

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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Manuscripts and illustrations for publication are welcome. Send all material to the editor. While due care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted; For return of submissions, enclose a stamped addressed return envelope. Manuscripts must be typed or formatted on 3.5 disks.

New Issues

New issues from: Finland are available directly from the Finnish Post Office or from Scandinavian dealers, including Jay Smith of Snow Camp, NC, and: several! new issue service bureaus. We urge you to support advertisers of the SCC's official journal. *The Posthorn*.

Editor's Message

In this edition we offer a feature article on the 1922 stamps of Karelia. This article appeared in the 1970 *Finnish Handbook* which also included articles on Aunus and North Ingermanland. It is our plan to provide translations of these articles in future editions of *The Finnish Philatelist*. We believe these articles will offer more information than has been previously available in English from the early Carl Pelander articles in *The Posthorn* and other sources.

In late fall of 1921 and continuing until February, 1922 a short lived uprising broke out in Central and Northern Russian Karelia in protest against the poor living conditions accorded the Finnish speaking inhabitants in those remote regions. The ultimate goal of the rebellion was to re-establish union with Finland. The effort was hopeless from the beginning. After the rebellions in Aunus and North Ingermanland were defeated, Finland did not support this uprising and did not provide assistance for the local provisional government in establishing a viable postal service. In fact, for political reasons, Finland did not recognize the Karelian franking.

No sooner had this uprising failed when the first of nearly 6,000 Finnish-American & Canadian idealists emigrated back to Karelia to build a modern society based on the principles of "democratic socialism". This reverse migration peaked during 1929-1934. This tragic episode has been told with great feeling by Mayme Sevander in *They Took My Father* and *Red Exodus*. The first American-Finn to emigrate was Enoch Nelson, who showed up in Uhtua in the summer of 1922 with his wife and three children; he disappeared in 1938 along with hundreds of other American and Canadian-Finns who were victims of the Stalinist purges. The story of the 60,000 Finns who immigrated to the New World in the beginning of the Twentieth Century and the brave 6,000 who emigrated back to Karelia remains to be told philatelically. Will someone do this for Nordia 2001?

Juhani Olamo's lengthy monograph on the Finnish censorship marks of W.W.I will be serialized beginning in 1998. The monograph has already been translated by Carita Parker. Kaj Hellman's article on the Helsinki-St. Petersburg TPO will appear later this year.

In the last issue I asked, "Do you notice anything unusual about the 10 kopek oval stamp or postmark shown above? Send us your comments." I received just one comment, but I am not sure that it is correct. Compare the "WIBORG" cancellation with those pictured on pages 30 & 31 of Mikko Ossa's, *Forgeries of Finnish Postage Stamps*. More details in next issue. (*Continued on page 3, see Editor.*)

A STAMP TO CELEBRATE THE TANGO

A 1st Class stamp will be issued on 19 May to celebrate the Finnish tango, the interpreter of deep emotion. The stamp features a photo of a couple dancing in a summery meadow taken by Erkki Laine. The price is FIM 2.80.

The photo was awarded a honourable mention in the 1995 open stamp competition arranged by Finland Post in celebration of the 140th anniversary of the Finnish stamp. On the photo the jury stated: "The work conveys a feeling of warmth, it is tight, rough, and has a deep flavour of life. The work expresses genuine Finnishness."

The tango on the stamp was danced close to the pavilion at Tuulos

The tango was born in Argentina in the late 19th century. It seems to have developed in the slums of Buenos Aires from the Cuban habanera and the Argentinian milongo, and was further influenced by the music of Italian immigrants. The tango captured

Europe in the early years of this century. It was a rage in Paris in the 19 IDs, and came to Finland during the same decade.

It has been extremely popular here since the 1940s. This originally urban music became in Finland an original interpreter of the rural way of life, often longing and sentimental. The popularity of the Finnish tango was increased by the work of talented composers, such as Toivo Karid, Unto Mononen and Pentti Viherluoto and by singers like Olavi Virta.



Issue date: 19 May 1997
 Face value: 1 Class (FIM 2.80 on 19 May 1997)
 Issue: 10,000,000
 Designer: Erkki Laine
 Perforation: 14 x 14
 Format: 34.56 mm x 24.48 mm
 Paper: stamp paper, CPL 1 96 g/m²
 Printers: Setec Oy
 Printing method: offset 2/0
 First Day Cover and postmark: Erkki Laine

A STAMP TO PUBLICISE
THE ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK

The Archipelago National Park is the subject of a new definitive stamp issued on 25 April. The stamp was designed by Pirkko Vahtero. The face value of the stamp is FIM 4.30, corresponding to 1st Class postage for letters up to 100 g within Finland, and up to 50 g to the other EU countries. The issue will be unlimited, new impressions can be taken as necessary.



Stamps have been dedicated to other national parks as well: Kauhaneva (1981), Seitsemien (1982), Eastern Gulf of Finland (1983), and Urho Kekkonen National Park (1988). All are definitives and designed by Pirkko Vahtero.

The Southwest Archipelago National Park is located far from the coast, in the southern part of the large archipelago, within the municipalities Dragsfjard, Houtskar, Hitis, Korpo and Nagu. Founded in 1983, it covers approx 220 square kilometres. It includes groups of islands and waters between privately owned areas; some 1000 bare, rocky islets, ridge islands and large, forested islands. The Southwest Archipelago National Park is the central part of the larger Archipelago biosphere, founded by UNESCO in 1994 to promote research in the interaction between humans and nature and sustained development within the area. This would surely be a new and beautiful park to visit on your next trip to Finland.

Issue date: 25 April 1997
 Face value: FIM 4.30
 Issue: unlimited
 Designer: Pirkko Vahtero
 Perforation: 14 x 14
 Format: 34.56 mm x 24.48 mm
 Paper: stamp paper, CPL 1 96 g/m²
 Printers: Setec Oy
 Printing method: 1 gravure colour + offset 5/0
 First Day Cover and postmark: Pirkko Vahtero
 Price of FDC: FIM 6.80

OLD SAILING SHIPS FEATURED IN COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FINNISH LIFE BOAT SOCIETY

A booklet of six stamps, featuring old sailing ships, will be issued on 19 May to celebrate Finnish shipping and the 100th anniversary of the Finnish Life-Boat Society. The stamps were designed by Asser Jaaro.

The ships shown are Suomen Joutsen, Sigyn, Astrid, Tradewind, Jacobstads Wapen and Merikokko, the last one being owned by the Finnish Life-Boat Society. The face value of each stamp is FIM 2.80, the booklet is priced at FIM 16.80.

At present, the frigate Suomen Joutsen and the barque Sigyn are museum ships docked in Turku. The galleass Astrid and the schooner Tradewind are privately owned, and used e.g. for day trips with tourists. Jacobstads Wapen is a new ship, built with exquisite attention to detail in the style of an 18th century predecessor. Launched in 1994, the ship is based at Pietarsaari (Sw. Jakobstad). Totally overhauled, Merikokko operates as a rescue ship in the Gulf of Bothnia.

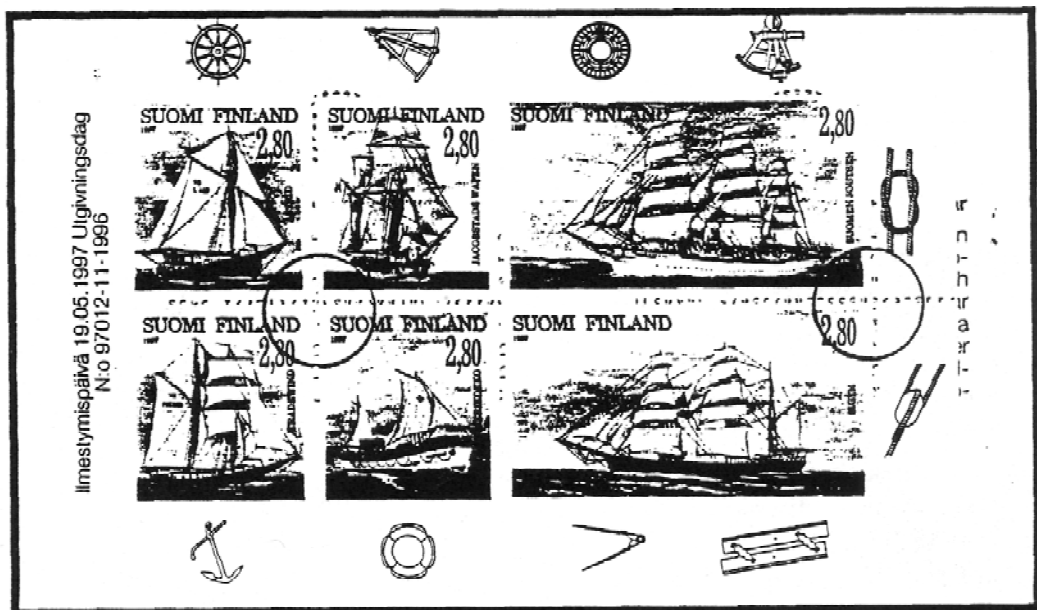
The day of issue of the booklet, 19 May, will also see the issue of four maximum cards. Maximum cards are entireties, whose picture, stamp and postmark share a common subject. This time the maximum cards are also postal stationery, i.e. they are sold postage paid. The card showing a stormy sea and a lighthouse is dedicated to the Finnish Life-Boat Society. The other three feature Suomen Joutsen, Sigyn and Jacobstads

Wapen. The cards were also designed by Asser Jaaro. The set of cards is priced at FIM 28, about \$5.50.

Issue date: 19 May 1997
 Face value: 6 x FIM 2.80
 Issue: 1,000,000
 Designer: Asser Jaaro
 Perforation: 14 x 14
 Format: 4 stamps: 25.50 x 28.50 mm
 2 stamps: 51.00 x 28.50 mm
 booklet (opened): 138 mm
 Paper: stamps: stamp paper, 102 g/m²
 cover: white cardboard 200 g/m²
 Printers: Walsall Security Printers Ltd.
 Printing method:
 stamps: offset 4/0
 cover: offset 4/2

First Day Cover
 and postmark: Asser Jaaro

Editor's Note: Finland's new issues and other products are available from several dealers. Check the advertisements in *The Posthorn*.



(Continued from page 1) **Editor's Message:**

We are always very grateful for your contributions and kind words. Special thanks to Gary and Carita Parker, Roy Ferber, Ed Fraser, Bob Paulson, and Jacob Kisner.

Your letters and notes will be published in the next newsletter now scheduled for the end of August or early September.

This newsletter is just one small effort to bring more information to the stamp collector. If something in this newsletter is of interest, more information may be available from the SCC Library. You are encouraged to contact:

Dr. W. E. Melberg, SCC Librarian
 P. O. Box 134
 Allenton, WI 53002

Karelia - Karjala 1922

By Kalle Vaaenas - Translated by Anneli Hvidonov

Edited by Roger P. Quinby from the SF/FF Handbook, Vol. 5

Editors Note: It was not possible to clearly and accurately reproduce all the illustrations from the original text. Most of the illustrations shown here are from editor's collection. This was a difficult translation. If you have any questions, please write.



25 penni value with UHTUA, 3. II. 22, cancellation.

INTRODUCTION

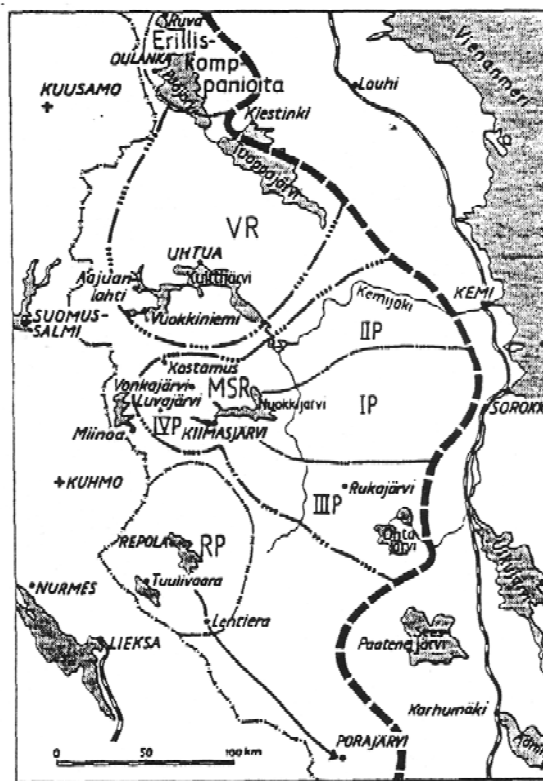
According to the treaty between Finland and USSR of October 14, 1920 at Tartu, the Karelia people of the governments of Aunus and Archangel were granted domestic self-government autonomy. The area in East Karelia populated by these Finnish speaking Karelians peoples is, in their internal affairs, an Autonomy, where the decision making powers lie in their elected parliament with the right to organize their economy according to the local needs.

Because of the unfavorable conditions the dissatisfied population of Karelia rebelled with the help of some Finnish Volunteer Troops (in all about 500 men, out of which only half were present simultaneously). The armed warfare started toward the end of October, 1921, when an area of some 60,000 square miles was overtaken in a short time. The ill-fitted troops, however, lost their advantage before long. Porajarvi was ceded on December 29, 1921, Repola on January 13, 1922, Kiimasjarvi January 25, and Uhtua February 6, 1922. After the last delaying maneuvers of the guerrillas the troops retreated across the Finnish border by February 20, 1922. In estimating the lightning-short postal ser-

vice or use of the Karelia stamps, it must be taken into account that within three weeks of the freshly printed stamps arriving at the Uhtua postoffice, the insurgency would fail, and Karelia ceded back to the USSR. During these circumstances any publication of postal directives could hardly have been possible.

A quick decision was made in November 1921 concerning the issuance of Karelia stamps. Steps to that end were taken immediately. Akseli Gallen-Kallela was probably selected as the designer in the beginning. A short mention of this appeared in *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, (Finnish Stamp Magazine) in the future the Government of Karelia will probably issue Karjala's own stamps, the design of which was drawn by a known Finnish artist.

The plans for Karelia's own postal service was recorded in Karelia Foreign Committee's letter of September 20, 1922, to Mr. Einar Fieandt, the Chairman of the Finnish Philatelic Society:



The battle areas during the winter of 1921-1922 of the Forrest Guerrillas (MSR), Oulanka Area Special Troops and Repola Battallion (RP). After the loss of Repola, the MRS retreated to the Miiono - Uhtua line 23 January, 1922.

Respected Doctor, On the basis of your request, I have the honor to inform you the following about the issue and use of Karelian stamps, in addition to what we previously have reported to you. According to the guidelines of the Karelia Central Government the organizing of local postal traffic was the responsibility of Local Government Boards. Thus according to Central Government guide lines of January 5, 1922, the Local Committees were entrusted with the postal traffic, each in its area, if Field Post did not satisfy the needs from general or local points of view. Concurrently, a representative of the Central Government in Helsinki reported to the Provisional Government that postal cancellers were sent in the beginning of January by special courier only to the Uhtua and Kiimasjarvi post offices. When the stamps were ready, they were promptly shipped to both Post Offices on January 27. This shipment included 1,000 of each value from 5 penni to 1 mark, and 250 of each higher denomination. About 20,000 Finnmarks worth of these stamps were sold by the two post offices. On this date Vonkajarvi was ceded, about 70 kilometers south of Uhtua. Huoti Sinikivi was the Postmaster at Uhtua. In Kiimasjarvi the post was connected with the Field Post. The General Supply, under the supervision of Lieutenant Ontroppainen, for the guerrilla operation was located in Kemijarvi. Lieut. Oriehhainen and teacher Vassili Vaara were in charge of the Economic and Maintenance Department for the Central Government. In addition to this a considerable number of stamps were sold in Finland, which were used on mail from Finland to Karelia, according to the order of Karelia Central Government. The mail was exchanged at the border in Suomussalmi and Kuhmoniemi Post Offices, where the representatives of Karelia Post took the mail addressed to Karelia and left the mail for Finland. Uhtua Post Office was transferred when the troops retreated toward Finland and ceased functioning on February 16, when the last village was ceded to the Russian troops.

Respectfully, for Karelia Foreign Committee

/s/W. Keynas and Toivo Kaukoranta.

The Karelia Central Government had thus organized the postal traffic in its area on January 5, 1922. A new postal connection Karelia - Finland was created and Karelia's own stamps were adopted, 15 values in all. The designer was Waino Gustaf Palmqvist. The Karelia Emblem adopted in 1920 at the Uhtua meeting formed the center of the design. This depicted the Karelia Bear, who had broken off his chains, and stands armed with a billhook, rushing in Northern Lights. The word Karelia and 1921, the year of the uprising, were combined with crossed-over spears and the denomination in Finnmarks, as Karelia did not have a monetary system of its own. The double digits in the denomination created crowding, which reduced the size of the zeros. In order to improve the general appearance

and make the numbers clearer the 20, 25, 40, and 50 penni as well as 20 and 25 mark values were repaired.

PRINTING

The stamps were printed by Tilgmann Lithographers in sheets of 50. Tilgmann's archives from 1919 to 1924 are missing, as is the material concerning Karelia stamps usually found in War Archives. In making the stone necessary for the printing of the penni values the image was originally projected on a stone of small size (original stone). The picture probably included the denomination of a main type. The numbers remained fairly constant in various Field Types, implying that this was the 5 penni main type. An imprint on transfer paper was pulled from the original stone and by a 5 time lithographic transfer it was projected on the so called auxiliary stone (vertical line transfer). This vertical line was then projected 10 times on the same stone, which finally produced the necessary printing image for the 10 x 5 sheet of stamps.

KARJALA 1922	
Values:	
	penni: 5 10 20 25 40 50 75 marks: 1 2 3 5 10 15 20 25
Validity:	January 31 - February 16, 1922
Earliest known cancellation:	January 31, 1922
Printing quantity:	
	5 penni - 1 mark 20, 000 2 - 25 marks 15, 000
Printing Sheet:	pane or sales sheet = 50 stamps
	penni values: horizontal pane (10 x 5) mark values: vertical pane (5 x 10)
Designer:	W.G. Palmqvist
Karjala Emblem:	Akseli Gallen-Kallela
Litho stones and printing:	Oy Tillgmann Ab, Helsinki
Paper:	Unwatermarked machine smooth paper, containing 100 % Spruce sulfite cellulose
Gum:	Arabic or a mixture thereof
Perforations:	
	A = 11.3 (11 1/4) B = 11.8 (11 3/4)
Post & Telegraph Museum material:	from the Woldemar Terichoff collection

The digits of the denominations were successively changed for the manufacture of the various main types. The mark valued stamps were arranged in sheets of 50 (5 x 10) stamps in vertical position. Throws of 5 of the penni values had to be transferred on the auxiliary stone as horizontal rows. The printing stone was made up of 10 horizontal images.

It is possible to divide each main type of the series into 5 litho stone types on the basis of both scarce and difficult to distinguish litho stone identification points.

A printing stone of their own was required for the frame parts of the mark values, which were printed in 2 stages. The printing of the centers was accomplished on the other hand with one printing stone containing the emblem.

The printing was supervised with care. There are fairly few plate errors (stone errors and changes) and those that exist are of a small size. In bi-color stamps the center has occasionally shifted slightly.

A general identification point of the penni values is a faulty chain link in the southwestern part of the emblem. In the upper corners the ink has spread to some degree, covering the details of the grid iron.

The specifications of importance are in the table of measures. The design of the penni values was placed on the sheet with a wide margin (27-28 mm) on the right side, and in mark values at the bottom. Register marks were used especially for bi-color stamps. They were also in the transfers of the penni values. This cross was removed from the 25 penni main type before the printing. The register marks in penni values are located in the margin of the sheet on both sides of the third (middle) horizontal line. The distance from this varies between 2-9 millimeters. The size and shape of the cross vary from a small plus marking to a long cross. A combination of two crosses exist in the mark values, somewhere near the middle of each edge of the sheet, further in eastern and western edges), with a distance of 16-17 mm from the nearest row of stamps. The larger and wider cross matches the color of the stamp frame, the smaller matches the color of the center.

On the edges of the marginal stamps there are some small focusing lines, usually a scant 1 mm in length, to assist in exact and correct placement of the perforations. There are 4 of them in the corner stamps. In bi-color stamps the small lines match the color of the centers. Usually the perforations fall purposely on the focusing lines, which makes these small identification points difficult to establish.

TABLE OF MEASURES (mm)

Stamp Size: 24.3 -24.5 x 24.2 - 24.7

Side of Design: 21.5 - 21.8

Distance between designs: 2.5 - 2.6

Sales Sheet: 284 - 286 x 162 -165

Size of Sheet designs:

penni: 242 - 244 x 120 - 121

mark: 118 -119 x 239 - 240

COLOR

The main types of the series 5 p - 10 mark match the colors of Finland's corresponding stamps of the period. In mark values the frame line of the emblem is located on top of the corresponding hole of the frame of the stamp. This leads to the blending of the inks (especially in the three highest denominations) of the center and the frame. For instance the frame of the emblem is green in 25 mark main type. This makes the printing appear as in three colors.

The litho ink formed a surface film on the paper providing good coverage which is easy to see, especially in light colors. The small elevations in the paper create spots, especially in large ink fields. There are very few color variations, hardly noticeable in the main type.

PAPER

The paper manufacturer is unknown. The paper is smooth machine paper without watermark and is made of 100% rubber sulphite chemical pulp. The adhesive is resin gum containing no starch. The often existing transparency is caused by insufficiencies in the aggregate material. The shade of the paper depends on the absorbency of the adhesive and its oxidation stage. If the gum has been removed at an early stage, the paper remains fairly white. The machine direction is vertical. The paper thickness is 0.07 -0.08 mm.

ADHESIVE

The adhesive is arabic gum, based on the way its mixture or the way it breaks down. The color is white, yellowish or various shades of yellow. The thickness is 0.015 - 0.05 mm (fairly often 0.025).

PERFORATIONS

The stamps were line perforated by the printer 11.3 (A) or 11.8 (B), with usually 14 perforations. A 15th thin perforation can sometimes be found. Both perforations exist on 5 and 25 penni as well as 2, 10, and 25 mark main types. More common on 2, 10, and 25 mark stamps is the scarce A, and 5 and 25 penni stamps the dense B perforation. The perforation usually is straight through, sometimes a slight roughness can exist. Centering is usually good. Some main types exist with partial imperforation (one side not perforated).



5 mark corner block perforated 11.8 or 11 3/4. This block is actual size.



10 mark corner block perforated 11.3 or 11 1/4. This block is actual size.

CANCELLATIONS

The series was used only in the UHTUA post office. The town was ceded after a battle on February 6th, 1922. All supplies had to be transported before that, probably during the night between February 3rd-4th. The retreating front line and the post office was moved across the Finnish border to Suomussalmi. The last day of activities in the Uhtua post office was February 3rd. It follows that this date was retained on the canceler with the town name UHTUA (in spite of the fact that it had moved 100 km west).

A great part of the postal items bear the cancellation with the date of February 3rd. Only one cancellation of the 4th is known, it may be occasional, made to order, or an accident. Four cancellations are known with February 5th dates.

Cancellation Timetable

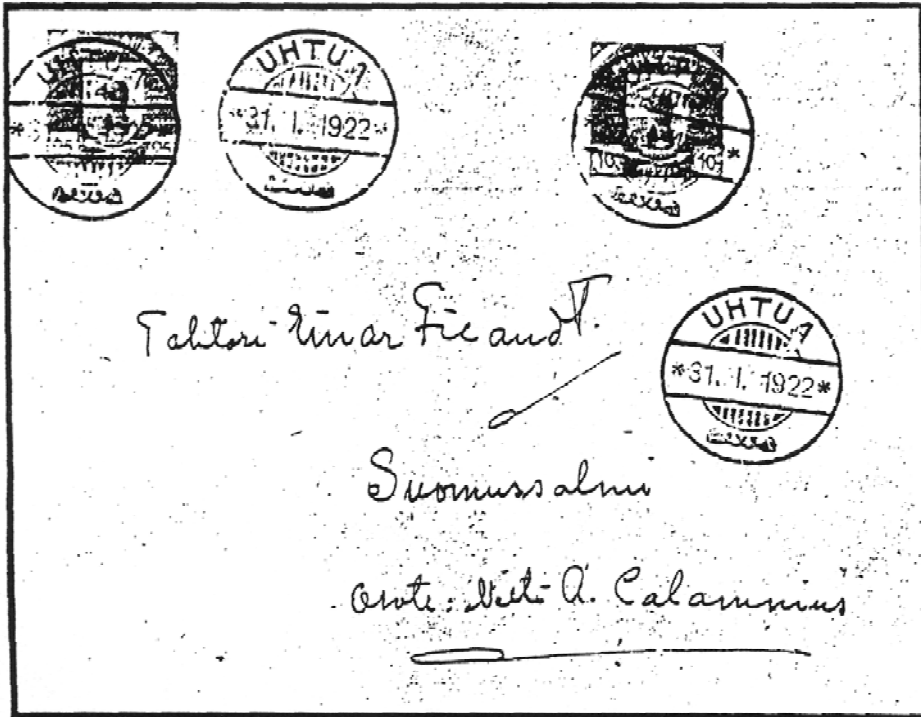
- January 31. Tuesday - a few cancellations, (exact number is unknown)
- February 1. Wednesday - a few cancellations, (exact number is unknown) also, after cancels are known
- February 2. Thursday - minimum 264 cancellations known
- February 3. Friday - most common cancel date, after cancels are known
- February 4. Saturday - a few cancellations
- February 5. Sunday - four cancellations are known

The real cancellation date of the items can be best derived from the SUOMUSSALMI cancels. The main part of the letters cancelled here bear the dates of February 10th and 13th, as well as March 13th (bridge cancel with Russian text removed, about 27.5 mm in diameter). The KIIMASJARVI post office was connected with the Field Post Office. They did not start operating before the town was ceded to USSR. Some after cancels from KIIMASARVI are known (with a date of February 1st, 1922 and other dates including some impossible dates from December, 1921).

In shape the cancellations corresponded with the Finnish bridge cancels of the time, about 28 mm in diameter. The ink is usually black, later occasionally also violet.

FIRST & LAST DAY CANCELLATIONS

STAMPS AS THEY APPEAR TODAY



January 31, 1922 was the first day of issue at Uhtua. Addressed to Einar Fieandt, c/o Ms. Aino Calamnius, postmaster at Suomessalmi who then forwarded to the mail in another envelope to Mr. Fieandt in Helsinki. Although this mail is undoubtedly philatelic, it is completely authentic.

The appearances and use of Karelia stamps can best be understood by taking into consideration the various changes that were caused by the ongoing battles.

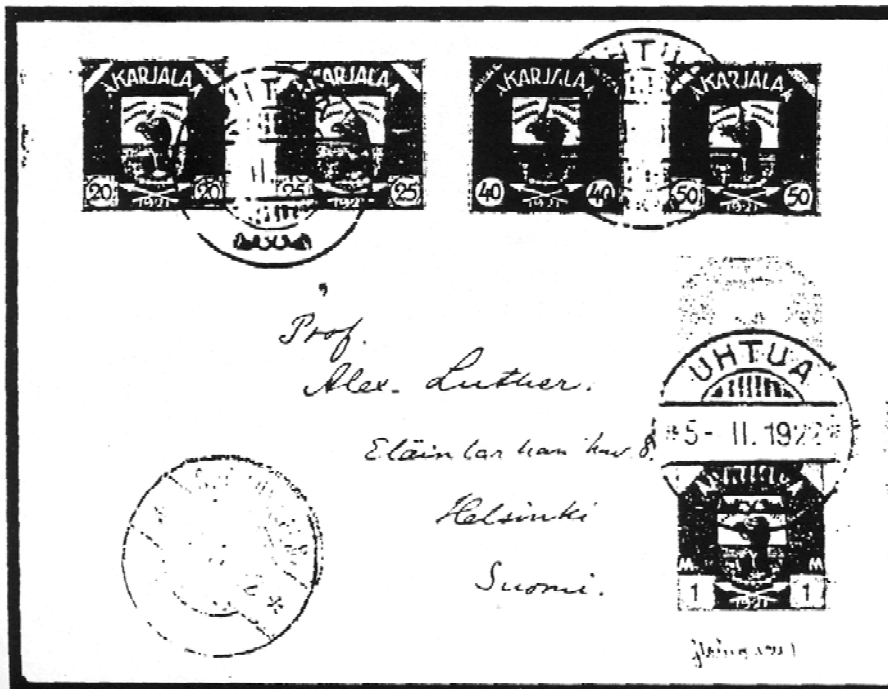
The bulk of the stamps available today are in mint series. Karelia stamps were sold in Helsinki as well, where the 5 and 10 penni series were quickly sold. Just a few hundred used complete series exist as well as some authentic mail items (Uhtua to Finland). Quite often the items (registered letters) bear the lower denominations of the series (5 p - 1 mark).

A great part of the letters from Karelia were addressed to the Postmaster in Suomussalmi, Ms. Aino Calamnius, who forwarded them further to recipients in special covers. No documents have been discovered pertaining to the ending of this practice.

Some collectors sent stamps, blocks of stamps and even sheets to the UHTUA Postoffice for cancellation. These had been bought from the Karelia Central Government.

During the winter of 1922 a manufacturer from Lapua, Mr. Eino Lahdensuo, made a trip to Karelia via Kajaani, where he bought a large quantity of Karelia stamps. The main part was used as postage. Some of these covers have been given to others but the main part - altogether 264 covers - he kept for himself.

Each cover bears the cancellation UHTUA 2.2.1922, with the transit cancel SUOMUSSALMI 2.10. 1922 as well as the arrival cancel LAPUA, 2.10. or 2.12. 1922. In addition, the covers were franked with Finnish postage for delivery from Suomussalmi to



February 5, 1922 is the last day the Uhtua postmark was used to cancel mail from Karelia. Four covers are known with the, 5. II. 22, date. Nevertheless, validity of the Karelia stamps is recognized until February 16th, the day the volunteer troops ceded the last Karelian territory back to the Soviet Union.

Lapua. These covers are known with the following franking:

They are:

Postage		covers
5-7p		7
10-75p		1
40 - 75 p	91	
40 + 50 + 50 + 75 p		2
40 p - I mark		37
1 - 25 mark		82
1 mark + 3-25 marks		4
1 mark + 5-25 marks		9
2 - 25 marks		6
5 marks		5
10 marks		5
15 marks		5
20 marks		5
25 marks		5

Finnish stamps - mainly on the front of the cover:

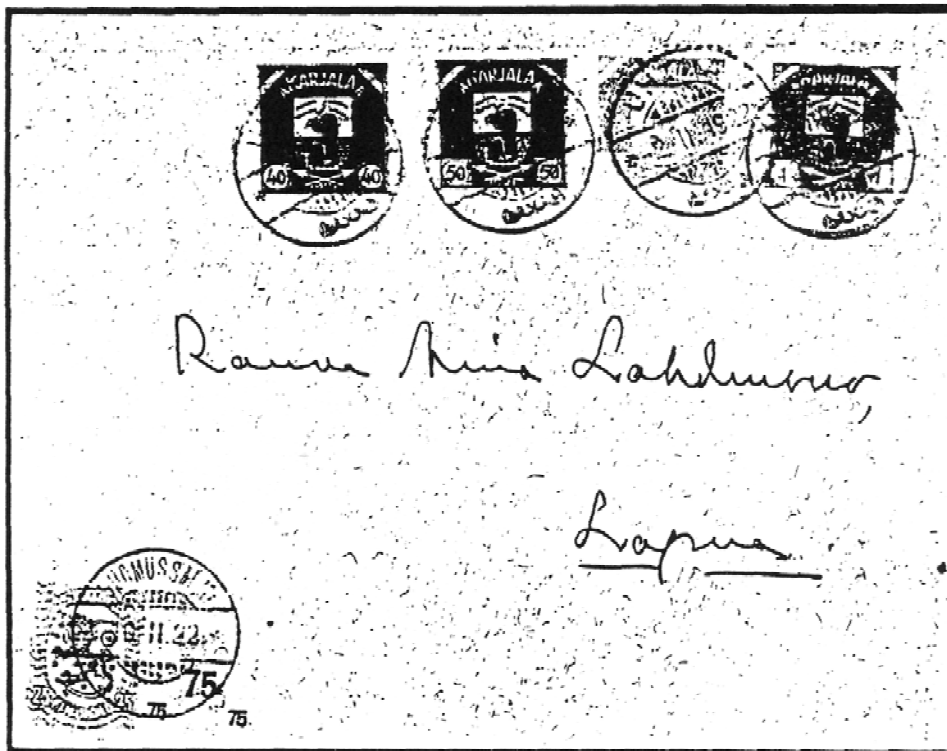
type	1917	1 mark
type	1917	25 p brown + 75/20 p
type	1917	10 P BLUE + 3 X 30 P VAASA type

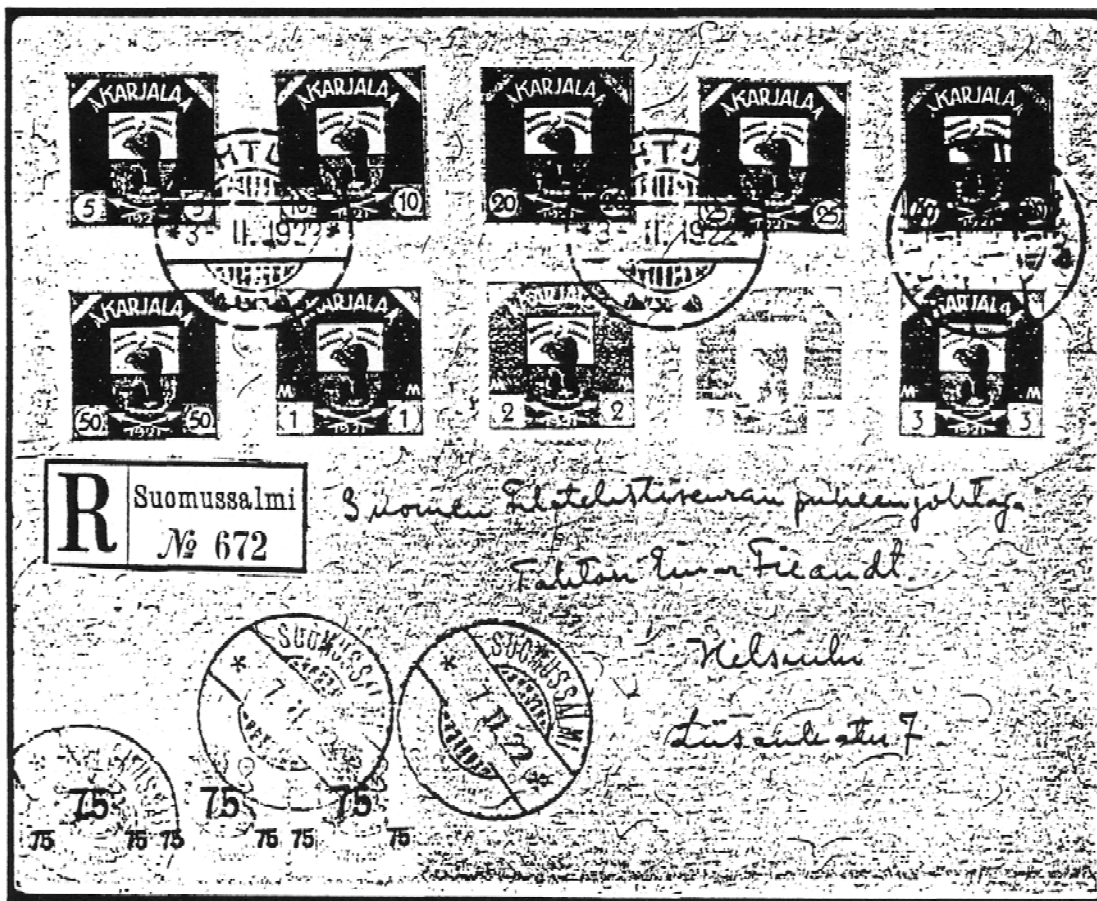
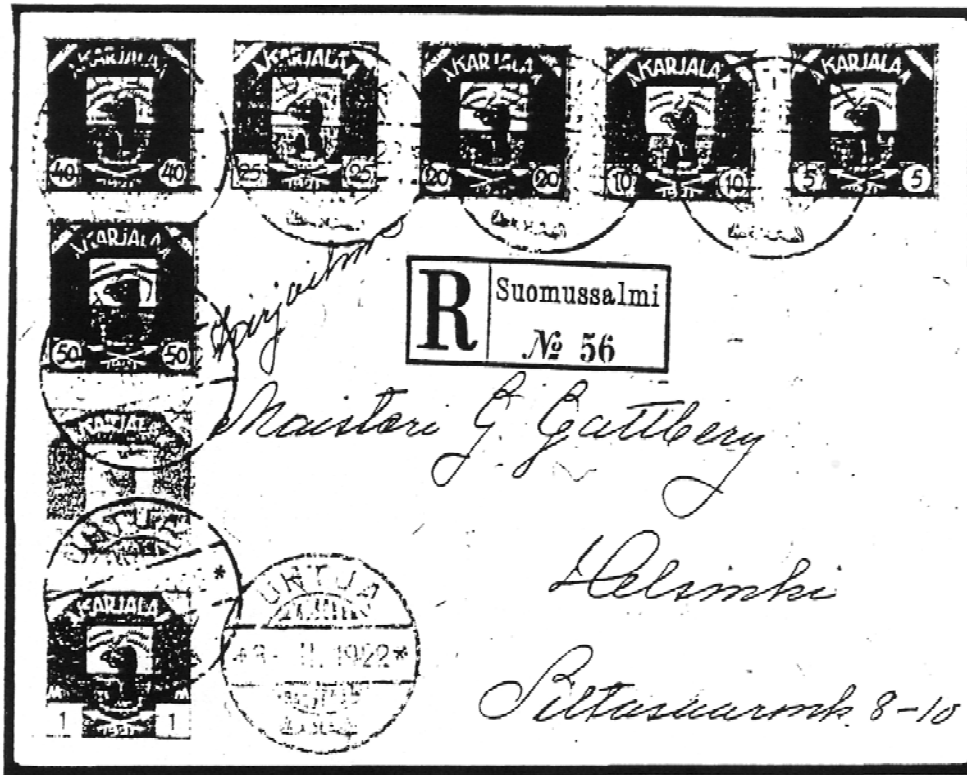
The addressees are all in LAPUA, Finland to Aino Lahdensuo, Eino Lahdensuo and Vihtori Kosola. See cover illustrated below.

The moving battle lines were a deterrent to postal traffic among the Green Karelians, consequently this part of the postal activities remained only on paper. No postal items have been found sent from and addressed within Karelia. Karjala Central Government's regulation concerning the postage fees to be paid with Karelia stamps on mail from Finland to locations specifically in Karelia beyond the receiving Postoffice, also remained only in theory. A specific fee had to be paid, for letter transport in Finland. A normal foreign letter was 2 marks. For instance the postal route Suomussalmi - Helsinki took 3-4 days. Those that participated in the war used direct mail contacts to Finland, such as from Hyrynsalmi, Kuhmo, Lieksa and Suomussalmi. Letters sent authentically through the mail without Finnish stamps exist as well as letters sent to Karelia employing only Finnish stamps.

PROOFS & FORGERIES

Some quantity of mint stamps and proofs exist. Forgeries appeared in the market at the end of 1923. They came from Switzerland and were probably produced there, the forger is not known. The designs were cleverly made with new lithographic methods. The measurements are correct. The colors usually are quite dull. The paper is usually yellowish or brownish containing 55 % cellulose, 30 % rag pulp and 15 % mechanical pulp. On the basis of tech-





Two examples of overfranked postally travelled covers from Uhtua, 3. H. 22, via Suomussalmi, to Helsinki. The top cover was registered and cancelled at Suomussalmi on 16. II. 22 with Helsinki arrival postmark of 7. IV. 22. The bottom cover was registered and cancelled at Suomussalmi on 7. II. 22 with arrival postmark of 10. II. 22. The differences in delivery times are explained by the chaotic conditions at the Karelia-Finnish border at the end of the uprising.

nical results there are 3 if not 4 different forgeries. Their origins are not known. The cancellations have not been forged. The size of the stamp varies to some degree in a rather commonly found forgery series. Usually it is larger than the authentic stamp (even up to 25.5 x 26.5 mm). This applies to the design, too (21.9 x 21.5 mm). The design is not good. The Northern Lights are smaller and partially broken. The frame of the emblem in penni values (especially 5 p) is somewhat rough and the southwestern chain link is complete (as also in mark-values). The center of the mark values is poorly focused (especially 5, 10, 15, and 25 marks). The colors are often too bright (especially 10, 40, 50, and 75 p, as well as 1, 3, 5, 10, and 25 marks). The paper is white. The gum is white and shiny. The Perforation (line perforation) is usually 11.3, sometimes 11.5.

PRINTING OF KARELIA STAMPS EVALUATED

Fairly soon after they were issued the Karjala stamps received a fair amount of criticism, in addition to approval. Detrimental were for instance the high denomination of the series, the main types of

15 and 20 marks did not correspond with any main types of Finnish stamps. Also bad were the surplus stock and the small quantity of used stamps. Economic disappointments were later created by the sale under denominations as well as emerging forgeries.

According to existing information Karelia Central Government in their difficult situation appreciated the moneys raised by selling of the stamps. The logic is the same as the logic of present day postoffices, which philatelically are not sound events. The fact that the number of used stamps remained so low was caused by the very short time of validity, which again was caused by the battles. The Karelia Central Government did not sell any used stamps.

According to some 1920 opinions the validity of the stamps should have had the official approval of the Finnish Postoffice.

These opinions, however, did not consider that for political reasons the Finnish Post Office, or the Finnish Government for that matter, was in no position to approve of the rebelling peoples or their post offices that were subjects of USSR with whom Finland had signed the Tartu Peace Treaty.

Thus Karelia had to take care of its own postal traffic relying on their own answers and methods.



Finnish volunteers in action during January, 1922. These memorial type cards, other photographs, and personal accounts testify to the actual uprising, which may be described as intense, but brief. Unfortunately, none of these post cards have been reported with Karelia franking.

SPECIFICATION TABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL STAMPS & PLATING ERRORS**5 PENNI GRAY - 20,000**

Color(s):

- a) dark gray
- b) black gray

Perforation types:

- A 11.3 or 11 1/4
- B 11.8 or 11 3/4 (usual)

Plating Errors K (= plate error):

- K-1 notch in iron grill at bottom of spear in southwest (5) (= position number)
- K-2 white point below the tip of the spear in southwest (32)
- K-3 slight thickening on the right side of the last letter "A" in word "KARJALA" (34)

10 PENNI GRAY BLUE - 20,000

Color(s):

- a) gray blue (various shades)

Perforation types:

- A (only)
- Imperforate variety, upper edge (1 - 10)

Plating Errors:

- K-1 a thin line connects "K" & "A", northern lights broken in southwest on left side (12)
- K-2 a white dot on the right side of the left 10 (13)
- K-3 thickening on left where the spears cross (38)
- K-4 left end of the northern lights is disconnected and thin (42)
- K-5 the northeast end of the spear is blunt (48)

**20 PENNI VERMILION
or CINNABAR RED 20,000**

Color(s):

- a) vermilion (shades)

Perforation type:

- B (only)
- Imperforate variety, perforation missing on bottom edge of (50)

Plating Errors:

- K-1 chain link broken on top of No. 9 (1-10)
- K-2 white spot above spear tip in southwest (36)
- K-3 a widening in the spear tip at the bottom in southwest (48)

25 PENNI BROWN

Color(s):

- a) yellowish brown
- b) reddish brown

Perforation types:

- A & B (usual)

Plating errors:

- K-1 white line in the south above the crossing of the spears (15)
- K-2 protuberance on the right of the first "A" in "KARJALA" (29)
- no printers marks or crosses in the sheet margins

40 PENNI RED LILAC 20,000

Color(s):

- a) red lilac
- b) grayish lilac

Perforation types:

- A (only)

Plating Errors:

- K-1 white dot in the right thigh of bear (8)
- K-2 thickening of the middle of the letter "R" in "KARAJALA" (10)

50 PENNI OLIVE 20,000

Color(s):

- a) yellowish gray olive
- b) dark olive

Perforation type:

- B (only)

Plating Errors:

- K-1 broken upper half in northeastern spear tip (1-10)
- K-2 thickening in the bottom left spear shaft (4)

75 PENNI YELLOW ORANGE 20,000

Color(s):

- a) yellowish orange (shades)

Perforation types:

- A (only)

Plating Error:

- K-1 thickening in the middle of the letter "R" in "KARJALA" (6)

1 MARK RED/GRAY 20,000

Color(s):

- a) pale orange red/gray
- b) ruddy red/gray

Perforation type:

- B (only)

Plating Errors:

- K-1 small break in the background iron grill on the right of the bear's leg (2nd vertical line)
- K-2 white dot in the bear's right thigh (22)
- K-3 small break in the iron grill between the bear's legs (41)

2 MARKS OLIVE GREEN/GRAY 15,000

Color(s):

- a) yellowish olive green/gray
- b) yellow olive green

Perforation types:

A (usual) & B

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

3 MARKS GRAY BLUE/GRAY 15,000

Color(s):

- a) gray blue/gray (shades)
- b) pale greenish gray blue/gray

Perforation types:

A (only)

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

5 MARKS LILAC RED/GRAY 15,000

Color(s):

- a) lilac red/gray
- b) pale grayish lilac/gray

Perforation type:

B (only)

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

10 MARKS BROWN/GRAY 15,000

Color(s):

- a) yellow brown/gray
- b) reddish brown/gray

Perforation types:

A (usual) & B

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

Goren Nykvist Undertakes Study of Finland's Early Postal Stationery

Goren Nykvist is seeking information on the 5 and 10 kopek Porto Stempel (Norma 1 & 2) and the 5 & 10 kopek Private Letter Sheet Stationeries (Norma 6 & 7). If you have an example of one of these very dear items, please share a photocopy and this information. Porto Stempel: value stamp, used or unused, smooth or laid paper, thickness, watermark, name of post office, type of cancellation (Cyrillic or low box). For the Private Letter Sheets, in addition to the above information, Mr. Nykvist requests paper color identification and the name of the sender. Send your information to the Editor or directly to:

15 MARKS GRAY GREEN/RED 15,000

Color(s)

- a) gray green/violet red (shades)
- b) dark gray green/violet red
- c) black green/violet red

Perforation types:

B (only)

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

K-4 a thickening in lower bottom spear shaft (13)

20 MARKS VIOLET RED/GREEN 15,000

Color(s)

- a) violet red/dark green (shades)
- b) violet red/black green

Perforation types:

A (only)

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

K-4 broken left "M" (3)

K-5 a thickening in the right "M" (40)

25 MARKS

YELLOW ORANGE/DARK BLUE 15,000

Color(s):

- a) yellow-orange (shades)/dark blue
- b) yelloworange (shades)/grayish blue

Perforation types:

A (usual) & B

imperforate variety: left edge imperforate (first vertical line)

Plating Errors:

K-1, 2 & 3 same as in 1 mark stamp

K-4 a protuberance on the column of L (33)

K-5 northern lights are usually broken (1-50)

Mr. Goren Nykvist:
 Magistervagen 13
 FIN-02700 GRANKULLA
 Finland



PORTO STEMPEL

OFFICIAL FORMS - Part 1

by Art Lind and Ed Fraser

Having seen at least a half dozen forms, and not having any definitive reference about them, perhaps this would be a good forum to present a couple of examples. Over time we can add additional examples or present any additional reference information that readers can offer. Figure 1 shows the typical black printing on a buff card measuring 7" by 4 7/8". The card in Figure 2 is 7" by 5".



Figure 1 Card from Helsinki, postmarked April 20, 1912 to Nikolaistad, April 21, 1912. The card is annotated as No. 1230.

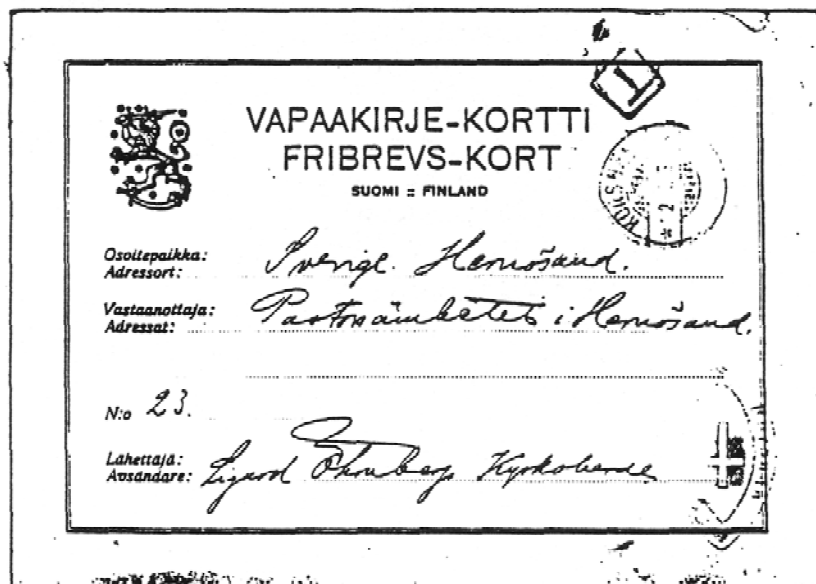


Figure 2 Card from Korsnas (Finland), January 22, 1927 to Harnosand, Sweden. In the lower right is bluish-purple handstamp of the Pastoral Office Seal. Also, the Finnish boxed T postage due handstamp was applied because the franking should have been added for non-domestic usage. There is no Lösen label or any other indication that the Swedish post office made any effort to collect the postage due. (Software grelmin has erased the umlauts on the town names of Korsnas and Harnosand.)

If we tolerate that red tape is the price of progress, these official notices of needed paperwork seem consistent with the all-to-frequent events in daily life. The translation of the manuscript message on the back of Figure 1 reads:

"According to my announced assignment I have the honor to notify that on behalf of the Industry Administration there is no recording of the recent in Kasleo conducted machine inspection in [transit or] passage, via steamboat, therefore request that in case the F-t (abbrev. for Finnish customs?) has conducted the inspection, kindly remit the recording thereof.

Respectfully,
 Laura Kapari"

The translation of the manuscript message on the back of Figure 2, reads as follows:

"To Pastoral Office in Harnosand, Sweden.

I have the honor to announce the following. Based on the current church record of Anna Fedrika Wilhelmina, born Johanson in Harnosand 29/12/ 1898, she has both fulfilled the banns and marriage to ships coal passer (fireman) Elfrid Eriksson but not recorded in Harnosand church records. I would be grateful for your investigation of this matter. She should rightfully be removed from our books and be given a certificate of moving to Harnosand which cannot be done until evidence that she is married to a Swedish citizen .

Sigurd Ohnberg,
 Khee" [abbrev. for "Pastor"]

Additional information from readers is appreciated, please write:

Ed Fraser
 PO Box 1302
 Melville, NY 11747

MARKS USED ON SEA POST

by **Bo Soderholm**; translated by **Carita Parker**
from **ABOPHIL**

FINSKA ANGB. POSTEXPEDITION
(THE FINNISH STEAM COMPANY
POSTAL OFFICE)

The first Finnish ship post office was established aboard the steamship "Express" on 3.8.1876 (Aug. 3). However, because of the expense involved, the service was discontinued on 25.11.1876 (Nov. 25). During its brief operational period, the ship post office used the double ring cancel (pictured) with the text, "FINSKA ANGB. POSTEXPEDITION," located between the rings and date in the center. These kinds of marks on mail shipments are extremely rare. In this writer's exhibit, the cancel appears on both Finnish and Swedish mail.



FRAN UTLANDET - ULKOMAALTA

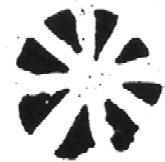
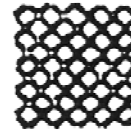
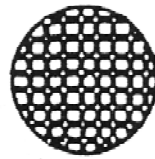
(From abroad)

Whenever possible, foreign post offices delivered their mail in bags aboard steamships. Mail boxes were also located aboard the ships, and emptied at arrival ports. Mail from these boxes were cancelled at offices with both local as well as the "FRAN UTLANDET" (Swedish) cancel. For approximately thirty years, beginning in the early 1880's, this was the most common ship postmark. The cancel was used by Helsinki, Hanko, Turku, Rauma, Reposaari (Pori), Vaasa, and Maarianhamina. Turku used the dual language cancel "ULKOMAALTA-FRAN UTLANDET, and Vaasa the "FRAN UTLANDET-ULKOMAALTA."

FRAN UTLANDET **Ulkomaalta**
Från utlandet

PATTERNED MARKS

At the turn of the century, patterned marks were used in ports to cancel mail from ship letter boxes. The validity of the patterned cancels remains



unproven, since no official directives about their use have been found in postal archives.

SHIP PICTURE MARKS





Finnish coastal towns, such as Helsinki, Turku, Hanko, Wupuri, Vaasa and Maarianhamina, used ship picture marks on both domestic and foreign mail. There were three different kinds of the Helsinki cancels, but only one for Turku, Hanko and Wupuri, used between 1895-1934. Vaasa and Maarianhamina had two different marks in use from 1923 until as late as 1976.

TURKU h. ulk. (steamship abroad)



The other Finnish ship postal mark was taken into use on 1.5.1912 (May 1), aboard vessels sailing the Turku-Stockholm route. This mark appears in three different types, as well as in three languages: Finnish, Swedish and Russian. Type #1 has large five-pointed stars between the text; type #2 large round dots, and type #3 clusters of three small stars between text. Ship post office operations were discontinued at the start of WWI in 1914.

KUPONG. — COUPON. Kan fränskiljas av adressaten. Peut être détaché par le destinataire. Inlämningspostanstaltens stämpel.  Timbre de bureau origine. Avsändarens namn och bostad: Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur: A/B Svenska Metallverken Västerås Uppgett å innehållat: Désignation du contenu: (För paket till Danmark eller Norge.) (Pour des colis à destination du Danemark ou de la Norvège.) Mässingmuttra		4300 Västerås SVERIGI SUÈDE. Assureras för Valeur déclarée ADRESSKORT TILL PAKET. — BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION. Härmed <u>1</u> paket. Antal tilldeklarationer: <u>1</u> Ci-joint colls. Nombre de déclarations en douane: Postförskotts- belopp Montant du rem- boursement Till O/Y Tamperen Räkenskapskonttori A FINLAND A/B. Adressort: Tammerfors Lieu de destination. Gata och husnr.: Rue et numéro: Adressland: Finland Pays de destination. Vikt — Poids: 4 kg 850 Tullavgifter: — Droits de douane Stockholm Bl. 65. (April 22.)		
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Address card for package from Vasteras, 29. 12. 24, via Stockholm and Turku with steamship arrival port mark, 31. XII. 24, to Tammerfors (Tampere). This ship mark is relatively scarce. The ship cancels are known on foreign mail, as above, the Russian stamps used in Finland, the Ring stamps as well as all the usual Finnish issues of the period during the use of the particular ship cancel. The ship cancels on the Russian issues are relatively scarce.

TURKU h. ulk. without Russian text

Originally this mark was that of the other Finnish ship post office cancel, but after a change to arrival port mark, the Russian text was removed. There are three different types of this, same as the original ship postal mark. Besides the Turku office, the mark was also used by the Turku-Toijala postal car from 1923 to 1950.



SHIP LETTER

The first internationally valid proviso on the cancelling of ship letters were given at the 1891 Congress of the International Postal Union. However, not until the Washington Congress of 1897, was the matter finalized. In the final draft, the word "PAQUEBOT" was accepted for international use on postal ship mail and is still valid. In Finland this cancel was taken into use by the Turku post office, but not until 1920; and even later in the other postal port offices.

Laiwakirje
Paquebot

Paquebot

FINNISH AND FINLAND AREA EXHIBITS AT PACIFIC 97

Arnold Nyman, **Finland 1856-1885**, Large Gold
 Ossi Virtanen, **Olympics**, Gold
 Kaj Hellman, **Finland Railways**, Large Vermeil
 Mrs. Ulla Eklund, **Russia**, Large Vermeil
 Bjorn-Eric Saarinen, **Finland Revenues**, Lg. Vermeil
 Roger Quinby, **Russia in Finland**, Large Vermeil
 Kari Lehtonen, **Wasa**, Vermeil

Esko Seitsonen, **Finland/US Matt**, Vermeil
 Raino Heino, **Story of Weather**, Vermeil
 Tuukka Laakso, **Helsinki**, Vermeil (youth)
 Timo Bergholm, **Russia TPO's**, Large Silver
 Reino Alava, **Useful Plants**, Large Silver
 Antti Tenhunen, **m/30**, Large Silver (youth)
 Tomi Raiha, **Birds of Prey**, Silver (youth)