



# The Finnish Philatelist

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

## In This Issue

Finland-Americas Mail, 1939-1946  
Notes on the Money Stamps  
Vaasa Cancellations  
Finnish Postal Cards: Parts 8 & 9  
m/75 Soft Printing  
SPB/Petrograd Misdirected Mark  
m/30 Coil Stamps & New Issues

## The Finnish Philatelist

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

The newsletter will be sent free of charge to all members of the FSG thru 2000. A \$5 contribution to cover printing/ mailing costs is appreciated. Contributions should be made payable to and sent directly to the Editor.

Membership inquiries for the SCC should be sent to:

Donald Brent, Executive Secretary  
P. O. Box 13196  
El Cajon, CA 92020  
Email: dbrent47@sprynet.com

FSG Director:

Robert Lang  
23 The Horseshoe  
Newark, DE 19711  
Email: langsc@dol.net

FSG Newsletter Editor:

Roger P. Quinby,  
P. O. Box 738  
Clifton Park, NY 12065.  
E-mail: rpquinby@aol.com

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## Editor's Message

With this issue we begin the fifth year of publication. We plan to issue four newsletters this year in a 24 page format. My new computer system (Mac G4) is very stable and seems to accommodate the large sized illustrations without blinking.

I would appreciate it if one or more of our readers would come forth and volunteer to serve as an associate editor(s) for the newsletter. There are an endless number of tasks to perform in producing each issue, so if there is an area where you could help, it would be appreciated. Your kind letters of encouragement and contributions are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Just prior to taking this issue to the printer, I received a copy of an article by David Skipton and Ivo Steyn published in the *British Journal of Russian Philately* 67 on the "St. Petersburg's Red Triangles". This article confirms the comments from our correspondents (see article on page 12) that this mark is neither a censor label nor a quality control marker.

The SCC is forming an E-Chapter. Ed Bode, primarily a Swedish collector, has volunteered to get the Chapter underway. I cannot think of a better way to informally exchange information on a timely basis. See page 4 for details.



Why did this properly franked letter require an additional 10 kopeks franking in Helsinki for forwarding to Rome? The Swedish cds is unclear; Helsinki arrival cds on back, 15. IV. 11, departure cds tying 10 kopek Russian issue, 16. IV. 11, and Rome arrival cds on back.

# Finland Salutes Four Time, 1996-1999, World Rally Champion Tommi Mäkinen With Miniature Sheet

A miniature sheet in honor of the four time rally champion Tommi Mäkinen will be issued on March 3, 2000. The face value of each stamp is FIM 3.50, thus the miniature sheet sells at FIM 7.00. Mäkinen's co-driver Risto Mannisenmäki is also featured in the sheet. The issue will be 2.5 million miniature sheets. The sheet will be printed in France by Cartor Security Printing. The issue was designed by Susanna Rumpu and Ari Lakaniemi.



The designers describe their work as follows: "The color scheme is vivid: strong red and yellow hues combined with black. The main motif is a view from the inside of the car during a race. Driver and co-driver are shot from the "back seat". The angle conveys an illusion of sitting in the car, listening to the instructions of the co-driver. The one stamp includes only the driver. The upper right-hand corner of this stamp shows a roadside billboard that conveys the impression of the Finnish flag. The name of the driver is printed on his helmet.

The other stamp features Mäkinen's car and a trailing cloud of dust. The side view mirror of the car, showing the focused eyes of Mäkinen, is seen among the dust. An excerpt of the co-driver's notes is also shown in the dust. The billboard is shown in the upper left-hand corner of this stamp, also here giving an impression of the Finnish flag. In the upper left-hand corner of the miniature sheet Mäkinen stands with a laurel wreath around his neck. He is looking into the future, beyond the checkered flag inscribed with the years he won his four championships."

## Herring Market Stamp from Helsinki Booklet Released as a Single Issue



### STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	January 12, 2000
Face value:	FIM 3.50
Issue:	2,000,000
Designer:	Päivi Vainionpää
Paper:	Stamp paper 110g/m2 Sopal
Size of stamp	42.5 mm x 25.65 mm
Perforation:	14.1 x 14
Printing method:	Offset 4/0 + silver
Printers:	Walsall Security Printer, Ltd., England



# The First Stamps of the Next Millennium Issued in Celebration of Helsinki, European City of Culture

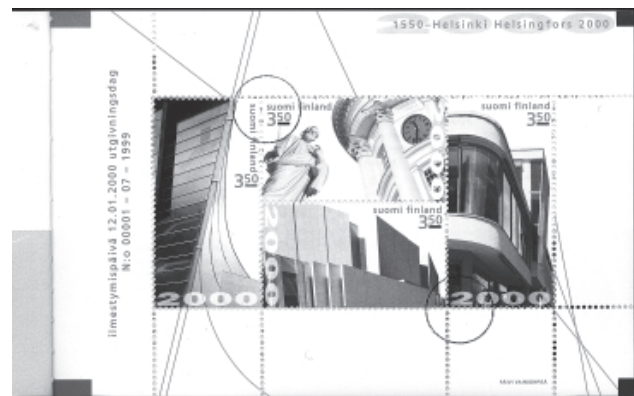
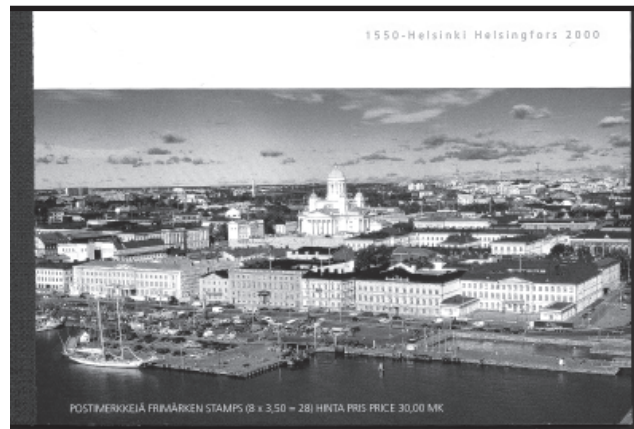
The first stamps issued in 2000 were dedicated to Helsinki, European City of Culture 2000, and celebrating its 450th anniversary as well. A celebration stamp booklet, containing eight stamps, was issued on January 12th. The novelty contains two sheetlets of four stamps each, the one presenting remarkable buildings in Helsinki, the other urban events. Besides the stamps, the booklet also includes illustrated text pages. The texts are in Finnish, Swedish and English. The booklet and the stamps were designed by Ms Päivi Vainionpää. The postage value of each stamp is FIM 3.50. The booklet will sell at FIM 30.00.

The four buildings featured in the stamps are: The Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma; the Cathedral; the Glass Palace, now a cinema and media center; and Finlandia Hall, the famous concert hall and congress center. Of the multitude of events to be arranged, these four have been selected for the stamps: The search for the Lost Crown, an adventure tour for children; the concerts in Kaivopuisto; the Herring Market; and the Forces of Light event.

The Herring Market stamp will also be issued separately as a sheet of 20 stamps on January 12th. The Herring Market is the oldest traditional event in Helsinki. The one in 2000 is the 258th to be arranged.

The Year of Culture 2000 is one of good everyday life and top events. In reference to the 450th anniversary of the city, the calendar of the Year of Culture will include 450 events, comprising four “years”: the year of the children invests in the future, the year of art searches for novelties, the international year deepens contacts to Europe, and the year of all cultural participation. There will be high culture, celebrations for the whole family, experimental art and programs planned and performed by the local population.

The main celebration of the 450th anniversary will be held on 12 June, the traditional Helsinki Day. The events of the Anniversary Day include a festive procession with music and performances connecting to the history, present and future of the city.



## STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	January 12, 2000
Face value:	FIM 30.00 (8 x FIM 3.50)
Issue:	305,000 booklets
Designer:	Päivi Vainionpää
Perforation:	14.4 x 14.7
Sizes:	Closed booklet and sheetlets: 140 x 90 mm Stamps: 4 at 43.05 x 24.5 mm, and 4 at 25 x 49 mm
Printers:	Walsall Security Printer, Ltd., England
Paper:	Stamp paper 110g/m2 Sopal
Printing method:	Offset 4/0 + silver
First Day Cover & Cancellation:	Päivi Vainionpää
First Day Cover:	Two covers, one for each sheetlet at FIM 16.50 each.

## Encounter In Space On This Year's "With Friendship" Stamps.



The friends do some space travel in the stamps of the "With Friendship" booklet, issued on January 12th. The booklet, conveying feelings of empathy, care and co-operation, contains six stamps, each with a face value of FIM 3.50. The booklet will sell at FIM 21.00.

The thought: "To encounter the unknown together" led the designer of the booklet, Ms Tiina Kuoppala, to the space motif. "I arranged space in such a manner that the coldest and most distant planets, Neptune and Pluto, are farthest to the right, and the last planets to be used are the ones closest to the sun, the Earth and Mars", the designer explains. "Migratory birds use the planet Neptune as a balloon, an aid in their travel through space. There are two entrance openings in the nesting box, but just one home, conveying the idea that a true friend's home is yours as well", Ms Kuoppala says. On the most distant and coldest planet, Pluto, there is a big igloo, housing our friends. The stamp shows two friends, one of which is a polar bear, at play: the one is blowing soap bubbles that freeze to ice, while the other one is catching them.

The Jupiter stamp shows the friends painting the smiling giant red. They work in close cooperation. On the Saturn stamp, the friends are trying to set the planet in motion: the one tries to rock it, the other one trusts in the lifting force of a heart-shaped balloon.

On Mars, our traveler encountered a huge sand storm: he was blown out in space, but his friend, a green Martian, manages to rescue him with a magnet.

In the stamp depicting the Earth, the Sun and the Moon, the traveler carries the Earth on his back towards the heat and the

light. The traveler carries his companion as well: the stronger carries the weaker. The Moon is important to the Earth, so it's not left behind.

Greetings and messages, to be affixed on the letter, are printed along the edges of the sheetlet.

### STAMP IFACTS

Issue date:	January 12, 2000
Face value:	FIM 21.00 (6 x FIM 3.50)
Issue:	700,000 booklets
Designer:	Tiina Kuoppala
Perforation:	12.5 x 12.5
Sizes:	Stamps: 32.76 x 27.03 mm Sheetlets: 153 x 54 mm Closed booklet: 80 x 54 mm Open booklet: 160 x 54 mm
Printers:	Setec Oy
Paper:	Stamp paper CPL 1
Cover paper:	Multiark silk 200g/m2
Printing method:	Offset 6/0 °
First Day Cover & Cancellation:	Tiina Kuoppala
First Day Cover:	FIM 23.50 each.

### SCC E-Mail Chapter Organized Ed Bode Invites Your Participation

"I invite members with e-mail addresses to form a chapter of the Scandinavian Collectors Club.

"Cyberspace should provide an appropriate and effective medium for members distant from other members to communicate.

"The chapter would function similarly to other chapters. The most notable exception would be that members would communicate by means of e-mail. Membership in the chapter is limited to members in good standing of the club.

"To begin the process, I am willing to serve as facilitator, that is, I would receive e-mails from members, gather them into a "newsletter", and the

Continued on next page

## Stamp issue for The Fortress of Finland, Suomenlinna (Sveaborg)

The sea fortress Suomenlinna was featured on a stamp issued on January 12, 2000. The face value of the stamp is FIM 7.20. This corresponds to the postage for letters up to 100 grams to EU countries. The stamp was designed by professor Erik Bruun and artist, Ms Sinikka Bruun. The stamp shows a view of Kustoanmiekka. The King's Gate is in the foreground, and flanks, parapets and cannon in the background.

Suomenlinna, built on six islands connected with bridges just outside Helsinki, is a famous historical monument. It is on UNESCO's World Heritage List as a unique monument of military architecture. Besides being a historical site and a tourist attraction, the fortress is a very popular leisure area of the local population, particularly in the summertime. It also has a population of 900 people all year around.

The building of the fortress, then called Sveaborg, in Finnish Viapori, was started in 1748, after the Treaty of Turku. Lieutenant Colonel Augustin Ehrensvärd was appointed leader of the building project. In the course of some 40 years, a fortress rose a good half mile from the shoreline of Helsinki; at the end of the Swedish rule the population of the fortress was larger than that of the town. In 1808, during the Finnish War, the fortress surrendered to the Russians. The following year, Sweden lost Finland to the Russian empire.

In 1855, during the Crimean War, an Anglo-French fleet shelled Sveaborg for three days; the fortress sustained serious damage, but it did not surrender. A new era in the history of the fortress commenced in 1917, as Finland become an



independent republic. A new Finnish-language name, Suomenlinna, the Fortress of Finland, was adopted. In 1973, Suomenlinna received a civil administration, at present under the Ministry of Education. The governing body of Suomenlinna repairs, manages and develops the former fortress.

Stamps have been dedicated to sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List in previous years, too: in 1997 one stamp was issued

for the Southwest Archipelago National Park, and one for the Church of Petäjavesi, and in 1992 one for Rauma, whose wooden quarters are on the Heritage List.

### STAMP FACTS

Issue date:	January 12, 2000
Face value:	FIM 7.20
Issue:	Unlimited
Designers:	Prof. Erik Brunn & artist Ms Sinikka Brunn
Paper:	Stamp paper 110g/m <sup>2</sup>
Perforation:	13.25 x 13.75
Printing method:	Offset 5/0
Size of the stamp:	26.1 x 36 mm
Printers:	Joh. Enschede Security Printers, The Netherlands
First Day Cover & Cancellation:	Sinikka & Erik Brunn
Price of FDC:	FIM 9.70

send them to all members of the chapter. The mailings would take place on a regular interval, probably once a month to start.

“The chapter is open to suggestions.

Privacy of members is expected, that is, members are expected not to communicate the names or the addresses of members to persons who are not members of the chapter.

“All members are welcome to belong.

“If you would like to explore your joining the e-mail chapter, send your e-mail address and any

suggestions to: [edbode@juno.com](mailto:edbode@juno.com). Please include your real name and membership number so that your good standing in the Scandinavian Collectors Club might be verified.

“Thank you for your consideration.”

Edward L. Bode, SCC #2912

Look for additional information on the SCC website <<http://www.scc-online.org>> and the *May Posthorn*.



# Vaasa Cancellations

by Kari Lehtonen, from *Filatelisti*, 2/98  
translated by Carita Parker

The cancelling of the Vaasa issues is most interesting, because during their period of validity, March, 1918 to May, 1923, several different types of cancellations were used for the stamps. In the early stages, the war situation added even more variety to the cancellations, such as: War censoring in Mikkeli, the Marianhamina KC (war censorship mark) and other specialty marks, labels and notations.

The tri-lingual Russian cancel was the first to have its Cyrillic (Russian) text removed as post offices came under the interim postal administration rule of the White Government.

The Russian text from the KUOPIO cancel is known to have been removed less speedily. Thus, the possibility exists that there are two kinds, one with Russian text and one without. In the interim, while the text removal took place, some post offices used a seal, and in so doing introduced yet another kind of cancel. In order for the cancelling to have been complete, the date was often added next to the seal.

Other post offices used the “post office spare cancel” (Postitoimisto—varaleima), to which the date was also added. To some of these postmarks both location and date were written, whereas others received one or the other only. This practice varied greatly, depending on whether the information was already apparent on the mail or not.

## BRIDGE, LINE AND NUMBER CANCELS

The next cancel to be commonly used during this period was the bridge cancel, though many locations continued to use the Russian mark until stamp issue validity expired. Additionally, there are also Vaasa issues cancelled with straight line or number marks. Some of the stamps have been cancelled with oval postmarks used in the territory of Aunus. However,



Figure 1. A 10 penni Vaasa issue first day WAASA (WASA) 5. III. 18 (March 5, 1918) cancellation, the only one known from this day. Affixed on a postal advance address card are Saarinen 3 x 1 Fmk & 1 x 50 penni designs and Vaasa 3 x 10 penni types. Postal rate for the 3.5 kilogram package was 3 Fmk, the attached letter rate 30 penni and a postal advance fee of 50 penni.

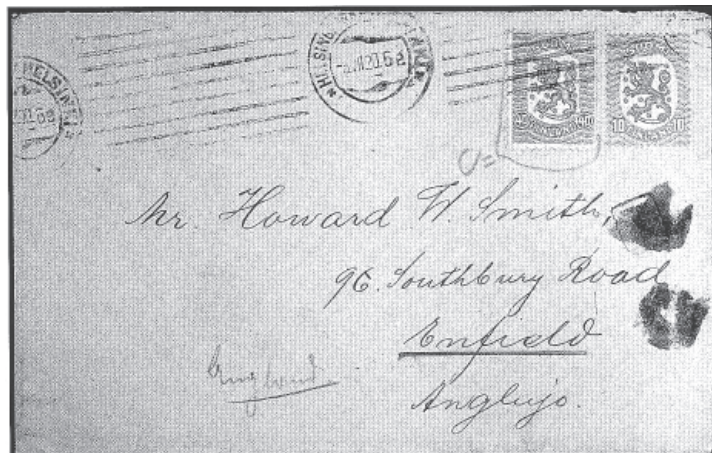


Figure 2. The Vaasa type 40 penni on envelope to England has been invalidated by the marking of a zero with a Kosmos pencil. The Vaasa types were prohibited on mail abroad at that time (HELSINKI 6. VII. 20 (July 6, 1920), machine cancel). Also, a T-mark and 40 cent postage due, though the latter marks have been inked out. By whom we don't know. Was this an indication that postage due was never collected?

it is advisable to check the authenticity of these.

Foreign cancels are not to be overlooked either, especially the STETTIN known to be on the Vaasa types. The specialty mark “Suomen Messut” (Finland Exposition) on some of the values might be an authentic non-philatelic strike.

There are also some ship marks in existence, adding to an overall varied and interesting collection

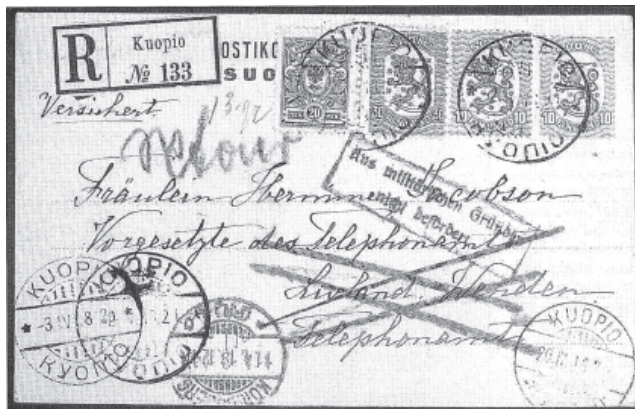


Figure 3 An interesting and rare Saarinen design 10 penni registered stationery card: KUOPIO 2. IV. 18 (April 2) to Latvia. Added postage: Saarinen 10 penni, Russian eagle type 20 penni, and Vaasa type 30 penni values. The card was mailed from Kuopio, but never reached its destination because of German army intervention against further delivery to a war zone (red mark, arrival mark 11. 4. 18 (April 11). The original address was crossed out with blue pencil and the card was returned to Kuopio (20. IV. 18.)

of cancels. Oval mark 4. 1. 1921 (January 4), with the word “Makulerat” (meaning “cancelled” in Swedish), fake or not? Once, this writer happened upon a collector with an envelope that carried the company name of Arvi A. Karisto Osakeyhtio — Hämeenlinna, and was addressed to a person in Martovaara. An oval mark (like the aforementioned) had been used to cancel a 1 Fmk Vaasa issue. The cover lacked any other cancellations. One can only wonder as to what kind of mark this was? In those days the marks were usually rather untidy especially in 1918, but thereafter became more legible and neater as conditions improved. The cause of the untidiness was apparently the ink quality, as well as a general uneasiness and uncertainty. There were more important things to do than worry about very fine and beautiful marks.

### BOGUS MARKS

Vaasa types are known to have bogus marks and reversed dates. Example: VAASA 1. 4. 1918 (April 1), and other dates such as: 1. 3. 918 (March 1). Jaala & Uimila: The JAALA 27mm Russian cancel with the Cyrillic text removed along with the Uimila row-

cancel; usually seen on 1911 and 1917 type postal cards with added stamp combinations; rate generally 40 penni, date reversed. Nagu: NAGU Russian cancel with the Cyrillic text removed. Usually seen franked with foreign rate postage are the 1917 and 1918 values and the 1921 stationery card; reversed dates. Hannila: HANNILA cancel with premature 10. 2. 1918 (February 10) date, since stamps not yet issued. Rovaniemi: ROVANIEMI cancel 10. 2. 1918 (February 10); date premature on stamp not issued until beginning March. Käkisalmi: KEXHOLM - KÄKISALMI 10. III. 18 (March 10); date premature on the known 30 penni and 1 Fmk stamps. Russian cancel with 8 bars on both the upper and lower arch. Cyrillic lettering already removed. Säämäjärvi: The SÄÄMÄJARVI P. O. mark on postal card franked with Aunus stamps. The 1918, 20 penni stationery card with Aunus postage was cancelled with reversed date mark. Addressee was added at a later date.

Some telegraph office marks are also suspect. Thus, a good idea to be vigilant and check the real authenticity of especially: The Porvoo, Sortavala, and Viipuri objects. It is wise to be suspicious of the Loviisa also. This writer lacks information about the exact date when letters from telegraph offices were first allowed to be sent. So, telegraph marks are questionable. Only mail shipments in their entirety would shed some light on the matter; as would researching the telegraph administration archives located in the state archives.



Figure 4 Mixed triple value postal advance address card in three languages OULU, 6. III. 18 (March 6), (Vaasa issue second day use). Postage, 5 penni Saarinen and 10 penni Vaasa, as well as a Russian type 9 x 40 penni values. Postal rate for the 3.5 kilogram package was 3 Fmk and 75 penni advance fee.





Figure 5 Registered parcel address card with a host of marks: HELSINKI, 17. XII. 20, ROVANIEMI, 19. XII. 20; LIEKSA, 19. 1. 21; SUOJÄRVI, 23. 1. 21, and on the reverse ROVANIEMI, 13. 1. 21, and TAMPERE 15. 1. 21. This shipment was in connection with a Finnish liberation contingency visit to Karelia and followed the Savo II Battalion Infantry Regiment. The numbers on top are those of arrival registration. The postal rate for the one kilogram package was 3 Fmk, and registration 80 penni. Postage includes two of the Saarinen 40 penni and three of the Vaasa 1 Fmk's.

## The Postal Stationery of Finland - Part 8

### MORE ON FINNISH POSTAL STATIONERY RETURN RECEIPTS WITH NUMERALS IN FOUR CORNERS

by Juhani Pietilä, translated by Kauko Aro  
reprinted from *Abophil*, No. 5, 1995

When the stamp design changed in connection with joining the UPU, the designs of other value stamps were reviewed. This happened late in case of return receipts as the stocks in the Postal Administration appeared to last even beyond Summer 1875. However, new forms were still ordered already in the Spring at the same time with new forms for postal cards. The forms have minor differences compared to the prior types, e.g. the lettering has been changed. The differences found in the Swedish language header are important in identifying each type from the others.

#### TYPE 1 (Norma and LaPe 3)

The Swedish header was still the same as that used in the prior issue 'Retour-Recepisse för Finland' with a solid underline. The header was not followed by a period as in the next type. The color of the value stamp is clearly lilac corresponding to the color of the postal cards. New value stamp was printed on the forms in May 1876, after which deliveries were made to Post Offices. The printing was 5,000 receipts. Unused copies are more common than used ones which in reality are rather scarce.

#### TYPE 2 (Norma and LaPe 4 1-11-111)

According to the *Handbook of Finnish Philately*, restocking was needed only in the Summer 1878 which describes the low use and consumption of the return receipts. Zilliacus also supplied the new forms which clearly differ from the previous one. The first sub-type, namely sub-type I, the Swedish header ends in a period, which the Finnish side still did not need. The length of the line under the Swedish header is 82 mm. The color of the value stamp is lilac and the printing only 2,000 copies. Deliveries to Post Offices were started in July 1878, still according to the Handbook. The information must not be accurate as the photo shows a return receipt of this type used in September 1877!

In 1879 a new printing of 2,000 copies was ordered which again differs slightly from the previous one. The Finnish header of this sub-type II is followed by a period, and the line below the Swedish header is 86 mm long. The color of the value stamp is brown-lilac according to the Handbook; however, the mint copy in the hands of the author is clearly light lilac in color.



One more time the stocks were refilled with another order of 2,000 receipt forms. They differ from the others in that the length of the entire Swedish header is only 78 mm in place of 82 mm, and the line under the header is 82 mm long. The color of the value stamp is clearly a brown or dark-reddish lilac.

All sub-types are scarce in used form and difficult to encounter even in mint form. The return receipts are often skipped in postal stationery collections by leaving them completely out which may precisely be a result of their scarcity.

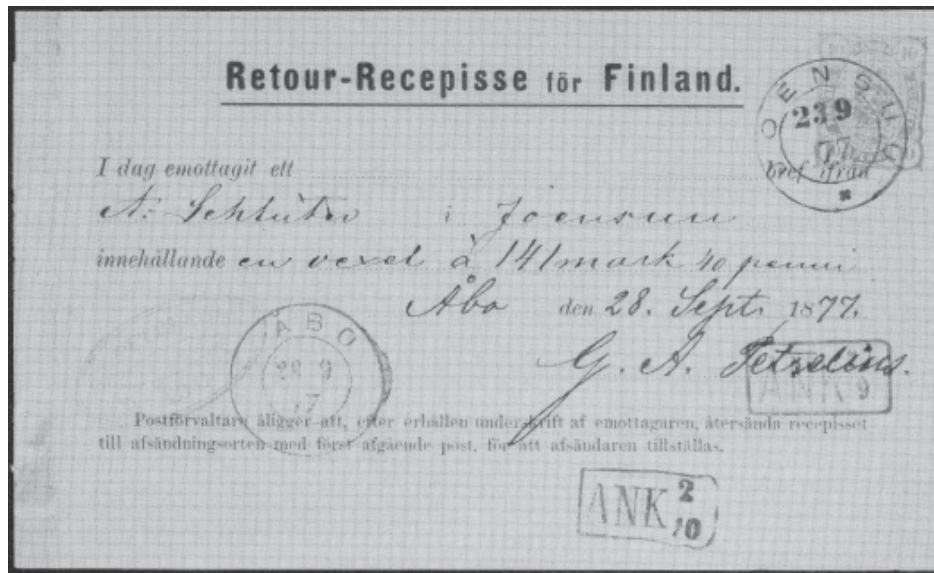


Figure 1. Used example of the sub-type 1 of the second receipt with numerals in all four corners. Both cancellations and the written text confirm September 1877 usage. Pleasantly, the receipt has all of the four required strikes.

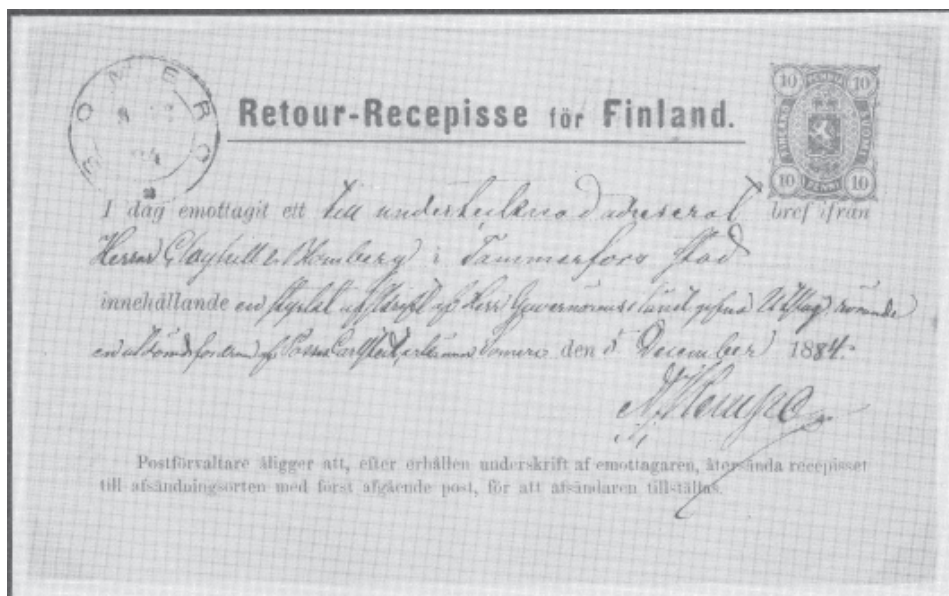


Figure 2. A cancelled return receipt of the third sub group included with the letter from Tampere to Somero. Tampere seems not to have struck the receipt with a departure cancel. Instead, the date 8. 12. 84 (December 8, 1884) is on the two ring Somero postmark. The ANK-mark appears only once and the date is illegible. The darkness of the value stamp, as compared to the other one, may be apparent even in the black and white illustration.

# The Postal Stationery of Finland - Part 9

## SUBSEQUENT RETURN RECEIPTS WITH FOUR NUMERALS

by Juhani Pietilä, translated by Kauko Aro

reprinted from *Abophil*, No. 6, 1995



The letter shown here includes a return receipt of the final type with four numerals which is still attached to the letter. The letter in question was sent from Björneborg to Helsinki, but the recipient was not reached: "Retour a Björneborg, adressaten afrest till utrikes ort." Or, Mr. Dr. Karl von Heideken had traveled abroad! In this manner was born a philatelically interesting return receipt which tells of its usage to future generations in a practical manner. The return receipt is sufficiently larger to allow its edges to reach beyond the letter, and can be clearly seen in the photo. The return receipt which is not pictured in the article uses a departing double-ring cancellation from Björneborg dated 19.2.87. This is the same date as on the letter itself. No text was added onto the receipt form; this was left to the recipient.

The small printings of the earlier return receipts were used up rather quickly at which time the Post Office was forced to order more. In 1881, changes were also made to the text of the forms by changing the French name of the form to a domestic language. The new name was now 'Retour-kort' in Swedish, but the Finnish term continued as 'paluukuitti'. In the new type, the Swedish text now ends in a round period which will differentiate this first 'return-card' from the next. The color of the value stamp was supposed to match that of the adhesive stamp (brown), but this did not happen as the color is brownish-carmine. The printing is slightly larger than before, or 4,000 copies. These and the subsequent receipts are more common than those from prior issues which is natural keeping in mind the sizes of their printings.

The next batch of forms was received in April 1883 which differs from the prior one as the Swedish header ends in a square period. Also, other minor differences are noted, but the above point is

most important in identification. This receipt was printed in two lots totaling 8,000 copies, and the color of the value stamp is dark carmine.

Return receipts with numerals in all corners were still printed in a third type. Deliveries, which totaled three, were started in December 1885. The clearest difference with the previous issue is the color of the value stamp which was the same as that on a regular 10 penni stamp, namely lighter red. There is some variation in the color, but they can be easily separated from the dark-carmine of the prior issue. 22,500 copies of the receipts were printed, and thus, they are already common. A few rare receipts of this type have been found which are still attached to the letter as they were originally sent. This may have happened when the recipient was not reached and the letter — with the return receipt attached — had to be returned to the sender. Thus, the sender has placed the mailing in its entirety into a drawer waiting for a lucky philatelist to come along!



# Early and Late Uses of the m-30 Coil Stamps

reprinted from *Suomen Postimerkkilehti*, No. 6, 1998

The first two postage stamp vending machines were installed at the Helsinki railroad station in February of 1930. However, there seems to be some uncertainty both in the journals and other references about the exact dates of usage. Any possible later specimens certainly date to the first part of 1963, and this on account of collectors. The following interesting objects are part of the Pekka Nappari collection.

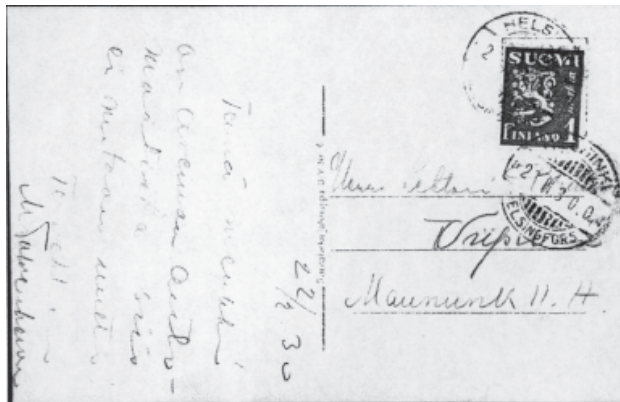


Figure 1. Text on address side of (pictured) card: 22/2 30. "This stamp is from the station automat, so nothing new. Greetings N.N.". The card was addressed to a collector in Vyborg.

find out what the actual date of use was. The card (pictured) is dated and marked Saturday February 22. Information of even earlier use is found in the *Helsingin Sanomat* newspaper from the previous day. The pictured news story (February 21.) tells about many interesting aspects, such as country of manufacture and the commonness of similar machines elsewhere, as well as a careful request for instructions on the correct use, but with poor response.

The most important information mentioned only briefly in the paper is, that initially all three kinds of postage stamps were available from the automats. The stamps were of the 10p + 50p and the 50p + 1 Fmk values. Of these, the least common is the 10p. A few coils of the green 20p stamps were made, but never used in the machines.

The mailings from February are good. The first coils that were initially used are all without numbers. Early numbered mail or marked singles are interesting too. These, however, might not be seen until the end of March. As far as cancellations go, the Turku automation appears only later. Could there have been only numbered coils in Turku? Also worth searching for are the early uses of local and regional, as well as railroad train marks.

## EARLY USAGE

Collectors in the capital city must have had some prior knowledge of the installation, though the interest in the automats may have consisted of only a one-time try after which the newness wore off. Especially when the stamps often emerged with less than perfect perforations. One could obtain similar, faultless specimens for the same price at the post office. Actually, the stamp machines were meant mainly for the use of the general public. This becomes obvious from many still existing mailings that show cancelled postage stamps that originated from these coil vending machines.

As the above card attests, first day mailings by collectors certainly exist. It would be interesting to

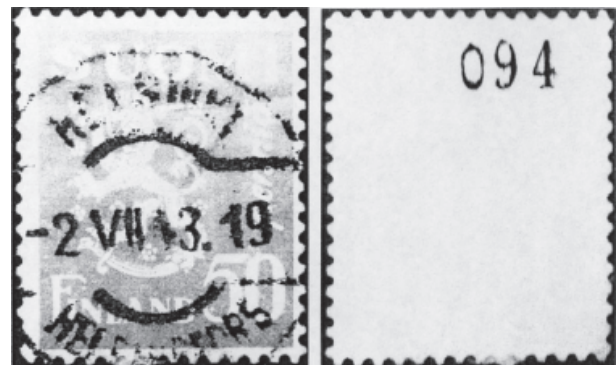


Figure 2.

## LATER USES

After the automats were discontinued (and perhaps even earlier), coil stamps were sold at the main post office in Helsinki. The fact that companies

were purchasing them is evident on business mail and flyers, where sometimes even long strips can be seen as late as the end of the 1930s.

Not one specimen from the 5000 edition of the 20 penni values has been discovered even by collectors. Where could they be? Likewise, not many cancellations from the 1940s has been seen. Above, one of the more recent machine cancellations HELSINKI -2 VII 43. Later specimens must surely exist, but in whose collection?

The editor will gratefully accept information on the M-30 coil stamps, their use, postal mailings, marks, etc.

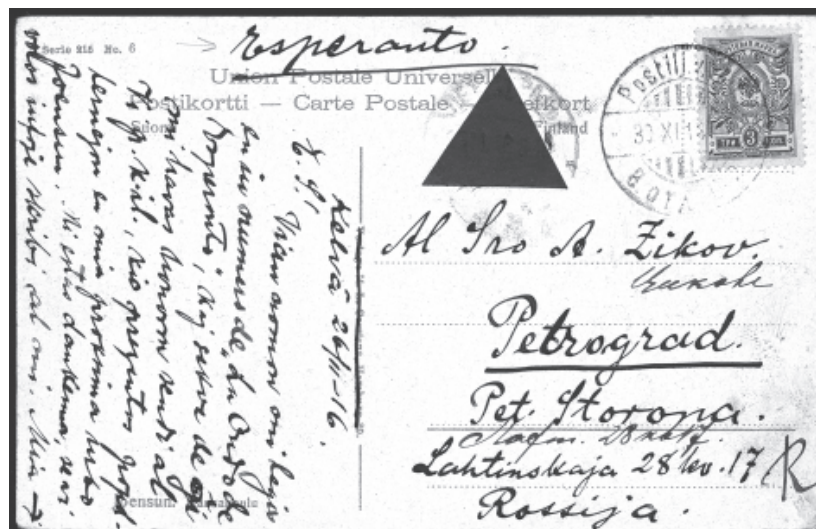
## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Postal stamp automation Helsingin Sanomat (newspaper) No. 50, 21.2.1930, page 3.

Juha Jaatinen: "Coil stamps in Finland", *Suomen Postimerkkilehti* (The Finnish stamp magazine) 7/1997.

## St. Petersburg/Petrograd "Red Triangle" Misdirected Label

by Lenard Tiller & Michael Ercolini



Earlier this year I purchased a postcard addressed in Esperanto to Petrograd which bears a railroad postmark dated, November 30, 1916. My question was: What did the red triangle stand for? Was it a censor mark or some kind of postal route marking? Several correspondents offered the following information:

1) The 'red triangle' was a misdirected label, peculiar to the St. Petersburg/Petrograd Town Post from 1911 to 1916. (The November 1916 pmk is the latest reported use of the red triangle label.)

2) It was applied by branch post offices tied with its cds, most often seen on post cards, but also known on wrappers and letters.

3) It was applied when the GPO had sent the item to the wrong local PO for delivery, and it was returned (by that local post office to the originating

GPO) as undeliverable.

4) The function of the triangle was a rerouting mark. Most often this label also had the handstamp/cancellation of the returning post office applied to it, as seen on this item.

5) This post card was addressed in Esperanto, contrary to regulations which required that all mail from Finland to Russia was to be addressed in the Cyrillic alphabet in the 'Russian style'.

Undoubtedly, it had to go to the translation desk, so this may be a reason why it was misdirected. My correspondents report that the 'red triangle' label is rather uncommon, and it is the first item from Finland to Russia written in Esperanto which I have seen. If our readers have similar items with the red triangle or mail addressed to Russia in Esperanto, please share them with us. Roger P. Quinby



## Soft Printing and Relief in Type 1875

text, pictures and translation by Heikki Reinikainen, from *Filatelisti*, No. 10/95

When describing the stamps of Type 1875, the terms “soft printing” and “relief” are often used when referring to a certain specific appearance or look of a stamp. Inquiries concerning these terms were made. In order to clarify their meaning I quote the corresponding explanation of the new Handbook III (1993), page 23:

“The term soft printing in this study signifies printing appearance, wherein the details of the stamp picture are not emphasized. The picture is even and dense, the emblem does not contrast from the background, the outlines are thick, with sharpness missing from the stamp picture. Examples are 10 penni LBA, 20 penni SAK and LBF. This is an exception to the normal, where the stamp picture is sharper and the emblem is presented more clearly.

“The soft printing was of help to the printers as the clichés wore out or if the cliché under padding was to be avoided. It was created by increasing pressure or by changing to a thicker make-ready, which compressed the clichés more firmly into the printing paper. This created an inferior, softer printing result compared to the original, which under the circumstances was still acceptable.

“Increased pressure at the time of printing created a compression mark, which is obvious in the stamps. The raised parts of the cliché appear embossed, that is to say in ‘relief’ on the reverse side of the stamps. This is found to some degree in Senate stamps, which may have been caused by a tilted cliché. The compression mark is more common on Charta Sigillata stamps. This was caused by the deficiencies in the printing press itself.”

The relief and soft printing are excellent details in helping to identify these stamps. The illustrations included in this article will best clarify such appearances.



Figure 4. (Left) Soft printing is on the left. Stamp picture is even and the details are not emphasized. In contrast, the appearance of the 5 penni stamp is heavily raised. The emblem contrasts strongly in the light oval area and seemingly ascends from the bottom as opposed to the even appearance of the 20 penni stamp.



Figure 1. A strong relief in 20 penni LBF printing emission is common. Note the strong relief on the left of the pictured stamp. It is due to one of the inherent weaknesses of the cylinder press acquired.



Figure 2. The relief is seen best on the reverse of the stamps. 20 penni LBF is on the left, 2 penni LBA Pearl Grey is in the middle and 20 penni LBG (48) on the right. The missing relief of LBG is the positive identification detail of the printing.



Figure 3. (Left) The positive identification detail of 1 mark LBC is the relief on the vertical side of a stamp.

# Notes on the Emergency Money Stamps

by Leonard L Tann

I would like to amplify and clarify some of the notes made in the November 1999 issue of TFP on the currency-tokens of Russia (Editor's note: *Facit* refers to them as "Emergency Stamps" and *Norma* refers to them as "Emergency Money Stamps") and their occasional use in Finland. The original article was by Erkki Larkka, translated by Carita Parker.

I have written extensively on the currency-tokens as they are an important adjunct to the entirety of the Romanov issue. I wrote an article in *YAMSHCHIK, The Post Rider* (journal of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately, No 15 of 1984) in which I quoted the Finnish Postmaster General, Peter Jamalainen who held office in the period from 1912 into Finnish independence. It was my late pen-friend Bo Isaacsson of Tidaholm who had delved into the Finnish archives where he found the Finnish copies of the Russian postal instructions which bear repeating to give us further understanding of what was happening.

The issue of the currency-tokens followed because of hoarding of the lower valued silver coinage of Russia, exacerbated by speculators because of the war. The Government had to replace the missing coinage but in

such a way as not to encourage further hoarding. Thus, the three crucial values of the Romanov stamp-set were reissued on card with the inscription on the back of the 10, 15 and 20 kopek values. Earliest known use is October 1915, so we generally assume that they passed into circulation on or about October 1, 1915 (Russian Julian Calendar). They were issued via the exchequer and banks as they were 'coinage' - not through post offices. I show here a cover, Figure 1, in my collection, registered from Petrograd to London, 14-10-15 with transit and receipt postmarks, so it is an entirely valid cover in all respects.

Let it be stated clearly now - since *the tokens were stamp effigies they bore the word "Pochia" (postage) as part of the design, and the Romanov stamps were still circulating, many people believed they were valid as coinage as well as for postage.* Erkki Larkka is quite correct in stating that philatelists were at work creating philatelic covers franked with these tokens. But many people used them in a perfectly normal manner as stamps. Also, it should be noted, once gummed to a cover, a postal clerk quickly cancelling hundreds of covers would not have noticed that a few were slightly thicker than the common stamps, and surcharged the letters as being franked with an 'inadmissible token'. I have never seen a cover franked with a token with postage due surcharge. I think it likely that the clerks likewise believed that they were doubly valid as currency and postage.

The Postal Directives issued by Peter Jamalainen were as follows - dates are of course Gregorian Calendar.

Postal Administration in Finland, Helsinki 21 Oct 1915. No. 11, 13, 512

First text is in Finnish-Swedish - referring to "växelmarkenä" or currency -tokens),

"To all Post offices:

Although the currency-tokens placed in circulation by the Ministry of Finance [of Russia] are primarily intended to be used only as a medium of exchange, and thus should not be used in place of postage stamps, franking with currency-tokens should however be allowed,

P Jamalainen."

The clear impression was that they could serve for both. This postal directive was followed by another:

Postal Administration in Finland. Helsinki 18



Figure 1.



Dec- 1915, No. II, 15,145

[First text is also in Finnish-Swedish]

“To all Post Offices,

With reference to the general communication of the Postal Administration No. 11 13,512 [quoted above] ... of 21-10-15, the post offices are informed and asked to take note that the currency-tokens placed in circulation by the Ministry of Finance, according to recently received information, should not be used in place of postage stamps for the franking of postal items. P Jamalainen.”

It is therefore crystal clear from the above that there was a period of confusion, where it seemed that these tokens were valid as coins and stamps, but that confusion was dispelled by the second directive. I have no doubt that this is the basis for the quoted note of *Facit* stating the ‘interval’ between October 21 until December 18 was a period of valid postal franking.

The second issue of the currency-tokens, namely the 1 kopek 2 kopek and 3 kopek values - was made by the beginning of December 1916, and led to a further directive from Peter Jamalainen as to their use and validity.

This second issue of tokens was enforced because of hoarding and speculation with the low valued copper coinage of Russia. However, within a very short time, forgers were at work tampering with the 1 kopek and 2 kopek values to recolor them to appear to be the 10 kopek and 20 kopek values of the earlier issue. An outcry forced the numeral surcharge - a big “1” on the 1 kopek and big “2” on the 2 kopek token. It is **not** a surcharge. The value remained the same, it was simply a clarifying overprint. The 3 kopek currency token was not interfered with so it remained without change.

The sudden and unexpected fall of the Russian monarchy in early March 1917 was not immediately reflected in Russia’s philately. But a reprinting of the low-valued tokens became necessary. The inscription on the back was reset omitting the Imperial Arms. For the first time in a thousand years a government-issued object did not bear the czarist imprint, but instead bore the same wording but a large figure of value.



Figure 2.

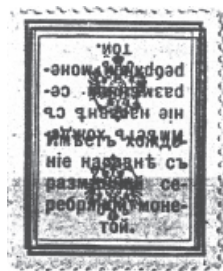


Figure 3.



Figure 4. Right, Figure 5. Far Right

Thus these 3 low valued tokens are the only philatelic commemoration of the real Russian Revolution. Reprinting of the three higher values was made from the existing plates, and no change was made to them. As with stamp issues, paper, card and printings deteriorated considerably, and varieties occurred more often.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

The 1915-17 currency-tokens were never officially issued to Finland. Finland had long had its own currency unconnected to the ruble, and thus free from the wartime woes of hoarding and speculation. However, like Russian stamps of the time, they could be carried into Finland by visitors, tourists, businessmen, officials in the administration and soldiers (there were Russian garrisons in Finland because of the war) and these tokens were valid as currency. This is the underlying principle of Peter Jamalainen’s directives.

Obviously, philatelists were at work in Finland too, and covers and cards were concocted to create interesting uses of these tokens. This is particularity of the period March-December 1917 when Finland was loosening its ties with Russia, and there was a rush to use up Russian stamps within their period of validity. Just out of interest I show here a few of the varieties in my collection: - Imperforated block of four, paper folds causing the inscription to appear on the face, vertical printing, etc. See Figures 2-5

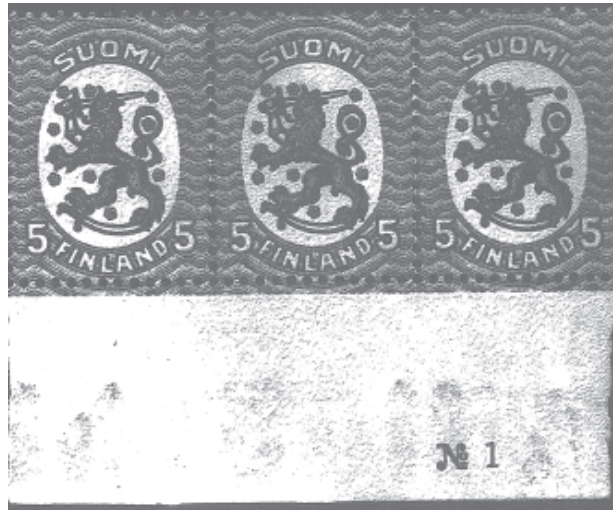
I have several covers and pieces with these tokens genuinely used, and loose copies with what I consider to be genuine postmarks - as well as one or two cards used in Finland - but probably philatelic. It is believed that philatelists had access to a canceller from the post office at TUKKUM, in the Baltic provinces and they proceeded to “manufacture” numerous covers using this postmark. Thus Tukkum postmarks are highly suspect.



## 2 Penni Edge Watermark Found on Finland's First Issue

by Frank Baze

Finland was a province of Sweden from 1157 until it was ceded to Russia in 1809. A Grand Duchy of the Russian Czar for most of the 19th century, Finland finally became an independent republic in 1917. In their fight for postal independence, the Finnish Senate decided that the stamps inscribed with the Imperial Arms of Russia would be replaced with stamps bearing the Arms of the Republic of Finland.



The above figure illustrates a 5 penni green horizontal strip of three with selvedge attached across the bottom edge. Contained in the selvedge is the watermark "...ENNI 2 PE..." which is typical of the "PENNI 5 PENNIA" format. What is atypical is the fact that these 5 penni stamps are printed on a paper with a 2 penni watermark, a

denomination not found on any of the Saarinen issues.

### THE FIRST SAARINEN ISSUE

In September of 1917, Finland issued the first of the Saarinen design stamps. The original sketches for this design were prepared by an architect named *Elieel Saarinen*, appointed by the Finnish Senate to a committee assigned the task of creating a new stamp design.

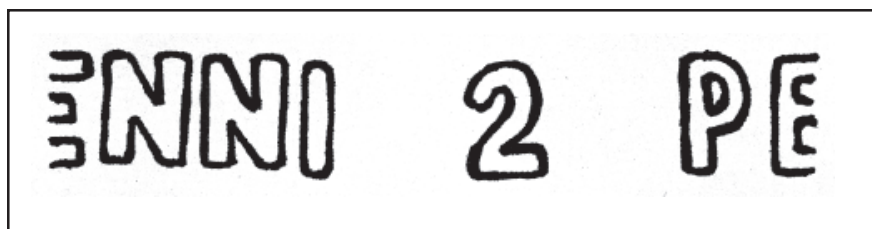
### A REMARKABLE FIND

The paper used for printing the Saarinen issues was made by Tervakoski Oy and included an edge watermark with a monetary value. It had been previously written that the original intention may have been to match the monetary value in the watermark to the printed images, but mismatches did occur. What I have not seen documented anywhere previously is the existence of a Saarinen issue printed on paper with a 2 penni watermark, a denomination only used on earlier Finnish issues.

Also of interest is the "No. I" inscription which signifies that these stamps are from the very first Saarinen issue. There were two plates used in the printing of issue number one, Plate I in the left press position and Plate II in the right press position. Since the stamp impressions in this strip of three do not have the over-etched trait typical of Plate II, it may be concluded that the stamps were printed using Plate I.

In 1923, Elieel Saarinen moved to the United States and became the director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art located in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Editor's note: In the 1986 *Handbook*, (*Handbook of Finnish Stamps, Issues of 1917 and 1918*, Fifth Volume, Second Edition), There is a reference to edge watermarks on the 5 penni issue on page 45: "Edge watermarks are known on Orders 14, 16, and 34." Comments and additional information are welcome.





## Air mail via France and Brazil to all South American Countries, the West Indies except Cuba and the Bahama Islands from August 1, 1939 to April 9, 1940

The South American route of Air France was stopped from the beginning of September and opened again on September 18th. When direct flights from Finland to France were halted, available routes from **Helsinki** and **Turku** to **Stockholm** to Paris, then to Dakar, Natal, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires. After Germany occupied Denmark in April, 1940, the air mail route via France was interrupted.



Letter to Argentina from Lahti, November 29, 1939 via Stockholm, December 1, to Buenos Aires, December 13, 1940.

Letter rate to abroad from November 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942:  
-20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

## Air mail to Finland via Brazil and Italy from all South American countries except Cuba, Dutch, British & French colonies from July, 1940 to December 29, 1940

When Germany expanded military operations to Western Europe on April 9, 1940, air traffic on the route of Air France was interrupted. The Italian L.A.T.I. then started air mail service to Finland & So. America.

Direction: From South America: Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Cape Verde, Villa Cisneros, Lisbon to Rome and from there to Berlin, Stockholm, then to Helsinki.



Registered letter from Argentina: Buenos Aires, July 3, 1940 to Helsinki, September 30, 1940.  
Letter rate: -20 grams = 20 centavos. Registration = 20 centavos. Air mail = 1 peso, 25 centavos.  
Censored in Italy at Tornio, Berlin and by Censor No. 17 in Helsinki.

### Air mail via Stockholm and Brazil to all South American Countries, the West Indies except Cuba, and the Dutch, British and French Colonies, from July 15, 1940 to December 29, 1941

Direction: From **Turku** to **Stockholm**, by train to Berlin, by air to **Rome** and from there on Thursdays by the South American route of the Italian company, L.A.T.I. From Rome to Lisbon, Villa Cisneros, Cape Verde, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, to Buenos Aires.



Letter from Suolahti, November 13, 1940, via Stockholm, November 14, to Buenos Aires, November 25.

Letter rate: November 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942: -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

Air mail: September 9, 1940 to December 17, 1940: -5 grams = 26 Fmk

Censor No. 94 in Helsinki

### Air mail via Italy and Brazil to all South American Countries, the West Indies except Cuba, the Bahama Islands and the French Colonies, from September 11, 1940 to December 29, 1941

Direction: **Helsinki**, Stockholm, Berlin, to **Rome** and from there once weekly by the South American route of the Italian company, L.A.T.I. From Rome to Lisbon, Villa Cisneros, Cape Verde, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and terminating in Santiago, Chile.



Registered Letter from Helsinki, June 17, 1941 to Buenos Aires, July 2.

Letter rate: November 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942: -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

Registration: December 1, 1931 to September 30, 1942 = 2.50 Fmk

Air mail: March 15, 1941 to December 29, 1941: -5 grams = 32 Fmk

Censor No. 50 in Helsinki



**Air mail via France and New York on the regular air mail routes to all American Countries, except Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador, from May 29, 1939, to August 31, 1939**

The first flight over the North Atlantic was flown by Pan American Airways' "Yankee Clipper" in May, 1939 on the route New York to Marseille. The route was announced in Finnish newspapers on May 23, 1939. By July 1939, about 400 pieces of mail were sent on this route from the Helsinki post office.

Direction: From **Turku** and **Helsinki** via Stockholm and **Paris** to Marseille. From there, once a week on Pan American Airways from Marseille, Lisbon, Horta, to New York.



Air mail letter to the USA from Helsinki, May 23, 1939, via Marseille, May 24, to New York, May 27, 1939.

Letter rate: Nov. 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942:  
 -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk  
 Air mail: May 25, 1939 to April 9, 1942:  
 -5 grams = 8 Fmk

**Air mail to Finland via New York from all South American Countries, except Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador, from September 1, 1939, to April 9, 1940**

After France was placed in a state of war in September 1939, air mail connections via France were interrupted and the starting point of the air route to New York was shifted from Marseille to Lisbon. This route was maintained except for temporary interruptions until December 26, 1941 to Finland and from Finland to the Americas until April 9, 1942.

Direction: From **New York** by air on the route of Pan American Airways New York - Lisbon, and from there via Marseille, Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm to **Turku** and **Helsinki**.



Air mail letter from USA: New York, February 8, 1940 to Helsinki, February 18, 1940.

Rate: 1.5 to 2 ounces = \$1.20  
 Sender designated flight across the Atlantic via: "TRANS ATLANTIC CLIPPER"

**Air mail via France and New York on the regular air mail routes to all American Countries, except Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador, from May 29, 1939, to August 31, 1939**

Direction: From **Helsinki** and **Turku** to **Stockholm** and **Paris** where the mail was combined with Swedish air mail. From there via Amsteram, Paris, Marsieille, to Lisbon for twice weekly Pan Am flights to New York.



Press release (printed matter) from Helsinki, March 7, via Stockholm, March 10, 1940, to Washington, DC.

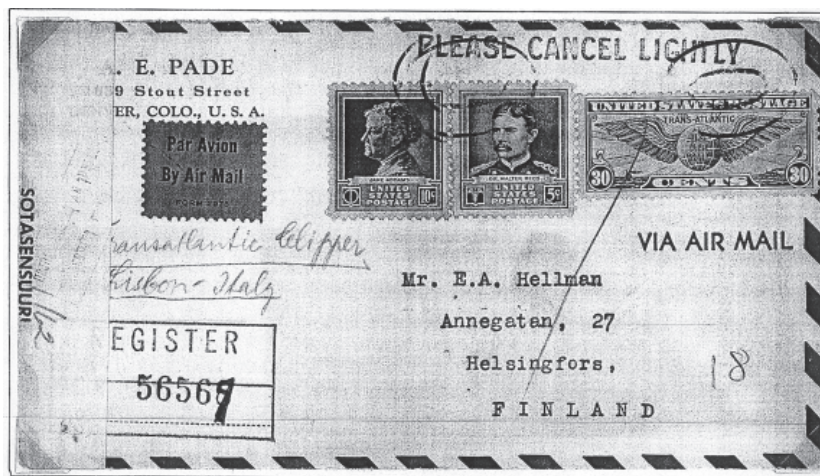
The stamp of the exchange office in Stockholm is proof of the flight over the Atlantic:  
 "BY AIR OVER THE ATLANTIC AND FROM NEW YORK"

Rate for printed matter: December 1, 1931 to September 30, 1942:  
 51-100 grams = 1 Fmk  
 Air mail: May 25, 1939 to April 9, 1942:  
 76-80 grams = 128 Fmk

**Air mail to Finland via New York and Italy on the regular air mail routes from all American Countries, except Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Ecuador, Canada and the Dutch, British, and French colonies, from April 10, 1940, to September 17, 1940**

After Germany invaded Denmark in April and the Netherlands and Belgium in May, 1940, the air mail connection through these countries was interrupted.

Direction: From New York twice weekly on Pan American Airways route New York - Lisbon and from there through Madrid, Rome, Berlin, Stockholm to **Turku** and **Helsinki**. Air traffic between Lisbon and Rome was suspended on July 7 and reopened on July 15, 1940.



Registered letter from the USA: Denver, May 6, via New York, May 7, to Helsinki, May 17, 1940.

Air mail rate: 1/2 ounce = \$.30  
 Registration fee: = \$.15 (15 cents)

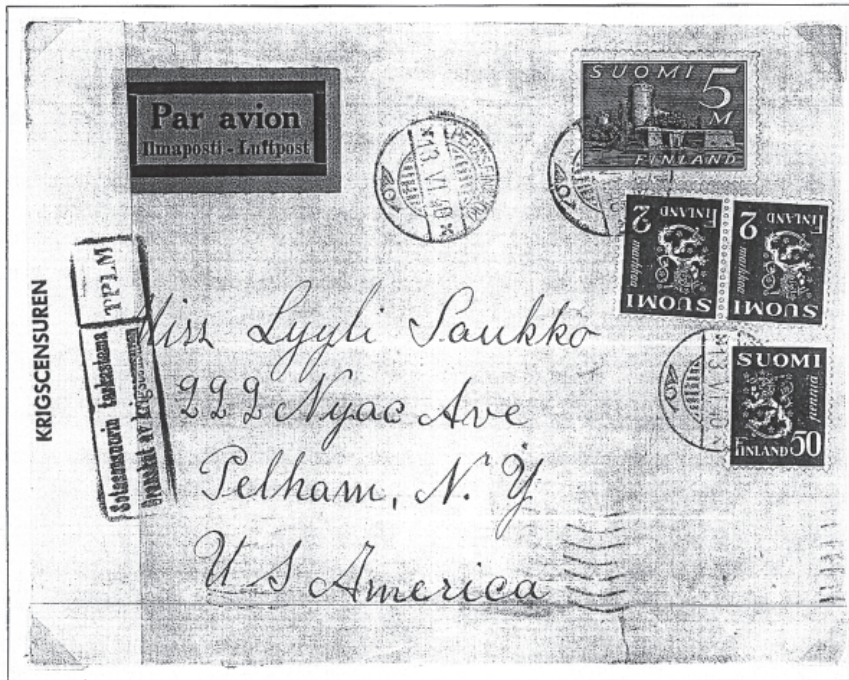
Censored in Helsinki



**Surface mail across the Arctic Ocean to New York and from there by air mail to all American countries, except Canada, and the British and French colonies from June 12, 1940, to August 1, 1940**

After Italy entered WW II on June 10, 1940, the sending of air mail letters from Finland to the Americas over the Atlantic was suspended by the Finnish Post.

Direction: From **Petsamo**, by the ships of the Thordon company to **New York**, and from there by air to place of destination.



Letter from Peräseinäjoki, June 13, 1940 to Pelham (Bronx), NY August 21, 1940.

Editor's Note: This letter traveled a surface route from the airport to Pelham as the destination was within New York City.

Letter rate from November 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942 = 3.5 Fmk  
Air mail from April 15, 1935 to July 21, 1940: 6-10 grams = 6 Fmk

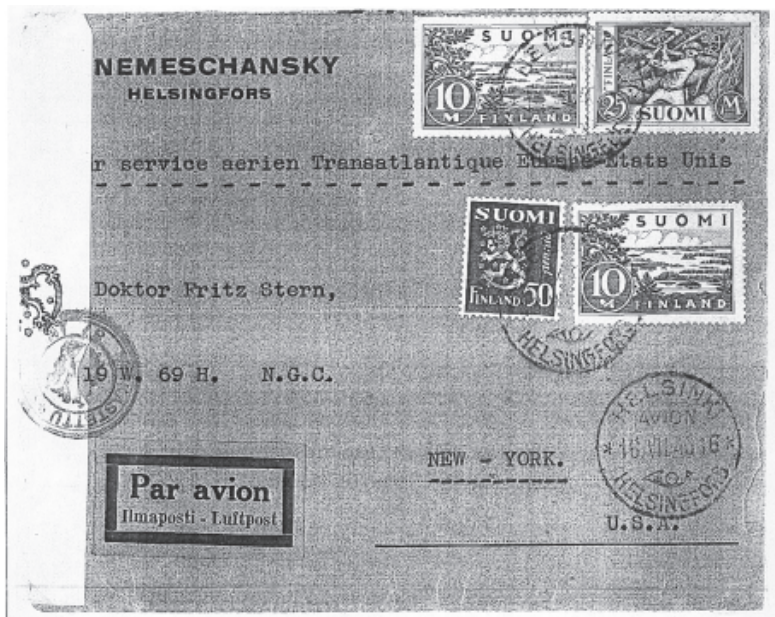
Censored in Turku.

On July 9, 1940, the "Marisa Thordon" departed Linahamari. The ship was captured by the British, mail confiscated and later transported with English mail to New York, arriving August 14, 1940.

**Air mail via Stockholm and New York to all American countries, except Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Canada, and the British, Dutch and French colonies, from July 15, 1940, to March 14, 1941**

On July 15, 1940 Sweden announced air mail service across the Atlantic through Lisbon.

Direction: From **Helsinki** (until September 10) and **Turku** to **Stockholm**, from there through Berlin, Rome (until September 17) to Lisbon and from there three times a week on the Pan American Airways route: Lisbon, Horta, Bermuda, to New York.



Letter to the USA: From Helsinki, July 16, 1940, via Stockholm, July 16, to New York.

Letter rate from November 1, 1936 to September 30, 1942:

21-40 grams = 5.50 Fmk

Air Mail rate from May 25, 1939 to April 9, 1942:

1-25 grams = 40 Fmk

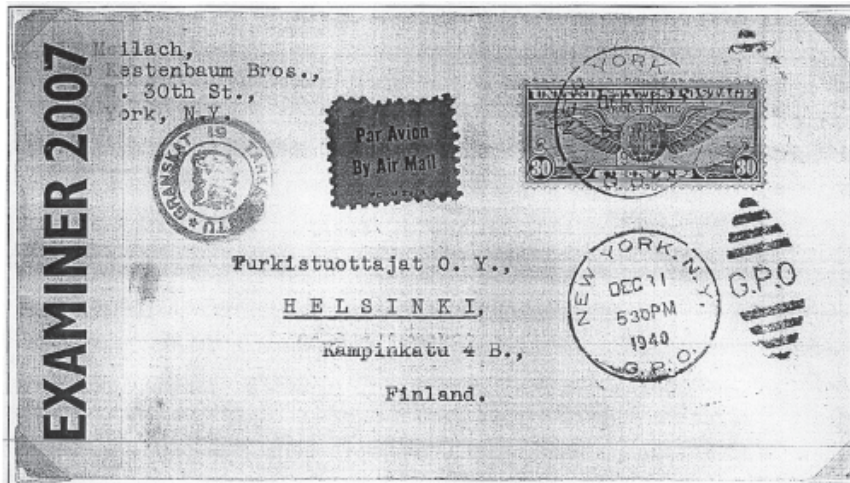
Censored in Helsinki: Censor No. 37



**Air mail to Finland via New York and Lisbon from all American countries, except Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Canada, and the British, Dutch and French colonies, from September 18, 1940, to March 14, 1941**

When a direct air route connection was opened between Lisbon and Berlin, the route via Rome was discontinued.

Direction: From **New York** by air on the route of Pan American Airways; New York, Bermuda, Lisbon, and from there via **Berlin** and Stockholm to Helsinki.



Air mail letter from the USA: New York, December 31, 1940 to Helsinki.

Air mail rate: 1/2 ounce = \$.30

English Censor No. 2007 in Bermuda

Censored in Helsinki: Censor No. 61

**Air mail via Lisbon and New York to all American countries, except Canada, and the British, Dutch and French colonies from March 15, 1941, to December 6, 1941**

From March 15, 1941 the sending of air mail between Finland and South American countries was also possible though New York.

Direction: From **Helsinki** (until November 16) and **Turku** (from April 21) to Stockholm, Berlin, **Lisbon**, and from there three times a week on the Pan American Airways route: New York, Mexico, Cristobal, Lima, to Buenos Aires.

It might take two months to convey the mail to New York. The delay occurred in Bermuda with the British censor office. Because of that, the air route of the Italian L.A.T.I. was preferred by the public for mail to South America.



Letter to Argentina: Fiskars, July 22, 1941, via Lisbon, July 27, to Buenos Aires, August 9, 1941,

Letter rate from Nov. 1, 1936 to Sept. 30, 1942: -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

Air mail rate from March 15, 1941 to October 10, 1941: -5 grams = 20 Fmk

The route marking via New York of the Turku exchange office is stamped on the cover front. It reads: "PAR SERVICE AERIEN TRANSATLANTIQUE EUROPE-ETATES-UNIS"

Censor No. 72 in Turku

English Censor No. 746 in Bermuda



**Air mail to Finland via New York and Lisbon from all American countries, except Canada, and the British, Dutch and French colonies, from March 15, 1941, to December 26, 1941**

Direction: From New York by air on the route of the Pan American Airways from New York, Bermuda, Lisbon and from there via Berlin and Stockholm to Helsinki.

The last air mail connection from New York to Finland departed on December 26, 1941.



Air mail letter from the USA: New York Bronx Central, December 5, 1941 via Bermuda where the English censorstamped the letter: "RETURN TO SENDER, SERVICE SUSPENDED"

Air mail rate: 1/2 ounce = \$.30  
English censor No. 746 in Bermuda

**Air mail via England and Sweden to Finland from March 31, 1942 to February 15, 1945**

When the mail transport was interrupted from the Americas to Finland on December 27, 1941 until February 15, 1945, it was nonetheless possible to send letters to Finland via Sweden using the air mail connection between Sweden and the USA. From Sweden, the letters were sent with addresses to Finland.



A letter from the USA: Highland Park, IL, August 6, 1942, via Stockholm, September 17, to Lahti, September 20.

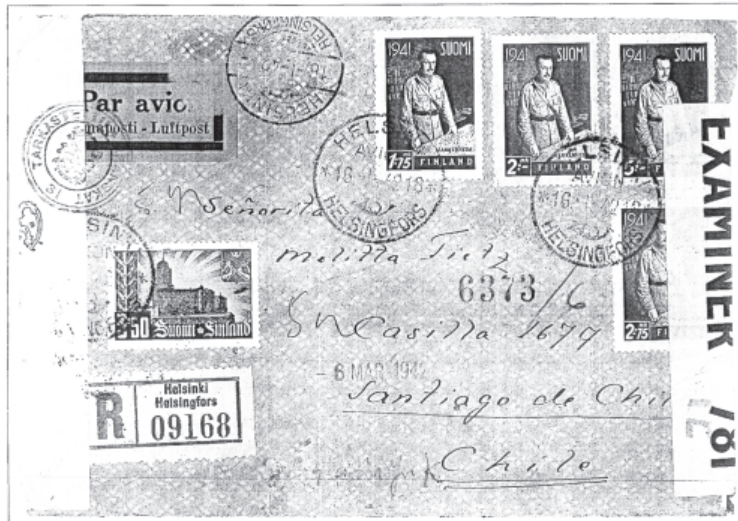
Rate: 1/2 ounce = \$.30

Censor No. 3094 in the USA  
Censor No. 75 in Helsinki

**Air mail via Lisbon and New York to all American countries except Canada and the British Colonies from December 31, 1941 to April 9, 1942**

Although mail traffic from the American countries to Finland was interrupted by the USA, the traffic from Finland to the American countries was continued until August 20, 1944 at sender's responsibility. When the Italian L.A. T. I. company stopped traffic to America because of the war, the only route open was via Lisbon to New York.

Direction: From **Helsinki** by air through Tallin, Königsberg, Berlin and **Lisbon**, and from there by Pan American Airways route, Lisbon, Bermuda, to New York and from there to Cristobal, Cali, Quito, Lima, La Paz and Santiago.



Registered air mail letter to Chile: Helsinki, January 16, 1942, to Santiago, March 6.

Letter rate: Nov. 1, 1936 to Sept. 30, 1942 for -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

Registration: to Sept. 30, 1942 = 2.50 Fmk

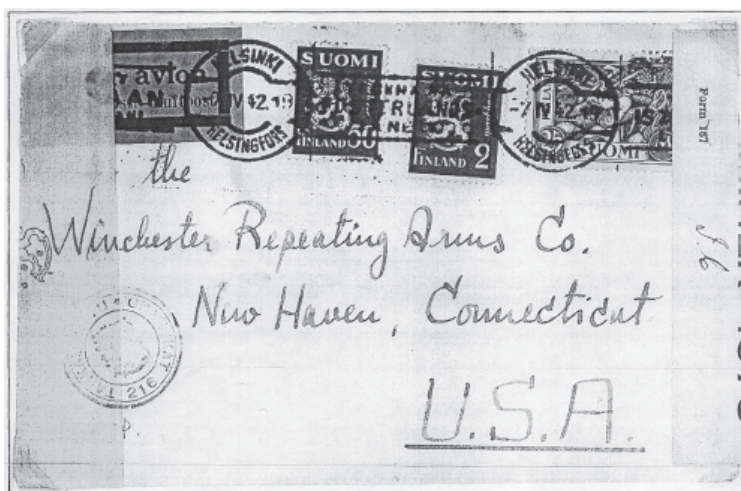
Air Mail Rate: October 10, 1941 to April 9, 1942 for -5 grams = 18 Fmk

Censored in Helsinki, Censor No. 31  
English Censor No. 781 in Bermuda

**Air mail via Lisbon and New York to all American countries except Canada and the British Colonies from December 31, 1941 to April 9, 1942**

Air mail left in the post offices in Helsinki. The last air mail letters from Finland to America were sent on April 9, 1942. However, after this date, some letters left at the post office were sent to Stockholm and from there were transported by the Swedish post.

Direction: From **Helsinki** by air through Tallin, Königsberg, Berlin and **Lisbon**, and from there by Pan American Airways route, Lisbon, Horta, and Bermuda, to New York.



Air mail letter to the USA: Helsinki, April 7, 1942, to New Haven CT.

Letter rate: Nov. 1, 1936 to Sept. 30, 1942 for -20 grams = 3.50 Fmk

Air Mail Rate: May 25, 1939 to April 9, 1942 for 11-14 grams = 25 Fmk

Censored in Helsinki, Censor No. 216  
English Censor No. 4978 in Bermuda