

The Finnish Philatelist

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The Finnish Philatelist

The newsletter is published quarterly by the Finnish Study Group (FSG) of the Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC). The newsletter is free to all members of the FSG through 1998. A \$5 contribution to cover printing and mailing costs is appreciated. Membership inquiries for the FSG, and changes of address:

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Manuscripts are welcome. Send all material to the editor. While due care will be taken, we do not accept responsibility for submitted materials. For return of submissions, enclose a stamped return envelope. Manuscripts must be typed or submitted on computer disk. Illustrations should be clean and sharp, suitable for scanning. All manuscripts are subject to editing at the discretion of the staff.

Editor's Message

The complete text of Juhani Olamo's *Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1917* is provided in the enclosed supplement to the regular May newsletter. In addition, a 15 page supplement lists all the postal censor stamps and sealing tapes of Tornio and Pori. All of the available censor stamps and tapes from the original Olamo monograph have been reproduced with a brief description of the essential elements of each mark. The descriptive information has, in most instances, been fully reproduced. Where the listing has been abbreviated or expanded, a note appears under the comment section for that particular censor mark.

Over the next year or so, in future supplements to *The Finnish Philatelist*, complete listings for all known censor marks from each censor location will be illustrated and described, in the same format used for the Tornio censor marks. These listings will be formatted in PageMaker, saved on removable hard disks for easy updating as readers provide corrections, updates and new information. Your letter and comments are always welcome.

A word of caution. Many censor marks are very similar in appearance to other marks and may be distinguished only by carefully measuring the length of the text or outer border. Do not measure against the illustrations in the supplement; measure the dimensions given in the description and use a precision ruler.

In this issue we will begin the multipart series on the postal cards of Finland by Dr. Juhani Pietila. This series is reproduced with the permission of the author and *Abophil*. The articles are being translated by Kauko Aro.

In the next issue of TFP, we will continue the series on the m/75 issues, Finnish postal cards and the listing of the Helsinki censor marks and offer several other feature articles. We would like to have submissions on the Saarinen issues, the m/30 definitive issues, and specialized subjects such as postmarks from the lost territories, clipper mail, express mail and so forth. Submissions in Finnish are welcome. We can translate any Finnish language article.

Our mailing list continues to grow. Bob Lang recently found some additional copies of the first several issues of TFP, so if you are missing any back issues or I have not responded to your earlier request, please send me a reminder by email or send me a postcard. We appreciate your kind notes and suggestions and we thank you very much for the contributions.

Finland and Åland Revenue Stamp and Revenue Stamped Paper Catalog 1998 Suomen ja Ahvenanmaan leimamerkit ja leimapaperit Erikoisluettelo 1998

by Björn-Enk Saarinen; published by Jay Smith and Associates, P O Box 650, Snow Camp, NC 27349. email: jay@jaysmith.com Phone: 1-800-447-8267 from the US. Fax: (910) 376-6750.

In 1810, Finland received, under the supervision of the Russian Governor-General, its own government, its own state bank, its own ruble currency, and its own revenue stamped paper. In 1845 Finland issued its first postal stationery, in 1856 its first adhesive postage stamps, in 1860 its own currency denominated in marks, and in 1865 its first adhesive revenue stamps.

The Russification of Finland, begun with the Post Manifesto of 1890, proceeded gradually and was very strong in 1914 at the start of World War I. In postage stamps and national railway parcel stamps, this Russification can be clearly seen, with Russian designs and symbols being represented. However, the Russification was not at all evident in Finland's revenue stamps, which retained their Finnish character.

This catalog describes and lists the recorded revenue stamps and revenue stamped paper, dividing them into four parts: Documentary revenue stamps; Other revenue, duty, and receipt stamps; Revenue stamped paper; The revenue stamps of the Province of Åland. Over 180 pages of 8 1/2 x 11 paper are devoted to this subject in this long-awaited hardbound publication. Several major collections were reviewed to form the basis for this publication.

The author exhibited his collection of the Classic Documentary Revenues of Finland at Pacific 97, and won a Large Vermeil for this exhibit. The present book was intended to have been ready for Pacific, but circumstances prevented that. The book was worth the extra wait!

The text is bilingual: English and Finnish are in dual column format on each page. Copious illustrations demonstrate the designs and varieties of each of the many very interesting stamps.

Enlargements of the details, as appropriate, assist the student in understanding the varieties. Color illustrations of the main types of the documentaries are seen on the outside cover.

The first two documentary issues, from 1865 and 1866, have the same rouletted separations as are seen on the contemporary postage stamps. Type IV roulettes commonly occur on the 1866 issues because this cutter was devised at that particular time. Its teeth are described as being shovel-shaped, often with slender bases. Good roulettes are often found on the revenues; perhaps because these stamps were not subjected to the postal handling and perhaps because they have not been subjected to heavy philatelic handling since the middle of the last century.



Many of these types of revenue stamps are nearly unique to Finland. These include stamps used on personal licenses to purchase alcohol, income tax stamps, various types of travel tax stamps, and cinema and other amusement ticket tax stamps. In almost every section, there are suggestions for further research and documentation; many of these stamps are not completely studied and with the recent FIP recognition of a Revenue Class, there is ample opportunity to share results of new work.

The book is available from Jay Smith & Associates. The cost: \$39.50 postpaid in the US; add US\$2 for Canadian addresses, add US\$4 for surface mail to Europe, add \$US 17 for air to Europe, \$US 24 for air to the rest of the world, to the base retail price.

This review was provided by Paul Nelson, Editor of Luren and an avid revenue collector.

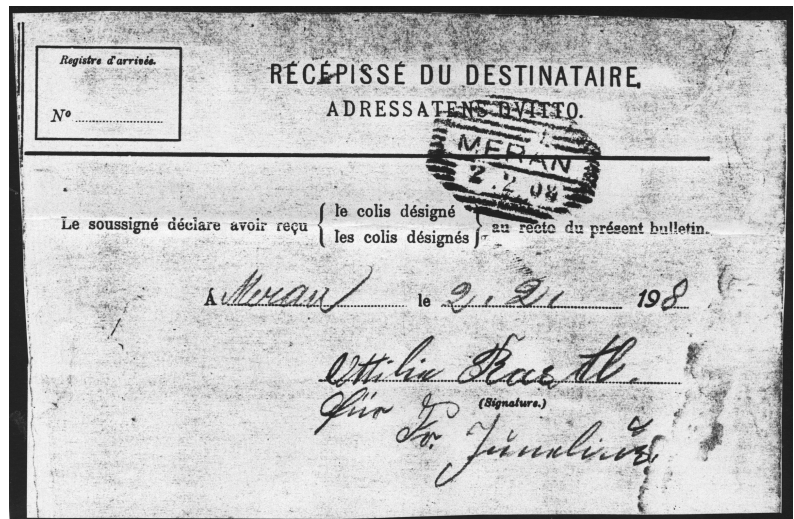
Very Scarce Vertical Pair of 35 Kopek Rings Stamps Reported on 1908 Parcel Card From Viipuri to Meran, Tyrol (Italy)

There are ten kopek values in the 1891 Ring stamp set. The most elusive on cover is the 35 kopek value. According to "The Ring Stamp & Postal Stationery Centennial May 1, 1891" 372,700 35 kopek stamps were printed in three separate press runs in St. Petersburg. The first delivery of 100,000 stamps was received by the Finnish postal administration warehouse on April 14, 1891. A second delivery of 100,000 stamps was made on October, 1892, followed by a third and final delivery of 174,100 stamps on March 12, 1894. Several color varieties are recognized: a) dark reddish violet/yellowish green and b) dark violet/green or yellowish green.

After the Ring stamps were demonetized in 1911, The Finnish Post Office burned 113,000 35 kopek stamps and sold 1,200 remainders to collectors.

The 35 kopek stamp did not meet any primary Finnish postal rate. A single stamp could have been used to frank a fifth weight domestic letter or a fourth weight registered domestic letter, but this writer has seen but one legitimate commercial use of a single 35 kopek ring stamp on cover. Over franked single usage on first weight registered letters to Germany are known. Other examples of made-up, philatelic 35 kopek ring covers have been reported in auction catalogues.

Given the rarity of single and multiple uses of the 35 kopek ring stamp on commercial covers, Dirk Vorwerck's find of a vertical pair of 35 kopek Ring stamps on a "Bulletin d'expédition" is rather significant. The card was mailed on ? I. 08, at Viipuri, to Meran, Tyrol, (now part of Italy) and the "Récépissé du Destinataire" was date stamped on 2. 2. 08. The rate seems high (10 kopeks for the registration fee and 10 kopeks for the receipt, but 50 kopeks for 120 grams appears high compared to similar parcel cards from the same period showing heavier items charged at a lower rate. Validating the



rate of this item is very important. Can one of our readers provide a complete rate analysis for this exquisite find? Please write the Editor.

For additional information on the Ring stamps, we recommend purchase of *The Ring Stamp and Postal Stationery Centennial May 1, 1891*. This fine book, with full English text, is available for about \$30 from Jay Smith & Associates or the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation, Box 6716, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. The book is also available from the SCC and other philatelic libraries.

Scrapping Compound Hides Secret Friendship Picture Messages on This Year's St. Valentine's Day Class I Pane of Six Stamps

This year, St. Valentine's Day greetings were sent with a special stamp surprise. The 'With Friendship' miniature sheet, issued on February 3rd, consisted of six "secret" Class 1 stamps without a printed face value: each stamp has a heart-shaped scraping surface hiding a lovely picture of friendship. The stamps' amusing animal motifs - cats, dogs, mice and elephants - are depicted on the margins of the miniature sheet as well. The margins also provide greetings in Finnish and Swedish, certain to please the recipient. The miniature sheet is designed by Marleena Ansio especially for children and those who are still children at heart: The sheet is priced at FIM 16.80.

Along with the miniature sheet a 'With Friendship' stationery set will be issued. It includes the new stamp sheet as well as six sheets of stationery and six envelopes. The stationery set is also designed by Marleena Ansio. The set is priced at FIM 35.

"Drawing stamps has crowned my work", says the first-time stamp artist Marleena Ansio. For this artist, who lives in Tuusula and has drawn approximately 1,200 postcards, it is the postcard as a whole that matters - and the stamp, of course, "crowns" the postcard. Some of the animal motifs of the 'With Friendship' miniature sheet also feature in Ansio's postcards. In addition to stamps and postcards, the artist has drawn labels and written poetry, four books in all. The fifth "Ystavyydella ystavalle" (With Friendship to a Friend) was issued in February. One of the books has been translated into Swedish. "All the books published so far have made the Finnish top ten list", says the proud Marleena Ansio, who has not only written but also illustrated and published the books. The 'With Friendship' miniature sheet, the issue of which is 1,200,000, is also expected to be a success.



STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	3.2.1998
Face value:	FIM 16,80
Issue:	1,200,000
Designer:	Marleena Ansio
Perforation:	12x 11314
Format	sheet: 108 x 99mm stamps: 27,04 x 33,00 mm
Paper:	stamp paper CPL 1
Printers:	Setec Oy
Printing method:	offset 4/0+varnish and serigraphy (golden scraping compound)
First Day Cover and postmark:	Marleena Ansio
Price:	FIM 19,30
Orders:	The Philatelic Centre, P.O. Box 2, FIN-00011 POSTI, FINLAND

Letters, Notes & New Issues

Jacob Kisner's Inquiry: Are there any Double Printed Finnish Stamps?



Normal Printing



Double Printing

Have double printed Finnish stamps been reported; postal, local, revenue, railroad?

Jacob Kisner has found what he believes is a major error in a double print of design on a Jokioinen Railroad stamp, Hellman-Saarinen No. 39Bf (stamp from upper margin), green on white paper. The design element was printed separately from the numerals, "mk 30 mk" printed once, while all the lines of the design are clearly printed twice. Note on the illustration "Double Printed" that rays on top are all doubled, grass lines are all doubled and in fact the entire design element is printed twice.

The railroad catalog does not mention any double printed stamps. Then, is this the first report of a find of a Finnish double printed railroad stamp? Can any of our readers shed some additional information on this find? Please write the Editor or Jacob Kisner, 245 Park Avenue South, Penthouse F, New York, NY 10010.

Public Festivals - 98 Europa Theme



Each year, the European postal administrations issue EUROPA stamps under a common theme. Public festivals is the theme chosen for this year. The Finnish EUROPA stamps are dedicated to celebrations of spring and summer, Labor Day and Midsummer. The stamps, with a face value of FIM 3.20 and 3.40, respectively, were designed by Mika Launis. The exuberant, romantic stamps were issued on March 27th.

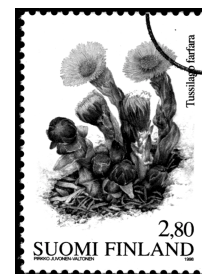
Labor Day is the traditional day of celebration for workers and students, and marks the beginning of springtime in northern countries. Through the years it has become a carnival for the entire population, the most boisterous of all annual festivities.

While they celebrate Labor Day in hearts of cities, in streets, on squares and in restaurants, Finns think that Midsummer is best celebrated in the country, preferably surrounded by nature, on a lake shore, in the light and heat of a bonfire, just as the couple depicted on the stamp. According to popular belief, there is magic and romance in this, the longest and brightest day of the year.

The Coltsfoot Heralds Awakening of Nature

Coltsfoots announce the beginning of the spring in a FIM 2.80 special stamp issued on March 27th. The stamp, called Nature Awakens, was designed by Pirkko Juvonen-Valtonen. The print run of the stamp, eminently suited for Easter greetings, was 3 million.

The Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) is one of the earliest spring flowers, its stems and bright yellow flowers appear in late April and early May. The large, heart-shaped leaves appear only after the bloom. The coltsfoot is common all over the country. The viable plant especially favors locations where the ground has been worked and turned. For farmers and gardeners the coltsfoot is, beside a herald of spring, a veritable pest. Old folks know the plant as a remedy for smoker's cough and shortness of breath.



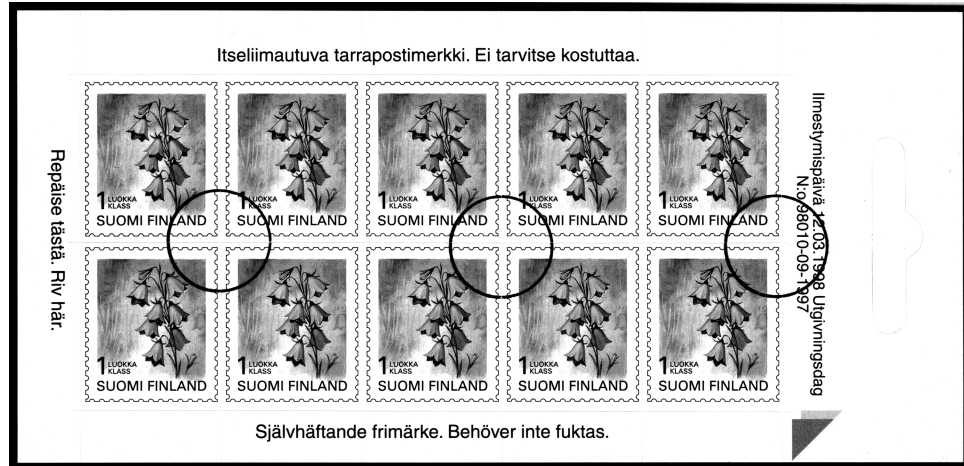
Issue date:	March 27, 1998
Face value:	FIM 2.80
Issue:	3,000,000
Designer:	Pirkko Juvonen-Valtonen
Perforation:	14 x 14
Format:	24.48 mm x 34 x 34.56
Paper:	Stamp paper CPL 1
Printers:	Setec Oy
First Day Cover and postmark:	Pirkko Juvonen-Valtonen

The Delicate Blue Harebell Flower of Central Ostrobothnia Pictured on Class I Self-Adhesive Booklet Pane of Ten Stamps

On March 12th, a stamp featuring the Harebell was issued in a stamp set introducing Finnish provincial flowers. This delicate blue bellflower has been nominated the flower of Central Ostrobothnia. The new stamp is a self-adhesive Class 1 stamp without a printed face value and was issued in a 10-stamp miniature sheet format priced at FIM 28. The Harebell stamp as well as its First Day Cover and postmark have been designed by Paavo Huovinen.

The perennial harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) thrives in dry, sunny spots together with other meadow plants such as daisies, maiden pinks and lady's bedstraws. With the modernization of agriculture, these colorful fields of flowers are, unfortunately, gradually disappearing, and the blue harebell is an ever rarer sight in the summer's best flowering time.

The first provincial flowers were featured on stamps in 1990. So far, 14 stamps in all have been issued in the set. flower, the cowslip.



STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	March 12, 1998
Face value:	FIM 28(10 x Class 1)
Issue:	unlimited
Designer:	Paavo Huovinen
Perforation:	stamps: 21 x 26 mm;
sheet:	145 x 70 mm
Size:	none
Paper:	Self-adhesive raflasilk
Printers:	Setec Oy
Printing method:	offset 4/1
First Day Cover: and postmark:	Paavo Huovinen

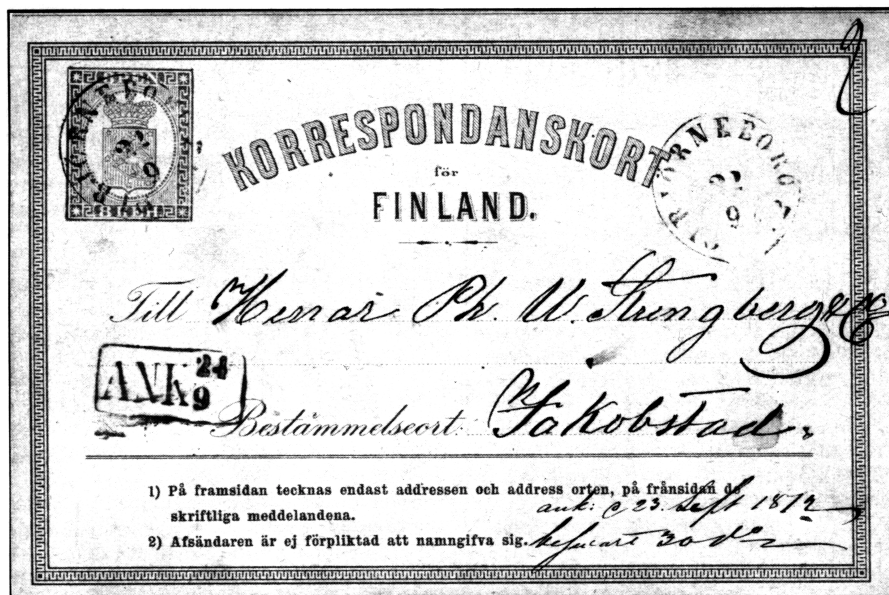


Figure 1. The forms of the first card were printed at Tilgmann's Lithographers. The cards were apparently printed in sheets of 14 cards. The printing of the value stamp was done at the Senate's Budget Section. The bottom text comes in three types, type I is illustrated here. In line "1)", the word "adressen" is misspelled "addressen". The card is slightly reduced.

The Postal Cards of Finland

By Juhani Pietilä

Translated by Kauko Aro

Part 1 The First Postal Card

This article starts a series which will examine postal stationery issues of Finland. Postal cards were chosen as the first area of our study. This choice can be defended by the fact that these are the most popular of all the postal stationery of Finland. This was pointed out by experience at the Aboex-94 exhibition where the Finnish postal stationery exhibits with one exception illustrated the postal cards out of all postal stationery. Later we will also study postal stationery, return receipts, etc.

Finland also in the forefront on postal cards

The world's first postal cards were issued in Austria in 1869. The contemporary director of Finland's Post, Mr. A. Gripenberg, became acquainted with postal cards issued by Central European countries during the Spring of 1871, and still issued Finland's first postal cards in the same Autumn. In a manner of speaking the postal cards brought with them a new 8 penni rate. The post office did not approve any other types of postal card mailings not counting those printed matters which resembled the postal cards which had their own postal rates.

Initially the postal cards were only valid in the domestic mail, and only after the issue of a trilingual card in 1872 could postal cards also be used to Russia. The postal cards could be sent to other foreign countries after Finland joined the General Postal Union on July 1, 1875. As we know, the first 8 penni cards lost their validity as late as January 1, 1885, but after the rate increased to 10 penni they had to be supplemented by an adhesive stamp. The mailings of the 2 penni Senate printing found in exhibits of traditional Finnish philately are for the most part precisely such postal cards.

The first 8 penni postal card

The Post office did not prepare itself for a strong demand when issuing the postal cards. Perhaps this was the result of the experience with the entire envelopes where occasionally too many copies had

been printed. Therefore, the printings of postal cards were initially in small quantities, minor changes were made to the cards between printings and paper stock was ordered in small lots; thus, the first card has numerous sub-types. On the basis of the text on the face of this card it can be divided into three groups, and the dotted or solid lines on the reverse will bring in a fourth sub-type. Different types of paper stock, different pairs of stones used in the printing and the shades of the green value stamp bring with them their own sub-types. It is not possible to discuss all of them in this context, but more thorough information can be found in Harri Sihtola's excellent book '*Ensimmäinen ehiokorttimme*' [Our First Postal Card] (Finnish Philatelic Federation, research publication #1).

The characteristics of the four main types

The first 8 penni postal card can be divided into four main types on the basis of the printed text according to the following table:

Type	Bottom Text	Lines/Reverse Side
type I	. . .adressen.	. . .dotted lines
type II	. . .adressen.	. . .dotted lines
type III	. . .adressen.	. . .dotted lines
type IV	. . .adressen.	. . .solid lines

Also other, more minute differences exist between the types of cards, but they are not essential in terms of identification.

Type I (10,200 cards)

Two different types of paper stock were used in the form. In addition to the normal buff colored paper, a small quantity of so called 'playing card stock' was also used which had four layers. Between the outer layers of paper an extra blue layer was added to the normal middle layer the location of which varied due to the printing method, but was always found under the surface layer, either on the front or on the reverse. Thus, this in-between paper gives that side of the card a greenish hue. However, the card printed with this playing card paper will

not let light through as a regular card would when viewed against a light: this is its best identifying mark. The cards with playing card paper are rather scarce. Only a few unused cards are known and a few dozen used ones.

Type II (2,600 cards)

Only one type of paper stock is known on this card and other varieties do not exist either. Due to the small printing the cards of this type are rather scarce. Only a couple of cards are known unused, the used copies are more common. Just as with the previous type, this card is also known with a first day cancel (10.10.1871).

Type III (about 30,000 cards)

This card can be divided into two groups of which the first used colored paper stock in the printing. The cards of the first printing also differ from the second on basis of the location of the value stamp: the value stamp is near the upper left corner of the card with distances of under 9 mm from each edge.

Three different stocks of paper can be distinguished in the first printing: buff-yellow, reddish and brown. These cards include variations of colors still within each group, and not only among the buff-yellow cards as the description already implies, but among the brown cards as well. The reddish cards are very scarce both used and especially unused; only a few of the latter are known.

The paper stock of the second printing is of light buff-color and occasionally difficult to differentiate from the similar type of paper stock in the first printing. However, a clear difference is found in the location of the value stamp: it is farther from the edges of the card, the distance being at least 9 mm (Figure 2). The color of the value stamp is green-dark green, and starting with this printing lot the left frame shows clear damage. The frame has broken in two spots near each other. Sometimes the damage is so minor that its detection will require a magnifying glass.

Very scarce in this group is a card with a olive-green value stamp. The color of the value stamp is probably explained by the assumption that such a

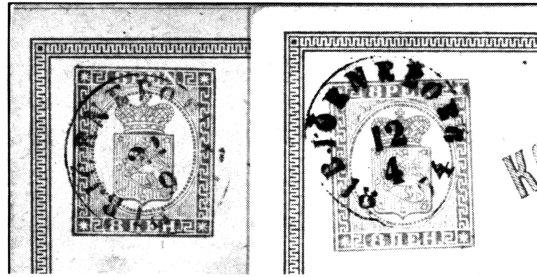


Figure 2.

blank form received its value stamp among the later cards when the color for the value stamp had been changed to a different shade. Probably only one such card exists in the Postal Museum.

Type IV

This type differs from the earlier ones on basis of the solid lines found on the reverse side of the card. The paper stock holds significant varieties and the color of the value stamp varies between green, bluish-green and olive-green. Three sub-types are known of this type.

The paper stock of the first sub-type is bluish, the address lines of the front are weak and the color of the value stamp is green, bluish-green. Very scarce are those postal cards of this sub-type which have an olive-green value stamp. The latter cards came about when a portion of the blank forms had their indicia (value stamp) printed at a later stage.

The paper stock of the second sub-type is similar in color with the previous sub-type; however, the address lines now are strong as a new pair of printing stones were used. The color of the value stamp is olive-green. The color varieties of the paper stock are great just as with the previous sub-type ranging from bluish-gray all the way to a sharp yellow-green.

The paper stock of the third sub-type is always of light buff color and the value stamp olive-green. Over-all varieties are few, especially when compared to the previous sub-types.

The postal cards of type IV are more common both used and mint than the prior types, although certain varieties in color and value stamp can be very difficult to find.

Editor's Note: Part 2 of this series will appear in the August issue of TFP.