markus Seitz, has written magazine articles and in his ATM firm’s sales catalogs thoroughly about ATM matters of interest to Finnish collectors. Seitz’ remarkable world-wide influence on the collecting of metered marks is based on the fact that as the editor of the catalog “Michel Automatenmarken Spezial Katalog” he created many of the rules associated with ATM collecting. Furthermore, Seitz’s sometimes even critical attitude towards exceptions that smacked of being bogus is still a good guiding light for collectors. Even Finnish collectors would obtain information and directives from the Michel ATM catalogs starting with the first 1994 printing and in turn inform Seitz about Finnish ATM matters.

Many of the German ATM dealers had connections to Finland and were seen in the 1980s and 1990s lining up at the automats to make purchases during those exciting ATM years. Some of them were e.g. Joachim Meyer, Thomas von Loeper, and Hans-Dieter Giel who sold ATM marks on a commission basis. Now the firm is named ATM Giel Agentur/Inhaber Dr. Stefan Holzmann and their catalogs can be found on the Internet. All of these as well as catalogs from other ATM dealers carry useful information and a wide variety of ATM marks from other countries including Finland. Especially from the Meyer Finland-offers that still consist of a great variety Finnish collectors could then easily replenish their collections and from other German ATM dealers as well.

In addition, Germany issued several whole world ATM catalogs from which collectors got useful tips when planning their collections in the 1980s. The real trail blazer was the Wolfgang Maassen and Bodo Weber handbook in German “Automatenmarken Handbuchkatalog 1984.” Finland in those days played a rather limited role, but from the introduction and appendix that included various countries one could get

useful hints on ATM collecting. The compilers would later add to their catalogs. In the 1990s von Loeper and Giel issued a LG-catalog that was discontinued a few years later. The Giel brief reviews on single ATM publications turned out to be useful source books as well.

Finnish ATM collectors had their own private connections to foreign collectors with whom to establish trading partnerships. In this way I too acquired ATM knowledge from West Berlin, Germany, Holland, France, Sweden, and Italy. My Italian trading partner, Flavio Rota, in 2000 published the “Francobolli Automatici ATM” catalog - in three languages Italian, French and English - that is very straight forward. But, regrettably it has not been able to compete with Michel in the market place. In Finland the catalog is available from the Post Museum library and now also on the Internet with the most recent 2006 ATM issues added. Finnish collectors have had the chance to read Flavio Rota’s expert writings, many of them in the “Ohjausviiva” publication ATM-news column.

#### Active ATM Collectors

Luckily, when the postal payment automats were introduced there were active philatelists among Finnish ATM collectors that would obtain information from Central Europe and elsewhere in the world and so help spread the word in Finland. They would write about the ATM marks in the philatelic press and orally relay information while standing around the automats. Foremost among the ATM philatelic pioneers was Markku Savioja (1950-2002) “whose pioneering contribution has been invaluable” as Matti Heikkinen, another pioneer in this field, wrote in the introduction to his handbook on Finland’s metered marks. Other ATM collectors active from the start and still participating besides the writer include: Kai Brodtkin, Roger Hakalax who wrote about the automat receipts, Juha Jaatinen, Jyrki Laitinen, and Tapani Fager, who always, when needed, would add his input to insufficiencies in a Frama collection. And still separately Jukka Aho who became familiar to ATM collectors at the first automats and a reliable accumulator of ATM marks as well as a knowledgeable source whether about AV, ATM, horizontal marks or Euros.



Figure 4. Dassault Inter Marketing TVM 624 automat on a 1991 Inter Marketing Co. advertisement card .

#### Collectors of Finland’s Postage Stamp Booklets, the *Ohjausviiva* Publication and ATM’s

As the fate of the booklet automats hung in the balance while all other postal automation had considerably increased in the early 1990s, changes were made in Finland’s postage stamp booklet collectors’ society bylaws, paragraph 2. Incidentally, around that same time “homeless” ATM collectors were looking for a place to call their own. According to newspaper accounts, the aforementioned paragraph after much discussion was rewritten so that the society’s purpose was to make known and promote the collecting of the various stamp booklets as well as other material produced by automation. Thus the re-defined bylaws opened the doors also to metered mark collectors and collecting, though surprisingly few new collectors joined the society. The *Ohjausviiva* officially, too, embraced ATM philately, so much so that Heikki Kähäri had to re-assure readers in the publication 3/93 issue when in his column he had written much about other postal automation than just the booklets. Mr. Kähäri wrote: “This is not to jump to a hasty conclusion that metered mark philately ultimately and totally would take over the *Ohjausviiva*. Nonetheless, this proved an encouragement to ATM collectors who then eagerly embraced their new advocate and with ten year’s experience behind them began writing in the “*Ohjausviiva*” as experts in the field of automat marks and other related matters. The same persons who had previously written in various publications including the “*Ohjausviiva*” became even now dominant contributors. A column dealing with ATM news was started at the aforementioned publication, which this writer has been the editor of since its inception, while all the

time Matti Heikkinen has continued his writings. Lately Matti has kept the readers abreast of the ATM market Internet auctions. However, new forces are sorely needed as the initial ATM pioneers are getting up in age.

Much information about general postal automation has been obtained from the Heikki Kähäri "Chief Editor's column." Heikki has provided ATM collectors with insights and directives in matters concerning terminology.

ATM philately was successfully represented also at the booklet collectors' society 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary show called "Remarkable booklets" in 1998, where the ATM section had a very interesting exhibit of Finland's Frama, Dassault, and PA marks. The exhibit displays, with few exceptions, were from Jukka Aho collections and stock. A mark from each issue was displayed including the direct selection series and the most general exceptions bearing names. In my opinion it was a very good and vivid ATM representation. Some outsiders did criticize the number of exceptions and so got more "grist on their mill" to complain about this field of collecting.

Regrettably, postage stamp shows seldom have ATM collection displays. But Matti Heikkinen was active even in this field. His Frama collection received vermeil. In addition to his Finnish ATM marks, Matti has exhibited his foreign ATM collection at shows, too. The president of the booklet collectors' society, Mr. Kaarlo Hirvikoski, has made ATM philately known by likewise displaying his collection at shows.

#### ATM Stamps in Domestic Postage Stamp Catalogs

Foreign ATM catalogs did not reach all of the collectors due to language barriers and they were unreasonably expensive for collectors interested only in Finnish ATM marks, which includes the majority of ATM collectors. Besides, domestic catalogs were needed the same as in other branches of philately. The initial Finnish catalog appeared in 1990, prior to the first Michel ATM catalog. This catalog Finland's Framas by the pen name Gustav Guillochen (Juha Jaatinen) has besides the usual catalog information also the locations of 36 Frama automats with map and photograph. Regrettably only two printings were made of the catalog, apparently due to low demand. Thus, metered mark listings were taken over by the traditional Lape and Norma catalogs as separate sections, the former in 1990-91, and Norma later on. And the publishers in compiling the ATM catalogs used as their experts or even as authors ATM collectors such as Markku Savioja and Jukka Aho. The ATM section of the Lape 2000 catalog was compiled by Mr. Saviaho and partly of handbook quality.



Figure 5. A Frama test mark, i.e. 0000 printing. Finlandia 88 - Frama automat marks - postcard as maximum card.

In connection with the catalogs, worth mentioning is the Roger Hakalax research work on Finland's Dassault- and PA receipts 1991-1996, where Finnish automat receipts are thoroughly presented almost in catalog-fashion up to 1996. Mr. Heikkinen in his handbook has added to the listing information about the most recent receipts and introduced many pictures of older receipts and their exceptions. In 2003 the Matti Heikkinen handbook on Finland's automat marks was published, as

earlier mentioned. The book contains all of the ATM issues 1982-2003. Mr. Heikkinen added to the Finnish section of the handbook through 2005, and there are explanations and pictures of all of the Finland ATM mark issues making it a unique work and a mighty achievement for the author.

#### Why Postal Payment Automats Were Discontinued

Actually the already told would suffice as an ending to the ATM period in Finland, but let us still look at the reasons why so brief. The ATM collectors are puzzled as to why Finland's Post discontinued postal payment automat use in 2005 while most of the other countries that use automats to a great deal continue along the same lines as before even improving on the automation. The Post's response to questions have been, not enough use of the automats thus making the operation unprofitable.

Next, the factors that contributed to the minor use, the high cost, and the unprofitable operation, though for most part these conclusions amount to speculation. 1) More automat breakdowns than anticipated caused by technical faults (The Frama). 2) The need to service the automats, running out of coins, and paper problems caused much stoppage (The PA). 3) The automats did not get repaired and serviced promptly due to insufficient service organization. 4) Non-serviced automats caused distrust among customers and lessened the number of potential users. 5) Mistakes were made in the placement of the automats. Those located far from post offices did not get timely repair or service (The Frama). Automats in small post offices did not have the needed customer base (The PA10). Automats were removed when minor post offices changed to only a postal representative. 6) Often customers were unaware of the automats, since not having been informed. 7) Customers were unaware of the automat special features, e.g. that marks of several different denominations could be dispensed, or in such high values that one mark was sufficient for the franking of an expensive postage rate item. 8) The marks were unattractive, this only with the first generation Framas and Dassaults. Later on, the ATM marks with the beautiful



picture subjects were not well known, because the Post did not advertise these the same way as the traditional postage stamps. 9) The postal workers were not always familiar with the automats or the marks and thus were not able or perhaps did not want to instruct customers who often initially could have used some guidance. 10) The Post was indifferent about the automats and did not train the employees how to instruct the customers. 11) The Post's attitude toward the ATM marks was somewhat disdainful, because it considered them to be labels and not postage stamps, more valued in the franking. 12) The Post's organization and personnel was not up to the knowledge required in the use of electronic automation. Perhaps the co-operation between departments was not the best possible either. Could be that the automation was too soon for Finland.

The franking of postal items with postage stamps including ATM marks has apparently continually lessened during the past quarter century, which then also decreased the number of automat users. In the future when new and more advanced solutions to automation appear on the markets the Post hopefully will be better prepared for it than in the early 1980s. When that time comes is still unknown.

#### Limiting Factors to ATM Collecting

Returning still to ATM collecting and above all to the question why so few collectors in Finland? There are no specific numbers of how many ATM hobbyists, but everything points to the fact of relatively few. When looking for a reason one may initially conclude that with few users there will likewise be few collectors in this field. But this explanation is not as simple as that, because many other factors have contributed to the small numbers of collectors as earlier mentioned, but as a summary let's re-examine the issues once more. 1) The negative attitude among experienced philatelists toward ATM marks may in some minor way have affected the number of collectors. To this may be added the unattractive appearance and poor preservation characteristics, though the effect on collecting may have been negligible. 2) The PSC stand when classifying the ATM marks strictly as labels, thus demoting them to a lower standard than postage

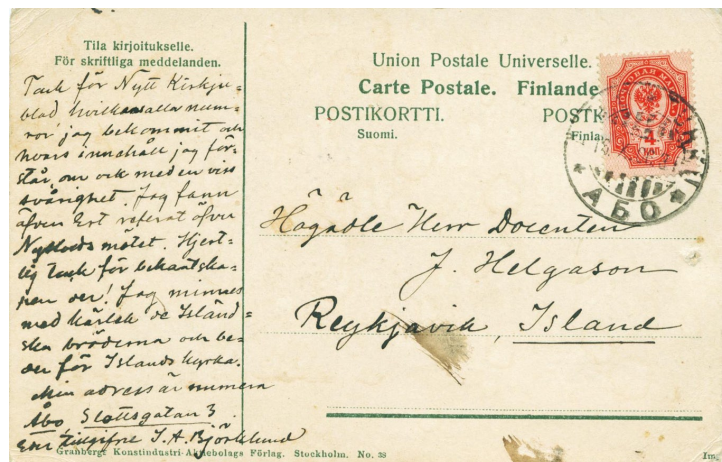
stamps. And furthermore, not having included the ATM marks in their annual selections must, in my opinion, have had a negative effect on collecting. Neither did the PSC carry all of the ATM issues, which limited the availability of material for collectors. Post offices on the other hand would, since 1982, gladly and at reasonable prices including receipts deliver all of the ATM marks in mint condition, canceled in the series requested by the customer until the end of the 1990s when prohibited by the Post to do so. At that time the sale of ATM marks in its entirety was transferred to the PSC that sold only Frama- and Inter Market ones without receipts and decided on which denominations to carry. An exception was the Turku 10 office that was allowed to sell Amiel marks directly to customers. From there collectors got the Amiel in the series requested including receipts. 3) A big blow to ATM collecting was the fact that the largest postage stamp dealers remained outside of this field, and later on it was too late for them to join with their insufficient knowledge. And neither did the dealers understand the needs of ATM collecting.

From the early 1990s onward it may have been easier to acquire Finnish ATM marks from Germany, because one ATM dealer in Finland was not able to fulfill all the wishes of metered mark collectors. Nowadays, thanks to the Internet the situation has for a long time been satisfactory. Both foreign and domestic Internet dealers offer at reasonable prices regular Frama-, Inter Marketing-, and Amiel marks and series. More uncommon marks and acceptable exceptions are offered less often, though these, too, can be seen. Replenishing a collection may take time, but even that can be done in a reasonable time and at reasonable prices. 4) Another reason for the small numbers of automat mark collectors might be that well-known album manufacturers lacked the pages for these. Pictorial or numerical pages could have sparked interest in ATM philately. Nevertheless, there is still time to start an ATM collection even though this field of collecting has closed. As earlier mentioned, there are quite a lot of Frama, Dassault, and PA marks being offered at reasonable prices on Internet auctions. Also dealers in Central Europe have quite a few basic Finnish marks for sale and most likely can be found in Finland, too.

## 1906 Picture Post Card to Reykjavik

The 2007 Facit Catalogue listing of important covers to abroad to about 1890 does not mention any covers to Iceland. And in fact, all of the items we reported in the May 2006 newsletter list just 4/5 known items, all post or postal cards with Russian kopek franking. No item with penni or ring stamp franking has been reported in the philatelic press.

As part of our continuing effort to identify and publish elusive items to abroad we encourage our readers to send us scans (200/300dpi, tiff or JPEG) of items to unusual destinations. The 1885-1900 time period is of special interest. The 1906 card shown here is from the collection of Jon Iversen of Denmark.



# First New Åland Islands Paper Type Discovery

## Tom Sarpaneva Discovers Brown Paper on Norma 104 (Scott 118)

Tom Sarpaneva's name is synonymous with the stamps of the Åland Islands. He has written a book describing the stamps and errors of the Åland Islands which we reviewed and recommended to our readers. Now it seems that Tom's considerable knowledge of these stamps was well rewarded when one day several months ago while he was rummaging through, as he wrote, "different material" at the Helsinki Käpylän Merkki stamp shop when he noticed that the 1995 Åland Fmk 3,40 stamp commemorating the Optimist Dinghies World Championships was printed on a brownish paper, very different from the standard off-white stamp paper used for the Åland stamps. This stamp is catalogued as number 104 in the Norma, LePe, Facit and Michel catalogues, and Scott 118. The new color is not yet separately numbered or priced.

Tom asked Hannu Kauppi and Risto Jämsä (Mr. Jämsä is a specialist in paper differences – especially the Finnish 63-Model) to examine the stamps with the new colored paper, and they both came to the same conclusion. This paper is clearly a different paper. The printing has probably taken place in Holland at the Enchedé Security Printing Co, confirmed by the Åland Post.

Kauppi and Jämsä are of the opinion that there are two different ways this paper error came about: The paper has been added in the end as printers noticed that the paper is running out. The other and more likely explanation is that before starting to print the whole lot a trial printing was made with just any paper at hand – this to see that the printing is correct. 1 or 2 sheets have by mistake then been added to the delivery.

The paper thickness is the same in both, 0,11 mm and both papers are of non phosphorous or fluorescent paper. The glue is also the same, light matt glue. The paper quality nor the manufacturer of the paper is known to us, Åland Post does not give other info that the paper is manufactured abroad and they do not probably even know it. It has only been stated that the stamps are printed on stamp paper. The paper itself may have been manufactured at one of a number of plants – but in general the coating is made in England Today, few stamps are printed in Finland and the Finnish paper mills have stopped manufacturing stamp paper.

The differences between the paper types are noted:

1. Brown Paper
  - The paper strongly brown colored
  - In UW-light the paper is on the face side dark brown and on the glue/reverse side dark blue lilac/violet
  - The dark printing areas are , with UW-light, on the reverse as light and can clearly be seen through the paper
2. Light (normal white) Paper
  - The paper is in its coloring lightly brownish
  - In UW-light is the paper on the face side clearly light violet blueish
  - The reverse/glue - side is in UW-light blueish violet
  - Not even the dark printing areas are to be seen through by UW-light exposure on the reverse/glue – side

Kauppi and Jämsä recommend that this new paper type should be added in stamp catalogues under the name: Brown paper.

Tom has a partial sheet of 15 stamps + gutterspace and strip following of the new brown color, and the Käpylän- Merkki stamp shop is known to have a block of four. Maybe it is time to take a second look at your 1995 Åland "Optimist" World Championship stamps.

Our congratulations to Tom Sarpaneva for this wonderful find and for sharing it with the readers of *The Finnish Philatelist*.



Editor's note: This article was written by Roger Quinby from information provided by Tom Sarpaneva and Haunni Kauppi by e-mail. The illustration is from the collection of Tom Sarpaneva.

## Cancellations Used in Rail-Transport of Mail 1870 – 1995

Translated and Excerpted from *Filatelisti* 2/2007 by Kauko Aro

The Railway Philatelists in Finland (“Rautatien Filatelitit”) recognized that the transporting of mail by rail formed a significant proportion of total mail transportation, especially before independence and still during the first decades of independence. As the railway network expanded many post offices moved to the local railway stations. The smallest mail stops were made sub-agencies of the mail-cars themselves. It was also fairly common to leave mailings into the drop boxes in the trains; according one report such items totaled 2.3 million in 1917. All those items and most other items left by the railservice were cancelled in these “mobile railway post offices”.

After the WWII the transportation of mail moved more and more toward motor vehicles. In sorting a large accumulation it was noted that cancelled in 1950 and 1960s contained only 0.7% with railroad cancellations.

The collectors of postal history and especially those who collect cancellations have long wished for a thorough manual of all cancellations used on the railways. The pioneers include Mr. Reino Forstén and Mr. Y.A. Tielinen whose studies were published in philatelic periodicals at the time. The draft by Mr. Forstén was the most extensive and the manuscript is held in the Postal Museum; however, this draft ends with the 1960s.

When various cancellation handbooks omitted railway cancels, the pressure to create a separate manual of such cancellations grew, especially after the books on Finland-cancels and Russian-style cancels were published in 1990s. In 2001, the society accepted the challenge to publish a compendium covering all cancellations used in railway postal service. The plan was in two parts: one covering the period 1870 until 1917, and the second period to cover independent Finland. For certain reasons the progress was delayed; in 2006, the society updated the project to cover up to 1995. In addition, the team is seeking a format which would be useful for collectors of many aspects. The current time line calls for a publication date some time in 2008.

The format of the manual is based on the following four principles:

1. Basic details of the cancellation where the most important facet would be an image of the cancellation;
2. The known periods of usage of the canceller, both its earliest and its latest known use;
3. Usage of the cancellers according to stretches of railway, based on documented mail-cars and cars with postal compartments or mail carriers;
4. Rarity classification of the cancellation. This is at a concept stage as any such classification is never absolute and can be interpreted in several ways.

The so-called main cancellers will be covered in detail. Minor variations will be treated as ‘sub-types’ except where the cancellers have been clearly modified such as those with “Russian removed” when these cancellers were used after the start of independence. Another example would be a ‘bridge canceller’ which was later modified into one without a bridge, although probably the same device was used with a new center slug.

The cancellers break down into five basic groups:

- Double-ring Swedish cancellers from 1870 to early 1890s;
- Finland cancellers from 1888 until 1893;
- Russian-style cancellers 1894 to 1918 (with Russian removed 1918-);
- Bridge cancellers 1918 until 1940s;
- Single-ring cancellers with a post horn 1940 to 1995.

The coordinating team has extended an open invitation to all interested collectors to attend a group gathering at TAVASTEX 2007 –show in Hämeenlinna, May 18-20, 2007. The detailed discussions will cover the intended format of the presentation and other issues which relate to postal cancellations used on Finland’s railways. The steering committee consists of Messrs. Antti Lehmus (‘antti.lehmus@pp.inet.fi’) and Olavi Helminen (‘olavi.helminen@luukku.com’). They are prepared to take on new ideas and observations in order to advance this project.

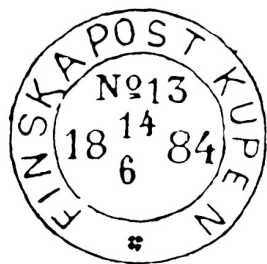


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Illustrated above from left to right are examples of the railway postmarks representing the five main groups listed above. Figure 1 shows one of many double ring Swedish cancellers (Franklin PV 05), Figure 2 is a Finland type canceller, but Franklin has catalogued it as a name cancel, NM 03, Figure 3 represents one of many Russian type cancellers, (Franklin PV 10). Figure 4 is an example of the post W. W. I bridge cancel with double posthorns and Figure 5 is an example of the last general type single ring, single posthorn circular date stamp. The illustrations above are not actual size and they are not to scale within the group. Franklin has not catalogued the railway cancellers from 1919 to 1995. Illustrations and caption comments from Roger Quinby.

## Finland Post Transforms Itself into Itella Corporation

As of 1 June 2007, the name of Finland Post Corporation will become Itella Corporation. At the same time, the entire Group will become the Itella Group. The Post's consumer customers in Finland will not be affected by the change as they will continue to be served under the name "Posti".

The change of name is based on the fact that, during recent years, the Finland Post has changed from a company conducting only postal services to one offering versatile data and material flow management services.

This change is also required by the internationalization of the Finland Post Corporation. In addition to Finland, the Group now operates in eight Northern European countries, accounting for 23 per cent of the net turnover. Companies and other organizations account for 95 per cent of the Group's turnover.

The Finnish consumer will hardly notice the change of name. In the future, post offices, mail carriers, mailboxes, consumer websites and communication and marketing directed at consumers will bear the familiar and trusted name of "Posti".

"This change of name is the company's reaction to changes within itself and the surrounding society. We are proud of our long history and roots. At the same time, we believe that the new corporate name will better communicate our versatility and give us an improved competitive position now and in the future," argues Jukka Alho, CEO.

"The change of name of the parent company and the group will make the entire Group structure clearer. It is also important that all Group employees can feel that they belong to the same

whole, which comprises nearly 25,000 Itella employees," Alho explains.

Since the beginning of 2007, the Finland Post has used the Itella marketing name in all Group services offered to, and operations directed at, companies and organizations. Finnish consumers will be served under the name "Posti". The change of the name of the parent company and the entire Group to Itella will also support the brand overhaul that has already taken place.

The names of the company's subsidiaries will also be standardized during 2007 in all nine countries. Logistics' subsidiaries will use the name Itella Logistics, and Information Logistics' subsidiaries will use Itella Information Logistics.

### Finland Post Group

Finland Post Group is an intelligent logistics services company providing customers with solutions for information and material flow management. The Group operates in nine northern European countries. In 2006, it reported a turnover of €1,550 million, employing some 24,800 staff. The Group's corporate services are delivered under the Itella brand, while the Posti brand is used for services targeted at Finnish consumers. The operations are organized into three business groups: Mail Communication, Information Logistics and Logistics. For more information, please visit: [www.posti.fi](http://www.posti.fi).

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from a recent news release from the Finland Post Corporation.

### Figure Mark No. 6 Used in Pietarsaari By Reinhard Weber

The figure mark No. 6 is a favorite among collectors because of its unusual shape. Figure cancel No. 6 was used in the city of Pietarsaari. The mark is round with a triangle in the center framed by three half circles. Inside the triangle an open circle; mark size 20 x 20 mm; ink color black and blue. Marks are seen on the 1875 and 1885 stamp types, but only one black mark is known on an 1875 issue 20 penni stamp. Evidence of the mark locality is seen on the (pictured) 1885/10 penni post card with the figure mark in blue and a Pietarsaari single ring cancel, 27. 9. 1885 on top. The card (Figure 1) is about a certificate of baptism sent to the Orivesi chaplain's office. Figure 2 shows three examples of the mark from E. A. Hellman's catalogue, *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands*. This mark is known on the stamps of 1875, 1882, and 1885. The mark is elusive, enjoying a RR (1 or 2 known) or R5 (3 or 4) /4 (5-9) rarity status on most stamps.

Translation Pekka Taitto and Carita Parker  
From *Filatelisti*, 1/2007



Figure 1



Figure 2

## Helsinki Figure Mark No. 79

by Reinhard Weber

English Translation by Carita Parker, from *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, 1/2007



According to research six different figure marks were used in Helsinki. The marks were used by the postmen and the purpose for the marks was to indicate from which mailbox the mail had been emptied, or on what boat the mail had arrived in the Helsinki post office.

The figure mark No. 79 (numbered according to E. A. Hellman, *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands*, 1961 and Aaro Laitinen's *The Figure Cancellations of Finland* 1981) has 7 bars and is somewhat egg-shaped. The bars are not exactly straight, but more or less slanted in an upward position. The upper half moon-shaped bar is slightly thinner and longer than the lowest bar. Since the bars sometimes with the marking got thicker, it is indicative that the cancel material was soft perhaps of wood or rubber. The mark 79 is known only on type 1875 issues, and I have seen 59 marks of which 11 are on postal items. These are in collections I am familiar with or have been offered at auctions.

The first mark that I know of is on a post card 5.2.1877 (February 5), and the last on 5.7.1877 (July 5), which means that the period of use was relatively brief. This explains the Aaro Laitinen classification of the mark grade of rarity as an R1 or "comparatively common" (= 50-100 specimens are known of the mark). I am sure that more new stamps and postal items will be discovered with this mark. I ask readers to notify about this object possibly in their collections or any information they may have by e-mail and picture attachment. Thanks already for any help I can get in this.



Besides the objects pictured here, the following items are noted: A 10-penni on receiving receipt, type 1871 (14. 4. 1877); 5 + 8 + 2-penni group of three; 20-penni, type 1875 pair; 20-penni type 1875 on clipping (18.4.1877); and 32-penni type 1875 on letter to New York (31.3.1877).

If you have other examples of this figure cancel, please contact the author by e-mail.

Reinhard Weber's E-mail address:  
reinhard.weber@kolumbus.fi

# Charta Sigillata Office Printing 5 Penni/1895 Mixed Perforations

## The Result of Faulty Equipment, Inexperience or Poor Quality Control?

By Reijo Nummela, from *Filatelisti*, 2/2007, translated by Carita Parker

Even when wading through philatelic publications and the Handbook part II, it is next to impossible to find out from these sources how the 1894/5 penni stamp mixed perforations actually came about. In the research done by Pentti Waris in his book *Suomen Vaakunamerkit M/1889* (= *Finland's Coat of Arms Stamps*), as well as in the Handbook part II there is only brief and vague references of their existence. Of the mixed perforations the Handbook states that one specimen is seen as having a dense perforation on the right-side margin and another, cancelled in 1896, on the upper margin. However, further mentioned in the introduction of this stamp is the perforations where the lower margin is perforation 14, whereas the others are perforation 12 ½ (AABA), and still another perforation where the upper edge perforation is 14 and the others 12 ½ (BAAA). Also diamond and double perforations happened in connection with the mixed perforations, as pictured here. The handbook authors theorize that the mixed perforation rarities apparently happened when the line perforator (perforation 12 ½), for some reason, had unfinished sheets with an imperforate upper or lower margin already completed. On this point the theory is probably correct, but the same applies also to sheets where the vertical sides are imperforate.

In his work *Suomen Postimerkit 1845-1918* (= *Finland's Postage Stamps*) Mauri Viitala estimates that the perforation work on the stamps with "the numbers in the upper corners" was relatively elementary and that the workers were inexperienced in the use of the machine. For instance, if a sheet lacked the first or last perforation strike, then the stamps did not get perforated on either the upper or lower margins on one or three sides depending on whether the perforation was started on the sheet upper or lower end. According to Mr. Viitala re-perforating could not be done with a new comb perforator, but only with an old line perforator, which would explain the vertical double perforations, one 13 and the other 12 ½ corresponding to the line perforation 12 ½ of previous emissions. For example,



Figure 1. Left, mixed perforation 14 x 12 ½ x 12 ½ x 12 ½ and diamond perforation. Right, mixed perforation 12 ½ x 12 ½ x 14 x 12 ½.

to illustrate this, a vertically double perforated 12 ½ and a 13 perforated block of four was used.

Quite a varied selection of a number of different mixed perforations of the 5 penni stamps are found from line 12 ½ to comb perforation 14 x 13 in the Charta Sigillata 1895 productions. However, the question arises whether the present catalog practice of separating the mixed perforation horizontal or vertical sides

with the classification A is sufficient enough? As a matter of fact, the same mode of characterization is used to mark the comb 14 x 13 (BA) mixed perforation although this actually is a perforation 13, seen also in the mixed perforation 5 penni stamps.

The perforation of stamps in the front end of the printing emissions were done by line perforation 12 ½ as early as 1881 with a foot-pedaled manual line perforator acquired from Berlin with the perforation pins of 11 tooth density changed to a 12 ½ perforation and then used in the perforating of stamps with "the numbers in the upper corners." The Charta Sigillata office acquired a new 14:13 comb perforator with spare blades - albeit still foot-pedaled and manual - from Berlin supposedly in early 1895. Both of the perforators were used by workers doing the perforating in the Charta Sigillata printing office during the period when the mixed perforations started to appear.

With a new decree issued on February 21, 1894, the name Charta Sigillata Office Printing was changed to Finland's Bureau of Printing (and Engraving). A set of directives issued March 6, mentioned the need for new machinery and equipment for the renovated Bureau of Printing. And, apparently there was a real need for these, because as late as September 20, 1894, a government finance committee letter urged the Bureau to place an order. However, it is not precisely known when the new machinery and equipment was ordered and placed into use, but according to account information a new printing machine was paid for by June, whereas a perforator was not paid for until September 1895.



Figure 2. Left, double- and mixed perforation 14 x 12 ½ x 14 x 14; double- and mixed 14 x 14 x 14 x 12 ½; mixed 14 x 12 ½ x 14 x 12 ½ and diamond perforation; mixed 14 x 13 x 14 x 12 ½; mixed 14 x 13 x 12 ½ x 12 ½; and mixed 12 ½ x 12 ½ x 14 x 12 ½.



Figure 3. Unused mixed perforation block of four:  $14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ ; vertical double perforation  $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 13$ .

In order to aid correct perforation placement the sheet margins had dots printed in the color of the stamp values. The machine operator's assistant would during the perforating process position the sheets so that the perforator board pins pierced the dots. Evidently the sheets were perforated only in small numbers at a time. According to the Handbook the quality control prior to watermark paper at the

Charta Sigillata was very poor, which was mainly the reason why insufficiently perforated sheets were placed anew onto the perforator board. Thus, as far as the mixed perforations are concerned it is not about the material having gotten outside the Charta Sigillata office unauthorized. Rather, because the machine operator and his assistant had at their disposal both an old line perforator and a new comb perforator  $14 \times 13$ , and so the use of the latter is tied in with the appearance of the mixed perforations. Also at that time the contractor, Wilhelm

Brandstake, practiced the combining of old and new work methods at the Charta Sigillata, such as most obviously the completion of the perforation of unfinished sheets left in stock from partly perforated mint sheets and then delivered to fill the Post's orders. Perhaps this was a way for Brandstake to keep paper consumption in check at the Charta Sigillata office.

According to the Handbook in one of the 1889/95 main types there are 5 penni values marked in April-September 1895 perforated with the new comb perforator  $14:13$ . All of the specimens were printed on non-water mark paper, because margin water mark paper was not taken into use until mid-October of that same year. Of the green 1894 line perforated  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  printing emission there are, at least, seen the mixed perforations  $14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$  (diamond perforated upper edge) and the other  $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ . Among the blue-green printing emission of that same year the number of exceptional mixed perforations is noticeably more multi-varied. Here are seen the perforations:  $14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 14$  (additionally with double perforation in the left margin);  $14 \times 14 \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$  (additionally with double perforation in the right margin);  $14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$  (additionally with diamond perforation in right margin);  $14 \times 13 \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ ;  $14 \times 13 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ ;  $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ ; and a block of four  $14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 14 \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$  with additionally a double perforation vertically  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  and 13.

The illustrations have been slightly enlarged and lightened for better display on the printed page.

## Postmarks Used in Post Offices in the Territories Ceded to the USSR – Karelia, Petsamo and Salla

By Anssi Mikkola and Lasse Könönen, 120 pages, spiral bound, privately published, 2007, no ISBN; availability and pricing information from the authors: Anssi Mikkola, email: [anssi.mikkola@kolumbus](mailto:anssi.mikkola@kolumbus) and Lasse Könönen, e-mail: [l.kononen@pp.inet.fi](mailto:l.kononen@pp.inet.fi)

Until this publication the basic reference on the postal history of territories ceded to the USSR was Eero Helkiö's *Luovutetun Karjalan, Petsamon ja Sallan Postihistoria* published in 1980. Mikkola and Könönen's new catalogue updates and modifies previously published listings on a number of marks as well as offering an up-to-date rarity scale.

A short historical background of the three lost territories introduces the listings. Each post office is listed in alphabetical order within its commune, type of post office, number of postmarks used at that location, main type and color of postmark, characteristics and size of mark, known period of use and degree of rarity. In addition to the historical background, there are maps of the ceded territories, an explanation of the different marks, comparison of the Wyborg cancels (the most important city in the lost territories), a list of the Wårde-Arvo (insured) reserve marks, and illustrations of figure, ship, railway and railway station, slogan, postal machine and other special cancellations.

The authors have included a full page of explanations in English so that navigating through the columns of information of each postmark should be straight forward. There is also an

alphabetical listing for all post offices and a number for easy cross reference to the main listings.

The authors have pulled together a great deal of valuable information in an easy to use, concise format. This book will greatly facilitate collecting this important area of Finnish local postal history geographically from the opening of the first post office until the closing of the last post office in 1944. This catalogue will be an invaluable resource for collectors of the major definitive issues through the m/30 series.

For additional information e-mail one of the authors at the addresses shown above.



The elusive Viipuri - Vuoksenniska railway postal compartment (Postiljoonivaunu, PJ) circular date stamp in use from I. I. 1905 to I. II. 1919 listed on page 108 of the catalogue. The Russian text was removed on July 7, 1918.

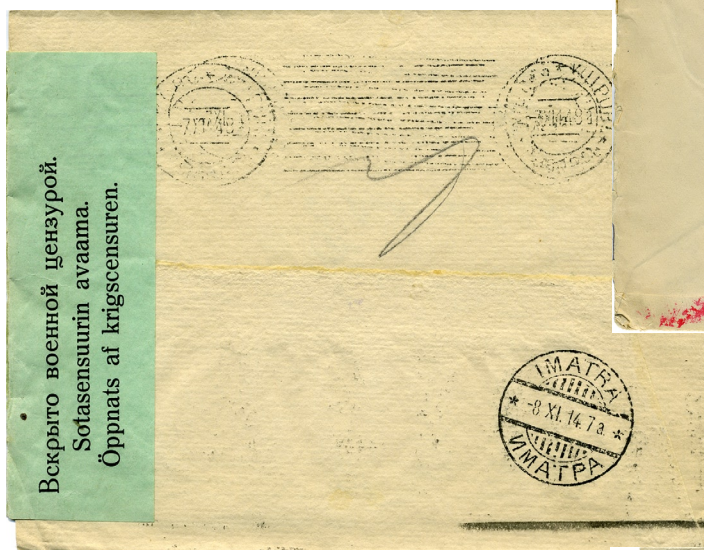
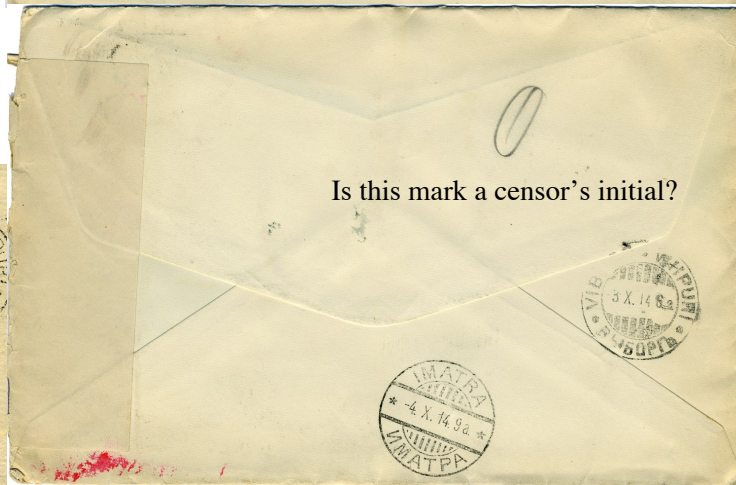
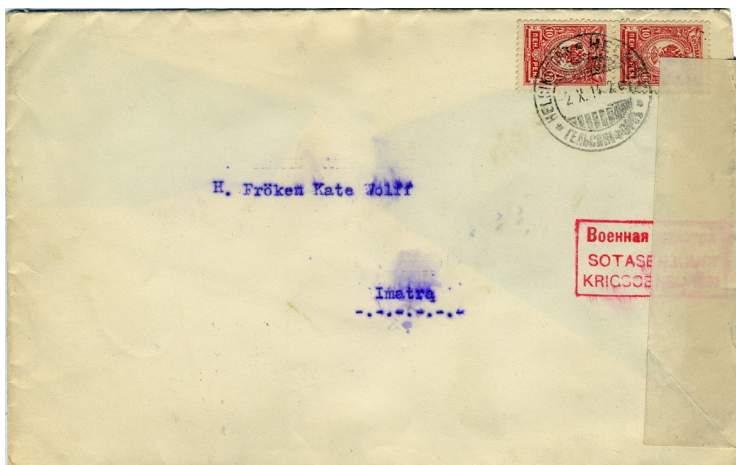
## Newly Reported Censored Covers from Wyborg: Plain Paper Tape, Green and Red Paper Tapes with Censor's Initial

On the right there is illustrated a cover dated October 2, 1914 that was resealed with a plain paper tape without the usual three line, three language generic inscription, "Opened by war censor." The earliest Type A tape (see Figures 2, 3, and 4) used in at Wyborg is October 7, 1914. All of these tapes are Type A-III.

The red paper tape was listed by Olamo and Termonen and Keturi in their respective catalogues, but examples with the censor's initial are newly reported here. Use of green paper at Wyborg is reported here as new discoveries; four examples are known, two with the censor's initials.

Roger Quinby

Figure 2, top left, inspected October 7, 1914, resealed and initialed. Figure 3, bottom left, inspected, resealed and initialed on October 7, 1914. Figure 3, lower right. Is this the first cover with a red tape with censor's initials? The censor's initials for Wyborg have not been identified or catalogued. In Figure 2, the initial might be upside down.



Figures 1, top right and 1a, middle right. According to Juhani Olamo, the Wyborg censor office opened October 2, 1914. On the second day this cover was inspected and resealed with a plain paper tape without the usual three lines of text as seen in Figures 2, 3, and 4. Are there other examples? The application of Censor Stamp No. 1 appears to be the EKV of this mark.

