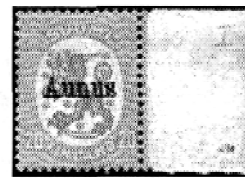




The Finnish Philatelist

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

In This Issue

Aunus: Stamps & Postal History
1891 Combination Cover
Vorwerck's Discovery Examined
1900 Mourning Card
New Issues - Sili Labels
Finnish Perfins

The Finnish Philatelist

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

It is free of charge to all members of the FSG thru 1998. A \$5 contribution to cover printing and mailing costs is appreciated. Membership inquiries for the SCC and FSG, and changes of address to:

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Manuscripts and illustrations are welcome. Send all material to the Editor. While due care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for the material submitted. For return of original submissions (pictures, slides, etc.) enclose a stamped return envelope. Manuscripts must be typed or formatted on 3.5 disks.

A Note About Illustrations

Black and white or color photographs are preferred. All illustrations are scanned; sharp, flat, good contrast photos with light background are most suitable. Very sharp Xerox copies are also acceptable; good contrast required.

Editor's Message - Plans for 1998 & This Issue

Previously, we made a commitment to begin reprinting Juhani Olamo's series on the Finnish war censorship marks of the World War I era. We will definitely begin that series in the next issue of TFP. The original monograph runs several hundred typed pages; we will reprint all the descriptive text and illustrations of the censor stamps and censor tapes. Descriptions of the censor stamps and tapes will include physical description, type, font type where appropriate, translations of all the text, and dates of usage. Space limitations preclude descriptions of all censor mark subtypes, and their dates of usage, but the reader will be apprised that subtypes exist.

We will continue to run new issue information provided by the Finnish Post Office. We have also requested the Aland Post Office to furnish us with information about new issues, but as we go to press we have not heard from them.

This issue of TFP concludes with two articles about Finnish perfins. Once regarded as orphans, many Finnish perfins are very difficult to find and expensive, especially on the Russian stamps used in Finland. During 15 years of actively collecting this area, I have found but a handful of the Russian stamps with the Finnish perforated initials, all from the Viktor Ek company.

The dates of usage and company names from the listing of companies which appeared in the *Abophil* article have been combined with the information in the *Posthorn* article and reproduced on page 16. Some of this information is different from that which appeared in the original *Posthorn* article, but is believed to be more accurate. See the Editor's note on page 18.

Controversy is a frequent visitor to philately and Finnish philately is no exception. The Russian period in Finland, 1891 to 1918, has given rise to a number of controversies, including the classification of the Co-runners such as the Romanov stamps to mention the one area which seems to generate considerable passion. The dates of sale and numbers sold in Finland of some of the 1889-1906 Russian definitive issues remain controversial and somewhat unresolved. The Tann-Vorwerck exchange on the 1889 35 kopek stamp on a 1907 cover only highlights the strong differences of opinion which can surface from the Russian period.

Dirk Vorwerck's article on the Mourning Card is printed here with permission of the author. The article will appear in *Forschungsgemeinschaft Nordische Staaten*, Mitteilungsblatt Nr. 1/98, (March, 1998).

Our special thanks again to Alan Warren who has proof read this edition of TFP. The Editor's E-mail address shown in the left hand column is now correct.

Earliest Usage of the 35 Kopek Russian Issue Used in Finland: Horizontal or Vertical Stripes?

Leonard. L. Tann Questions the Vorwerck Find: Tann Writes:

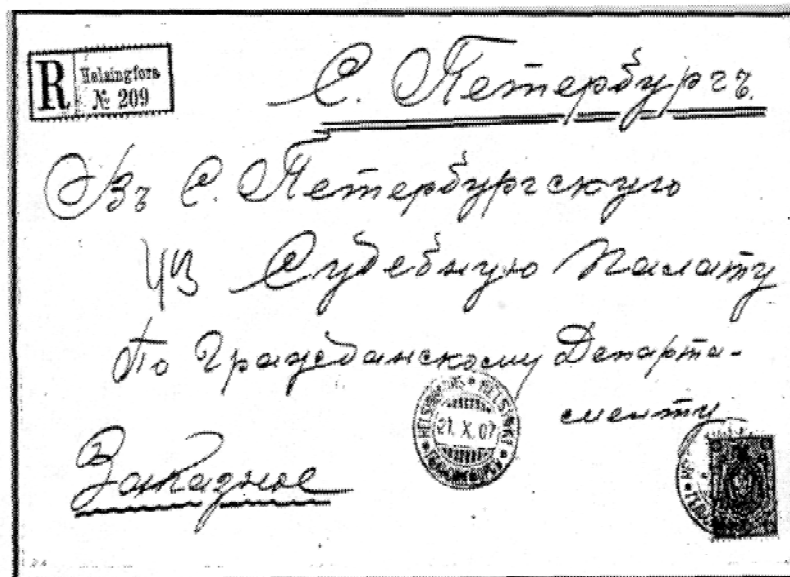
The astounding news of the "horizontally laid" Arms 35 kopek used in Finland, as shown on p. 2 of the November 1997 *Finish Philatelist*, does, I think, need absolute confirmation. The Arms set on horizontally laid paper was issued in Russia 1889-92 (94). It was concurrent - in fact basically the same printing - with the "dotted issue (Ring Stamps), - which was its twin" on horizontally laid paper. By the time 1908 came around the Arms issue on vertically laid paper - 1902-5 (with the 5 rubles and 10 rubles added in 1906) had long superseded it. In fact, only odd values of the old 1889-92 issue could have been around. A 35 kopek used in 1908 is almost certain to be the later 1902-6 issue on vertically laid paper.

I do not believe the 1889-92 horizontally laid set was issued to Finland - the Ring Stamps were issued instead, and were valid until the turn of the century if not later, (Editor: They were demonetized on May 15, 1911) and it was the 1902-6 vertically laid set that was issued to Finland. THIS NEEDS TO BE CHECKED OUT. It takes a few seconds for an expert to hold the cover to the light - even used examples, on cover, will show the lines of the watermark - going across the stamp, or top to base. To state that both *Facit* and *LaPe* claim the 35 kopek on horizontally laid paper was not sold before 1908, does not make much sense. How would any values of the horizontally laid set (not the Ring Stamp issues) have gotten to Finland and still be around to be used in 1907/1908?

It is very vaguely possible that in some Russian post office a half or quarter sheet of the old and now 35 kopek Arms was found and used up. But how would stamps of that issue get into Finland? That is what I do not understand. Come on - explain it to me! Or else, for the word 'horizontal' in your text, we should read more correctly 'vertical.' Or a stamp of the old superseded issue was taken/sent to Finland for use there, but was not bought/sold there.

Dirk Vorwerck Replies:

Thanks for the letter of November 17th with copy of Rabbi Leonard L. Tann's comments. I confirm the 35 kopek stamp has horizontally laid paper; clearly visible, no doubt.



Dirk Vorwerck confirms that the 35 kopek emission on the lower right hand corner of this 1907 cover is from the 1889 horizontally striped issues.

Editor's Comments:

L. L. Tann's comments are both plausible and insightful. For sure, it was the case that by 1907/08 the 1889 35 kopek emission on horizontally laid paper was not easily available in Russia, yet when we look at the delivery charts of the 1889-1906 ringless kopek Arms stamps to the Finnish Post Office, we see an entirely different picture. According to *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*, Vol. II, Helsinki, 1971, 500,000 horizontally striped 35 kopek stamps from the 1892 printing were delivered to the Finnish Post Office Central Warehouse on November 28, 1900. However, the *Facit Special* 1997/98 indicates that only 15,000 35 kopek emissions on horizontally laid paper were delivered to the Finnish Post Office on July 10, 1900. Considering the relative scarcity on this stamp with Finnish postmarks, this smaller number is most likely correct.

While I cannot account for these differences, both references (*SPK* & *Facit*) agree on three important facts; 1) 35 kopek Arms emissions were delivered to the Finnish Post Office in 1900, 2) This delivery preceded the printing of these stamps on vertically striped paper by several years, 3) Neither reference lists the delivery of the 35 kopek emission on vertically striped paper to the Finnish Post Office.

When we consider the above facts in conjunction with the post office directive to first exhaust the supplies of the Ring Stamps, it is entirely possible that the Russian ringless 35 kopek emissions on horizontally striped paper did not go on sale until October, 1907.

**SCARCE, MAY, 1891 MIXED FRANKING COVER
TO RUSSIA ANALYZED
By Janne Sahlstein**



Sent during the first week of permitted optional penni-kopek franking, this cover may be the earliest mixed franking cover from Finland to Russia.

From May 1st, 1891 until December 31st, 1891, The Finnish Coat-of Arms (m-89) stamps and the Ring stamps were valid franking on mail from Finland to Russia. The two issues could be used singly, which was the most common usage or they could be combined as they were on the illustrated cover from Borgia, 6. 5.91 (May 6, 1891) to St. Petersburg, backstamped, 27 APR. 91 in the Julian calendar.

This very attractive combination, mixed franking cover is significant for several reasons; first, it is one of the earliest combination covers to Russia and second, the franking is accurate and reflects the correct usage of the two issues.

Cover Facts:

- Weight: 30 grams
- Insured for 76 Rubles
- Registered: No. 22
- Abo, May 6, 1891 to St. Petersburg

Rate Analysis

- 3rd weight class (26 to 38 grams) letter rate to Russia = 75 penni
- registration fee = 25 penni
- assurance fee (0.5 % from value assured = 0.005 x 7900 kop = 39.5 kop
- rounded up to = 40 kop

In other words the assurance fee has been paid with Ring stamps and the rest with m-89 stamps.

The weight unit used in Russian post was the lodh ("luoti" in Finnish), equal to 12.8 gr. A letter weighing 30 gr. would have been a second weight class letter to other UPU countries but not to Russia. When a letter contained Russian notes the registration fee was 7 kopek, so the sender would have been able to use a 7 kopek Ring stamp also for the registration fee.

The "Cirkulärs" of the Finnish Postal Administra-

tion provide the information for computing the insurance rates. The 1882 Cirkulär No. 9/544 indicates the insurance rates which were still valid in 1891 when this cover was mailed. Judging by the text, the rate period started on May 29th 1879 and remained in effect until 1903. The following rates applied only to insured mail to Russia; different sets of rates applied to Sweden and to other UPU countries.

- value up to 600 rubles: 0.5 % of the value
 - value over 600 and up to 1600 rubles: 0.25 % of the value
 - value over 1600 rubles: 0.125 % of the value
- Insurance rates to Russia changed on January 14, 1903 (Cirkulär No. II, 1903). The new rates were:
- value up to 600 rubles: 0.25 kop/ruble
 - value over 600 and up to 1600 rubles: 0.25 kop/ruble + 75 kopeks
 - value over 1600 rubles: 0.0625 kop/ruble + 1 ruble, 75 kop.

And finally on January 15, 1905 the whole rate system for insured or value letters was again changed. The editors plan to continue articles on the rates for insured letters, money orders, packages (parcel cards), COD packages, etc. from the Russian period.

Letters & Notes

Jack Isaacson On Finland's First Semi-Postal Stamp, The 1922 Red Cross Issue

Thank you again for the fine publication. The information is very useful on the North Ingermanland area.

I have another request concerning Finland's first semi-postal (*Scott*, B1; *Norma*, 118; *Facit*, 108). I have always

liked this stamp. I have had trouble obtaining used copies. Why is this issue so scarce used? Also, there are two perforations, 14 x 14 and 13 x 13.5. This second perforation variety is more expensive. What is the story on this stamp?

Editor's Note: According to *Facit & Norma* this stamp was issued in aid to Finland's Red Cross and General Mannerheim's Association for the Protection of Children. It was valid only within Finland from May 15, 1922 until December 31, 1930. 655,650 stamps were printed and perforated 14x14. Only 225,650 stamps were sold. Two shades are recognized: gray/red and black-gray/red. The black-gray/red variety is very scarce; the catalogue value is US \$300 to \$400 for a fine used copy. No prices are given for the mint stamp or on cover. A first day cover of the common shade variety could run up to \$500 retail. Altogether 300,00 stamps were sold in 1941 from the unsold remainders. The second perforation variety, 13 x 13.5, (ca 10,000) comes from this batch and therefore cannot be found cancelled. Some stamps have damaged roses; for this variety there is a small premium. Stamp illustration courtesy of Jay Smith & Associates.

Letter from Hal Vogel

Thank you for sending me the current issue of *The Finnish Philatelist*. It certainly is professionally well done and more than serves the interests of those seeking more specialized information about Finnish philately within SCC.



Andrew Riddell Adds Cinderella Labels To The SILI Story

Thanks for the latest issue of *The Finnish Philatelist*. I've really enjoyed the articles on Karelia and North Ingermanland. As my Finnish interests are mainly locals, revenues, freight stamps and cinderellas in general, they are all dubious enough to be interesting!

Can I add to the SILI story? I enclose a photocopy of some labels which I've had for years but never known anything about. They are printed by a fairly coarse photogravure process, and I can't get the machine to reproduce them any better! The badge at the bottom is a wreath with a silhouette of a bird across it, and the letters SIL above the bird and FFF below it. I presume that the latter stands for 'Finlands Flyg Forening' or something similar.

Figures 1-3 are all in distinct shades of blue (bright blue, dull greyish blue and ultramarine respectively) but otherwise seem identical. The aircraft on these looks more like a glider than a powered craft, whereas Figure 4 definitely has a propeller on its nose. Figure 4 is bright blue except for the ornaments on either side of the badge, which are red.

These are presumably publicity labels for the organization, but I have no idea of dates of issue. I would appreciate some information on these things!

Editor's Note: A further question. Do these cinderallas exist on cover? Were they available at the 1938 show when the special SILI postmark was in use? The SILI illustrations are reduced 25%.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



My Finnish area is quite narrow, and even though I found it was not covered in that issue, I none the less enjoyed how well you had edited and produced it. It is a welcome addition to the realm of philatelic publications.

The "Mourning Stamp" Card of Finland By Dirk Vorwerck, Translated by Klaus Alt

All Finland collectors are surely acquainted with the so-called "Mourning Stamp", which was issued by a private party on August 14, 1900, as a sign of protest against the prohibition of stamps with the Finnish Coat of Arms (m/89) for mail to recipients abroad. It is a private political label; it had no postal validity. (See also the note in the 1997-98 *Facit Special Catalog*, page F-583).

However, it is little known that there is also a post card, which likewise was issued by a private party at the same time, and which shows the imprint of the Mourning Stamp in the upper right corner in lieu of a postage imprint. It was sold for 3 penni, as can be seen by the price indication in the small print in the lower left corner.

The regular catalogues do not mention this card, not even by way of a footnote as for the Mourning Stamp. The *Michel-Ganzsachen-Katalog* is just as silent as the Finnish specialty catalogues by *Norma* and *Lape* and the Swedish *Facit*. The reason may be presumed to lie in the private origin of the card. Only the "*Katalog över Direktör Richard Granbergs Samling af Finlands Helsaker*" (Helsingfors, 1934) provides a detailed description of the card and a reference to its scarcity in postally used form.

The use of the card was prohibited by the Russian Governor General within just a few days after its release - just as he prohibited use of the Mourning Stamp itself. Even so, such cards were delivered thereafter postally, properly franked with 10 penni (domestic) or 4 kopeks (foreign).

It is no great problem to find an unused mourning card. However, it is much more difficult and more expensive to buy a postally used copy for one's collection. They are certainly scarce, but by no means a great rarity. Nevertheless, one needs a bit of luck and patience, because used cards are offered only now and then.

But there are wild presumptions on the price for such a card. Some years ago, a German auction of-



Figure 1. The Djurling Mourning Card.

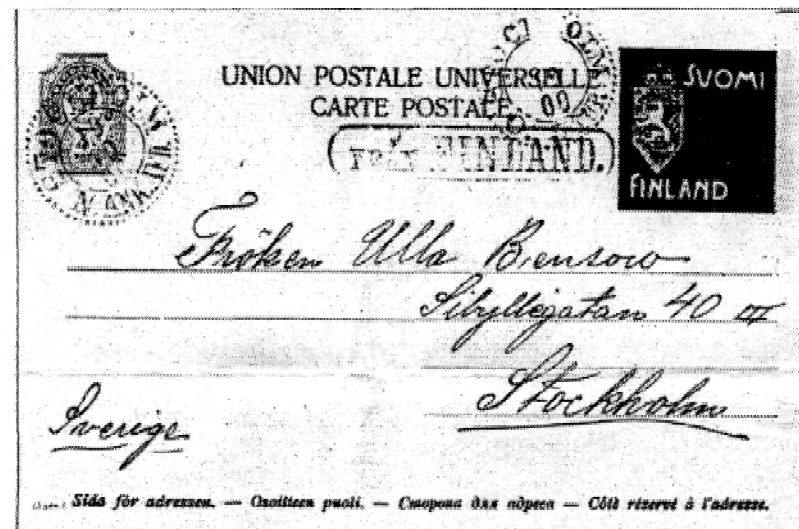


Figure 2. The Bensow Mourning Card.

ferred an unused card for DM 100, (about US \$55) but did not sell it. In my opinion, a price of DM 10 to 15 is ample, since it is after all only a private issue. In the Rurik auction in Vaasa on July 5, 1996, such a card was sold for 55 FIM (about US \$10) with an opening bid of 40 FIM.

Most of the postally used items are addressed with a typewriter to "Herr Hilmer Djurling, Stockholm Kh." They are franked with the 4 Kopek Ring stamp and are cancelled with the tri-lingual cancel Helsinki 16. XL 00, as well as with the arrival cancel Stockholm K.E. 19.11.1900 and the distribution cancel of the same day — 5. Tur. (Fig. 1).

There is no text on the reverse. Thus, this is an obvious philatelic card, which is franked properly and, without a doubt, went through the mail.

A survey of Finnish auction catalogues and lists of prices realized over the last eight or nine years provides a reasonably complete overview of the offers in Finland and the prices realized (in each case without buyer's premium).

1. "Djurling" cards: (Figure 1)

Kaj Hellman, Helsinki, February 1996: opening bid 800, sold at 1100 FIM;

Karelia Stamps and **Merkki Mbert**, March 1995: opening bid 200, sold at 550 FIM;

Soren Andersson, Stockholm, March 1994: opening bid 300 SEK, sold at 1100 SEK;

2. "Bensow" cards: (Figure 2)

I have access to a further card, which is ad-

3. Other cards:

Finally, in the auctions by **Kaj Hellman** in Helsinki, the following Mourning Cards were offered and sold:

October 1990: Franked with 10 penni/1901 and used in domestic mail. Opening bid 175, sold at 300 FIM.

October 1991: Franked with 10 penni/1889. Cancel Helsinki 29. 8. 1900, to a recipient in Helsinki. Opening bid 100, sold at 220 FIM. - This is the earliest date of use of this card that is known to me! This item proves that the Mourning Card was sold as early as August 1900.

February 1996: Franked with 10 penni/1901 and used in domestic mail. Opening bid 800, sold at 1100 FIM. (See Figure 3, with 10 penni/1895.)

February 1997: Franked with 10 penni/1889, railway cancel Helsinki - St. Petersburg 14. X. 00, addressed to Helsingfors. Opening bid 450, sold at 750 FIM.

I cannot say whether the above cards include an item that was truly non-philatelic (for example, because it contains a business address). I would be grateful, if I were to be provided with access to such an item (copy of both sides). Likewise it would be interesting to be able to prove an earlier date of use than August 29, 1900.

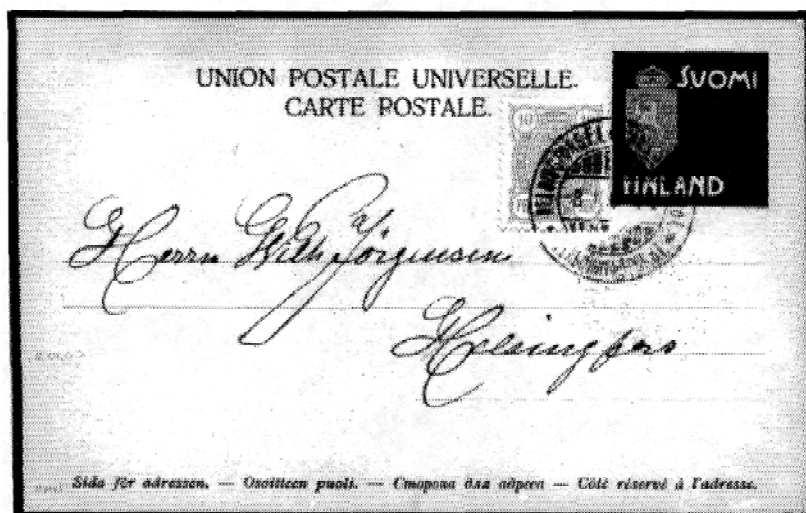


Figure 3 1901 Mourning Card franked with 10 penni Arms issue.

dressed in handwriting to "Froken Ulla Bensow, Sybyllegatan 40 III, Stockholm". It is franked with the 4 Kopek stamp of Russia, 1889 issue, and was struck at its arrival in Stockholm on 19. 10. 00 (Oct.19,1900). The card obviously went by ship, as evidenced by the side cancel "Fran Finland" in a frame. On the reverse, the same handwriting as the address wrote:

"Halsningar till dig och Mex fran Lisa. Helsingfors, den 12/10.1900"

This card appears to be a "non-philatelic" use at first glance, but, just as the "Djurling" cards, it is nothing of the sort. This is shown first by the quite general, even meaningless, text on the reverse. Also, a card, which is absolutely identical in its address, even with the side cancel "Fran Finland" and the arrival cancel of Stockholm, was offered with a minimum bid of 400 DKr. and sold at a price unknown to me in the 33 Rasch auction in Denmark in October of 1989 (my bid of 1050 DKr. was not high enough).

Around the turn of the century, such private cards with political expressions were plentiful in Finland (see also Orvo Bogdanoff: *Poliitisen Postikortin Historia 1870-1920*). This also includes a postcard, which shows a reproduction of the Mourning Stamp on the picture side and which was printed by the publisher Hans A. Hanson in Lübeck. So far, I have seen this card only unused. (Figure 4 to the right is considerably reduced. It is not proportional.)

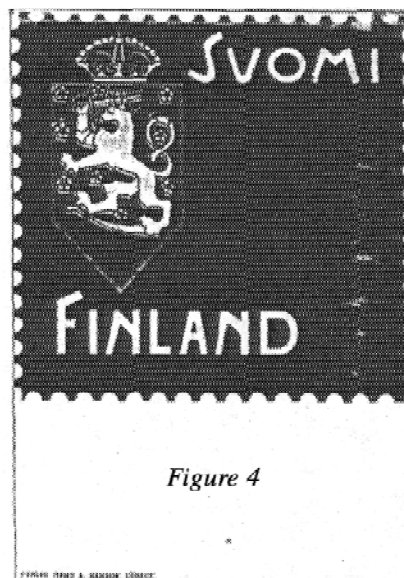


Figure 4

AUNUS IN 1919

by Osmo Seppanen - Translated by Carita Parker

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

THE BEGINNING AND FORERUNNERS

In early 1919, in connection with the Karelian Peoples' uprising, armed aid, in the form of military troops, was requested from the Finnish Government. This request was turned down for political and policy reasons; instead, the government allowed a Volunteer Expedition Corps to be formed limited to no more than 3, 500 men. Officially, the aid was for food and medicines only.

The corps of volunteers and refugees from Aunus was formed in Sortavala. This expedition made rapid advancements, overtaking the city of Aunus on April 23, 1919. At that time, the need for postal connections became evident. Because of the unofficial nature of this war operation, the corps was denied any right to field-post service and very few volunteers carried any postage stamps with them for general correspondence.

Some of the mail from this period was furnished with Saarinen type stamps, in accordance with domestic postal rates, cancelled at the Aunus post office and dated with a Russian stamp cancel. These are the rare "forerunners" to the Aunus postage stamps. Although, the governing body of Aunus was not officially associated with Finland, the "forerunners" were in accordance with regulations, as were the stampless letters which had gone through the mail (much like field-post letters).

The city of Aunus was lost on May 12, 1919 and already at the beginning of May, the fighting had intensified to such an extent that it is unlikely any of the "forerunner" stamps have survived.

After the takeover of the town of Aunus, the civilian matters were handled by the Aunus Administrative Committee, later called the Aunus Temporary Administrative Board (AVH = Aunuksen Valiakainen Hoitokunta), active at first, in the city itself. Postal arrangements, among other things, became the responsibility of the AVH.

The AVH soon moved to Viitele and from there to Rajakontu. At a meeting held in Rajakontu on June 17, 1919, Mr. Fabian Heiskanen was elected acting Postmaster of Aunus. His first task was to travel to Helsinki for discussions with the Minister of Transportation, Eero Erkko, about the possibility of creating stamps for Aunus.



Genuine 10 and 40 penni stamps from the first printing showing application of expert marks from the early 1920's.

AUNUS 1919

USAGE: In the Aunus area, and on mail addressed from there to Finland.

VALID: July 7 - October 15, 1919

EARLIEST CANCELLATION: July 7, 1919

ISSUES: 5, 10, 20, 40 & 50 penni
and 1, 5 & 10 marks.

PRINTINGS I & II 5 pen - 40 pen: 40, 000

50 pen - 1 mk: 4,000

5 mk: 1,500

10 mk: 1,000

OVERPRINT: Printed in 2 stages, much like the Saarinen-types, by typography, adding the overprint "AUNUS."

PRINTED AT: The Senate Printing Office of Finland.

PRINTED SHEET: 10 x 10 = 100 stamps.

The discussions, by-passing normal bureaucratic channels, lead to quick results and already on June 20, 1919, the Senate Printing Office announced that stamps had been printed and were ready for delivery the next day. On June 25, 1919, the Ministry of Finance, confirmed the order received by the Senate Printing Office (Charta Sigillata) to print postage stamps for Aunus:

From the Ministry of Finance in Helsinki
To the Senate Printing Office
June 25, 1919
No. 1277

In a letter dated June 19, the Ministry of Communications & Transportation, has requested that the Senate Printing Office receive the order to print Finnish postage stamps, on government stamp paper with watermarks, and that the stamps be furnished with the overprint "AUNUS" and handed to the acting Postmaster of Aunus, Fabian Heiskanen, in the following amounts:

Number Printed	Value Stamp
100	Fmk 10:-
500	5:-
1,000	1:-
1,000	-.50
20,000	-.40
20,000	-.20
20,000	-.10
20,000	-.05
Total 86, 000	Fmk 20, 000:-

Accordingly, the Finance Ministry, hereby, gives its consent to the Senate Printing Office to print the above listed quantities of Finnish postage stamps, with the overprint "AUNUS" and delivered to Postmaster Heiskanen in exchange for the following reimbursement, as stated by the Printing Office.

Actual payment for 82, 600 stamps: Total Fmk 259 in addition to this, half a sheet of each of the different stamp denominations are to be sent to the Ministry of Communication & Transportation, in order to be added to the Postal Office's archives. This information is given by the Ministry of Finance to the Senate Printing Office, to be carried out accordingly.

(Signed)

(Govt.) Minister August Ramsay

(Govt.) Minister E. W. Pettersson

The overprint "**Aunus**" was added to valid Saarinen type stamps and the Finance Ministry charged the AVH only for the paper and the immediate printing cost of 0.2 penni per stamp and the extra cost of 9/80 penni per stamp, given to the office manager, Mr. Brandstake, for having overseen the printing. Accordingly, the AVH paid only a total of 259 Fmks for the entire first printing, consisting of 82,600 stamps.

The stamps were delivered on June 27, 1919 by registered mail (advance postage paid) to Salmi, where the AVH had moved in the meantime, arriving there on July 4, 1919.

The stamp to be used for the cancelling was ordered from a Vyborg stamp maker but Salmi did not receive it until July 7, 1919, which is to be considered as the actual first day of use for the Aunus stamps.

The highest denominations were quickly sold out and consequently, the Finance Ministry order to set aside 1/2 a sheet of each value for the PA collections was never honored. Postmaster Heiskanen sent letters and telegrams, requesting time and again for a speedy delivery of a second printing, changing the quantities needed with every request. Therefore, the Finance Ministry on August 13, 1919, ordered a new printing of the Aunus stamps.

From the Ministry of Finance in Helsinki
To the Senate Printing Office
August 13, 1919
No. 1507

In accordance with the letters received from the Ministry of Communications & Transportation on July 21st and August 11th, the Finance Ministry hereby commissions the Printing Office to print the following amounts of Finnish stamps with the overprint "AUNUS" on government stamp paper with watermarks and send them to the Acting Postmaster of Aunus, Fabian Heiskanen:

Number Printed	Value Stamp
1,000	Fmk 10:-
1,000	5:-
3,000	-.50
3,000	-.50
20,000	-.40
20,000	-.20
20,000	-.10
20,000	-.05
Total 88,000	Fmk 34, 500:-

These quantities are to be mailed, postage paid in advance (C. O. D.), to Postmaster Heiskanen on the same terms of reimbursement as the previous stamp shipment as ordered by the Ministry of Finance in their letter of June 25, 1919. No. 1277.

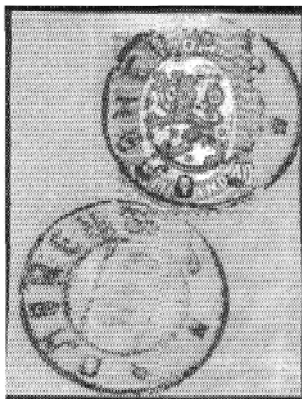
(Govt.) Minister August Ramsay Edvin Nordberg

The stamps were sent on August 16, 1919 and arrived at the AVH office on August 20th. Even after this shipment, there were attempts to acquire a third printing of Aunus stamps, this time apparently to cover, at least in part, the expenses of the volunteer corps. This idea was not agreeable to the Finance Ministry, since the actual war operations had just about come to an end. These facts, as presented in documents, indicate the official nature of the Aunus stamps.

THE PRINTING AND PRINTED EDITIONS

The Aunus stamps were printed in two stages. The series include the following main issues:

Value Emission	Printing	Order No. Basic Stamp	Color/Shades, Gum & Emission Characteristics	Printing Quantity
5 pen	I	25	yellowish green/black muddy printing, almost white gum	20,000
	II	34	yellow green/black sharp printing, white gum	20,000
10 pen	I	29	red/black (shades), yellowish gum	20,000
	II	29	bright red/black, white gum	20,000
20 pen	I	30	orange yellow/black (shades) yellowish gum	20,000
	II	30	orange yellow/black (shades) white gum	20,000
40 pen	I	26	dark violet/black yellowish gum	20,000
	II	26	dark violet/black white gum	20,000
50 pen	I	28	dark brown/black yellowish gum	1,000
	II	28	light brown/black & brown/black white gum	3,000
1 mk	I	27	reddish carmine/gray/black yellowish gum	1,000
	II	27	reddish carmine/gray/black white gum	3,000
5 mk	I	32	reddish violet/dark gray/black yellowish gum	500
	II	32	dark reddish violet/black gray /black, yellowish gum	1,000
10 mk	I	18	light brown/black gray /black yellowish gum	100
	II	33	yellow brown/black gray /black white gum	1,000



The Saارينen-type stamps used in OLONETS (Russian for Aunus) before the overprinted stamps were made.



A few, possibly 6 in all, free franked covers from the AVH to Finland.

THE OVERPRINT

The plate used for the overprint, was typeset with more or less antiquated, worn out, loose lettering, resulting in print that differs in style on the same pane. The first printing was done on a Phoenix printing press, the second printing was done on a Koenig & Bauer press, purchased in 1895.

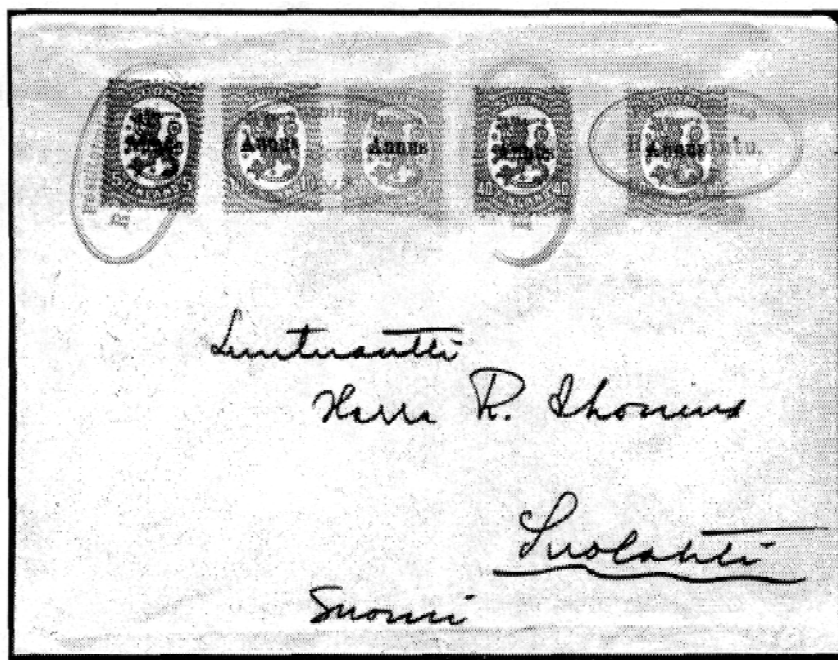
The letter "s" was accidentally placed upside down in position 85. This error occurs on every pane for every value in both printings. Also, the thick-

ness of the print differs quite a bit on the same sheet; examples include position Nos. 62 and 63, where the left overprint is thin, the right is thick. The height of the letter "A" varies, depending on the sharpness of the point, likewise, the width of the overprint.

The following are other recurring plate flaws: Plate position No. 9) The right side on the first letter "U" is broken; 10) Baseline on the letter "N" is broken; 13) The left baseline on the letter "A" is too



This is the earliest reported Aunus cover, cancelled July 5, 1919. As the Rajakonttu canceller may not have been delivered until July 7th, the cover may have been sent as a free franked letter and the stamps added later.



This is an excellent example of a postally travelled overfranked souvenir cover from Aunus to Finland. In this case, the destination is one of the accepted transit postal offices for mail from Aunus to Finland. All of the Ahonius covers are considered genuine.

short from the left; 14, 91, 92) The upper vertical line touches the curve on the letter "S"; 39) The upper part broken on the letter "S"; 57) A notch on the horns on the second letter "U" and on the curve of the letter "S"; 76) Right horn broken on the second letter "U." In printing the 5 penni values, a piece of

paper might have lodged on top of the paper, causing two stamps on the left-side edge, on one pane, near the order number to be without overprint.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FIRST (I) AND SECOND (II) PRINTINGS EMISSIONS

Of the 5 pen and 10 mk main issues, the I and II editions are easily discernible by the printing and color of the base stamp. The rest of the denominations can be examined by the color of the overprint and the gum. As previously mentioned, the thickness of the overprint does not constitute an absolute identification.

In the first printing, the ink on the overprint contains more oil and seems darker than that used in the second printing. When examining the stamp from a slanted position, in front of a light, there is a distinct gloss on the overprint, which is absent in the second printing. The gum on the first printing is always yellowish, on the second it is white except for the 5 mk stamp, which is also found with a yellowish gum. The perforation, 14, is typical for this period and free of any essential errors. Also, no rough, uneven or pointed perforations are to be found.

VILLAGE CANCELLATIONS & POSTMARKS

A round metal stamp for cancelling, with date (bridge cancel), the year marked in its entirety and with the words SÄÄMAJÄRVI above, and POSTITOIMISTO (POST OFFICE) below, was ordered from a Helsinki stamp manufacturer on July 25, 1919. The cancel was used on

Aunus stamps, in both violet and black; however, it is not known on any mail carried by the Aunus or Finnish post offices. Ten oval, without date, rubber cancellers were ordered from a Wyborg manufacturer on June 25, 1919.

Only the Rajakontu canceller was used on mail carried by the post office from Aunus to Finland. The 10 town oval cancellations are listed below. All Aunus stamps with the other oval town cancellations were favor cancelled. Nevertheless, these souvenir cancellations are very much prized by collectors. Not all Aunus emissions are known cancelled with each of the 10 oval cancellers. Manssila, Salmi, and Suojärvi, are the only known Finnish post office transit stations for mail from Aunus.

VALIDATIONS AND POSTAL RATES

The Aunus stamps were valid in the Aunus area and on mail from there to Finland, without any additional Finnish stamps required. Since the Rajakontu post office, for a greater part of its existence, was located in Finnish territory, the use of Aunus stamps was accepted on domestic Finnish mail, as long as mailed from the Rajakontu post office to anywhere in Finland. There was no time for setting up postal service to other foreign countries. The Rajakontu post office was closed for good on October 15, 1919, which is the last valid date for the Aunus postage stamps.

The postal rates in Aunus, were the same as in Finland. The domestic letter rate was 40 penni and for a postcard, 20 penni. Finland, on the other hand, was considered foreign country, so a letter to Finland required the 50 pen foreign rate, a post card was just 20 penni.

THE VARIOUS APPEARANCES

The single Aunus stamps have generally been cancelled with preference cancels (cancelled to order - CTO), as have whole sheets. Except for the Rajakontu cancel, others, with this particular kind of oval cancel, are not to be found on mail pieces with the correct amount of postage. Stamps with oval cancellations belong to the first printing, with the exception of Rajakontu.

The only post office operating in the Aunus area, during the time when the stamps were valid, was at the village of Rajakontu, which functioned between September 27 and October 15, 1919. Among the mail cancelled in Rajakontu during this time, are some pieces with too much postage on them. The covers with the Manssila transit cancel are considered the more valuable Aunus mail. Of the mail pieces also thought to have been sent according to postal regulations, are the covers with the July 7 -

Post Office	Ink Color Known
Munjärvi	canceller lost/ no known cancellations
Tulemajärvi	violet blue
Säämajärvi	black (Saarinen stamps only) not known cancelled on Aunus stamps
Prjäsa	violet blue
Pyhajärvi	blue-green, green
Wieljärvi	violet blue
Kotkatjärvi	green, violet
Tuulos	blue-green, blue
Witele	blue
Rajakontu	blue, blue-red, black



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

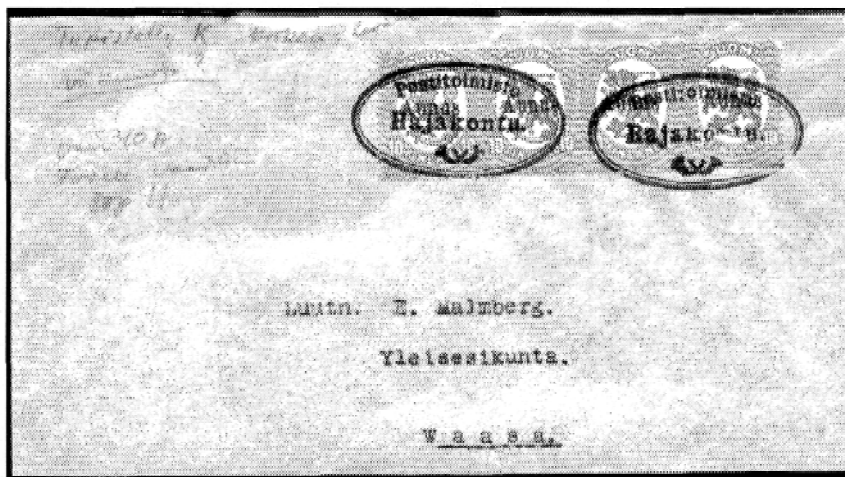
Figure 1) Redrawn Rajakontu Post Office cancellation showing uncut leg of the letter "k." Figure 2) The oval Rajakontu canceller, with the letter "k" cut short at a 45 degree angle. Figure 3) Uncut Rajakontu canceller struck at the time the "k" was cut in Sortavala about March, 1920. Both Figures 2 & 3 were taken from the same sheet of paper. Presumably, to show that the cut "k" was clearly visible. Both cancels were struck in black ink. Figures 2 & 3 are shown here for the first time.

September 26, 1919, Rajakontu cancellation and the Salmi transit cancel. At this time the Rajakontu post office was actually located in Salmi. Naturally, the philatelic value on these is lesser. All of the aforementioned covers and postal items have been struck with the Rajakontu oval cancellation, in violet.

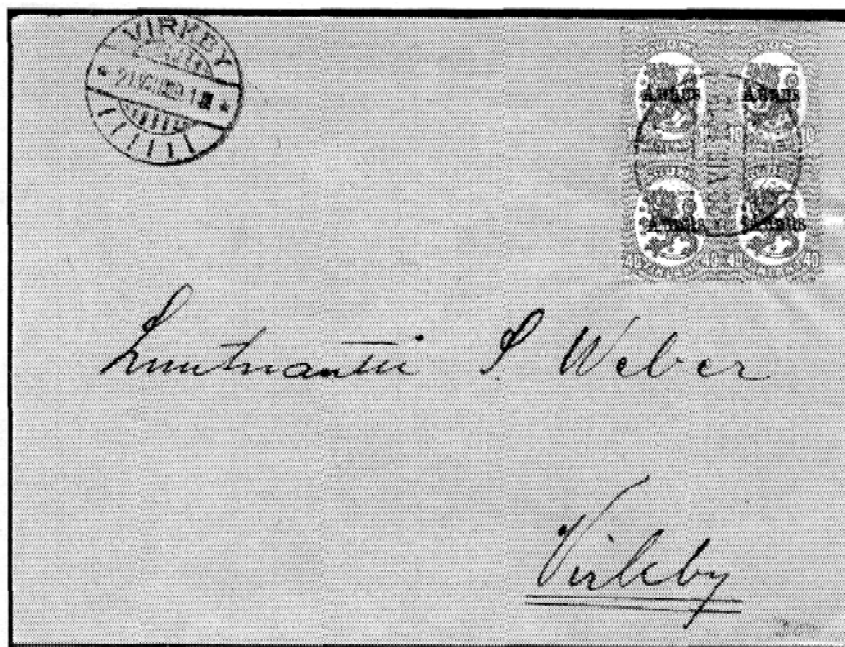
The obvious forgeries are the Aunus envelopes with the black Rajakontu oval cancellation, made after the post office ceased operations. The Manssila and Suojärvi transit postmarks appear to have the cancellation dates forged retroactively, too. (**Editors note:** the late Jorma Leinonen "signed" a number of covers authenticating the oval Rajakontu canceller struck in black ink with a Manssila transit cds (circular date stamp) from September and October, 1919. Some of these items have Finnish town arrival postmarks. Nevertheless, several experts do not accept the black ink cancellations as struck during normal postal operations. Further research and clarification on this issue would be welcome. See the ink color list on page 11. It is also possible that other color inks may have been used on favor cancellations.)

Many months after the cessation of hostilities, the vertical leg on the letter "K" of the Rajakontu oval rubber stamp was cut short or cropped at a 45 degree angle, making it easily recognizable as an after cancelled forgery on various covers.

All of the Säamajärvi cds cancellations are favor cancellations. A violet ink cancel was used during the time when valid (the Rajakontu post office was open), black thereafter, although, some of the envelopes or clippings have a forged Suojärvi cancellation, dated retroactively. Very crudely made forgeries have been found also, for instance, on Aunus stamps with the oval cancels, attached later to the envelope.



An amateurishly made letter concoction: A row of four 10 penni issues with the Rajakontu oval cancellation struck in black ink showing the cropped or cut "k" in Rajakontu. There is no transit cancellation in Salmi, Manssila or Suojärvi, nor is there an arrival postmark. The cover is also 10 penni underfranked. It suffers from all possible defects.



All Aunus franked covers to Virkby are after cancelled fakes. Although the letter "k" has not been cut, it is struck with the Säamajärvi circular date canceller, not known to have been genuinely used. The cover is underfranked, and missing a proper transit cancellation from Manssila, Salmi, or Suojärvi.

Besides the Rajakontu P.O., the Saamajarvi P.O., located in the village of Tshalk on the Aunus side, near the Finnish border, was functioning for a short time. The Saamajarvi oval stamp cancel and violet ink pad was kept there. However, no known pieces of mail have gone through there, and all the known Saamajarvi cancels on Saarinen type postage stamps have a pure grayish-black ink cancellation, so it is unlikely that the cds was ever used there.

THE FORGERIES

The faking of Aunus stamps was begun shortly after they were issued. The forgers were not always aware of the ordered quantities of base stamps and consequently, some of the forgeries can easily be uncovered, for instance, by the color hues and gums. The overprinting was made either by typesetting or by imprinting.

It is known, that at least one of the Helsinki printing companies had the same lettering, as the one on the Aunus overprint. There is however, a degree of difference in the wear of the letters. It is known that in Finland, before 1923, at least, one forgery was made and marketed in Vyborg and three in Helsinki.

It appears under casual examination, that the set of Vyborg overprint forgeries are dull, with a sort of soot-like (coal) appearance. In many cases, the color and gum varieties differ from the base stamps used in the printing of the genuine Aunus stamps.

The shape of the letters in the first Helsinki forgeries are not as successful as the Vyborg printing. The series appeared on the market probably at the end of 1919. The overprint is thick and glossy; the printing somewhat sloppy. The set of the second Helsinki forgeries are most likely limited to the mark values. The upper curve on the letter S is narrower than on the real stamps. Otherwise, the overprint resembles the genuine one in the second (II) printing; only the ink used has formed unevenly.

The overprint in the third Helsinki forgeries is somewhat thick and awkward in appearance.

Since the Aunus Expedition Office (AVH) in Sortoala continued to cancel Aunus stamps long after the termination of hostilities and the closing of the Rajakontu post office, the forger(s) may well yet have been able to obtain the stamp cancels for use on their own covers. Thus, some from the series of Vyborg forgeries have been glued on brown envelopes of thin paper with different addresses and cancelled with Saamajarvi cancels. These envelopes have no arrival cancellations.

Over the years, many different forgeries have been made abroad, among them some very difficult ones. No information about their origin is available. Since the overprint on even the most genuine series varies slightly on the positions within the pane, the uncovering of well made forgeries may take a considerable length of time. Especially the shape of the letters, their measurement, spacing, location and position must be carefully studied and further, the alignment of the row of letters, the length of the

overprint, colors, overall appearance and gloss. In some instances, the letter thickness on the forgery is too thin, compared to the normal, real first printing overprint, and too thick in comparison to the overprint in the second printing.

Editor's Note: More information about Aunus stamps and the early forgeries may be found in Dr. Einar Fieandt's book, *Aunus Stamps and their Forgeries*. This book, published in 1922, has not been translated into English. Fieandt's book presents a strong defense of the legitimacy and philatelic value of the Aunus stamps. A condensed, English version of the book, *The Aunus Stamps* was published in pamphlet form by Suomen Postimerkkilehti, Lappeenranta, circa 1922/23. For a small fee, Xerox copies may be available from the Finnish Postal Museum. Carl Pelander's article, "The Associate Group of Finland", which appeared in *The Posthorn*, May, 1947 is informative, but the illustrations of the forgeries are unclear and useless. It should also be noted that Pelander's descriptions of the forgeries are not linked to Fieandt's by any reference, so it is not possible to know if he is describing the same or different forgeries.

There are, of course, many different forgeries of the Aunus stamps. Some were made well after the publication of Fieandt's book, but the most dangerous forgeries appeared when the underlying Saarinen stamps from the same printing order were generally available.

In the early 1920's the Philatelic Society of Finland, in an effort to fight against the sale of numerous Aunus forgeries, had a steel die prepared (see illustration, enlarged) about 2.5 mm high with secret marks which was stamped on the back of genuine stamps at the request of collectors. The stamp was applied by Dr. Fieandt or by one of two authorized Society members. Collectors with 5 and/or 10 mk stamps which are not stamped with this steel die or other reliable expert certification should expertise their stamps with the APS, Per Gummesson of Stockholm or Juhani Olamo of the Finnish Philatelic Federation in Helsinki.



This article concludes the series on Aunus, North Ingermanland, and Karelia. It is possible that these articles will be expanded and published as a book within several years. For sure, the book would include a complete translation of Einar Fieandt's 1922 book, *Aunus Stamps and their Forgeries*.

1988 STAMP PROGRAM BEGINS WITH TWO STAMP ROLLS FEATURING NEW PROVINCIAL BIRD AND FISH SERIES



The first stamps of 1998 introduced Uusimaa's provincial bird, the Blackbird, and provincial *fish*, the Pike Perch. These stamps, issued on January 15th, will be the first in the new Provincial Birds and Provincial Fish series. They also began the new series of stamps sold in rolls. "The Blackbird" and "The Pike Perch" are self-adhesive stamps sold in rolls of one hundred and packed in small, convenient cardboard boxes. The stamps in their boxes are particularly suitable for use in small companies and associations, but they are equally convenient at home. The stamps are Class 1 and 2 stamps without a printed face value, so they can be used year after year, and therefore be bought in large batches. The box containing one hundred Class 1 stamps is priced at FIM 280, while one hundred Class 2 stamps cost FIM 240.

"The Blackbird" was designed by Pekka Piippo and "The Pike Perch" by Minna Luoma. Both are at the final stage of their studies in graphic design at the University of Applied Art, and are already distinguished designers. The 27-year-old Minna Luoma, born in Tampere, is one of the illustrators of *The Finnish Guide to Birds*, which was selected the Most Beautiful Book of the Year in 1996. She also is responsible for the layout of, and selected the fabrics shown in *The Book of Weaving*, nominated the Book of the Year in 1996. Stamps are a new field of artis-

tic expression for her. The 24-year-old Pekka Piippo from Mikkeli won the Lauri Tarasti prize for the best international poster of the "Environment" category at the Helsinki International Poster Biennial in 1997. In the "Finland 80 Years" theme competition Pekka Piippo and Vaitteri Bade together won the first and second prizes for their joint design. Pekka Piippo also participated in the design of the "Finland 80 Years" stamp booklet, assisting graphic designer Kari Piippo.

The Finnish provinces each nominated their own *fish* in 1994 as a result of a vote organised by the Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations. The vote was supervised by a Committee for National Fish founded for the occasion. It also made the final choices. The Provincial Fish had to be a valued food fish and typical for the province in question. The Pike Perch (*Lucioperca sandra*) - a handsome, well-proportioned fish with a greenish brown back and a silver belly - was chosen as *the fish of Uusimaa*. It thrives in warm and muddy waters and is an excellent food fish. The Provincial Birds were nominated as early as 1985. The choice was made by an expert committee appointed by the Federation of Finnish Ornithological Associations. The committee took into account both biological considerations and the results of a public vote. The beautifully singing Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) was chosen as Uusimaa's bird. These days the Blackbird nests even in small parks of city centres. The male is easily recognizable: it is jet black with a yellow beak. The female is brown with a lighter throat.

STAMP FACTS

The Blackbird

Issue date:	January 15, 1998
Face value:	First class (FIM 2.80)
Issue:	unlimited (100,000 rolls/boxes)
Designer:	Pekka Piippo
Perforation:	Safety Perforation
Format:	stamps: 36 x 25 mm
Paper:	self-adhesive stamp paper
Printers:	Joh. Enschede Security Printers
Printing method:	offset 4 + gold
First Day Cover and postmark:	Pekka Piippo
Price of FDC:	FIM 5.30

MOOMINS IN NEW STAMP BOOKLET

To the delight of all friends of the Moomins, four new stamps featuring the Moomins were issued on January 15, 1997. In these Class 1 stamps without a printed face value, we see Moominpappa writing a play, Moominmamma making jam and Too-ticky playing a barrel organ while Little My jumps around, and Moomintroll dancing with the Snork Maiden. Some of the drawings by Tove Jansson are taken from the books *The Magic Winter* and *The Book about Moomin, Myrtle and Little My*; some she has drawn separately. The stamps were issued in a booklet priced at FIM 11.20. The booklet is designed by Pirkko Vahtero, who has also adapted Tove

Jansson's original drawings to stamps. The cover picture is taken from the comic book *The Moomin Family and the Sea*.

Along with the Moomin stamps, four postcards will be issued with the same pictorial subjects as on the stamps. The cards are sold together with the stamps in a package priced at FIM 23. The package also includes the lyrics to Moomintroll's song.



The world famous family created by the painter and writer Tove Jansson also features in stamp booklets issued in the years 1992 and 1994. The years 1988, 1992 and 1993 saw the appearance of the Moomins in postal stationery (postcards or postnotes, which have a printed value marking equivalent to a stamp). For additional information, contact the Finnish PO at: www.posti.fi/postimerkki

STAMP FACTS

The Pike Perch

Issue date: January 15, 1998
 Face value: 2nd Class (FIM 2.40)
 Issue: unlimited (100,000 rolls/boxes)
 Designer: Minna Luoma
 Perforation: (irregular) Safety Perforation
 Format: stamps: 36 x 25 mm
 Paper: self-adhesive stamp paper
 Printers: Joh. Enschede Security Printers
 Printing method: offset 4 + silver
 First Day Cover
 and postmark: Minna Luoma
 Price of FDC: FIM 4.90

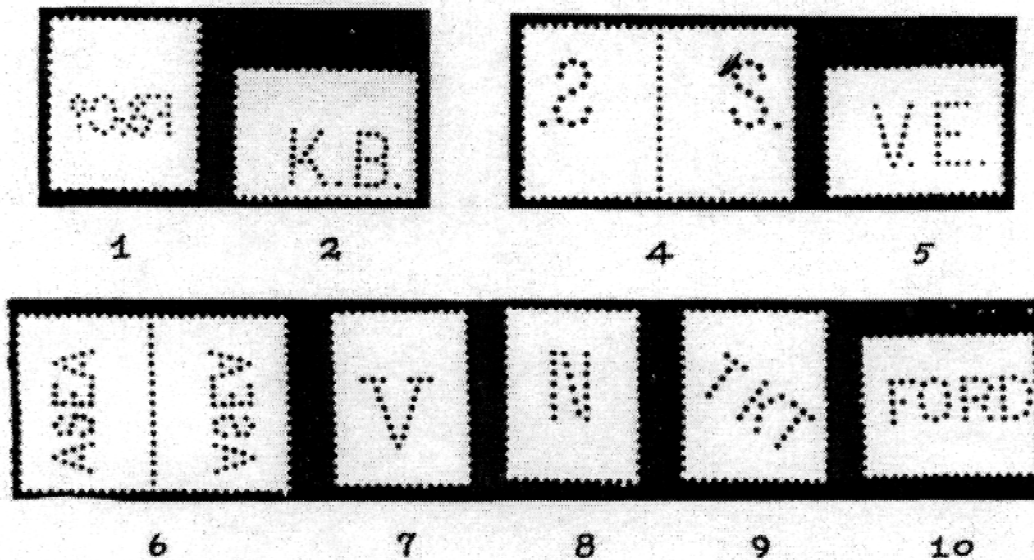
STAMP FACTS

The Moomins

Issue date: January 15, 1998
 Face value: 4 x 1st Class (FIM 11..20)
 Issue: 1,000,000
 Designer: Pirkko Vahtero
 Perforation: 13 x 13
 Format: stamps: 30.60 x 35.65 mm
 Paper: stamp paper CPL 1
 Printers: Setec Oy
 Printing method: offset 4/0
 First Day Cover
 and postmark: Tove Jansson/Pirkko Vahtero
 Price of FDC: FIM 13.70

FINNISH PERFORATED INITIAL STAMPS (PERFINS)

By B. E. Saarinen, Translated by T. E. Jacobson

Reprinted from *The Posthorn*, October, 1954

Through every collector's hands, have at one time or another passed stamps with perforated initials. With little hesitation, they have been rejected. Valuable stamps as, for instance, the Danish 5 Dkr. Post Office Building which often appeal with a perforated initials are set aside, but seldom put into the collection. There exist official perfins according to O. Teräsvuori's "Stamp Collector's Guide," vol. 2, p. 118. Perforated initials on stamps at the present time can be seen mostly on Danish, German or English stamps. On Finnish stamps perfins are no longer seen but there have been several at an earlier time. In the following, I will discuss perfins seen on Finnish stamps.

What are perfins? In the "Postal Handbook" edited by Th. Alexejeff in 1912, we find the following explanation on p. 5: "Large business companies perforate stamps necessary for their business with their initials or numbers to prevent unauthorized use of their stamps." and further, the following guidance: "Ordinary and registered mail, postal cards and wrappers, domestic and foreign, may have perforations applied under conditions: a) that the perforated letters or other marks may not obliterate more than one third of the stamp; b) that those parts of the stamp that show the value may not be perforated away, and c) that on the consignment must be printed the sender's name and address. If these instructions are not followed, the perforated stamps are not considered valid."

Director S. Grönroos in his writings in *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, 1941, No. 4 which incidentally is the only article about perfins published in Finland (additions published in '41, No. 2 & '43, No. 1) explains that the Postal Administration in Circular No. XI, Sept. 21, 1907, has given corresponding instructions. In the same article, we read further that the postal rules issued April 26, 1924, IP 64, item 5 says the following about perfins: "Stamps, which the user has provided by mechanical means with identifying perforations-initials or other marks-may use them for postal payment if, after perforation, the stamp value can be ascertained and that the stamps have not been used before." Here no such detailed instructions are given as earlier. Perfins are therefore allowed to anybody as long as previous directions are followed. It is interesting to observe that the Postal Administration did not give instructions about perfins until 1907 although stamps had been perforated with initials for ten years previously. Evidently business took its example from abroad. The perfins are formed solely for protection against misuse as they have no practical advertising value. Mostly they are only initials.

Have the rights to perforate been over used in Finland? Clearly, very few companies perforated stamps. The numeral perforations, mentioned by Alexejeff, I have never seen but instead many different combinations of the letter perforations. The following is a list of Finnish perfins seen by me.

The list is made up in chronological order according to how they have appeared. The order of appearance is probably not altogether right; the oldest cancellation, 1896 was seen on a Finlayson perfin. But the scarcity of material makes it hard to decide definitely based on the cancellation so I consider this order best. The stamp numbers mentioned are the S. P. 1953 numbers, main types only. (Presumably, S. P. = Suomen Postimerkkeily, publisher of *Norma* and main catalogue numbers are the same as most recent catalogues.) The letters in bold type correspond to the perfin letters.

1. **F & Co.** Finlayson & Co., Tampere. 13.2 mm. long by 5 mm. high. On stamps of early and late emissions 1889-1901; S. P. No. 37, 40, 58-60, only found in normal position reading from the face of the stamp. Usages known from 22. X. 92 until . V. 1901.

2. **K. B.** Karl Böstrom, Hanko. 14.5 mm. by 8.5 mm. 1891-1901; S. P. No. 51-59, 71. Comes in all possible positions, from 29. III. 99 to . X. 1910.

3. **J. G. W.** John Gust, Wikeström, Turku. 15.5 mm. by 7 mm. 1894-1901; S. P. No. 58, 65. Upright; In addition I have seen the 10 penni postal card cancelled March 25, 1900 with the imprint perforated. From 29. VI. 99 to . II. 03.

4. **S.** Keskinainea vakuutus yhtiö (The Mutual Insurance Co.) SAMPO, Turku. 6.5 by 9.5 mm. 1911-1919; S. P. No. 77-85, 81-89, 93, 100, 101, 108. All possible positions, in pairs they are tete beche. From 18. IX. 31 to 5. III. 26.

5. **V. E. Ab.** Viktor Ek Cy., Helsinki. 15 mm by 9 mm. 1911; S. P. No. 77-80, Russia No. 65 (Zumstein) with Helsinki cancellation June 15, 1914. Varied positions, pairs tete beche. From 10. VI. 14 to . . 19.

6. **ASEA** Allmanna Svenska Elektriska A. B., Helsinki 17.5 mm by 5.5 mm. 1911-1937; S. P. No. 77-79, 83-89, 101, 103, 105-110, 112-116, 121, 122, 125, 180, 132-136, 140, 142, 143, 145, 146, 148, 158, 161, 162, 165, 168, 171, 173, 175, 187, 224, Russia No. 65. only in vertical position all pairs, tete beche No. 224, 2 mk 1 1/2 mk is the most recent I have seen perforated. Particularly to be mentioned is that I have a Mannerheim 1922 Child Protection Agency charity label thus perforated. ASEA perfins

have also been found cancelled Porvoo (Borga) February, 1918. From . III. 14 to 9. IV. 37.

7. **V** (Vakuutusyhtiö Verdandi) Turku 9.5 mm by 10 mm. S. P. No. 77 and 78. From 4. VI. 14 to 2. IX. 20.

8. **N AB** Notraco Huolintaliike Oy., Helsinki. 5 mm by 9.5 mm. 1919-1936; S. P. No. 107, 125, 180, 131, 133-135, 137, 148, 146, 147, 149; 167; 169; 171; 173-175, 199, 201, 219. Pairs tete beche. From . VII. 24 to 21. IX. 40.

9. **TKT** User unknown (identified in the *Abophil Journal* as Teknokonsult Oy); cancelled almost without exception in Helsinki. 15 mm by 5.5 mm. 1927-1930; S. P. No. 143-145, 168. perforation slanting, from 22. IV. 28 to 13. IX. 31.

10. **FORD** Oy Ford A. B., Helsinki. 19 mm by 6 mm. 1927-1930; S. P. No. 157, 166, 169-171, 173-177, 189, 191, 195, 197, 199-201, 219. Generally vertical, pairs tete beche. From 11. XII. 30 to 1940.

In all I have thus met with 130 different perfins which number can not be considered large when it is considered that perfins have been in use *for at least forty years*. Of course others may be found when more attention is given them. The scarcity of high values is particularly noteworthy (only one 10 mk, no 25 mk). There are somewhat more items if we take in the perforation and watermark varieties. From the number of varieties of stamps used may be deduced the commonness of each Perfin; the Wikeström and Verdandi items are the scarcest and the ASEA the most common.

Let us mention that if somebody wishes to collect position varieties there are theoretically eight different positions: four from the front and the same from the back.

Notes by B. E. Saarinen in *Suomem Postimerkkilehti*, January, 1953. Translated by T. E. Jacobson. Reprinted from *The Posthorn*, October, 1954.

Editor's Note: The dates of usage shown for the various perfins described in the above list were taken from the list published in the following article from *Abophil* and added to the descriptions in the above listing. This was done so that both articles could appear together in this issue of TFP. The article from *Abophil* contains the latest research on this subject.

FINNISH PERFINS
 From *Abophil*
 Translated by Carita Parker

The earliest stamps on Finnish perfins date back to 1890's and the latest protective perfins are from 1940's. Finnish perfins are also found on Russian type 1909/11 stamps. A list of the Finnish enterprises producing the perfins appears in the previous article.

Earlier research has established the percentage of each of the perfins. Hannu Elo in his research of 7727 perfins came to the following conclusions:

PERFIN	SHARE - PERCENTAGE
J.G.W.	0.2
TKT	1.0
V	1.0
V.E.	2.9
N	6.8
FORD	7.5
F & CO	7.5
K.B.	7.8
S.	24.
ASEA	41.

POSITION OF PERFINS

The perfins exist on stamps in various positions, depending on the placement of the stamps in the machine. Earlier research established the positions by the direction of the text by numbers I - IV and the position by letters A and B. In position I the perfins read from left to right, in position II vertically from the bottom up, in position III from right to left and in position TV vertically from the top down. When the perfins are not symmetrical they are in "reading position" viewed either on the front or the reverse side of the stamps. Perfins read from the front are noted as A, and those from the reverse are B. This may appear cumbersome but the first picture in the article should clarify it.

The perfins were also struck on stamps in bundles, where the perfins on the papers or groups can form mirror images of each other, depending on the folding. Some partial or double perfins exist, as can be expected.

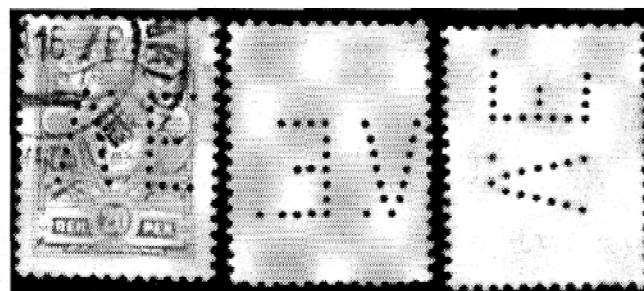
The following is a table of the main types of stamps where perfins have been found. It follows Juhani Olamo's and Hannu Elo's research with some additions done after the first publication in *Karhunhammas* 1/1983.

Perfins were used on some other items as well. JGW exists on postal stationery card LaPe 211, a 10 penni card from 1890. Two are known. V.E. perfin was used on the revenue stamps of 1928, and ASEA perfin on the 1922 letter seal of Mannerheim Child Protection Agency.

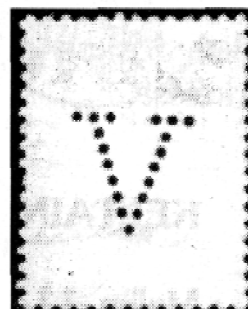
A very rare cross perfin is ASEA and K.B. mirror images on a pair, where the pair of stamps was folded before perforation.

WHY PERFINS STOPPED

There were several reasons why perfin use stopped: The postal meter franking machines came into use in 1920's and the illegal use of stamps was such a minor problem that perfin use was not feasible. The first three perfin users gave it up already in the second decade of 1900's. Most often the perfin use in the companies lasted about 10 years. A clear-cut time space between the phasing out perfins and starting to use franking machines (postal meters) appear only with ASEA and FORD. Also, the perfins did not have the advertising value enjoyed by postal meters. The use of perfins lasted 48 years, which does not mean that they are not used today.



Viktor Ek perfins shown in different positions on the 1911 20 penni issue. From Abophil, No. 3, 1995, page 21.



The "V" Vakuutusyhtio Verdandi perfin is one of three perfins found on 1.0% of about 7,750 Finnish perfin stamps. This perfin was incorrectly identified in the original Posthorn article as the "Vakuutusyhtio Cerdandi??"perfin. From Abophil, No. 2, 1995, page 25.