

The Finnish Philatelist

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Special Edition - Finnish Postal Cards 1901- 1930



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

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Editor's Message

This special edition of *The Finnish Philatelist* has been prepared for the Collectors Club presentation on the Finnish postal cards from 1900 to 1930.

The articles in this special edition are taken from previously published material in this newsletter based on three articles published in the *Finnish Handbook, Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*, Volume 5, 1970.

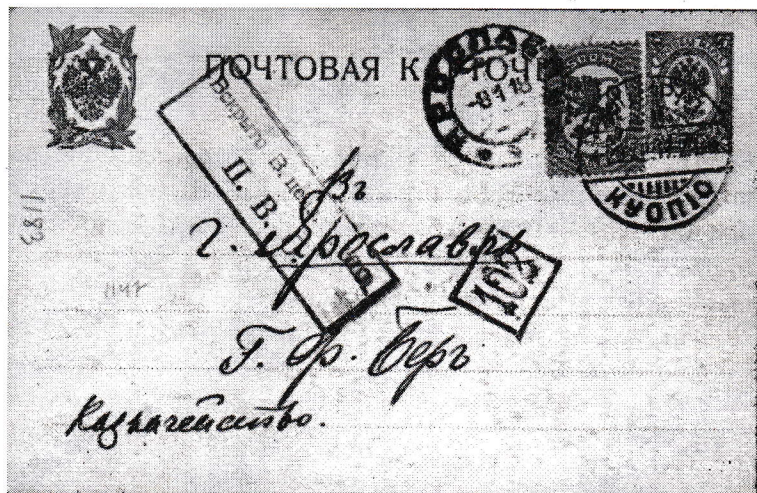
The material on the 1901 and 1911 postal cards was originally written by Arvo Malinen and the article on the Saarinen and Vaasa cards was written by Ilmari Koskimies.

The short material on the 1901 cards is based on several articles which have appeared in the Finnish philatelic press.

Additional material and card descriptions are taken from the *Norma Special Catalogue*, 1985 and later editions and Kaj Hellman's auction catalogues, 1989-2000. Carita Parker has translated much of the original Finnish text.

However, the two articles from the *Handbook* have been considerably edited, rewritten and expanded and any errors therein are solely my responsibility.

Roger P. Quinby



Although Finland had already declared independence and Russia and the rest of the world had recognized the new government by the first week in January, 1918, its penny franking was not yet recognized by the UPU for international mail until March 12th. Technically, the franking on this card from Kuopio, 29. XII. 17, to a village near Petrograd, (St. Petersburg until late 1914) was invalid. It was also inspected and passed by the war censor in Petrograd.

Russian Design Type - 1901 Postal Cards - *Norma* Nos. 33 - 38

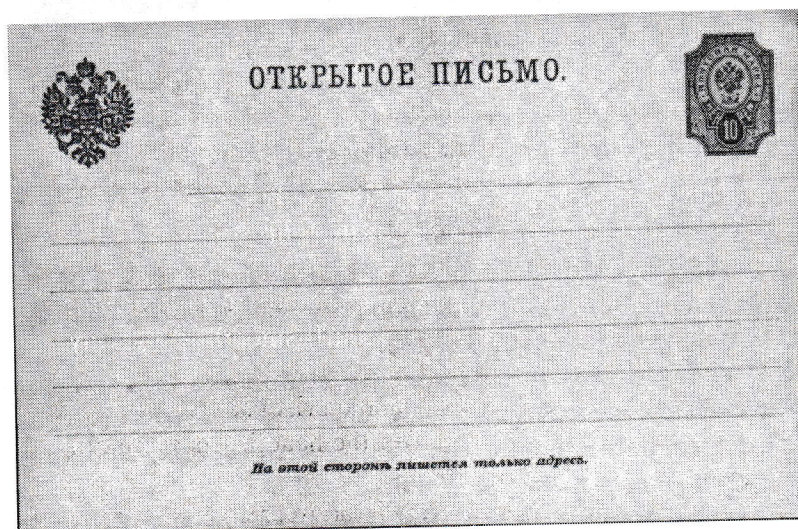


Figure 1. The 1901 Postal cards with the penni value stamps were valid only within Finland yet bore no text or other indicia of Finland as the country of origin. The Russian headline text = "open letter". Single and doublecards were issued.

On August 14, 1900, Finland's own penni franking was reduced from world to local status. On mail going to abroad, Russian kopek stamps were required and from mid August until March 12, 1918 Finland's penni franked mail was valid only for domestic postal traffic.

In addition, the Russian Postal administration (RPA) ordered sweeping changes in the design and appearance of all stamp issues and postal stationery. On January 15, 1901 all the Finnish coat of arms stamps and postal stationery was demonetized and totally invalidated for any mail originating within Finland.

The new stamps and postal stationery introduced in 1901 were identical to the Russian issues except that the items for use solely within Finland bore the impression of the Finnish currency in penni and markka (hereafter referred to as "Fmk").

The new postal cards issued for use within Finland contained no Finnish text for the word "PEN." for penni. The headline in all the 1901 series (cards issued from 1901-1911) was printed in Russian, "OPEN LETTER". On the bottom of the cards was a declaration also written in Russian to the effect that the front of the card was reserved for the address only.

TYPE I 10 PENNI, RED

With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: January 14, 1901
 Printed: 1,260,000
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) 18 dots per cm in address line
 b) "H" is open in lower text

There are other subtle differences in the lower text on each of the three types of the 1901 series postal cards. The thickness of the type fonts, length of the text may vary somewhat, but the main differences in Type I, Type II and Type III single and doublecards are noted above in a) and b) and will always identify the card type.

USAGES

The difficulty with the 1901 cards is finding interesting and unusual uses. The cards were restricted to inland destinations; express, registered, COD, official, and other than normal uses are virtually nonexistent. Now and then one can find a card used to abroad with additional kopek franking or without the kopek franking, but the Finnish postal clerks were very diligent because passing an invalid penni franked postal card into international traffic was considered a serious mistake not taken lightly by the postal authorities.

Objects of interest are therefore primarily limited to cards with unusual or difficult cancellations such straight line mail stops, rural delivery routes with number cancellations, straight line railway cancellations, and ship cancellations.

Upfranked cards are also virtually nonexistent. The card rate remained 10 penni throughout the period of validity for the 1901 series postal cards.

TYPE I 10 + 10 PENNI DOUBLECARD, RED

With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: January 14, 1901
 Printed: 87,000
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) 18 dots per cm in address line
 b) "H" is open in lower text

These cards had the same printing and paper characteristics as the single card. Usages were very similar to the single card. Intact doublecards used both ways are very scarce, but a few commercial examples are known, mostly orders from farmers or merchants and the reply order confirmation.

TYPE II 10 PENNI, RED

With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: In late 1901 as supplies if Type I card were depleted
 Printed: 7,457,000
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red and carmine
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) The period after the headline is a standing rectangle
 b) 15 dots per cm in address line
 c) "H" is closed in lower text

TYPE II 10 + 10 PENNI DOUBLECARD, RED

Subtype A: same As Type II single card
 With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: In 1902 (earliest date?)
 Printed: 20,000
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red and carmine
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) The period after the headline is a standing rectangle
 b) 15 dots per cm in address line

- c) "H" is closed in lower text
- d) The second line in the text on the message card is 34.5 mm
- e) There is a period after the second line of text in the reply card

Subtype B: same As Type II single card

With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: In 1903 (earliest date?)
 Printed: 320,950
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red and carmine
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) The period after the headline is a standing rectangle
 b) 15 dots per cm in address line
 f) "H" is closed in lower text
 g) The second line in the text on the message card is 33.5 mm
 h) There is no period after the second line of text in the reply card

TYPE III 10 PENNI, RED

With Cyrillic headline only
 Bottom text in Cyrillic only
 Issued: In 1908 as supplies of Type II card were depleted
 Printed: 4,316,800
 Value Stamp: Red, carmine red and carmine
 Paper: White, light buff; smooth and grainy paper stock
 Distinguishing characteristics:
 a) 20 dots per cm in address line
 b) "H" is closed in lower text

There are many differences in the lower text of these cards. On some cards the first "p" is without serifs and there is a curl on the left foot of the letter "n". These errors have not been traced to a particular printing of the Type III cards.

На этой стороне пишется только адрес.

Figure 2. The open "H" is present on all Type I single and doublecards.

На этой стороне пишется только адрес.

Figure 3. The closed "H" is present on all Type II and Type III cards. However, the curl on the foot of the letter "n" identifies this text from a Type III card.

Figure 4. Right. The so-called "Torpedo" ship cancel from Mariehamn, Ålands is surely the most difficult of all intra-coastal ship cancels used in Finland. This cancel was used for just two weeks as a substitute cancel on the ship to Turku; arrival cds on front.

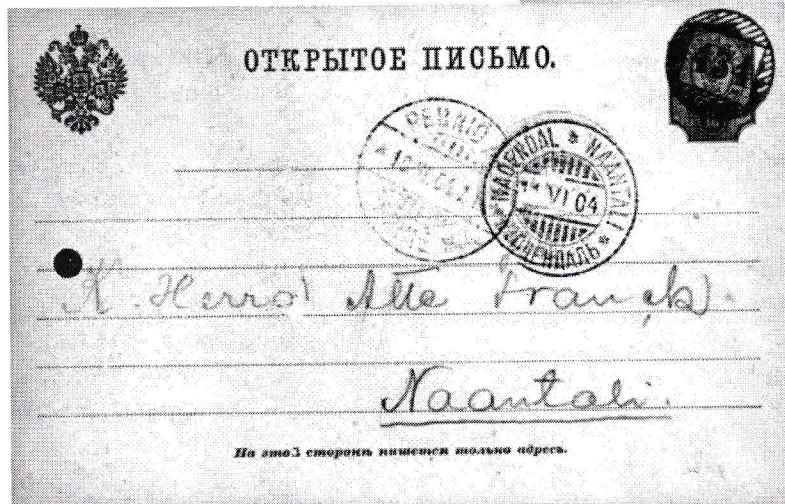
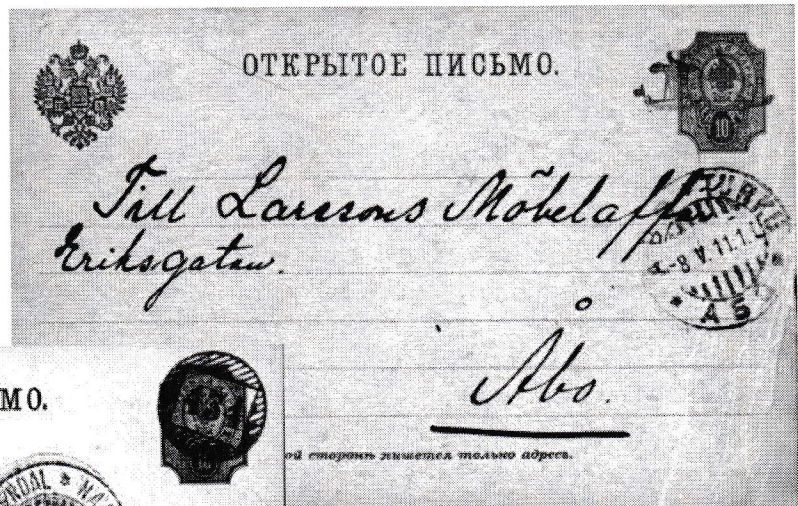


Figure 5. Left. Altogether there were more than 2,000 rural routes in Finland dating from the early 1890's. This card was struck by rural route carrier No. 434 (probably a local farmer) and carried to the postal station at the railway station in Pernio. Hence the Pernio As ((As)ema = station) cds, 10. VI. 04. And from there, to Naantali, 13. VI. 04.

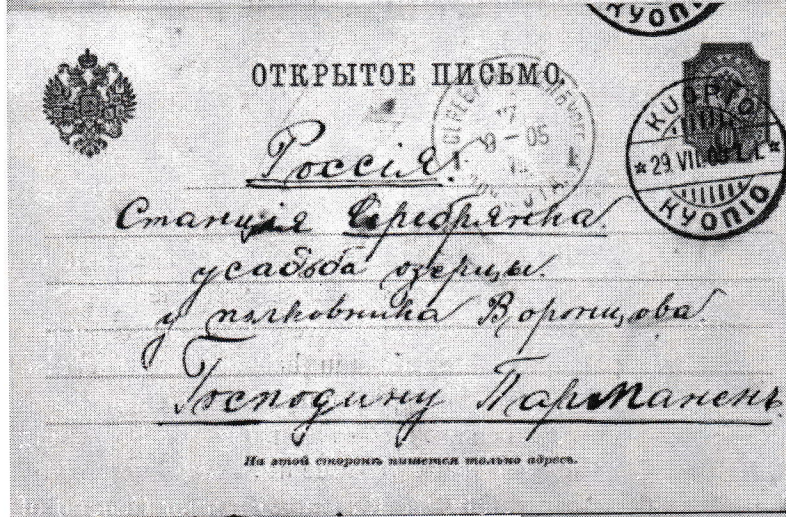


Figure 6. Left. Very rarely, a postal card with the penni value stamp, addressed to Russia, passed through the mails unnoticed. This card was correctly addressed in the Russian style. Kuopio, to a small village in the St. Petersburg region. Frontstamped, 17. VII. 1905, according to the Julian calendar.

Figure 7. Right. Message card from Honkakoski, a mail stop (limited service post office where mail could be picked up and dropped off, but no registration or other specialty services), then to Poomarkki, Pori, and finally Tampere. The address line dots are frequently very faint on Type I cards.



New Eagle Type - 1911 Postal Cards - *Norma* Nos. 38 & 39

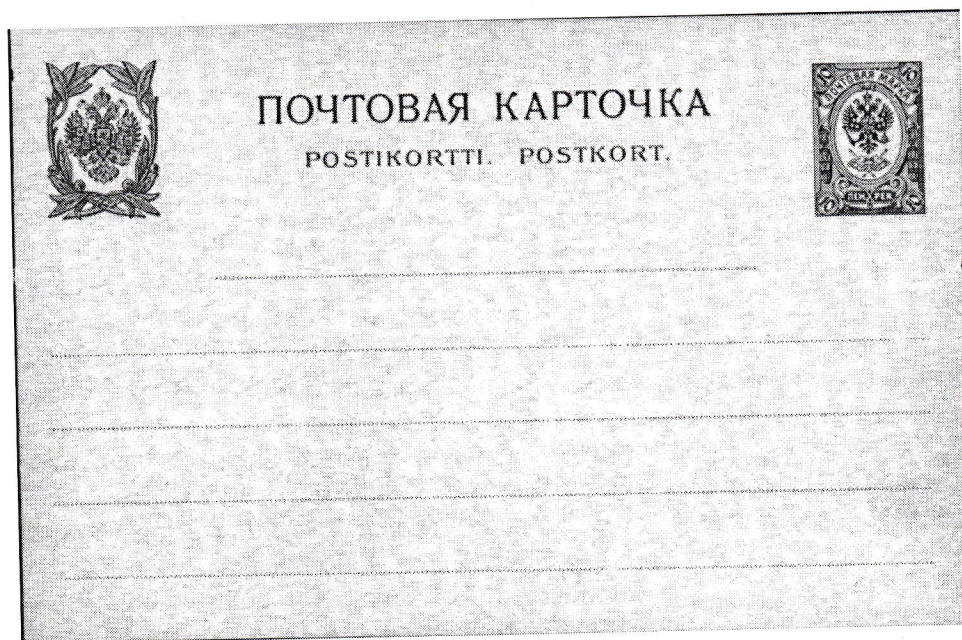


Figure 1. This essay was rejected by the Russian Postal Administration because of the addition of a second line of text, "POSTIKORTTI POSTKORT", the Finnish and Swedish words for post card.



Type I



Type II & III

CROSS BETWEEN PEN. WORDS

Because of the planned introduction, in 1911, of new types of postal cards in the Russian Empire, the Finnish Postal Administration (FPA) was directed by the Russian Postal Administration to issue similar penni-type cards for its domestic mail.

On September 29, 1910, the FPA sent a letter including two samples of its newly printed 10 penni cards to the main Russian Postal Administration (RPA) in St. Petersburg with the following message: "The enclosed postal cards have been printed strictly in accordance with the 3 kopeck cards being issued in the Empire on January 14, 1911, with the addition of the translation for "POTSHTOVAJA KARTOTSHKA" in Finnish and Swedish. Because of their Finnish currency denominations, the cards were suitable for use only in Finland.

These new postal cards (See figure 1) would be issued on January 14, 1911, and used along with the current cards until May 14, 1911, when the old types would be invalidated."

The two sample cards mentioned in the letter were single 10 penni cards that carried, below the Cyrillic headline, a 2 mm tall one-row text: "POSTIKORTTI - POSTKORT", with a cross

between both pen. words. The printed design was prepared by Lilius & Hertzberg. On September 6, 1910, proof printing by machine had been accomplished that produced 62 acceptable card specimens.

Accordingly, the FPA informed the Senate on November 23, 1910 writing that the RPA had accepted the new postal cards of which one sample specimen was enclosed in the letter. The FPA also asked the Senate communications committee to submit to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving (BPE) a request to print the new cards.

Regrettably, the Russian Governor General of Finland had somehow "gotten wind" of the new cards and requested a sample. The result was another letter from St. Petersburg (RPA) that cancelled the previously issued order of acceptance to go ahead with the printing of the cards. Consequently, on November 30, 1910 the FPA had to notify the Senate about the cancellation and request that another order be given to the BPE to submit new card samples in penni denominations of both single and doublecards otherwise identical to the Empire specimens with kopek value stamps.

On January 9, 1911, The FPA sent samples of

the new cards i.e., without the Finnish headline but still retaining the cross between the pen. words to St. Petersburg. However, when no response was forthcoming, the FPA again, on March 10, 1911, sent a letter inquiring whether the cards had been approved, and to notify that only a small stock of both the earlier single and doublecards remained. A response to this letter was likewise slow in coming. In the meantime, cards had been printed already in January, but the printing was interrupted and begun anew in the last week of April. In May, the entire printing was turned over to the postal service for distribution.

While the RPA dragged its feet, a post card shortage in Finland had developed. No cards had been printed after June of 1910, and as of November 25, 1910, the stock remaining in the BPE amounted to: Single cards 470,700 and double cards 53,450.

THE 10 PENNI PROOF

Words: "Postikortti" and "Postkort" ("post card" in Finnish and Swedish) included in headline under the Russian text.

Cross (X) between pen. words

Size: 140 x 90 mm, Paper thickness:
0.24-0.25 mm

Color: Carmine-red

Paper board: Yellowish-buff colored

Manufacture: 62 usable specimens

TYPE I - 10 PENNI CARD

Production Models

With Cyrillic headline only.

Cross between pen. words.

Size: Approximately. 140 x 90 mm,
Thickness: 0.23-0.24 mm.

Color: Red, carmine-red.

Paper board: Buff-colored.

Partial delivery to post offices on
April 27, 1911.

Printing: 406,000.

10 + 10 PENNI DOUBLECARD

Double card corresponding to previous single card. Cards attached to each other on upper edge. Imperforate.

Size: Approximately: 140 x 90 mm,
Thickness: 0.22-0.24 mm.

Color: Red, carmine-red.

Partial delivery to post offices on April 27, 1911.

Printing: 50,650.

WITHOUT CROSS BETWEEN PEN. WORDS

The previous edition, Type I Single and doublecards were issued because of a postal card shortage. St. Petersburg had finally responded on January 9, 1911, by refusing the FPA acceptance request. The overall design was acceptable, but the cross (X) between the pen. words was to be removed. The FPA thus got in touch with the Senate communications committee, requesting that an order be given to the BPE to begin making cards without the cross and have the pen. words separated from each other by a period.

A decision reached in May authorized the printing firm of Lilius & Hertzberg (L & H) the task of removing the cross from the design. On May 13, 1911, the printing of a new edition was begun and finished at the end of June. However, L & H had also received a new order for new picture designs without the cross for single and doublecards. The new designs were delivered to the BPE on June 30, 1911, and these were used on subsequent printings until the end of 1913. The size of the design was 130 x 90 mm.

In the Fall of 1913, 22 new narrower designs measuring 130 x 35 mm had been ordered. The design included only the value stamp, headline and coat of arms. The address lines were printed separately on dotted rows. The card appeared in the summer of 1914.

The previous card could be classified as Type II. 1. Its headline length was 69.5 mm and the cusps of the letters pointed. Distance of the outer most address lines was 43.5 mm and the address lines an eye-catching, i.e., strong, clearly visible dots 17 to the centimeter. The most noticeable characteristic of the double card is the missing dot after the response card last word.

The apparently last subtype in this edition, completed at the end of 1913, was a very different reddish-orange card. This card was discovered cancelled in the spring of 1914, it possibly might appear also as a double card. This latter card may be categorized as a Type II. 2. The headline length is 69 mm, the letter cusps somewhat more blunt compared to the previous subtype. The distance of the outer most address lines is 42.5 mm. The address lines are weak dots amounting to only 12 per

centimeter. The simplest characteristic of the double card is a dot after the response card last word.

In the spring of 1914, five pairs of the double card designs were ordered from the same L & H company. These, however, were not issued until the summer of 1915. Once more, designs for single cards were also ordered from L & H, and the first printing of these (designs) was done in February of 1916. The final printing of the eagle type cards was completed on August 7, 1917, and comprised of 600,000 single cards.

TYPE II - 10 PENNI CARD WITHOUT CROSS

Issued: April 27, 1911

Distinguishing characteristics:

- 1) address lines with 17 dots per cm
- 2) distance between the value stamp and the coat of arms is 96 mm

Size: 140 x 90/1 mm

Thickness 0.19—0.25 mm

Color: Red, carmine-red, reddish-orange.

Paper board: Buff, yellowish-buff colored

Printing: 5,622,000

10 + 10 PENNI CARD WITHOUT CROSS

Issued: April 27, 1911

Distinguishing characteristics:

- 1) address lines with 17 dots per cm
- 2) distance between the value stamp and the coat of arms is 96 mm.
- 3) the second line of text on the reply card is without a period

Size: 140 x 90 mm

Thickness 0.22-0.23 mm

Color: Red, carmine-red

Paper board: Buff, yellowish-buff colored.

Printing: 218,900

TYPE III - 10 PENNI CARD WITHOUT CROSS

Issued: September, 1914

Distinguishing characteristics:

- 1) address lines with 12 dots per cm
- 2) distance between the value stamp and the coat of arms is 94.5 mm

Size: 140 x 90 mm,

Thickness 0.23—0.28 mm

Color: Red, carmine-red, carmine, light or

bright carmine.

Paper board: White, yellowish, buff-colored.

Printing: 9,268.000

10 + 10 PENNI CARD WITHOUT CROSS

Issued: September, 1914

Distinguishing characteristics:

- 1) address lines with 12 dots per cm
- 2) distance between the value stamp and the coat of arms is 96 mm
- 3) the second line of text on the reply card ends with a period

Size: 140 x 90 mm, thickness 0.18-0.24 mm

Color: Red, carmine-red

Paper board: White, buff-colored, slightly reddish

Printing: 197,350

The interim revolutionary Kerensky Government in St. Petersburg issued a Manifesto on March 20, 1917, which, among other orders, revoked and nullified the regulations given during the Czarist regime concerning the Finnish postal service and its subordination to the Russian Ministry of the Interior and the RPA. Consequently, The Finnish Senate formed a committee to prepare new stamps and postal stationery for use within Finland. It also promulgated new rates for domestic postal traffic beginning October 1, 1917. When the postal card rate rose to 15 penni, the 10 penni 1911 Russian design cards were franked with an additional 5 penni stamp.

On November 3, 1917, the postal service received its first share of the Saarinen type cards. After the Finnish workers' uprising on January 27, 1918, the printing of postal stationery in the BPE was discontinued. Thus, postal cards in stock as well as those having been distributed earlier to post offices by the postal service were used in locations occupied by the Red Guards, as the Communist insurgents were called. On March 1, 1918 the Red Guards raised the fee for postal cards to 25 penni in areas under their control. In White Finland, the post card rate remained at 15 penni until April 15, 1918

At its first meeting on April 25, 1918, after Helsinki had been liberated, the Senate decided that the 1911 Russian design eagle type penni values had to be returned to the postal service because of severe shortages of both stamps and postal stationery. The same items in the possession of the general public were allowed to be used in domestic postal mail until

they were demonetized on May 31, 1920.

Most likely, no large quantities of the 1911 type cards were returned nor were unsold cards offered at postal auctions. What remained was all sold out by the FPA's philatelic department.

The interest in these cards is found in the various upfranked postal combinations which arose on October 1, 1917 when the rate went to 15 penni and no postal card was issued corresponding to the new rate. The devaluation of the kopek stamps on October 1 and again on October 4, 1917 provided for additional combinations of additional postage for the obsolete 1911 postal cards. See figures 3-9.

It should be noted that the 1911 postal cards are classified somewhat differently in the Handbook,

SuomenPostimerkkien Kasikirja, than in the *Norma Special Catalogue*.

I have followed the classification system used in *Norma* and the text of the article, which borrows heavily from the handbook has been modified to conform to the *Norma* classification.

I have done this for several reasons. First, *Norma* is widely regarded as the standard catalogue of Finnish philately and second, because the text is also in English, it is likely the only practical resource available to the English reader. To use a different classification could be potentially confusing for the reader who would also refer to the *Norma* catalogue for additional information.



Figure 2. Type I cards were placed in service in the spring of 1911. These cards were replaced by the Type II model in September, 1911. The supply of the Type I cards was exhausted by the end of 1912. These cards are not common. Postilj.k. J-H (railway coach with postal clerk, on the Jyväskylä-Haapamäki route), 23. V. 11, to Tampere, frontstamped, 23. V. 11.



Figure 3. The Type II single card is very common in ordinary domestic traffic. Ostola to Hämeenlinna, 25. V. 14 with arrival pmk on front.



Figure 4. Although many underfranked cards passed unnoticed in October of 1917, this 30. X. 17, Type III card was properly assessed 10 penni (2 x 5) postage due.

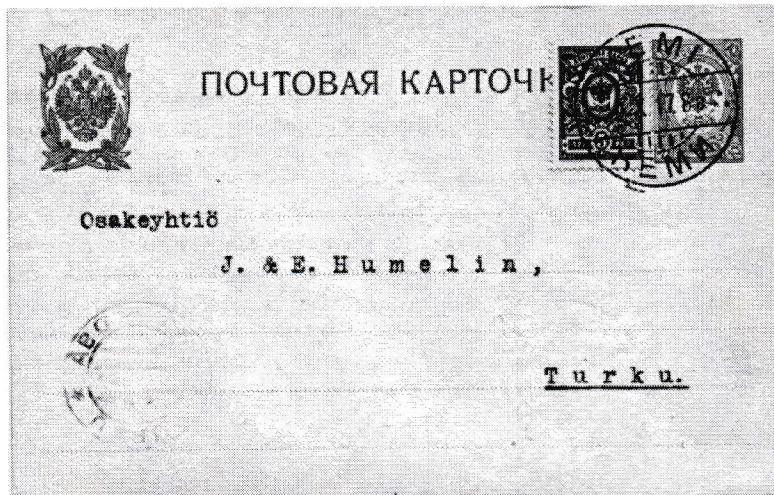


Figure 5. A 5 penni 1911 Russian design eagle definitive issue was added to this card to meet the new rate. Cancelled on 19. X. 17. From Kemi to Turku.



Figure 6. Here, a 5 penni Saarienen issue was added to meet the 15 penni rate on this message card; Turku, 13. X. 17, to Wasa. Note that the town name on the arrival cds is "Nikolaistad/ Nikolainkaupunki". The name was changed back to Wasa-Waasa by the White Government in March, 1918 but the Finns frequently used the name "Wasa," for Gustav Wasa, the founder of the town in the 1600's.

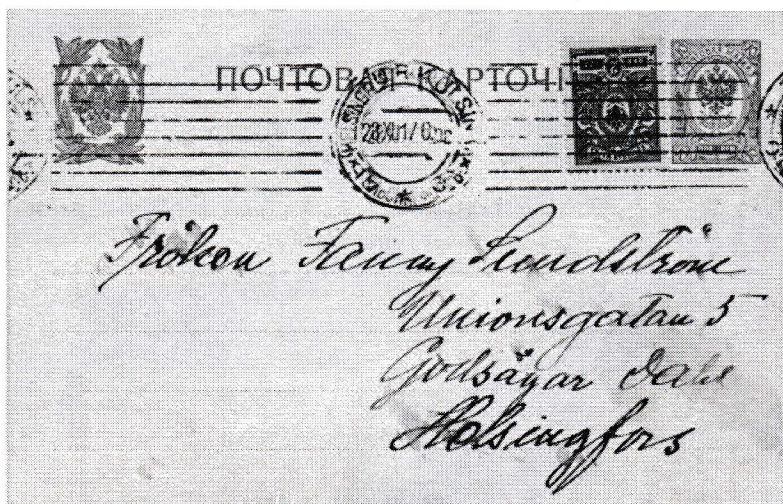


Figure 7. Mixed franking was possible on domestic mail until 28. XI. 17. Cancelled last day at Helsinki. 2 kopeks added but 2 kopeks underfranking unnoticed; due 4 kopeks = 5 penni.



Figure 8. In White Finland the 15 penni postcard rate continued until April 15, 1918. Stocks of Saarinen stamps remained in "Red" controlled areas of Finland and were quickly exhausted in the areas controlled by White government. The White government therefore issued its own stamps, the temporary "Vaasa" design stamps. From March 5, 1918, the 5 penni Vaasa stamp could be used for additional postage. From Jamsa, 10. IV. 18, to Vaasa.



Figure 9. In Red Finland the postcard rate rose to 25 penni on March 1, 1918 and continued until the end of the War of Liberation in the first half of May. The 25 penni rate could be applied in many different ways. The 10 penni eagle cards required an additional 15 penni. Russian design eagle stamps and Saarinen stamps were used in different combinations. Here a strip of three 5 penni Saarinen stamps was added. The Vaasa stamps were not used in Red Finland.

1917 Saarinen Design Type & 1918 Vaasa Postal Cards

Norma Nos. 40 - 58

1917 - 1929 SAARINEN TYPE POSTAL CARDS

Acting under authority of the Kerensky Manifesto of March 20, 1917, the Finnish Senate authorized a committee to design stamps and postal stationery for domestic mail. Nevertheless, Finland remained within the Russian empire until December 6, when it unilaterally declared Independence. Russia and the rest of the world slowly recognized the new Republic of Finland and the UPU acknowledged Finnish penni franking from March 12, 1918, at which time kopek franking was demonetized for mail to foreign destinations. Previously, the Senate invalidated kopek franking for inland mail from November 29, 1917.

The first Saarinen stamps were issued on October 1, 1917. The 10 penni postal card was issued on November 3, 1917.

The size of the 10 penni single card was 140 x 90 mm with minor deviations. The value mark was designed by Eliel Saarinen. Initially, the cards were printed by Finland's Charta Sigillata printing office. Beginning in 1923, the printing was printed at the Bank of Finland Mint. The printed sheet consisted of 32 cards in a 4 x 8 format.

The *Norma* catalogue does not recognize or list all the different subtypes of the Saarinen postal cards. However, the catalogue does present a detailed listing of dates and amount of additional postage required to meet the new rates; it does not, however, specify which stamps were allowed and their time of validity.

10 PENNI RED SINGLE CARD

Issued: November 3, 1917

Printed quantity: 4,541,000

- A. Grainy, coarse paper board
 - a) carmine & b) red
- B. Even or less even, smooth or smooth-like paper board
 - b) red
- C. On paper board surface a horizontally embossed streak caused by dot like indentations.
 - a) carmine b) red c) dark lilac

No 10 penni doublecard was issued.

USAGE

The postage rate for the cards had increased on October 1, 1917 from 10 penni to 15 penni. Hence, when these cards were released, they were already obsolete for the main purpose intended, namely, pre-franked first class post card for use in domestic traffic. Except for use as printed matter, the 10 penni Saarinen required an additional 5 penni postage on standard cards to April 14, 1918, and from there on a 10 penni value had to be added.

There are very few 10 penni Saarinen cards used correctly at the 10 penni printed matter rate. On the reverse side of these there are various printed or duplicate notices or only the word "greetings" as in a Christmas or New Year message in longhand and the sender's name.

On the reverse side of these there are various printed or duplicate notices or only the word "greetings" in longhand and sender's name.

The Vaasa Senate increased the rate to 20 penni beginning April 15, 1918, and the Senate in Helsinki likewise on April 25th. Nevertheless, there still was no Saarinen postal card corresponding to the new 20 penni rate, at least not until November 5, 1918.

Specimens constituting mixed mailings are known, and these are additionally franked with either the 1911 Russian types or the Vaasa stamps or both on the same card. The Cyrillic is either intact or removed from the postmark(s) of these specimens, and likewise on some later card types also. In the latter instance traces of the removed text are sometimes discernible.

VAASA/WASA TYPE POSTAL CARDS

The White government relocated to the town of Wasa in northern Finland after the insurgent Red Guards occupied Helsinki. It was cut-off from the main postal printing and distribution facilities in Helsinki and town and village post offices were running critically short of supplies by the end of February, 1918. Therefore, they made a decision to issue temporary stamps and postal cards in order to

maintain normal postal operations within areas under their control.

The first stamps issued by the White Government were the 5 penni green, 10 penni red and 30 penni violet stamps in early March, 1918. The first postal card, with a 15 penni value stamp to meet the current rate, was issued on March 14.

The card was 140 x 90 mm with minor irregularities. The value stamp was designed by Matti Björklund (Visanti). The printing was done by the Julius Björklund lithography company in Vaasa. The printed sheet consisted of 30 cards in a 5 x 6 format.

15 PENNI GRAY VAASA SINGLE CARD

Issued: March 14, 1918

Printed: 101,000

a) olive gray & b) gray

Several special characteristics are noted. Right-side slanted line on headline letter "M" is broken and the upper cusp of the right-side vertical pillar is thick and irregular; several found. On headline second row letter "O" right-side there is a white dot; several such found.

Unofficial curiosities are also known. Card cut from waste paper sheet with scissors or knife and where the value mark is inverted in left-side lower corner; several are known cancelled and have passed through the mails. Another similar card to the one above that carries, in addition, a second value mark located in the correct space in standard position; available both cancelled and uncanceled.

No 15 penni doublecard was prepared or issued.

USAGE

The postage rate for post cards was increased to 20 penni by the Vaasa Senate effective April 15, 1918 for post offices under the authority of the White government.

The card usage without added postage was thus short-lived and objects so mailed are extremely scarce. After the rate increase, objects delivered inadvertently without the additional postage do exist. Usually though, a 5 penni additional stamp is affixed to the card. Cards used during the period from April 15 to April 23 upfranked with additional postage are also very elusive.

20 PENNI RED VAASA SINGLE CARD

Issued: April 23, 1918

Printed quantity: 204,000

a) brownish red & b) red

Degree of darkness and cleanliness varies in category (b). This can further be divided into subgroups of turbid, pale and bright.

Special characteristics include a red vertical line on value mark downward from lower sword between letters "N" and "L". Several such objects are known.

Value mark distance from headline text only 1.5 mm; there are at least one cancelled and one uncanceled specimen.

Value mark distance from headline text 42 mm; horizontal line broken on left and to the right some lines from the nearest other card. At least one uncanceled exists.

There is a white dot on the right side of the headline second row letter "O". (Same fault as on the 15 penni card).

Several unofficial curiosities have been reported the most important of which are the cards with two value stamps, one is inverted on the lower left corner similar to the corresponding 15 penni card. There are both cancelled and uncanceled known. The irony here is that all double valued 15 and 20 penni inverted cards were "prepared" by Onni Hallsten, the government printing supervisor and quality control inspector, and mailed by him to friends and family members.

1917 - 1929 TYPE SAARINEN POSTAL CARDS

2 x 10 PENNI RED VALUE STAMP

For more than one year the 10 penni Saarinen postal card was short rate, at first by 5 penni, then 10 penni. From April 15, 1918 no postal card corresponded to the first class post card rate. Finally, in November 1918 a Saarinen postal card was issued to meet the 20 penni rate, but instead of designing a new value stamp, the old 10 penni dies were placed side-by-side.

Issued: November 5, 1911

Printed quantity: 4,980,000

Subtypes:

I. Address line "dots" rectangular, their width being 2 x the height

- A. Grainy, rough paper board
 - a) light carmine, b) carmine & c) carmine-red
- B. Uneven, smooth-like paper board
 - a) light carmine, &
- C. Even, smooth paper board
 - a) light carmine, b) carmine & c) carmine-red

- II. Address line "dots" thin broken lines
- C. Even, smooth paper board
 - c) carmine-red

Special category: Upper text thick, for instance, the upper opening on second letter "K" is nearly closed. Seen in categories I Aa, I Bb, and I Cc.

USAGE

Mailed cards are regularly without added postage until April 12, 1920, when the 40 penni rate came into effect, after which date mail was franked with added postage or carries a postage due notice and T-mark. Mail to abroad also exists. In the beginning, foreign mail was stamped with a bi-lingual mark where Finnish text reads "Tarkastettu Suomessa" (Inspected in Finland).

2 x 10 PENNI & 2 x 10 PENNI DOUBLE CARD, RED, "CARTE POSTALE" (CP)

Issued January 3, 1919.
Printed quantity: 199,500.

This doublecard was printed only as the Type I address line style like the previous main category.

- A. Grainy, rough paper board
 - a) light carmine & b) carmine
- B. Uneven, smooth—like paper board
 - a) light carmine & b) carmine

USAGE

Cancelled half-cards have been discovered mailed both without added postage as well as after the April 12, 1920 rate increase with additional stamps. Cancelled intact doublecards, especially on mail to abroad, are extremely scarce. Both the single card and the doublecards were used well into the next rate period and are known with a variety of issues to make up the required additional 20 penni franking.

20 PENNI, RED VALUE STAMP

Finally, on or about March 11, 1920, the FPA issued a postal card that corresponded to the current rate. However, on April 12, the inland postal rate rose to 40 penni and in August a card corresponding to this rate was issued. The quantity of the 20 penni card used for this purpose is unknown because a quantity of these cards were overprinted "90" penni and the number destroyed is also unknown. The 90/20 penni card was used on foreign mail from February 1, 1921. Until then the 20 penni card remained accurate franking to abroad. Thus, for a period of time, from April 1920 until February 1921, the cost of a card to abroad was 50 penni less expensive, a most extraordinary and inexplicable rate anomaly.

Issued: March 11(?), 1920

Printed quantity: 2,715,900

- A. Porous paper board
 - a) carmine & b) reddish carmine
- B. Smooth paper board
 - a) carmine

USAGE

The domestic rate had increased on April 12, 1920 to 40 penni, whereas the foreign rate remained at 20 p until February 1, 1921. Cancelled cards in both domestic and foreign traffic without added postage are rather uncommon. Cards with added franking during the 40 penni rate period were in standard use. Underfranked objects with T-marks do exist.

The 20 penni card is therefore one of the most intriguing postal cards issued in Finland. When issued, it met both the domestic and foreign rate; it was printed in rather large quantities and yet, it is one of the most difficult cards to acquire used as originally intended.

20 PENNI + 20 PENNI DOUBLECARD, RED, "CARTE POSTALE" (CP)

Issued: September __, 1920

Printed quantity: 30,000

- A. Porous paper board
 - a) carmine & b) reddish carmine
- B. Smooth paper board
 - b) reddish carmine

USAGE

There are very few commercial doublecards mailed to abroad during the 20 penni rate period. (This rate was good until February 1, 1921).

Inasmuch as this card was issued months after the domestic rate went to 40 penni, it is impossible that the card could have been used without added postage. The card was used also during the 60 penni rate period, which began February 1, 1921. All cancelled intact doublecards are extremely rare.

40 PENNI, VIOLET VALUE STAMP

Printed quantity: unknown

Issued on August 27, 1920

a) pale violet & b) darker violet

These cards were subsequently overprinted with a "60" penni value and therefore for similar reasons as the 20 penni cards, the number used as originally intended is unknown. Also, the quantity originally printed has not been reported, but we can assume that it was substantial - probably in excess of 1,000,000.

USAGE

The 40 penni card rate was in effect from April 12, 1920 until January 31, 1921. Substantial number of cards were used during this period without additional franking. During the 60 penni rate period, the card is known with a variety of additional stamps to make up the rate. Also, a number of cards were mailed without additional postage and were stamped with the boxed T and assessed 40 penni postage due.

This card is also known upfranked with an additional 50 penni postage for use to foreign destinations. Best usage is prior to the release of the 90/20 and 90/40 overprint cards.

**40 PENNI + 40 PENNI DOUBLECARD,
VIOLET, "CARTE POSTALE"**

Issued: July 28, 1920

Printed quantity: 119,000

A. Porous paper board

a) pale violet & b) darker or dark violet

B. Smooth paper board

b) darker violet

USAGE

There are cards mailed with additional stamps during the 60 penni rate period. Of those mailed abroad, a few may still exist. Cancelled intact doublecards are very scarce. Category Bb, so far, has never been reported cancelled.

**1921 CARDS WITH OVERPRINTED
VALUE STAMP**

On February 1, 1921, the domestic rate rose to 60 penni and the foreign rate to 90 penni. Once again, the FPA did not issue new postal cards with value stamps corresponding to the new rates until some months later. However, there was a substantial number of unused 40 cards available and they were overprinted with a "60" penni value and issued contemporaneously with the new domestic and foreign rates.

60/40 PENNI, VIOLET VALUE STAMP

Printed quantity at least: 534,779

Earliest issue: February 1, 1921

A. Porous paper board

a) pale violet & b) darker violet

B. Smooth paper board

a) pale violet

A faulty overprint on the upper part of the left outer edge of the zero. Several such specimens have been found both cancelled and uncanceled.

**60/40 PENNI + 60/40 PENNI DOUBLECARD,
VIOLET, "CARTE POSTALE"**

Printed quantity: 30,000

Earliest issue: February 1, 1921

a) pale violet & b) darker violet

USAGE OF 60/40 PENNI CARDS

Since the rate increase to one Fmk did not happen until October 15, 1925, domestically mailed cards are almost always lacking added postage. The 90 penni cards with the overprinted value stamp for foreign mail appeared on February 4, 1921, and so the 60 penni cards with additional postage were not

really needed for that (foreign) purpose either. Although, such do exist: 60/40 penni and 30 penni with additional postage to Germany on April 23, 1921. Cancelled intact doublecards are extremely rare. It is instructive to mention here that most intact Saarinen doublecards used both ways are philatelic whether in domestic or foreign traffic.

**90/20 PENNI RED
90/40 PENNI RED
90/20 PENNI + 90/20 PENNI
DOUBLECARD, RED, "CARTE POSTALE"**

These three cards were issued for the purpose of meeting the new 90 penni card rate to abroad in effect from February 1, 1921.

90/20 PENNI RED & 90/40 PENNI RED

Total printed quantity: 309,000
Earliest issue: February 4, 1921
Same shades and paper varieties as found on the 20 penni single cards.

While it is impossible to accurately calculate the percentage, the great majority of the surviving single cards are the 90/40 overprint cards. The single cards were issued on February 4, 1921, and the doublecards on February 7, 1921.

90/20 PENNI + 90/20 PENNI
DOUBLECARD, RED, "CARTE POSTALE"

Printed quantity: 68,000
Earliest issue: February 7, 1921
Same shades and paper varieties as found on the 20 penni doublecards

**USAGE OF THE 90 PENNI CARDS WITH
OVERPRINTED VALUE STAMPS**

As originally intended, the 90 penni overprint cards were used on mail to abroad between February 4, 1921 and January 1, 1922, without additional postage. Because of the minor quantity, there are only a few specimens left of the 90/20 penni card. Considered standard use in domestic traffic are the 90/40 cards with 10 penni added postage after the 1 Fmk rate was enacted on October 15, 1925. Regrettably, not many of these remain either.

When the rate for foreign mail rose to Fmk 1,20

on January 1, 1922, postage equivalent to 30 penni had to be added to the 90 penni cards.

There are still a few of the intact doublecards to abroad (mostly philatelic) without added postage; and of the half-cards, a very scant few exist. Corresponding objects with added value to meet the Fmk 1.20 are also scarce.

UNISSUED CARDS

As with all the rest of the previous type 1917 cards, the entire front side is still reserved for the addressee name and address. Thus, the 60 penni cards lack, as do those that came into use, the vertical dividing line in front of the address lines in the center of the card.

A number of model specimens agreed to were made and sent to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Bern. From there the specimens were given to the postal services of different countries. It is unlikely that any extra specimens were left with Finland's Postal Administration. The objects in care of the Finnish Postal Museum as well as those few remaining with collectors have come from UPU country archives. These items are all very scarce. It is generally accepted by postal stationery experts that the 60 penni red cards were not issued because there were several earlier cards with red value stamps and another would cause confusion for postal customers and postal clerks alike. The 60 penni violet card was redesigned with the vertical dividing line on the address side. The unissued cards are listed below.

Unissued cards

40 penni red
60 penni lilac
60 penni + 60 penni doublecard, lilac
90 penni red
90 penni + 90 penni doublecard, red

A small number of the 40 penni red cards originate from at least one 90/40 penni pack of cards containing 5 or 6 specimens without added printing sold at a postal office. According to the account in the Finnish *Handbook*, this purchase took place in the postage stamp office at the Helsinki railway station on September 26, 1923.

60 PENNI, LILAC VALUE STAMP

This is the first postal card printed in very large quantities and is surely the most common of all the postal cards from 1900 to 1930. There are many shades and this is the only postal card, together with the 60 penni lilac doublecard, for which printing freaks or errors have come into the hands of collectors. Most of these errors (mostly mis-registration of the text or value stamp) are probably nothing more than printers waste which were improperly removed from the Senate Printing Office. None of these errors are known postally used.

Issued on June 15, 1921

Printed quantity: 11,300,000

A. Porous paper board

a) light bluish-lilac, b) bluish-lilac, c) dark bluish-lilac & d) reddish-lilac

B. Smooth paper board

a) light bluish-lilac b) bluish-lilac, d) reddish-lilac, e) dark reddish-lilac & f) black lilac

C. Embossed paper board

a) light bluish-lilac; uneven coloring exists

In this subtype there is also a serious manufacturing flaw consisting of the Swedish text on right and the Finnish text on left with the value mark in center.

USAGE

Cards mailed to inland destinations were usually without added postage. The 1 Fmk rate not in effect until October 15, 1925. There are specimens mailed abroad with additional postage as well as cards mailed domestically during the 1 Fmk period. The latter are of the category C. The scarce Ac and Bf subtypes are not known cancelled.

**60 PENNI + 60 PENNI DOUBLECARD,
LILAC VALUE STAMP**

Issued September 30, 1921

Printed quantity: 376,000

A. Porous paper board

a) bluish-lilac & b) reddish-lilac

B. Smooth paper board

a) bluish-lilac & b) reddish-lilac

C. Embossed paper board

a) bluish-lilac; uneven coloring exists.

The same manufacturing flaw exists here as well,

Swedish text on left, Finnish text on right with the value stamp in the center.

USAGE

Most of the domestic cards lacks additional postage because the 60 penni rate remained in effect for over 4 years after the cards were issued. The cancelled half-cards are rather common, but the intact doublecards are extremely uncommon. There are additionally franked half-cards at the Fmk 1.20 rate mailed to and returned from foreign destinations. There are domestic specimens additionally franked and mailed during the 1 Fmk period that belong to subgroup C.

**FMK 1.20/40 PENNI, OVERPRINTED
VALUE STAMP, RED**

Issued: September 9, 1922

Printed quantity: 125,000

On January 1, 1922, the foreign rate was raised to Fmk 1.20 and remained until December 1, 1931. Cards mailed abroad, those few that remain, are thus without the added printing. The postage value of the cards was unsuitable for domestic use because the 1,25 Fmk rate did not go into effect until December 1, 1931, a year after these cards were demonetized. However, there are domestic overfranked examples of these cards especially after the 1 Fmk rate went into effect on October 15, 1925. The date of validity expired at the end of 1930.

There is no corresponding doublecard.

1 FMK ORANGE

Issued on April 10, 1926

Printed quantity: 6,665,100

A. Smooth paper board

B. Porous, slightly rough paper board

The degree of darkness somewhat varies on the value mark being either light orange or of a slightly darker orange.

USAGE

The cards were allowed to be used until the end of 1930, when the domestic rate was still 1 Fmk. Thus, objects with additional postage are not encountered in domestic traffic. With these cards it is possible to find registered postal cards and also with additional franking, cards designated for travel

by air.

In 1926, the Nordic countries allowed special lower rates for certain classes of mail between member countries. A reduced 1 Fmk card rate was allowed for Sweden, Denmark and Norway. In 1927, this rate was extended to Estonia. These cards were also used to other foreign destination with an additional 20 penni franking.

1 FMK + 1 FMK DOUBLECARD, ORANGE VALUE STAMP

Issued July 6, 1926

Printed quantity: 129,000

A. Smooth paper board

B. Porous paper board

The value mark degree of darkness varies slightly. There are both intact doublecards (again mostly philatelic) and half-cards domestically mailed as well as to abroad. Those items mailed abroad are franked with an added 20 penni value. The cards were valid until the end of 1930.

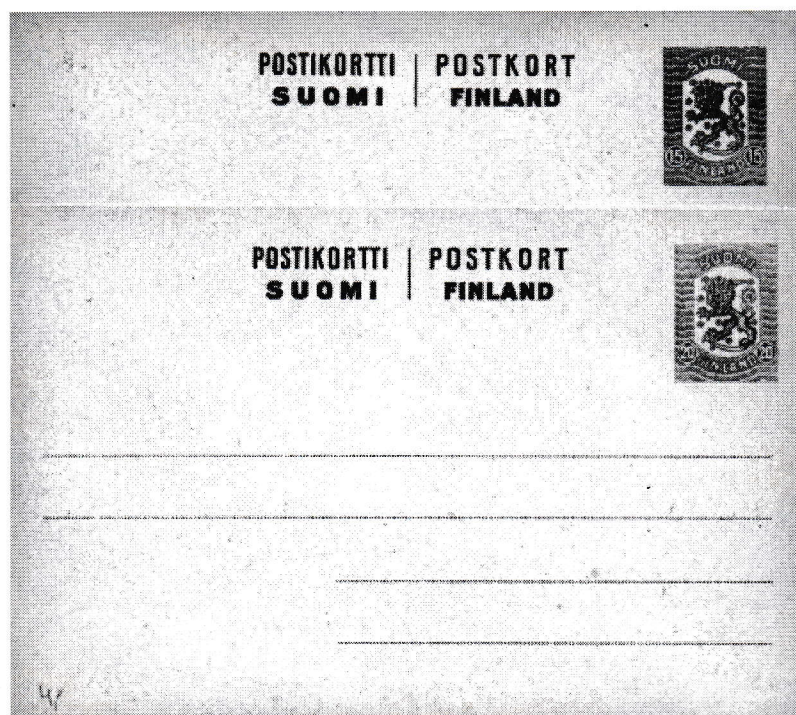


Figure 1. During the War of Independence, the White Government retreated to the northern town of Vaasa at the end of January, 1918. A postal administration was established there, but within a few weeks local post offices were drawing down on existing inventories and with resupply impossible from Helsinki then under the control of the Red Guards, The Senate "White" Government made a decision to issue temporary stamps and postal cards.

The 15 penni single cards were issued on March 14, 1918 and the 20 penni cards were issued on April 23, 1918 to meet the new 20 penni rate in effect from April 15th. The 15 penni Vaasa card is rather difficult to find used as originally intended without additional franking. Another challenge is to find these cards with the Russian text in the town cancellers as the Russian text is substantial proof of use during the civil war time period.



Figure 2. The Vaasa stamps and postal cards were issued because of the shortages of Saarinen postal supplies in the area controlled by the White government, especially in the small rural farming communities. The hated 1911 Russian design stamps were used as a "last resort" to upfrank this card. Ylivieksi, 17. IV. 18, to Oulu, third day of 20 penni rate. Note Russian text in town cds.

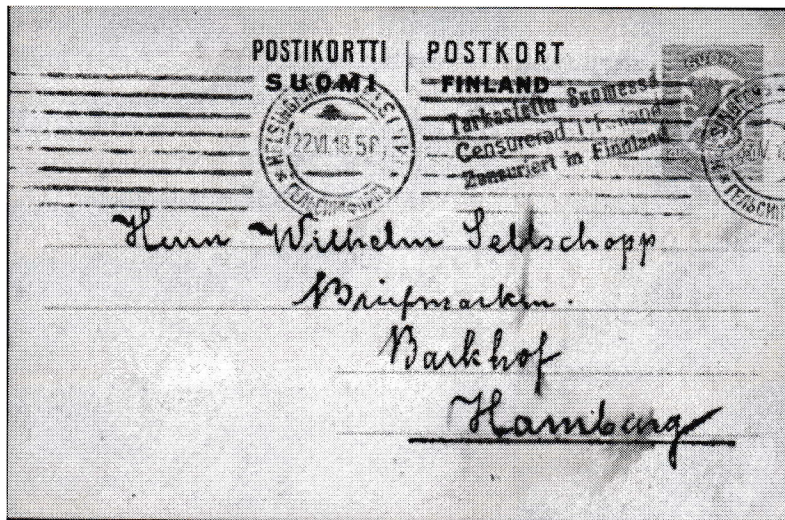


Figure 3. This 20 penni card is one of the earliest known originating from liberated Helsinki and one of just a few items with the Russian text in the Helsinki cds. The Russian text was removed a few days later from this canceller. The correct date of the cancellation is 22. V. 18, confirmed by the date noted by the writer on the message side, 21. 5. 18. The trilingual censor mark, used only on mail to abroad, was in use for just two months, then the German text was removed in July.

Figure 4. When the White government regained control of the national government, it directed the postal administration to advise all postmasters to send the town cancellers to Helsinki for removal of the Russian text. Some towns, with just a single cds, used the wax seal for insured letters as a temporary stamp without a date while the cds was in Helsinki for alterations. Haapavesi, to Wasa, frontstamped.



Figure 5. These oddities are known on both the 15 and 20 penni cards. While there is no definite information concerning their origin or the number printed (it is very small), a reasonable judgement is that the value stamp was printed twice by mistake and the White government supervisor and chief inspector of the stamp printing, Onni Hallsten, improperly removed the items and later placed them in the mail to several friends and family members.

Figure 6. Incredibly, the soon to be Republic of Finland's first penni postal card was obsolete from the first day of issue. The post card rate had already been increased to 15 penni on October 1, 1917, so without additional franking its use was restricted to printed matter. Up to six hand written words were permitted on "printed matter" post cards and they were often used, as here, with a Christmas or New Year's Greeting.



Figure 7. Civil war erupted on January 28, 1918 in Helsinki between the Communist dominated labor unions (Red Guards) and the White non-Communist controlled Senate. The Red Guards controlled Helsinki and the southern coastal areas. On March 1, 1918, the Red Guards raised the postal rates for first class letters and postal cards. The card rate went to 25 penni. This rate was enforced. Helsinki, 30. III. 18, to Williamstrand.

Figure 8. Underfranked, obsolete postal cards require additional franking for clear passage through the mail stream. A number of the first Saarinen issues were demonetized on May 31, 1920, including the 20 penni yellow used here to meet the 40 penni rate. Kuopio. 3. VI. 20, to Borga (Porvoo), 4. VI. 20. The card was struck with the customary boxed T stamp and marked "L. 40 pen." = Losen (postage due) 40 penni, (20 penni x 2 = 40 penni).





Figure 9. Finding elusive items such as this commercial registered single card to Munchen with the bilingual censor is one reason to pursue the early postal cards of the Republic of Finland. Helsinki (branch post office I), 20. III. 19, to Munchen, frontstamped, 28. III. 19. The bilingual censor stamp was used in Helsinki from July, 1918 to December, 1919. 50 penni paid the registration fee.

Figure 10. Occasionally, postal cards with the special pink triangle label were used to notify an addressee of cash on delivery charges for accompanying merchandise. The total amount to be collected was Fmk 152.25, of which Fmk 2.25 represented postal charges. The amount due is shown on the address side and the charges are calculated on the message side. Liperi, 3. Vi. 25, via Joensuu, to Hyvinkää.

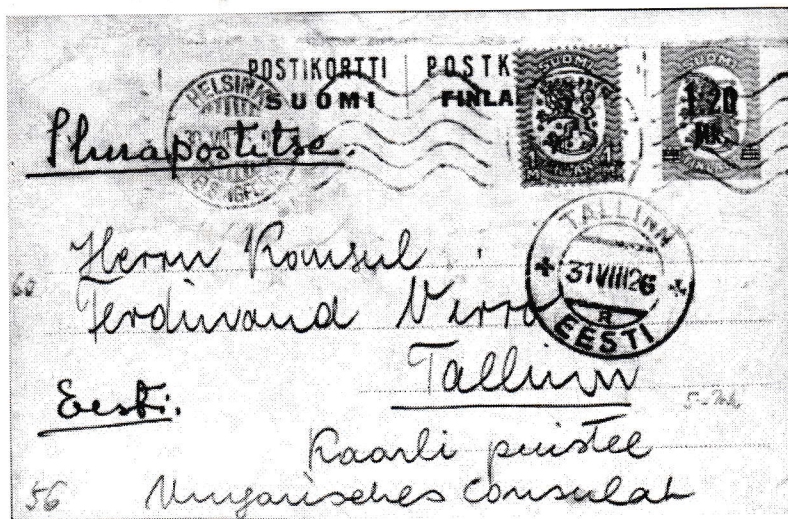


Figure 11. Commercial airmail was just starting in the mid-1920's. In the early 1920's there were a few experimental or test flights from Helsinki and Turku to Stockholm and Tallinn. Regular, sustained airmail service did not begin until the 1930's. In 1926 the post card rate was Fmk 1.20. A year later, Estonia and Finland agreed to deliver mail to each other at the domestic rate. The air mail surcharge was Fmk 1. No stamp was ever issued for the Fmk 2.20 air post card rate to Estonia. Helsinki, 30. VIII. 26, to Tallinn, 31. VIII. 26. A non-philatelic airmail card from this period is a premium item.