



The Finnish Philatelist

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

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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. Membership inquiries for SCC and FSG, and changes of address to:

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Editor's Message

In this second edition of the *Finnish Philatelist*, we offer two feature articles from Heikki Reinikainen's series first published in *Filatelisti* on the Cost of Arms issues, a listing of new issues with more detailed information that one usually finds in Linn's, and one reader's comments and questions about W. WI censorship marks. Bob Lang is looking for additional information on the 1938 SILI cachet envelopes. The SILI postmark on cover is shown below.

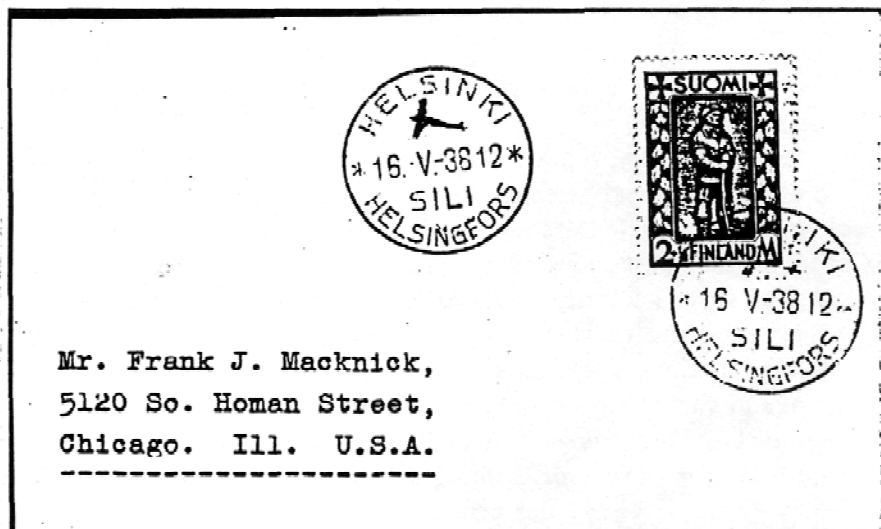
The Posthorn Supplement on "Russian Stamps and Postal Stationery Used in Finland" should have arrived by the time you receive this newsletter. The series on the early Finnish postal cards should start running in *Luren* in the next month or two. Once again I urge you to subscribe to this very worthwhile newsletter. See insert.

Certain errors in the inaugural issue have been corrected. Most notably, Bob Lang's zip code address was incorrect. Also, we are now following standard publishing procedures by including issue number identification. This second newsletter is Volume 2 representing the second year (97), Issue 1, representing the first newsletter of the new year. The whole number is 2. The schedule will be more or less quarterly; March/April, June, September, and December.

We are very grateful for the contributions. Many thanks.

We have translations of important and informative articles on the affiliated states of Aunus, Karelia and North Ingermanland W WI censorship marks and labels. We will begin these series just as soon as these articles can be edited for publication.

Do you notice anything unusual about the 10 kopek oval stamp or postmark shown above? Send us your comments.



1875 Coat of Arms Type Earliest Known Cancellations

By Heikki Reinkainen, From Filatelisti

Translated by the Author

Edited by Roger P. Quinby

One of the interesting areas of the Type 1875 are the earliest known cancellations of the printing emissions. During 10 Years time there were altogether 83 printing emissions. This article addresses new information on cancellations found after the publication of the *Handbook*. (Editor's note: readers are encouraged to acquire a copy of, *Handbook of Finnish Stamps*, Volume III, Second Edition, Helsinki, 1993. It is available from Jay Smith & Associates or may be borrowed from the SCC Library) Because they are continuously of importance, I would appreciate our dear readers, informing the undersigned of all new cancellation dates found.

The lack of archival information, however, forced researchers to use laborious indirect ways to clear up the division of the issue. Extensive structures around Type 1875 have been built. The most important are the Delivery Tables created by Mr. A. Salmenkylä and, Type 1875 Stamp Deliveries to the Post offices compiled by Mr. H. Oesch. Large collections to support the theories were assembled by many researchers.

Small but important details have provided the necessary clues for confirming the earliest known cancellations. As a final piece of information they guarantee the dating of each emission and the chronological division of the whole issue. They are listed in the specification tables of the new Handbook III (1993). The listing indicates also, how much room there is in between the earliest known cancellation and a statistical possibility. Because up to a six month periods do appear, new findings are still a possibility.

As a specialty, some cancellations earlier than the oldest statistical dates exist. The printing shop obviously completed a stamp delivery with some sheets of the latest emission just printed. The emissions as such, naturally, did not bear any significance to the printers. This, in turn, may explain some late cancellations. For example, the 5 penny Brown Orange stamps emerge again in the fall of 1879. Perhaps the best known is the case of 20 penni S Af (see 1994/95 *Norma Special Catalogue*). Starting on 7.5.77 (May 7, 1877) the printer delivered SAf

stamps to the Charta Sigillata office. Due to the smudgy appearance the stamps are easily identified and, already for a long time ago some stamps cancelled in February 1877 were found. Other similar cases are reported on the page 86 of the new Handbook.

The newest discovery is the pictured 32 penny SAe cancelled Wiborg 28.12.76. Statistically, the deliveries of SAe stamps started not until 15.1.77. The mix up took place in the printing shop similarly with the 20 penni SAf. (Continued on page 6)



Figure 1. 10 penni LBb and Helsingfors 14.7.83. This post office received new stamps on July 10, 1883 (H. Oesch: Type 1875 deliveries to the Post Offices). The pictured cancellation and the statistics both support the theory. The new earliest known cancellation is a fact.

Figure 2. 25 penni SAe, cancelled Abo 20.7.81 supports statistical information. According to the Handbook, deliveries of this emission started 19.7., and, Abo received a stamp delivery on 20.7. The identification is confirmed by the color, general appearance and cancellation dates and delivery statistics. The new earliest known cancellation of this emission is noted.



From the Editor

This series will continue until completed. The remaining articles in this series, currently number about 23, will be edited and rewritten by Ed Fraser. On this side of the Atlantic, Ed is the recognized expert on these issues. He will provide more background information and endeavor to further explain these new discoveries in context with the recently published *Handbook*.

Postal Rate Rarities

By Heikki Reinkainen, From Filatelisti

Translated by the Author,

Edited by Roger P. Quinby

The usage of two 5 penni SAI stamps as a local letter fee from Abo to Gustafs cancelled 21.7.81 is our subject matter now.

A 10 penni local letter rate had become valid on July 1, 1881. Some problems occurred in the beginning because the first 10 penni stamp deliveries were not received by the Charta Sigillata Office until July 23rd and the Post Office until August 3rd. The new rate had been valid already for one month before the Post Office had a single issue to meet this rate.

The subject letter presented is exceptional because

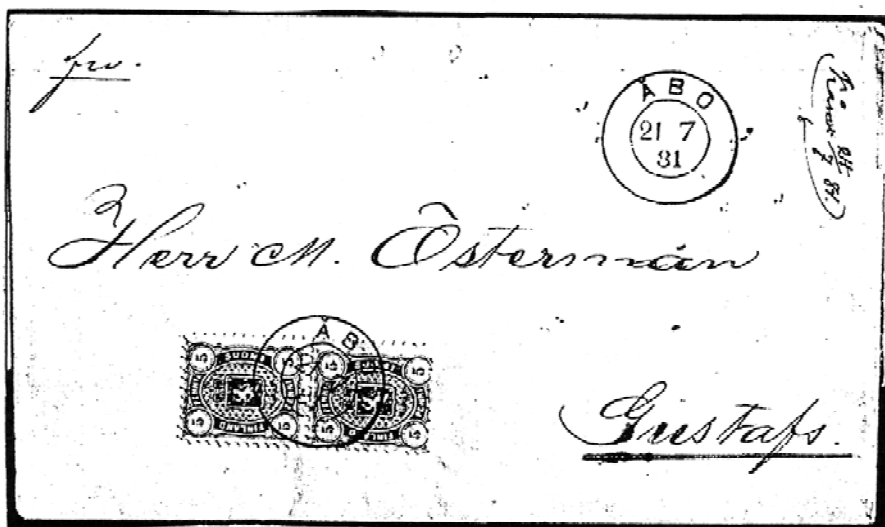
it has been mailed at a time before the 10 penni brown stamps were available at local post offices. Therefore, it is a matter of a compulsory employment of two 5 penni stamps.

It was also possible to make the local rate by applying five 2 penni stamps. To my knowledge this alternative is not known. Of course, large groups of 2 penni stamps on covers are known, but now it was a matter of using them up deliberately at the end of 1880's.

Some local letters with 5 penni stamps are known, and mostly they are made with Charta Sigillata stamps. The use of Senate stamps for this purpose is very rare. Our subject letter, when mailed during the above mentioned period, may be the only known item; no other item has been reported to date.

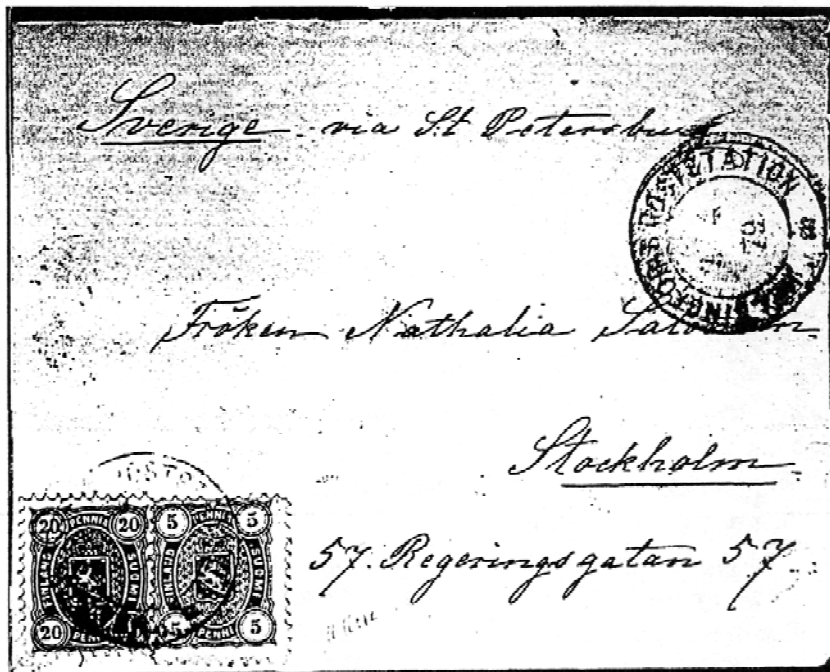
A compulsory use similar to the above is noted,

when the letter rate to abroad decreased from 32 to 25 penni on April 1, 1879 (May 15th to Russia). The new 25 penni red stamps were not delivered to the Post until six weeks after the new rate went into effect; exactly, May 13th. Therefore, a postage fee for a letter addressed to other countries than Russia had to be combined with 20 + 5 penni stamps during this six weeks period. These items are equally rare, although some different combinations on letters are known. Do you have a cover during these periods?



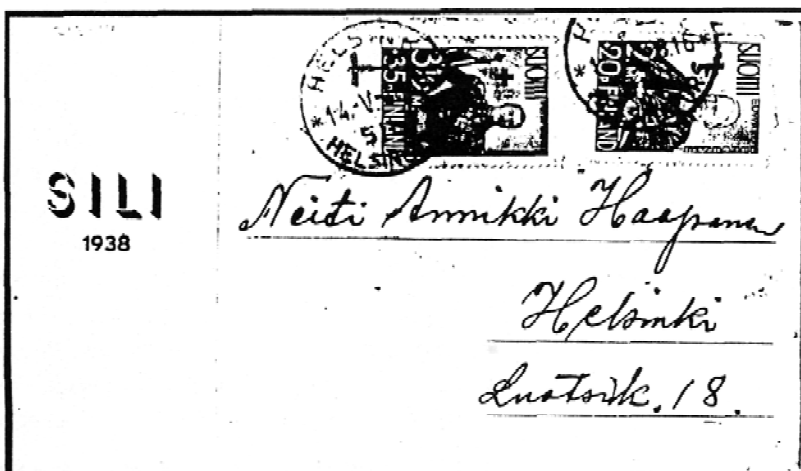
Top Compulsory employment of 2 x 5 penni stamps showing the earliest known usage of the local rate. Abo, 21. 7. 1881.

Right Compulsory employment of 20 + 5 penni stamps on the earliest known usage of the 25 penni letter rate to foreign destinations. Helsingfors Poststation, 7. 4. 1879.



Finland Prepares for National Defense: The 1938 SILI Cachet

This cropped cover from Helsinki, 1. VI. 38, to New Jersey with the SILI cachet was issued in connection with the second exhibition of the Suomen Ilmapoulistuslutto or Finnish Air Defense Alliance to promote public awareness of their existence. It is reported that the exhibition was quite successful, but Bob Lang is asking if anyone might have additional information about the organization and its cachets. Was there a cachet issued in connection with the first exhibition in 1929? Are there later cachets? What philatelic activities did the organization sponsor during the Second World War?



New Issues Feature Tale of Golden Merganser, Paavo Nurmi, the Mountain Hare and the Bird-Cherry of Pirkanmaa in the Provincial Flower Series

TALE OF GOLDEN MERGANSER ON EUROPA STAMPS ISSUED MARCH 4TH

Tales and legends is the common subject of the Europa stamps, issued by all European postal administrations. The two Finnish stamps feature illustrations to an old Saami folk tale "The girl, who turned into a golden merganser¹", drawn by Mika Launis. The illustrations were processed for stamp use by Pirkko Vahtero. The stamps, face values FTM 3.20 and 3.40, respectively, will be issued on 4 March.

The characters in the story of the golden merganser are mythical: Naavisema, Luhtakka, and the former's beautiful daughter, who turned into a golden merganser. Like most traditional tales, it is a story of good and evil, of light and darkness, of the final victory of truth. The tale, as told by Annukka and Samuli Aikio, and illustrated by Mika Launis, was published in 1982. "The girl, who turned into a golden merganser" was simultaneously published in five Saami languages, and in Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish as well. The little book was published mainly for the benefit of Saami children, being one of the first books ever published in their respective native tongue.

Mika Launis is an illustrator and graphic designer. These are his first works to be issued in stamp form. The illustrations he made for this Saami tale were the first he published -he drew them in 1980 as his

graduation work at the University of Applied Art. Since then, he has illustrated a good dozen books, and made many illustration for

e.g. Helsingin Sanomat, the largest Finnish newspaper. Mika Launis has received many awards for his work, the latest being the Rudolf Koivu Award for his illustrations to the Finnish folk tale Antti Puuhaara.



STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	4 March, 1977
Face values:	FDVI 3.20 4,000,000 FM 3.40 2,000,000
Designer:	Mika Launis, Pirkko Vahtero
Format:	40.82 mm x 29.07 mm
Perforation:	123/4x13
Printing method	offset 4/0
Paper:	stamp paper, CPL 1
Printers:	Setec Oy
Orders:	Stamps and First Day Covers Philatelic Center

THE FLYING FINN HONORED WITH THIRD STAMP - ISSUED ON MARCH 18TH

A special stamp commemorating Paavo Nurmi, the king of runners, was issued on 18 March. The face value of the stamp is FIM 3.40. The stamp shows Nurmi running 3000 metres in the Paris Games in 1924. The stamp was designed by **Juha Kettunen**.



Paavo Nurmi

Paavo Nurmi (1897-1973) is regarded as the greatest runner of all times. He is still the athlete with the greatest number of wins and medals in Olympic games. He set 22 official world records, and won nine gold and three silver medals in three consecutive Olympic games, in 1920-1928.

In the Paris games, the subject of the stamp, Nurmi won the individual 1500 metre and 5000 metre events, and the cross-country event (10,650 m), and was a member of the victorious Finnish teams in the 3000 metre and cross-country team events.

Nurmi was also a successful businessman. A trained technician, he made a civilian career as a businessman in construction and clothing. In 1968 he started a foundation to support, among other things, the study of cardiovascular diseases.

Two earlier Finnish stamp issues also honour Paavo Nurmi: he is featured in the 1945 series of sports stamps, and a commemorative stamp issued in the year of his death, 1973, shows the Paavo Nurmi statue, sculpted by **Waino Aaltonen**. This famous statue is also depicted in the FINLANDIA 95 miniature sheet, issued for the 1994 European Championships in athletics.

STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	ISMarch. 1977
Face values:	FTM 3.40 2,000,000
Designer:	Juha Kettunen
Format:	34.56 mm x 30. 24 mm
Perforation:	14 x 14
Printing method	offset 4/0
Paper:	stamp paper, CPL 1
Printers:	Setec Oy
Orders:	Stamps and First Day Covers: Philatelic Center P. O. Box 2 FIN-00011 POSTI

NEW STAMP FEATURES THE MOUNTAIN HARE

The mountain hare *Lepus timidus*, the shorter-haired of the two Finnish hares, is common all over the country. In the summer season it is greyish brown, in the winter season the entire animal, except for the black tips of its ears, turns snow-white. Its diet is adapted to its northern habitat - various grasses in the summer season, twigs and the bark of aspen and other trees in winter. The mountain hare is shy, sharp-eared and fly-footed. Snow is no obstacle, its large hind legs work as snow shoes. Our other hare, the brown hare *Lepus europaeus*) does not have similar "snow shoes".

The mountain hare is mainly nocturnal in its habits. A "Moon" animal, it is heavily loaded with symbolism. Among other things, it symbolizes re-birth and getting younger. It is regarded everywhere as the symbol of fecundity, speed and shyness. In connection with Easter, the hare stands for a new life. It is also called the companion of witches. The hare's foot is regarded as a bringer of good luck, and as a protection against witchcraft.



STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	4 March. 1977
Face values:	FIM 2.80 3,000,000
Designer:	Pirkko Juvonen-Valtonen
Format:	34.56 mm x 30. 24 mm
Perforation:	14x14
Printing method	offset 4/0
Paper:	stamp paper, CPL 1
Printers:	Setec Oy
Orders:	Stamps and First Day Covers: Philatelic Center P. O. Box 2 FIN-00011 POSTI

PHILATELIC CENTER ORDER CODES -----

Europs Stamps:	97005 & 97006
Mountain Hare:	97008
Provincial Flowers:	97009
PaavoNurmi:	97010

THE BIRD-CHERRY OF PIRKANMAA IN THE PROVINCIAL FLOWERS SERIES

The Bird-cherry (*Prunus padus*), the provincial flower of Birkaland, adorns the new stamp in the Provincial Flowers series. This 1st Class self-adhesive definitive is issued in sheetlets comprising 10 stamps. The current price of the sheetlet is FIM 28.

The bird-cherry, one of the most popular trees in Finland, grows all over the country. It grows into a shrub or tree, 3 to 12 metres in height. In late spring it is covered by fragrant, white flowers, and considered to be very romantic. The bird-cherry thrives in moist ground, rich in nutrients, but efforts to make it grow in dryish gardens etc. have not met with success. It is a close relative of many southern fruits: apricot, peach, prune and almond - its small, black berries do have a sweetish flavor. Formerly the berries were used for improving other flavours. Elias Lonnrot, the compiler of the Kalevala, gives the following advice:

Crushed with its stones, and soaked in wine or spirits, the berries give the beverage a nice peachy flavour. The berries, bark and leaves of bird-cherry have been used in a multitude of concoctions against various diseases. In our time, medications and home remedies based on bird-cherry are not recommended.



STAMP FACTS

Issue date: 18 March 1977
 Face values: 1st Class
 Designer: Paavo Huovinen
 Format:
 Stamps: 21 x 25 mm
 Sheetlet 145 x 70 mm
 Perforation: none
 Paper: Raflasilk 90/g/m2
 Printing method: offset 4/0

Earliest Cancellations (continued from page 2)

Figures 3 & 4 Helsingfors post office received according to the Oesch book 32 penni stamps of the fifth (smudgy) printing emission SAe on 20.2.77. The earliest known cancellation, informed by the Handbook III(1993), is Helsingfors 15.1.77 and, as pictured, even 13.1.77. These stamps were available before their statistical dates had arrived! The cancellation of our title picture Wiborg 28.12.76 on SAe stamp imply to delivery lots sent as early as in September 1876. Concerning the post offices of Helsingfors and Wiborg it is probable, however, that the entries of the delivery register refer to the actual payments of possibly several stamp deliveries. Thus, the both post offices received stamps earlier than the register shows. The cancellations of Helsingfors and Wiborg, as shown, do not support the statistical timing of the emissions directly, but, do give an interesting extra flavor in the research of the these fascinating issues.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Table of Earliest Known Cancellations: m/75 New Findings

5p	SBJJ	Yellowish Orange	9.11.81	Helsingfors
10p	LBb	Yellow Brown	14. 7. 83	Helsingfors
20p	SAb	Gray Blue	18.11.75	Helsingfors
25p	SAe	Bright Carmine	20.7.81	Abo
32p	SAe	Lt. Reddish Carmine	28. 12. 76	Wiborg
32p	SAf	Carmine	- 12. 77	Helsingfors

World War I Censorship - Eric Jarvlepp's Comments and Questions

I understand that Bob Lang has forwarded to you Xerox copies of a W.W. I cover censored in Tornio that shows a perforated resealing label (or "tape" as they are commonly known). I asked for an opinion why the label was perforated like a coil stamp? See Figure 1

I recently received a number of covers from Finland and among them was yet another Tornio perforated censorship label (Figure 2). This one has 11 1/2 perforations on two adjacent sides, perpendicular to each other.

Both covers are early examples of the censorship activity, post-marked, 31. X. 1914, and 25. X. 1914 respectively. The label with the earliest postmark has the correct spelling of "sotasensuurin". Obviously, these labels were printed to different orders. The Russian text is absent in both cases.

One could suggest that some kind of an expediency may have been the objective when perforated labels were ordered. The practice seems to have ended soon thereafter as I have not seen perforated censorship labels with later dates.

Some Further Questions

1) Whom was in charge of the Finnish censorship organization? 2) Why was the mail censored at the destination censor office? 3) How many censors did the Finnish Government employ after independence? 4) Was there a three language Finnish, Swedish and German censorship stamp?

From The Editor

In future issues, we will begin to illustrate as many types of the WWI censorship stamps and resealing tapes as possible. We will also try to answer all of Eric Jarvlepp's questions and more. This is another area of Finnish postal history where it is possible to identify new "extreme" dates. For example, Olamo reports that 6. XL 14 is the earliest use for Tornio tape No. 11, but we show earlier dates above. See Figure 2.

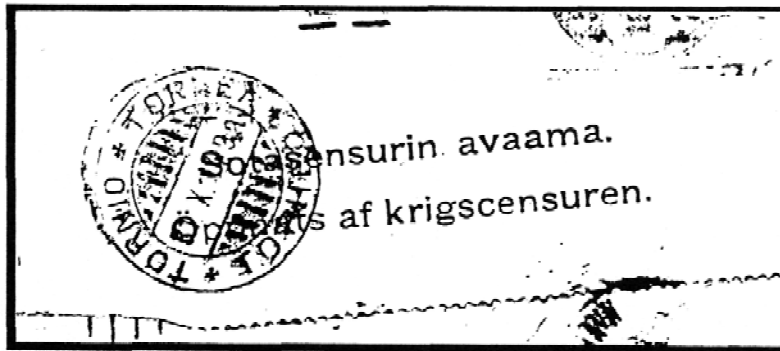


Figure 1 Olamo identifies no less than ten Tornio resealing labels or tapes without the Russian text and with the word "sotasensuurin" misspelled with one 'u'. However, there is no mention of perforations in the identifying descriptions. See, Juhani Olamo's *Postal Censoring in Finland, 1914-1917*, Helsinki, 1972

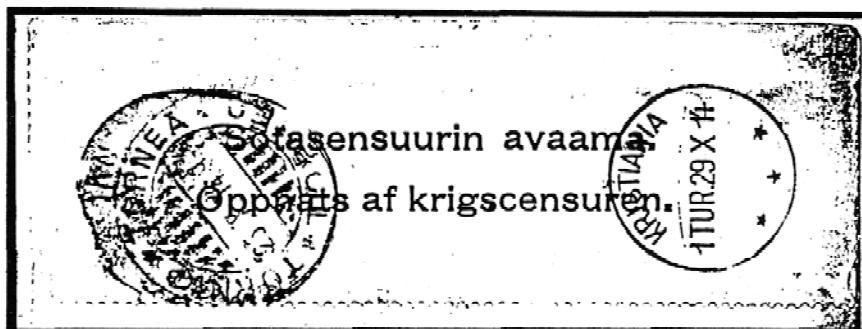


Figure 2 This Tornio label is clearly Olamo No. 11, the first label used in Tornio with all words correctly spelled. The Finnish text is 57 mm and the Swedish text is 62 mm. This tape was in use from October 24 to November 30, 1914. Beginning in December, 1914, the tapes were cut and gummed at the printing office. Tornio No.12 tape was the last to be perforated.

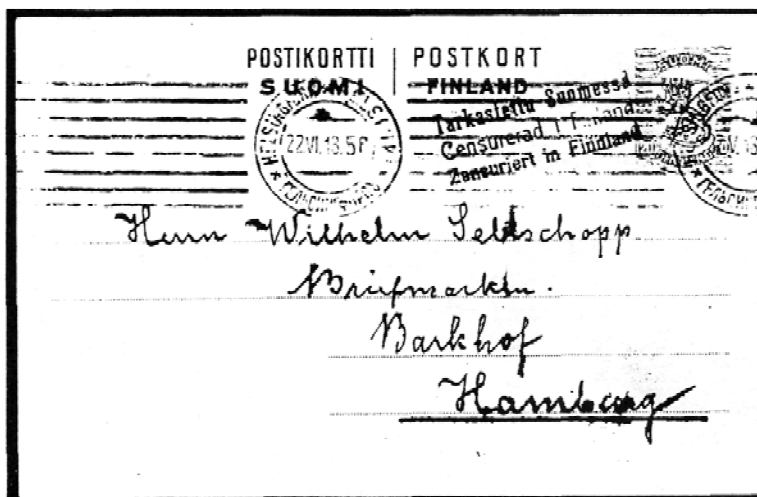


Figure 3 Excellent example of the trilingual censor stamp with the German text, cancelled at Helsinki, 22. V. 18. The stamp was used during the Civil War and into 1919 on mail to and from Germany. There are at least three main varieties. During the summer of 1918, the German text was removed. The censor stamp with the German text is relatively difficult to find.

Letters and Notes

From Alan Warren

Congratulations on launching the newsletter of the Finnish Study Group, *The Finnish Philatelist*. The articles were interesting and should fill a real void for English speaking collectors. I found only one egregious error, namely the incorrect zip code for Bob Lang (I doubt it is 12222).

Registration labels are certainly a bona fide collectible as I have seen recent articles on those of Sweden and even Nepal. It is nice to have Eskola's documentation of these for Finland. He might have pointed out that in the first illustration of his article which shows the handstamp "R" in a circle, there is another obvious clue that the letter is registered, i.e. use of the manuscript "Rekommenderas" which is often found on early Swedish registered covers as well.

I suggest you use a numbering system for the newsletter as it will be useful to index and refer to as a source in future years. Even if you don't go for the more formal method of Volume Number, Issue Number, you should at least number each issue as "Issue No.".

I am sending my \$5 to Bob Lang and will look forward to the next issue of the FSG newsletter.

From Jack laacson

Thank you for the Finnish Philatelist dated December 1996. I enjoyed the various articles very much. I enjoyed the "R" label story even though I don't collect them. In my collection I found some that were different from the illustrations. First one has the country name but the "R" is underlined. Second one is a three language rubber stamp and not a label as the third envelope.

Articles on Karelia, Pohjois Inkeri, and Aunus would help me in future issues. There is not much written on these areas.

I live on an island in the Pacific Ocean. There are no other Finland collectors here but I will ask around.

From Wade Berry

Many thanks for your letter of 22nd December, 1996, enclosing the first issue of 'The Finnish Philatelist'.

I am sure there will be interest in your new publication and have included a brief resume of your letter in my Librarians' notes which will appear in Scandinavian Contact in March, inviting interested parties to contact me in the first instance if they would like to subscribe.

Unfortunately, you make no mention of the charge to overseas subscribers - perhaps you can let me know by return so I can advise anyone expressing interest. I will appreciate such a publication - I find it very difficult to follow Finnish, though I do try to include details in my quarterly Notes whenever, possible.

I will be taking your letter, and the Newsletter, to our AGM in mid-March - no doubt I will get a number of recruits!

From Edward Street

I was most pleased to receive the first number of The Finnish Philatelist. I certainly wish for a long run for it in the years to come.

I regret that I do not have anything to submit at the present time although I would hope to be able to come up with something of interest in the future. I suspect that I am like many of us in that I have more questions than answers!

As you suggest, I am enclosing a contribution of five dollars to the Finnish Study Group.

From Robert Taylor

I am very pleased to see the initial issue of *The Finnish Philatelist* - it's great. Enclosed are \$10.00, membership for 1997 plus.

I have a particular - rather mundane perhaps - question to ask in the hope that you might publish some notes on it. As a relatively new collector of Finnish stamps (10+ years) I have been puzzled by the color descriptions used in Norma and Facit. I use a *Stanley Gibbons Color Key*, and frequently I find no equivalent one way or the other.

Again congratulations on the new issue.

From The Editor

This is a vexing problem for collectors. Many different experts contribute to writing catalogue descriptions. I am not aware that editors establish color standards based on the *SG Colour Key*, so the possibility for different descriptions for the same stamp is very possible from one catalogue to the other. Does someone have additional information on color guides?