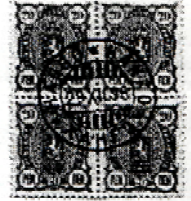


The Finnish Philatelist



A newsletter published by the Finnish Study Group of the Scandinavian Collectors Club **December, 1996**

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Two Meetings in 1997

Pacific 97 is the venue for the next SCC meeting. Club events are scheduled for the second weekend of the show, June 6th and 7th. This will be the premier international show held in North America for many years to come. Kari Rahiala, the Finnish Commissioner is bringing a very strong group of exhibits to the show. Let us not miss this opportunity to see these exhibits and offer a generous welcome to our friends from Finland.

Vapex 97 will host the SCC annual meeting. More than 100 frames of Nordic exhibits will be displayed. A good showing of Finnish area exhibits are expected this fall. Can we fill 25 frames?

Subscribe to *Luren*

Luren is distributed free of charge to members of The Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California. For information write to Jerry Winerman, Secretary, SPLSC, Box 310, Claremont, CA 91711. Member dues is \$10 US & Canada; \$12 for residents of other foreign countries.

Editor's Message

The newsletter is launched. We have received permission from the leading Finnish philatelic journals, *Filatelisti* and *Abophil*, to translate and reprint articles in the *Posthorn*, *Luren*, and the Finnish Study Group Newsletter.

But the first major completed translation project does not come from Finland, but from Germany. Dirk Vorwerck wrote an important paper, *Die Verwendung Russischer Postwertzeichen in Finnland*, which provides a comprehensive account of the Russian stamps used in Finland from 1891 to 1918. This article has been translated and serves as the basis for the joint article by Dirk Vorwerck and myself published in October, 1996, as a supplement to *The Posthorn*.

Professor Lauri Siivonen's article on the kopek rates in domestic Finnish postal traffic during October and November, 1917 will clarify for you the various rates applied during this wartime period of rapid inflation, delayed notification of rate changes to branch post offices and confusion over the computation of mixed franked covers and post cards. This article has been submitted to *The Posthorn*, look for it in the February or May edition.

Juhani Pietila's article on the classic Finnish postal cards will be serialized in *Luren* beginning this spring. Kauko Aro, who collects and exhibits these postal cards, has begun the translation of more than 20 articles. We are grateful for Dr. Pietila and the editors of *Abophil* for permission to run this important series in *Luren*.

If you do not receive *Luren*, I highly recommend this informative monthly newsletter to you. The annual subscription is \$10. See subscription information in the first column. It will be far more useful to reprint as many articles in *Luren* or *The Posthorn* as they have a wide circulation and a more reliable production schedule than will be possible for the Study Group Newsletter.

Heikki Reinikainen has been writing a series of articles for *Filatelisti* on the very difficult 1875 Coat-of-Arms definitive issues. The articles have been translated and will be run in *Luren* or the Newsletter depending on space availability. *Filatelisti* reproduces the stamps in full color. Color reproduction of the illustrations from *Filatelisti* will be available for a small charge.

Other articles or series are planned for W.W.I censorship, the m-17; m-30, early commemoratives, and possibly, the later definitive issues. We hope you enjoy the newsletter; please write and let us know what articles you would like to see.

Finnish Registration Labels

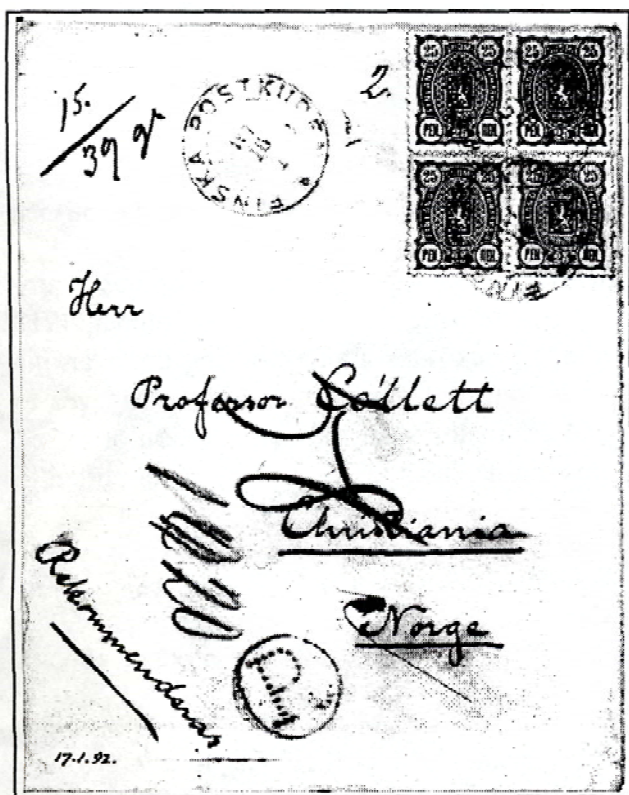
Main Types of the "R" Models

By Tauno Eskola, From Philatelica Fennica, No. 61,1985

Translated by Carita Parker,

Edited by Roger P. Quinby

Interest in collecting and researching Finnish R-labels and entire R-objects has been on the upswing. Elsewhere in Europe both the interest and collecting of such items is quite common and extensive. Certainly it is time to start paying attention to this field also in Finland. The collecting of R-labels is tied in with domestic philately, which is widely practiced, and thus would be further enriched by adding R-labels to collections.



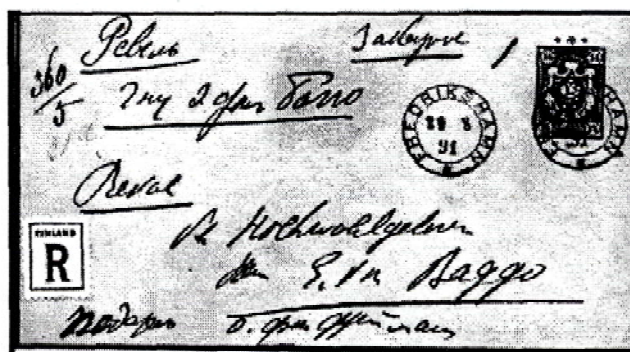
Handstamps were used before "R" labels.

Because of the centralized printing of the R-labels, by the main postal administration, it is easy to discern the different types from each other, which represent almost all of the post offices. Grouped together here are the main types/models. I have limited the following to only those R-labels that carry either a printed or written shipment number. Preceding the use of these labels were all kinds of marks and even labels with the letter "R" but without numbering.

The first R-label is printed in black and entirely perforated (picture = 'kuva' 1 M1). It was used for a short period between 1892-96. The country's name appears in Finnish, and also with spelling in Swedish and Russian. The post office name was omitted from these labels, and as such specification can only be made from entire objects or label cutouts. The number on them was written by hand. There are three different labels distinguished from each other by the location of the numbered line.

The directive for the use of red R-labels carrying the printed post office name and shipment i.e. label order number was given in a circular letter dated 20.1.1896, (Jan. 20). To my knowledge, the earliest date of usage was marked 2.11.1896, (Nov. 2).

On the first red R-label (picture 2 M2) the name of the post office is printed in a dark, thick serif style lettering with a lower "No" mark in front of the numbers. Although this label was in usage for only a short time, it nevertheless was widely used around the country's post offices, as is evident from labels of even the smallest of offices. The label was replaced already in 1897 with a new type (picture 3 M3), where the earlier robust lettering has been replaced by a finer kind of serif style.



The first "R" label bore just the country name, "FINLAND."

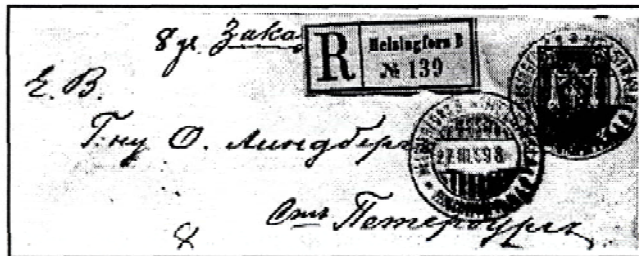
At the turn of the century still another kind of R-label appeared (picture 4 M4) and used for a longer period of time. This model is somewhat different from its predecessor as far as the size of the "No" mark is concerned. This mark is in the upright position, same height as the numbers, and shapely.

The next model (picture 5 M5) is different from its predecessor only as far as the "N" goes. The "N" here is more pronounced in shape. The upper- and lower dots are straightly joined to the oncoming line. Whereas in the former model, the lines circle above and below the dots.

R-labels in Russian were obligatory on mailings to Russia. This kind of label is found on the fifth model (picture 6 M5V). These objects are understandably rare since a great many of them have disappeared across the border.

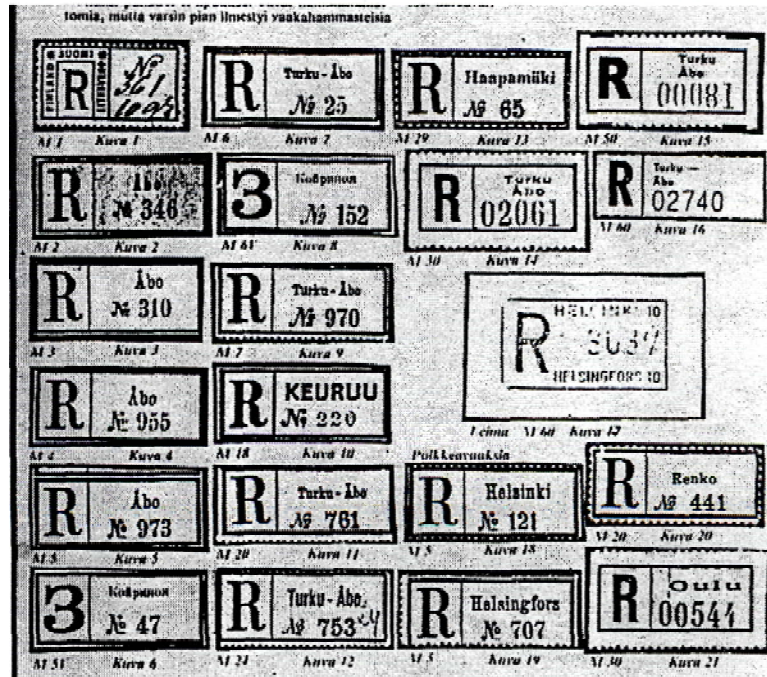
The next to be used, circa 1910, was an altered model (picture 7 M6). The letter style of the post office name is changed to medieval; the "No" mark slanted with double lines. This style of label was widely used. Among the various labels are many differences in text arrangements and perforations. Labels printed in the above style is found also among Russian language R-labels (picture 8 M6v).

The next R-label model (picture 9 M7) is a nearly similar version of the preceding specimen.



R-label in Swedish on cover to St. Petersburg.

There is however a distinct difference in the "No" mark. It is more "rough hewn" and the lines are connected to the upper and lower dots on the "N" from the side, as in the MS. In 1918 a special model (picture 10 M18) appeared with exceptional "No" mark and text. The text is sans serif and the numbers black. Apparently, this label was printed north of the front, perhaps in Vaasa. Evidently, it was used only in a few locations before the labels ran out, and new stock in Helsinki was unavailable. In addition to KEURUU there is, to my knowledge, the entire PELLO object marked 6.VI.18. According to this writer's findings, the M18 signifies that the year 1918 is the earliest year for this model. The same holds true henceforth of all the other types

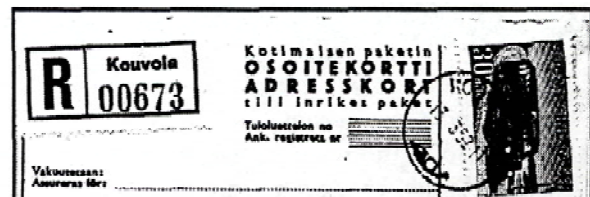


to follow.

A new model (picture 11 M20) appeared in the early 1920's. The "No" mark and type of number have changed. The text is still medieval. There is a variety of different labels available in this style.

The next R-label (picture 12 M24) appeared in the mid-1920's. It differs from its predecessor in the style of text, which is sans serif. At the end of the decade a wholly perforated R-label was issued (picture 13 M29). This label apparently was some kind of a test sample before the change to horizontally perforated roll stamps. Although this label is found in many locations, it is also missing in several areas and possibly a rare specimen. It is similar to the M20 model, where the text carries serif lettering.

Another mark entirely different from its predecessors appeared around the turn of the 1920's (picture 14 M30), and was in use for a couple of decades. It always appears to be horizontally perforated,

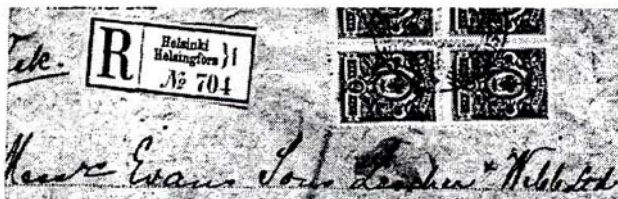


R label in Finnish, on parcel card.

rated, the so-called roll stamp. It totally lacks the "No" mark and has five digits. The "R" is sans serif. Because of the lengthy use of this model, several types of labels are seen with variations in perfora-

tion and text. Not until the SO's was this label-type changed (picture 15 MSO). This too is horizontally perforated and carries certain irregularities next to the perforation. The letter "R" is reshaped and has slanted leg(s).

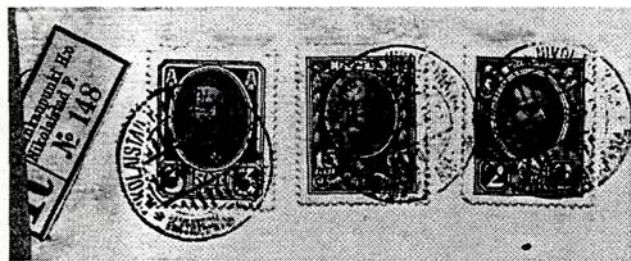
The last change in label style came in the 60's (picture 16 M60). This model is smaller than its



Finnish and Swedish R Label.

predecessors, only 13 x 35 mm. It is a line-perforated roll stamp, with the letter "R" type MSO. The red margin line has been omitted from the label. The "R" is separated from the other part by a red vertical line. It too is five digital. The label is still used today in places where stamping is not a practice or is used along with the stamping. In most post offices registered mail is marked with stampers. The use of R-labels is becoming obsolete. To my knowledge, the earliest 'present day' mark (picture 17) is that of Helsinki 22.6.1964. It may be noted, that the M1 from 1892, is also seen marked with a black stamper, including stamped numbers.

The aforementioned R-labels, with the exception of the M18, are found in the bigger post office locations such as: Helsinki, vupuri, Lappeenranta, Lahti, Hameenlinna, Tampere, Turku, and Oulu. Some models, in minor areas, may have been over



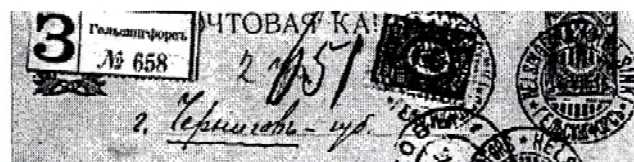
"H:o " or "F" on R label identifies a branch post office.

looked because of their sparse use. There may also be some additional models gone unnoticed by this writer.

On April 1, 1905, the postal administration issued a catalog on Finland's post offices titled "Luettelo Suomen postitoimistoista." In this catalog, all post offices in the cities as well as their Swed-

ish language counterparts in the coastal areas are listed with their names in Finnish. At about the same time, in the larger cities, the R-labels appeared with the city name in Finnish only, when previously they had carried the names solely in Swedish. Example: Helsinki (picture 18), Viipuri, Lappeenranta, Tampere, Oulu, and Raahe.

The location names on the R-labels have gone through the following developments: First the Swedish language was prevalent with all the major (post) offices; then came Finnish only; and lastly dual languages, most of which still remain today. Because the use of labels with text in Finnish was short-lived, these specimens are more or less rare. The smaller post office names in Finnish speaking areas, such as Lahti, have always been in Finnish only on the R-labels. Correspondingly, small offices in Swedish areas have been and still appear in Swedish.



Helsinki Cyrillic R label to Petrograd

In the beginning, the red R-labels were imperforated, but soon thereafter the horizontally perforated appeared (pictures 9 and 18). Early on, experiments with wholly perforated specimens (pictures 19 and 20) were being done until these became quite plentiful in the late 1920's. One with the irregularities of model 30 may be Oulu (picture 21).

There are lots of different types to be found among the R-labels, all arranged by area, contents of text, model (picture 21), positioning, printing errors and perforation. Thus, the number of different labels vary according to locality, and in some places might even exceed one hundred.

In light of this, many questions will have to be solved locality by locality. Such as, for instance, "What are the earliest and/or most recent uses of the different types of labels?" Because double uses were common, the question arises whether a Russian language label was in use and which model at that. Between the use of Swedish- and dual language labels, could there also be a label in Finnish?

These and other questions, that come to mind, will have to be solved by collectors interested in domestic philately. It is time now to start researching this subject before the objects fade into oblivion.

An Introduction to The Fascinating Type 1875

by Heikki Reinikainen
translation by the author
edited by Roger P. Quinby

One of the most interesting areas in Finnish philately has always been the ten year period from 1875 to 1884. After so-called oval stamps, 1856-1859, and the serpentine roulette era of 1860-1874 newly designed and now perforated postage stamps appeared in Finland on July 1, 1875. These issues were as a result of regulations of the General Postal Union established in 1874.

The issue called 'Type 1875' or 'Four Figured Stamps' (also called the 'Coat-of Arms Issues') consists of 8 values: 2



There were 5 or 6 Senate printings of the 5 penni orange, perf 11.

5 penny gray, 5 penny orange, 8 penny green, 10 penny brown, 20 penny blue, 25 penny red, 32 penny carmine and 1 mark violet. They were valid for

ten years, until 31. 12. 1884 (December 31, 1884).

The interest of this issue lies, in general, in the abundance of stamp variations, in an almost unlimited richness of varying shades, perforations, paper grades, cliché changes and even changes in the postal rates, not to mention availability and reasonable market prices. All the variations were largely possible because of the substantial handwork required at the time in the preparation and printing of postage stamps. For instance, only some time ago it was discovered that the printers kept changing the positioning of 50 and 100 cliché forms in the cylinder press resulting in visible differences in the stamp appearances. This finding greatly helps in the identifications of the stamps. But, why the printers had seen all the trouble in turning the forms to a different positions?

The answer(s) will be found in the following 20 or so articles to be published by the Finnish Study Group.

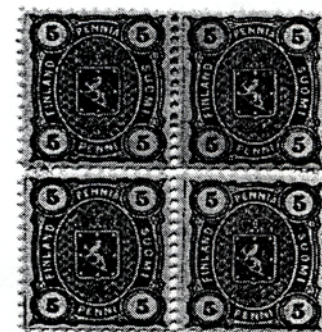


me research of the era, however, has not been asleep. In 1993 a new *Handbook of Finnish Stamps, Vol III, 2nd Ed.* was published. It covers the issues 1875-84 and 1885-88, the latter one being a continuance issue to the basic series; the colors were changed and the 5 and 10 mark high values were added. The Handbook is available from Jay Smith, P. O. Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349. This well written, superbly translated (Finnish/English side-by-side text) and carefully re-

searched volume gives to an investigative collector all the newest information on Type 1875.

In addition, another publication, 'The Color and Printing Identifications of Type 1875' by Herbert Oesch, offers a fascinating new method for identification of these stamps. Together, the books form an indispensable information package to everyone interested in Type 1875.

The articles, to be published in the coming Finnish Study Group Newsletters, further clarify

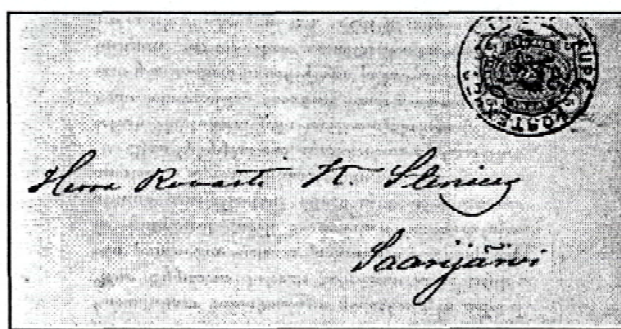


There were 6 Charta Sigilata printing of the 5 penni, p 12.5.

special features of the issue combined with excellent illustrations from the writer's own collection. With these articles the writer and editor invite the reader into a fascinating world of Type 1875 stamps.

Editor's note. This series has been running in the PFF's *Filatelisti* for

several years and is now available to English speaking philatelists for the first time. The new *Handbook* and these articles should help you more fully enjoy collecting this fascinating and affordable area. We hope you will find this series interesting.



1880 church letter, a clear postmark is an important clue to identifying the six printings of these difficult issues.

Letters and Notes

From Roger S. Cichorz

My interest in Finland is relatively narrow as I collect only postal history/covers of Aland. I began collecting this area in 1990 and use the Bjorn Mattsen and Kaarlo Hirvikoski's 1991 Alandia as my bible. I began collecting Faroes' postal history in the mid-1980's as my only other Scandinavian interest and welcome the opportunity to become involved with study group(s) that incorporate Aland and other areas.

I would be happy to assist the Study Group with manuscript preparation, editing articles, and other publishing matters that come up.

From the Editor

Do I have a volunteer? I would be grateful for any help. Roger's want list appears on this

page. He welcomes correspondence from other SCC members who are also collecting Aland and the Faroe Islands. We would like to see Roger develop an exhibit on the postmarks and postal history of the Aland Islands. Many of these postmarks are very difficult to find, so if you uncover an unusual item, be sure to write Roger.

From Roberta Palen

I've been primarily interested in the Russian era, but would be interested in the modern period; especially, the last two decades. I personally would like to see groups starting to work on areas where there has been little information available in English.

From Edward Street

I would be very much interested in the postal history

period from about 1890 to 1920.

From the Editor

The single most important reason for this group is to bring to the single-language English reading collector significant articles that will enrich our collecting activities. We need someone to write or translate a series of articles on the last two definitive series. Both *Abophil* and *Filatelisti* are rich in material about modern Finnish stamps and postal history. *The Posthorn* (Fall, 1996) is publishing a brief history of the Russian stamps used in Finland from 1891 to 1918 and it is expected that the 1998 *Facit* (available in November, 1997) will carry a complete listing of Russian stationery used in Finland.

Aland Postal History (Covers) Want List - November 1995

Roger S. Cichorz, 3925 Longwood Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80303-7233, U.S.A.

(Numbering system from *Alandia* by Björn Mattsen and Kaarlo Hirvikoski, 1991)

Brändö-Aland	006,01	Mariehamn	086, TELE01
Dalkarby	008,01	Mariehamn	086, TELE02
Dalkarby	010,01	Mariehamn	088,08
Degarby	012,01	Mariehamn	088, TELE01
Eckerö	020,01	Mariehamn	088, TELE02
Eckerö	020,02	Mariehamn	088, TELE03
Eckerö	020,03	Mariehamn	090,07-014 (8)
Eckerö	022,01	Mariehamn	090, TELE01
Eckerö	022,02	Mariehamn	090, TELE02
Eckerö	026,01	Mariehamn	090, KONTR01
Eckerö p.h.	028,01	Mariehamn	092,04
Enklinge	032,02	Mariehamn	092,05
Enklinge	032,03	Mariehamn	092, KONTR01
Fiskö	034,01	Mariehamn	092, TELE01
Fiskö	034,02	Mariehamn	094,07
Flaka	036,01	Mångstekta	098,01
Godtby	042,01	Nåfsby	100,04
Godtby	042,02	Pålsböle	102,02
Granboda	044,01	Saltvik	104,01
Granboda	046,01	Seglinge	106,01
Haga	050,01	Seglinge	106,02
Hammarland	052,01	Skarpans	108,01
Haraldsby	054,02	Skarpans	108,02
Jomala	056,01	Sottunga	110,01
Jomala	056,02	Sottunga	110,02
Jomala p.h.	060,01	Sund	114,02
Jomala p.h.	060,02	Torsholma	122,01
Jurmo-Aland	062-01-121 (all 6)	Torsholma	122,02
Kulla	070,01	Tosarby	124, RES01
Kulla	070,02	Träsk	126,01
Kumlinge	072,01	Träsk	126,02
Kökar	074,01	Vivasteby	130,01
Lappoby-Aland	076,01	Åva	136,01

* "special" and "event" postmarks/cachets: spa.01, FRI.06, spe.02, spe.08 (dated 1977), UTL21-23, UTL28, UTL32, UTL45-51, UTL53-68, UTL72-76, UTL-78, UTL84-90.

The Finnish Philatelist

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

The newsletter will be sent free of charge to all members of the FSG thru 1997. A \$5 contribution to cover printing/ mailing costs is appreciated.

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