

The
POSTHORN
TM

Russia in Finland

Roger P. Quinby
Dirk Vorwerck

№ **82** по денежн. расч. юнгр. Уломаку-кассакirjassa. i Utbetalnings-kassaboken.

Почтовый переводъ }
Postiosotus }
Postanvisning } № **5000** Мркъ  п. Мрк.  р.

Пропасью: — Kirjaimilla: — Med bokstäfver:

На пять тысяч Мркъ  п. Мрк.  р.

Кому } *Накамолику 5-го отделения*
Kenelle }
Till } *Ивановичу Нагоренко*

Место назначения } *Хиетаненъ Отави*
Osoitepaikka }
Adressort }

Улица № дома и кв. } *С. Михайловской гуд.*
Asunto: katu ja N:o }
Bostad: gata och N:o }

Место для почт. марокъ.



Почтовый оборотъ, регистрационн. Postiosotun Postianvisningin va. nelj. kappale. Posti.

Штемпель места подачи и № по подавательской книгѣ. Sijäinnytispöstitoimiston leima ja kassakirjan numero. Inlämningspostanstaltens stämpel och kassaboks nummer.

№ **444**



Касс. № 134.

V. Linnonen
Почт. чиновникъ. Postvirkaallija. Postfunktionär.

The story behind the use of Russian currency stamps in Finland

Supplement to Posthorn

Roger P. Quinby
Scandinavian Collectors Club

Post Office Box 738
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0738



Phone (518) 373-9423
Fax (518) 371-2219
e-mail rpquinby@aol.com

April 5, 1997

Special Notice

ATTENTION EDITORS & WRITERS:

John Lindholm has talked with Bob Lang and myself about his difficulty continuing as Editor of *The Posthorn*. John would like to stay on as one of our Associate Editors, but he feels that total responsibility for the Journal presently impinges too heavily on his professional writing obligations and his family. We all know that the job of Editor is a labor of love, and at times too time consuming, time sensitive and often a thankless responsibility. Although John has not given us a timetable for turning over the reigns to the next Editor, I believe he would like to do so by the August issue but certainly not later than the November issue.

The Posthorn has earned a number of awards at national and international shows and enjoys an excellent reputation with Nordic specialists and philatelists generally. We appreciate the years of service John has given *The Posthorn* and look forward to his continued association and contributions.

So, at this juncture we are accepting inquiries and applications for the position of Editor. The SCC Board has approved an annual honorarium of \$1,000. The Club has provided the current Editor with a Mac computer and PageMaker 6 desktop publishing software. Several folks have offered to serve as an Associate Editor.

At the present time, the Editor prepares "camera ready" pages from the computer, but we recognize that not everyone with editing and writing experience has computer publishing layout experience. There are ways to work around this; so, if this challenge is your philatelic passion, with or without computer experience, we invite your inquiry.

The Board, Bob Lang and myself are committed to work with the new Editor and Journal staff to help with a smooth transition. We hope the Journal will be published on a more regular schedule.

Please be in touch with Bob Lang or myself. Thanks.

PACIFIC 97, May 29th to June 8th. The Philatelic Event of the 90's

SCC Dinner, Seminars, Board & General Membership Meetings highlight final weekend. Support your Club's programs and social events. Check with the SCC table for any last minute changes:

June 6: Seminar at 10:30AM, Frank Correl - The Schleswig Plebiscite Era.

June 6: Board Meeting at 2:00PM (All SCC members are welcome to attend.)

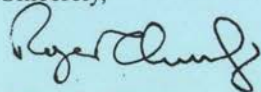
June 6: Dinner, Chapter 21 hosts dinner meeting at Iron Horse Restaurant, 30 Maiden Lane, at 6:00PM. No host bar. \$25 for dinner. Contact Ray Erickson for reservations. Philatelic entertainment is promised.

June 7: General Membership Meeting at 10:00AM.

June 7: Seminar at 1:00PM, Ivar Sundsbo - Norwegian Post History

See you in San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Roger P. Quinby

Russia in Finland

by
Roger P. Quinby
&
Dirk Vorwerck

Volume 54, 1997 of *The Posthorn*



Official Publication of the
SCANDINAVIAN COLLECTORS CLUB
Published Quarterly Since 1943
Copyright 1996 Scandinavian Collectors Club

THE POSTHORN (ISSN 0551-6897) is published five times yearly, February, May, August, September & November, by The Scandinavian Collectors Club. Membership, including subscription, \$15 per year, \$21 for Non North American addresses. Contact Executive Secretary for membership & change of address. Advertising rates & terms available from Business Manager. Periodical class postage paid at 102 So. Main, Madrid, Iowa 50156. Copyright 1996 by The Scandinavian Collectors Club.

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to The Posthorn, SCC Exec. Secretary, P.O. Box 125, Newark, DE 19715.

PREFACE & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The story behind the use of Russian currency stamps in Finland for a period of nearly thirty years, beginning in 1891, has not been told to the English speaking postal history community. Our primary goal is therefore rather straightforward; to acquaint the reader with the Russian Ring and Russian ringless stamps used in Finland, including the stamps and postal stationery not sold by the Finnish Post. We will review optional and mandatory usages of Russian franking, the Finnish response to the Russification of the Finnish Post, and the variety of mixed franking possibilities on domestic and international mail.

We will offer a suggestion for organizing a collection of this field and endeavor to present clear explanations for the various categories of usage based on actual documentation. We summarize current published information, add some information concerning new finds, suggest where information has been updated and where additional information would significantly add to the current knowledge base. The challenge of discovery awaits the enthusiastic and patient philatelist. We hope it will be you! And we ask that you share your corrections, knowledge and discoveries with us and we will do our best to keep the philatelic community apprised.

Good friends have read one or more drafts and offered invaluable suggestions. Our special thanks to philatelists Alan Warren, Ed Fraser, and Kaj Hellman and to Ms. Edna Fredel, who reworked the German translation into a smoother, more readable, English text. *Posthorn* editor and desktop publishing maven, John Lindholm, was always near the phone to answer questions and offer suggestions. Additional thanks to Ed Fraser for several lovely illustrations.

We hope you will find this supplement interesting and worthwhile.

Roger P. Quinby, Clifton Park, New York
Dirk Vorwerck, Hildeshiem, Germany
September, 1996

Russia in Finland

Chapter I

Introduction

The following exposition brings together widely scattered information and presents a general overview about this fascinating collecting area. We start from the basis laid in Sven Fagerholm's book, *Das fehlende Glied (The Missing Link)* and detail the historical development, survey the postal history of the period, and make a proposal for the layout of a collection of Russian stamps and postal stationery used in Finland.

We are indebted to Sven Fagerholm for pointing out so clearly and cogently that a complete collection of the postal history of Finland must include a full representation of the Russian stamps and demonstrate their essential role in continuing postal communications from Finland to Russia, and to the rest of the world from 1891 to 1918.

In the Appendix we provide a basic rate table illustrated with covers, registered letters, insured letters, and money orders showing the methodology for computing accurate postage for items with mixed franking.

The annotated bibliography will suggest additional references for further reading into this period of Finnish postal history.

Swedish & Russian Rule

Since the beginning of the 13th century, Finland had been part of the Swedish Empire. By 1560 the Empire had grown through several annexations to include practically the entire Baltic Sea. As part of an administrative reform designed to integrate all parts of the Empire into a central administration, the first postal routes in Sweden were established in 1636.

The first postal route in Finland was formed in the summer of 1638 under the Swedish Governor, General Per Brahe. It extended from Stockholm through Turku - Helsinki - Porvoo - Viborg - Kexholm and finally to Narva. The mail was expedited by specifically contracted farmers, "postal-farmers," by means of a relay system.

The peace treaty of Hamina/Fredrikshamn of September 17, 1809, which ended the Swedish-Russian War, ceded Finland to the Russian Empire. Six months earlier, on March 29, 1809, Czar Alexander I had given his and his descendants' solemn oath at the regional assembly at Borgå/Porvoo that Finland's current constitution, as well as autonomy in the various governmental functions and religious structure, would remain unchanged into eternity. His successors on the throne always reaffirmed this solemn oath; the last to do so was Russian Czar Nicholas II in 1894.

The Grand Duchy of Finland

Finland, as an autonomous Grand Duchy, enjoyed a special status with the Russian Empire. It was part of the Empire with its own monetary and postal privilege. The Russian Czar was simultaneously the Archduke and Supreme Lord of Finland. The governing authority was imposed through a Governor General. However, the state of Finland had its own central government, even if the final supremacy remained in St. Petersburg. The postal service was in the hands of a separate central authority, the Postal Administration.

The manifest of April 9, 1840 made the Russian currency (1 ruble = 100 kopeks) the sole legal tender in Finland; up to that time, Swedish currency had also circulated. The Russian banknotes were valid at face value. However, because of economic disruptions caused by the Crimean War, the Russian banknotes lost significant value and Finland's Bank, which had to honor the same, took large losses as a result. The Finnish Senate demanded an independent banking system and currency. The Finnish markka (1 markka = 100 penni) was introduced on April 4, 1860. The value of the Finnish markka was then set at one fourth of the Russian silver ruble. Hereafter, the Finnish currency is referenced "penni" and "mark(s)."

The first stamps were introduced in Finland in March of 1856. They were the well known oval stamps with the Finnish Coat-of-Arms lion with values of 5 and 10 kopeks (*Facit, Michel*, Nos. 1 & 2; *Scott*, Nos. 1, 2 & 3). Not until a year-and-a-half later, in December, 1857, were the first stamps released in Russia. In 1860 the oval stamps were replaced by new stamps with a changed design, but the same values (*Facit, Michel*, Nos. 3 & 4; *Scott*, Nos. 4 & 5).

After the first Finnish coins were distributed in 1864, and Finland had received its independent monetary system on November 13, 1865, as part of the reforms under Czar Alexander II, the first stamps with Finnish denominations were released beginning in 1866 (*Facit, Michel*, Nos. 5-10; *Scott* Nos. 6-11).

Pursuant to the treaty founding the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which became law on July 1, 1875, a new postage rate structure was adopted independent of the distance traveled by the letter. This was the reason for the release of new stamps in changed design after July, 1875 (*Facit* Nos. 11, 12S-L to 19S-L; *Michel* Nos. 11, 12-19 A + B; *Scott* Nos. 17-24; 25-29f). The design was adapted from the "Pfennige" stamps of the German Empire that had been released on January 1, 1875, and the bicolored stamp set of Denmark.

These new Coat-of-Arms stamps were the first Finnish stamps which bore the country's name in Finnish and Swedish.

A new issue of this series followed in 1885 in changed colors along with new 5 mark and 10 mark denominations (*Facit & Michel* Nos. 20-26; *Scott* Nos. 31-37). These emissions were in compliance with Universal Postal Union color rules of 1882. A single franking stamp for printed matter sent abroad had to be green, a single stamp for postal cards sent abroad had to be red, and for letters sent abroad, the stamp had to be blue. This rule was in force until 1952.

Russification

Nurtured by the idea of a union of all Slavic nations under Russian leadership, the Pan-Slavic movement, beginning around 1885, applied strong pressure to Russify Finland.

As a counter measure and to emphasize the Finnish autonomy within the Russian Empire, new postal cancels were adopted in 1888 which contained the country name FINLAND or FINLAND SUOMI or the province name, as in the Brändö town cancellation below. There are many different types of these cancels. They were in use for only a few years and were prohibited at the end of 1893. They are very scarce on the 1889 Russian definitive issues and are also rather scarce on the Russian Ring type stamps introduced in May, 1891.

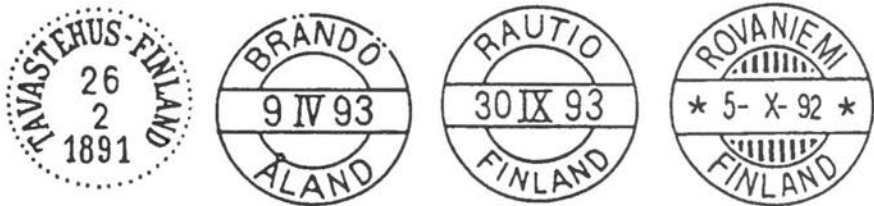


Figure 1 Finland cancels

The issues of 1889 were the last purely Finnish stamp set for the next twenty-eight years (*Facit & Michel Nos. 27-34; Scott Nos. 38-45*). The growing Russian influence was clearly expressed in the changed design, which now showed the country's name for the first time and the value (not for the first time) in Russian script. The trilingual country name is clearly visible in Figure 3, on page 6.

In the same year and in the year 1890, single and double (with reply card attached) UPU formatted 10 penni postal cards showed the national coat-of-arms on the front (*Norma Nos. 24 & 26*). The reply card, to be returned from abroad, showed a map of Finland. Even this addition was openly intended as a pointed reminder that Finland was the originating country of the postal card.

In 1890 the Russian authorities took two significant steps on the way to the Russification of Finland. First, through the Imperial Postal Manifesto of June 12, 1890, the Finnish postal system became part of the Russian Interior Ministry. Second, the ruling of July 14, 1890, specified that as of January 1, 1891, Russian currency was equally valid legal tender in Finland. From that date forward, Finnish post offices had to sell all types of postal items and services upon demand for Russian currency. On the other hand, private persons were under no obligation to accept Russian currency and could in contrast pay for Russian stamps with Finnish currency. The exchange rate was pegged anew every four months. Listings of the current official exchange rates were to be displayed publicly in the post offices. On the basis of these two rulings, the Finnish government had lost its unlimited authority over the Finnish postal system. The intended goal of these steps was to replace Finnish stamps and Finnish currency with Russian stamps and Russian currency.

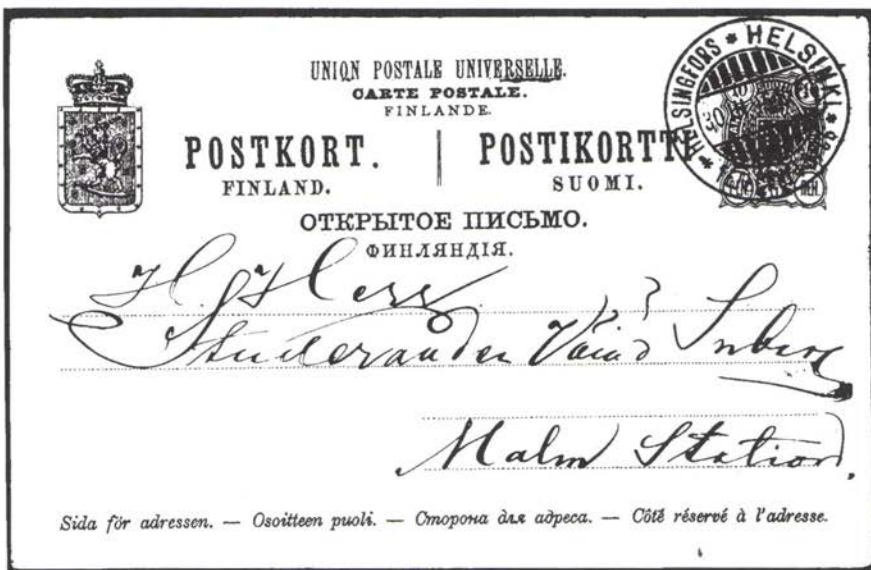


Figure 2 1890 10 penni postal card with Finnish Coat of Arms.



Figure 3 1890 10 penni reply card with map of Finland at upper left.

Chapter II

Introduction of Russian Stamps in Finland

1891 Ring Stamps

Backed by the Postal Manifesto of June 12, 1890, the Russian Interior Ministry decreed on March 31, 1891 that on May 1, 1891, the "Postage issues of the Empire" be issued in Finland with a differentiating mark in the form of rings. These are the "Ring Stamps" known to every Finland collector (*Facit & Michel* Nos. 35-47; *Scott* Nos. 46-58). The decree was issued in Finnish Postal Circular XII of April 20, 1891. These stamps could be paid for at the post office counter either in Finnish or Russian currency.

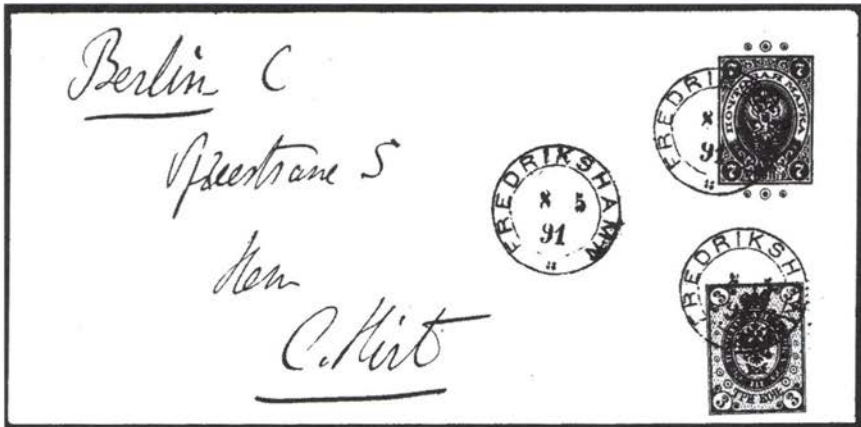


Figure 4 The Ring stamps and stationery were introduced on May 1, 1891.

The Ring stamps are Russian stamps printed at the State Printing Office in St. Petersburg on the same watermarked paper as the Russian definitive issues of 1889. The rings were added to the stamp design for accounting purposes, because the revenue from the sale of the Ring stamps went to the Finnish Postal Administration. See Figure 4 above; very early May 8th cover to Berlin.

Although the Ring stamps and postal stationery were sold only in Finland, they were also valid without restriction in Russia. In turn, the purely Russian stamps were also valid in Finland, but they were not sold there until 1899/1900.

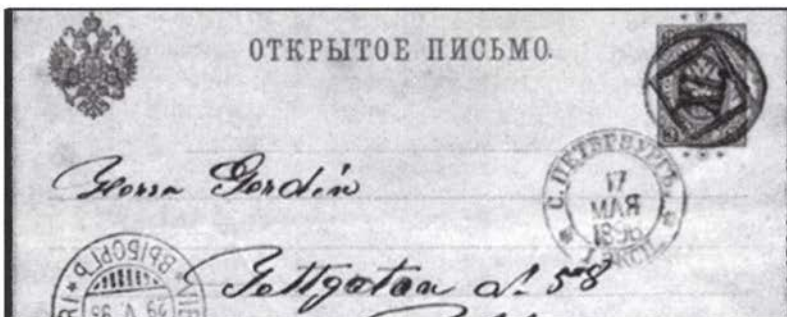


Figure 5 3 kopek Ring postal card with St. Petersburg cancels.

Initially, the 1889 Finnish Coat-of-Arms stamps retained their validity for domestic and foreign postal traffic. However, for mail to Russia they were valid only until the end of 1891. The use of Finnish stamps on mail to Russia was prohibited on January 1, 1892 and the use of Ring stamps was obligatory (Item 4 of Circular Number XII of April 20, 1891). This rule was apparently not followed completely, so that the Postal Administration saw reason to reemphasize it in Circular I of January, 1892, that mail to Russia franked with Finnish coat of arms stamps would be treated as unfranked mail.



Figure 6 After January 1, 1892 Finnish franking to Russia was invalid; so marked "0" in blue pencil and struck with the boxed T and 14 kopeks due.

For domestic mail, the public was free to use Russian currency stamps and stationery, with rings until May, 1911, and without rings until November 29, 1917. In actual practice, the Finnish people abhorred the Russian stamps and rarely used them for domestic mail.

Precursors

Russian stamps were valid in Finland only after the introduction of the Ring stamps on May 1, 1891. Yet there exist Russian stamps and stationery with Finnish cancels prior to that date. Unless those items were canceled by accident or in ignorance, they originated in post offices aboard ship or on trains in the normal border crossing traffic. For example, the mail coach from Helsinki to St. Petersburg was operated by the Finnish railroad and traversed Russian territory for part of its route. While the train was on Russian territory, it was optional whether Finnish or Russian stamps were used to frank the mail. From the mid 1870's, examples of Russian franking on this route can be found as shown in the following cover, first struck with the Finnish straight line UDELJANA town cancel and then on the train with the FINSKA JERNVAGENS POSTKUPEXPEDITION No.2, mail wagon cancellation, dated May 12, 1877.

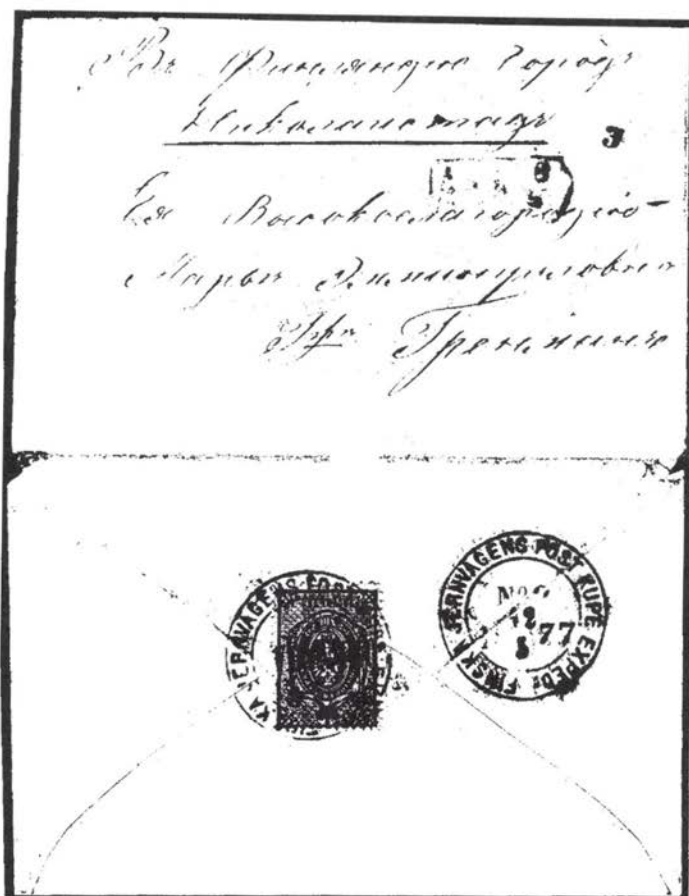


Figure 7 Russian issues with 1877 Finnish mail wagon cancellation.

Russian Cancels

Around the turn of the year 1893/94, new postal cancels were introduced in Finland. All locality names now had to be given in Russian in addition to the name in Finnish and/or Swedish. The cancels were now bilingual or trilingual. The previously used single ring, "FINLAND," and other double ring town cancels were withdrawn from use. The machine cancel was introduced in 1906 at Helsinki, Turku, and Viborg.



Figure 8 1894 Russian type cancels.

The February Manifesto

On February 15, 1899, Czar Nicholas II signed the so-called "February Manifesto," which introduced an entirely new concept, "General Imperial Interests," into the legal structure of Finland. According to this concept, all questions which touched upon these "general imperial interests" were to be examined by Finnish authorities, but were to be decided in St. Petersburg. This gave the Czar or his closest advisors, who were hostile to the autonomy of Finland, the legal authority to modify existing laws.

On the basis of the February manifesto, the Russian Interior Ministry decided on February 28, 1899, to cease the production of the Ring stamps and to introduce the common, definitive Russian stamps and stationery in Finland after existing remainders of the Ring stamps were used up.

The rule was promulgated in Helsinki on March 16, 1899. On the same day, the first shipment of Russian ringless stamps (2, 3, & 4 kopek stamps) and stationery left St. Petersburg for the central supply office of the Finnish Postal Administration, where it arrived on March 22, 1899. According to *Facit*¹ the 7 kopek value was the first ringless Russian issue to go on sale in Finland in October, 1899. However, according to the SFFF Handbook² (Philatelic Federation of Finland), the 7 kopek issue was not delivered to the Post Office central supply office until June, 1900.

The SFFF Handbook indicates that a half million 2, 3, and 4 kopek ringless stamps were delivered to the central supply office in October, 1899. No detailed records were kept by the supply office or receiving post offices, so we cannot be sure if any of these issues were placed on sale in 1899.

Date Ringless Russian Stamps First Placed on Sale in Finland

<u>Date</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Issue</u>
10. 1899	7 kop	11. 1901	14 kop
01. 1900	2 kop	05. 1903	3.5 ruble
05. 1900	1 kop	11. 1904	7 ruble
07. 1900	4 kop	08. 1905	1 ruble
08. 1900	3 kop	12. 1905	50 kop
10. 1900	10 kop	xx. 1908	35 kop
05. 1901	20 kop		

According to postal regulations, the existing supplies of Ring stamps were to be used up first and because the supply of these stamps at the central supply office was not completely depleted until 1908, the Ring Stamps were replaced only little by little by the corresponding stamps without rings. According to *Facit*, the first to be sold was the value of 7 kopeks without rings about October 1899; the last to be placed on sale was the 35 kopek value, late 1907 or early 1908.

In the year 1900, the gold currency standard, followed by Finland since 1877, was also introduced in Russia. This stabilized currency fluctuations which in turn provided the excuse to prohibit the Finnish stamps and introduce the purely Russian stamps for domestic as well as foreign traffic.

Coat-of-Arms Stamps Withdrawn

By order of the Postal Circular Number VII of July 4, 1900, the Finnish Coat-of-Arms stamps were to be withdrawn and were to lose validity for mail to foreign destinations effective August 15, 1900, and within Finland, beginning January 14, 1901. Covered by this prohibition were the Coat-of-Arms issues, insofar as they were still valid, i.e., the set of 1889 (*Facit & Michel* Nos. 27-34) as well as the 2 penni 1875/82 emission. The complete set of the 1875 type issues, except the 2 penni emission (*Facit* Nos. 12L & 27-34; *Michel* Nos. 12, 20-26; *Scott* Nos. 17-37), had already been withdrawn from the post offices in February, 1891.

Consequently, the Russian stamps, with or without rings, which had been required for all Finnish mail to Russia since January 1, 1892, were now required stamps for all mail to other foreign destinations.

Mourning Stamp & Passive Resistance

This move raised a storm of protest and led to veritable Mourning throughout the country. The entire population opposed this illegal imposition. On the same day on which the requirement that Russian currency stamps be used for all mail abroad became effective, the well known Mourning stamp (actually a label, since it did not pay for any post service) was released. This Mourning stamp was designed to be affixed next to the Russian stamps as a sign of protest against the prohibition of the Finnish Coat-of Arms stamps. Wentzel Hagelstam, author and publisher, initiated the production of the Mourning stamp designed by the renowned Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela. The stamp was sold for one penny with the profit going to support private patriotic activities.

The use of this stamp was prohibited at once by the Russian authorities; the prohibition was published in the newspapers on August 16, 1900. Consequently, the legal or permitted use of the Mourning stamp was limited to August 14 and 15, 1900. In this form it is most valuable, particularly when it is tied to the letter by a cancel that covers both stamp and envelope. More often, the Mourning stamp was placed on the upper right hand corner of the letter and the 10 kopek stamp in the center of the back side of the envelope.

Despite the prohibition, a number of mailed items with the Mourning stamp went through the mail after August 15, 1900, even though they should have been refused, because the patriotically minded postal clerks did not always "notice" the stamp. Because the prohibition related only to affixing the stamp to the outside of the letter, it is known that some mailers produced envelopes of transparent paper and affixed the stamp on the inside. Another possibility was to place the item with the Mourning stamp in the mail slot of a departing ship, particularly to Sweden, as such items were usually expedited in the same manner as normally franked mail; the stamps were then canceled at the destination (see Figure 10). It also occurred that the Mourning stamp was mailed by letter to foreign correspondents and was then affixed to mail destined for Finland from abroad.

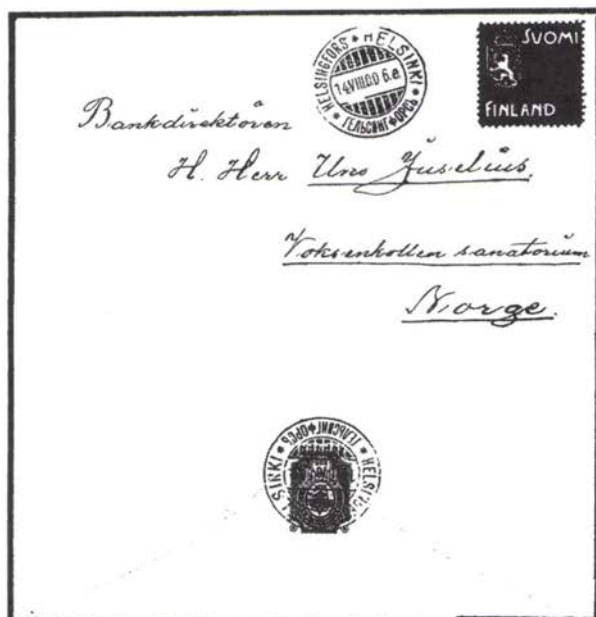


Figure 9 Mourning stamp on cover to Norway, August 14, 1900.

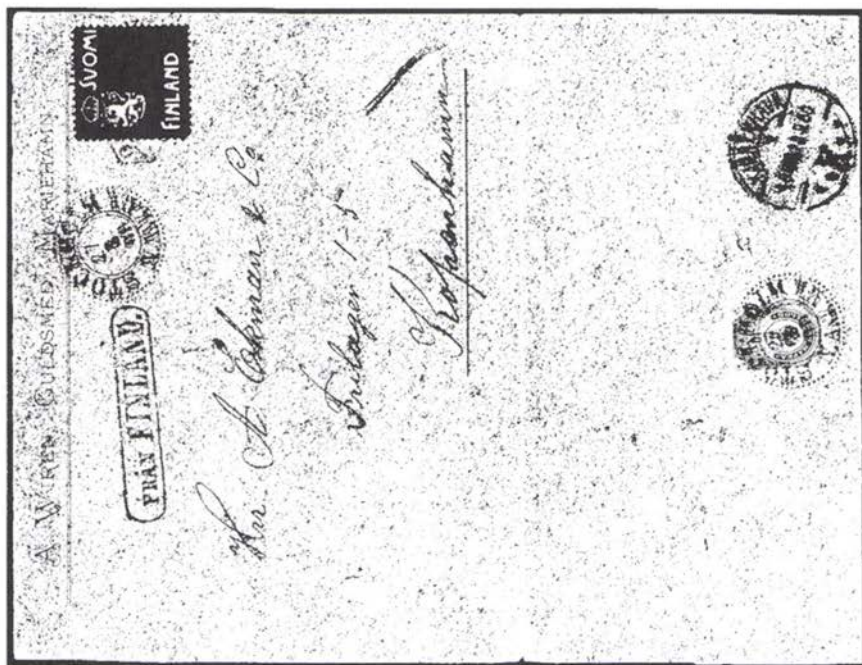


Figure 10 For several months after August 15, 1900, the Mourning Stamp was affixed to mail deposited in a ship's letterbox. This unauthorized use of the Mourning stamp was generally unnoticed and undisturbed. Från Finland is a Swedish ship cancel.

Post cards were also printed with the design of the Mourning stamp in the top right corner. This card is found primarily unused; however, there are examples in both domestic and foreign traffic. This card (see Figure 11), canceled in November, 1900, passed 'unnoticed' by sympathetic Helsinki postal clerks. In January, 1901 the Mourning stamps and post cards were prohibited from domestic postal traffic.

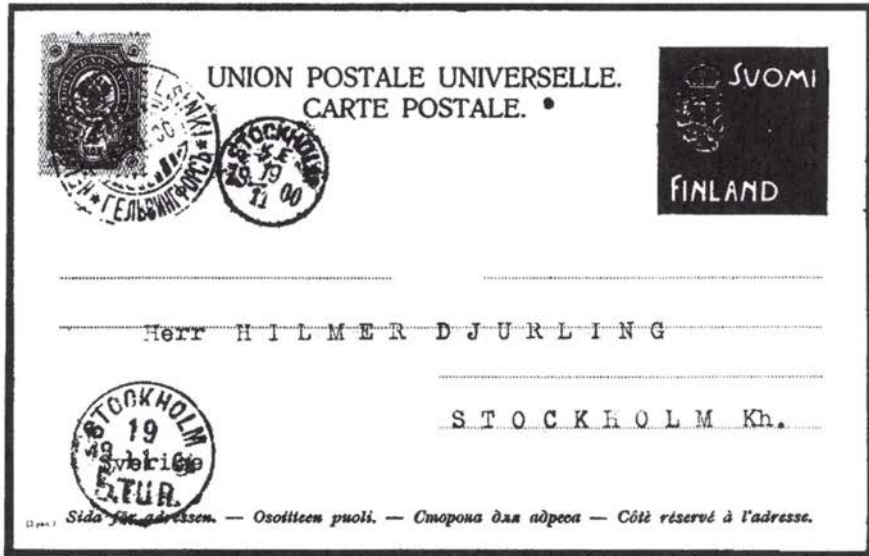


Figure 11 Mourning stamp imprinted on post card to Sweden.

The Sale of Russian Stamps in Finland

The Circular of July 4, 1900 also ordered the post offices and post sub-offices Class I to obtain the most common Russian stamps of 2, 10, and 20 kopeks as well as the 4 kopek postal cards.

For domestic use in Finland, Russian stamps, with or without rings, were allowed, even if not required. Finally, for the domestic mail, only the newly issued stamps and stationery in the design of the corresponding Russian stamps, but with the Finnish currency values, were allowed. They are: *Facit* Nos. 48-60; *Michel* Nos. 48-60, 61-65; *Scott* Nos. 64-75.

According to the exposition by Fagerholm,³ only stamps and stationery of the Ring-type issue were acceptable and required for mail abroad between August 14, 1900 and January 13, 1901. After January 14, 1901, only Russian stamps without particular marks for Finland (rings) were acceptable and required.

However, Fagerholm's position is not supported by Seppo Arvelin⁴, and other Finnish philatelic authorities, who rely on the March, 1890 postal circular that, "Mail from letterpost (mail) boxes bearing any type of imperial postage (with or without rings) has to be delivered to its destination."

Certainly, such a sharp division between the use of stamps with rings and Russian stamps without rings was not made in the real world. After 1901, Ring

stamps were regularly used on domestic and foreign mail, at least until 1907/1908 when the Post Office inventory of Ring stamps was sold out. Without difficulty, one can find in the five months between August 14, 1900, and January 14, 1901, foreign mail with Russian franking (without rings) as well as mail still with Ring-type stamps after January 14, 1901. Even mixed franking of Ring and ringless covers occur frequently until 1907/1908. This is likely, because the current stocks of Ring-type stamps and postal stationery were supposed to be used up before the purely Russian stamps and stationery were available for sale at the post office counter.



Figure 12 1891 14 kopek Ring entire with 1902 Russian issues to Austria.

On the other hand, the Finnish postal authorities, as well as the population of Finland, viewed the Ring-type stamps as Russian stamps. This can be seen from several regulations in which the Ring-type stamps as well as the purely Russian stamps without rings are described equally as "stamps of the Empire." So from this one could not expect a strict division (mutual exclusivity) in the usage of these two sets. It follows logically that the two leading Finnish catalogues, *Norma* and *LaPe*, state that after August 14, 1900, only "Russian stamps," with or without rings, could be used for foreign mail. The Swedish *Facit* catalogue notes that only "stamps in Russian currency" were permitted, and that includes the Ring-type set as well as the Russian definitive set of 1889.

The officers of the Finnish Philatelic Federation adopted a basic position on December 17, 1962, according to which the Finnish postal system is said to have begun the sale of Russian stamps on August 20, 1900. *Facit* maintains that all of the lower values (1, 2, 3, 4, & 7 kopek issues) were already on sale by that time. For now, the issue cannot be resolved. Possibly further research will shed additional light on this subject.

The Russian stamps without rings were sold by the Finnish Post and the stamps were used in exactly the same manner as Finnish currency stamps. The revenues went to the Finnish Grand Duchy. The Finnish Postal Administration paid the costs of production and stored the stamps in its central stamp warehouse in Helsinki. Upon request they were distributed to post offices

throughout the country. They were also used as receipts for fees paid to the Finnish postal system. Russian stamps and stationery, with or without rings, which were used in this manner by the Finnish postal system must therefore also be viewed as Finnish stamps.

Usage Data

The number of Russian stamps of the issues of 1889, 1902/06 and 1909/18 used in Finland amounts to an estimated 152 million items. This shows clearly the extent and importance of the replacement of the Finnish Coat-of-Arms stamps by Russian postage stamps. The manifest importance of these stamps is further underscored by their mandated usage on mail going abroad from August, 1900 to March, 1918.

A particular problem for the collector of this area is postal stationery. The only detailed information about Russian postal stationery used in Finland has been reported in the *Facit Special-Catalog*, 1980/81 edition.⁵ The sum of the numbers mentioned there comes to about 4.7 million items. The most common postcards of 3 and 4 kopeks (domestic and foreign rate, respectively) alone account for 4.3 million items, including the double postal cards. Fagerholm's study included 1,123 items of Russian stationery used in Finland. Almost 60% are postal cards of 3 and 4 kopeks.

The listing in the *Norma* catalogues⁶ does not provide delivery dates or quantities of Russian postal stationery used in Finland. Further, no distinction was made between Russian postal stationery sold by the Finnish Post Office and Russian stationery used in Finland, but not sold by the Finnish Post Office.

Period of Validity

With the supplies of Ring stamps nearly exhausted and the 1909 definitive issues on sale throughout Finland, the Ring stamps were withdrawn and demonetized on May 14, 1911.

On March 15, 1917, Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate by a revolution proclaimed by bourgeois-liberal forces. The governmental power was taken over by a provisional government under Prince Lwow. By means of a ruling of this government, published on March 20, 1917, Finland regained its former status as an Autonomous Grand Duchy. At the same time, the Postal Manifesto was repudiated, so that the Finnish postal system again regained its full independence. Within a few days, the Finnish Post Office ceased censorship of domestic mail (operated under the supervision of the Russian Ministry of the Interior) and closed censorship operations at six cities. The Viborg, Tornio and Helsinki offices remained open to inspect mail to and from foreign destinations.

The decision about new stamp issues now rested again with the Finnish Senate. By April 1917, the planning started for the new Finnish stamps, the Saarinen series (*Facit* No. 67; *Michel* No. 68 and following; *Scott* No. 83 and following). After the first stamps of this series were available on October 1st, 1917, the Senate prohibited the use of Russian stamps on domestic mail starting November 29, 1917. This decision was published in the Circular of the Postal Administration of November 29, 1917.

At the end of November of 1917, a new government was formed, which declared Finland's independence on December 6, 1917. On December 31, Russia formally recognized the independent Republic of Finland.

The stamps of the Saarinen set could not be used in foreign mail traffic until the new Finnish Republic became a member of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The application for UPU membership dragged out longer than expected and it was not until February 12, 1918, that Finland was accepted into the UPU. For this reason, the Finnish lion stamps did not gain validity for mail to foreign destinations until March 12, 1918. Meanwhile, Finland was engulfed in civil turmoil and armed conflict. The White noncommunist government prohibited the use of Russian stamps and stationery for the area under its military control and civil administration; this order was repeated after the liberation of Helsinki from the Bolsheviks on April 25, 1918.

Therefore, for three months after the declaration of independence of the Republic of Finland, Russian stamps continued to be required for foreign mail.

Russian design stamps with Finnish values were offered for sale at post offices until March 31, 1918, and remained valid for domestic and foreign traffic until demonetized on May 31, 1920.

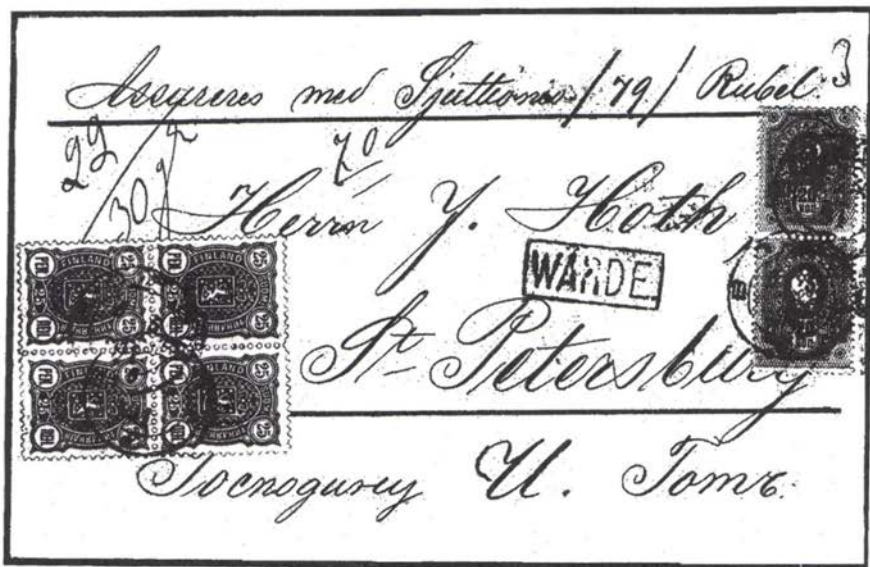


Figure 13 From May 1st, until December 31st, 1891 mixed Finnish/Russian franking to Russia was permitted. This May 8th cover is one of the earliest.

Mixed Franking

Mixed franking of the stamps in Finnish and Russian denominations was allowed since the issuance of the Ring-type set, i.e. since May 1, 1891. They were allowed on domestic mail until November 28, 1917, and on foreign bound mail until August 14, 1900.

Mixed franking covers of Russian stamps and the Coat-of-Arms issues of 1889 are scarce (*Facit* Nos. 27-34). Mixed franking covers of Russian stamps with the Coat-of-Arms issues of 1885 (*Facit* Nos. 20-26) are not known to exist because these were withdrawn from the post offices in February 1891, several months prior to the legal use of Russian stamps in Finland.



Figure 14 2 kopek ringless issue with 5 penni Finnish issue is equivalent to 10 penni domestic post card rate in effect until October 1, 1917.

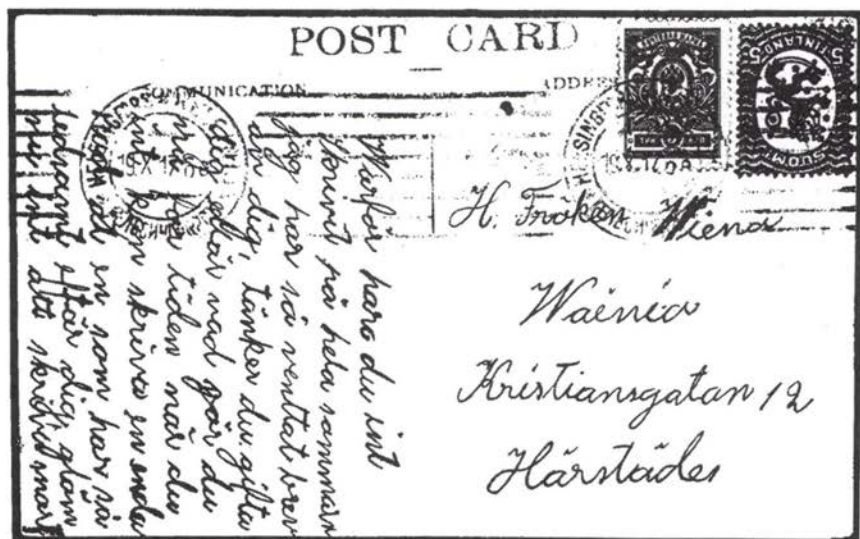


Figure 15 3 kopek 1909 Russian with 5 penni 1917 Saarinen issue signaled the transition from Russian currency stamps to purely Finnish stamps. The 5 kopek rate was in effect for just four days, but widely used for approximately six weeks until notices were distributed to branch post offices.

Mixed franking of Ring stamps and Russian ringless stamps are normal in the transition period after 1899 (See page 14, Figure 12). Similarly, mixed franking of Russian stamps and the Russian type, Finnish currency stamps (*Michel* No. 61 and following) are fairly common. However, mixed franking covers of the 1909 Russian definitive issues and the 1917 Saarinen issues are very difficult to find. These mixed franking covers were possible on domestic mail for the two month period of October and November, 1917.



Figure 16 The rapid collapse of the ruble during the fall of 1917 led to many postal exchange rate errors. The domestic letter rate at the time was 30 penni or 24 kopeks. The 4 kopek franking is equivalent to just 5 penni; therefore, this cover is 5 penni or 4 kopeks under franked. The Russian franking was invalidated on November 29, 1917, less than one month after this cover was mailed at Helsinki.

References

- ¹ *Facit Special Catalogue* 1995-96, page F-603
- ² *SFFF Handbook*, Vol II, page xx. See Appendix
- ³ *Das fehlende Glied*, p. 61
- ⁴ *Ring Stamp Centennial*, pages 17, 18.
- ⁵ *Facit Special Catalogue*, 1980/81, pages F-26,27
- ⁶ *Norma Special Catalogue*, 1989/90 pages 220, 221. See annotated bibliography.

Chapter III

Following the exposition under Chapters I and II, it becomes evident that the design and organization of a collection of Russian stamps and stationery used in Finland could be developed along several lines. Nevertheless, all of the design elements should include the following material:

1) Stamps with Russian monetary denominations, which were sold by the post offices in Finland, valid for foreign and domestic mail:

- a) Ring stamps of 1891, which were issued and sold only in Finland;
- b) Russian stamps and stationery without rings, which were sold by post offices in Finland as well as in Russia. This group includes the 1889-1906 and 1909 definitive issues, and the 1914-1915 semi-postal stamps.

2) Russian stamps and stationery sold only in Russia, but equally valid franking in Finland. These items are called "co-runners," or "concurrent cursors." Fagerholm catalogued them as "Mitlaufer."

3) Emergency Coin Stamps of 1915-17 were issued for use as coins in Russia, but were used occasionally as stamps in Finland and Russia.

4) It is also possible to include a further group of co-runners, the so-called 'fore-runners', or 'Vorlaufer', items canceled with Finnish cancels (mostly with St. Petersburg - Helsinki TPO cancellations, but town cancellations are also known) prior to the general validity of Russian stamps in Finland. In a chronological display, these items should be shown at the beginning of the collection as they are the earliest items, dating back to the 1870's.

5) The collection would show only an incomplete picture of the postal situation in Finland around the turn of the century, if one did not document with at least a few items illustrating the Finnish passive resistance to the Russification of the postal system. In the following chapter, we will show in some detail both the common and innovative techniques employed by the Finnish people to identify mail originating from Finland and to protest the use of the Russian franking.

6) Finally, the turbulent end of the Russian period is best illustrated with inflation and mixed franking covers from October and November, 1917. In this category, a mixed franking Russian/Saarinen cover would poignantly symbolize the transition from Russian monetary and/or Russian design stamps in domestic postal traffic to purely Finnish stamps.

Russian design, Finnish currency stamps of 1901-1916 were originally issued for domestic postal traffic only. These stamps are Finnish and they are important to the history of the Russification of the Finnish Post, but they are not Russian stamps. For a brief discussion of these stamps, see Chapter 7.

Chapter IV

Russification & Passive Resistance

The beginning of the Russification measures can be shown very well with the Finnish Coat-of-Arms issue of 1889, which shows the coin denomination and the country's name also in Russian script. This also includes the postal cards of 10 penni red of 1889-1890, (see page 6) on which the single card or the originating part of the double card shows the Finnish Coat-of-Arms and the reply part of the double card shows a small map of Finland (*Norma* Nos. 23-26). Also, the cancels introduced in 1888 with the country name FINLAND or FINLAND SUOMI belong here. The FINLAND cancels are very scarce on Russian stamps: according to Fagerholm, about 25 items are known.



Figure 17 1889 -1900 Coat-of-Arms issues and national coat of arms on 1901 memorial card dated 13.1. 01, last day of use for these issues.

Beginning in 1893/94, all cancels were required to have the town name in Russian as well as Finnish and/or Swedish. These cancels remained in use until well after the Russian stamps were totally demonetized in Finland. The Russian text was not removed from all town cancels until the winter of 1918.

The widespread protests against the final prohibition of the Coat-of-Arms stamps during 1900/1901 can be shown with a series of different items.

Absolutely required is a cover with the Mourning Stamp¹ (see Chapter III), preferably canceled August 14 or 15, 1900. This is followed by private memorial post cards. The first shows the stamps of the issue 1889 up to the 1 mark value, next to the Finnish Coat-of-Arms and the last date of validity of this set, 13. I. 1901 (January 13, 1901). The second card shows an impression

of the 5 penni value (no franking value) and the national symbol accurately franked with a 4 kopek Russian issue, by ship via Copenhagen to Lübeck. At least twenty different memorial cards were issued in 1900/01. Each protested the loss of Finnish national identity on postage stamps, cancellations and postal services originating in Finland. Matti Poutvaara's book, *Postia sortokaudelta* describes in considerable detail the passive protests of the Finnish people during the Period of Oppression.²

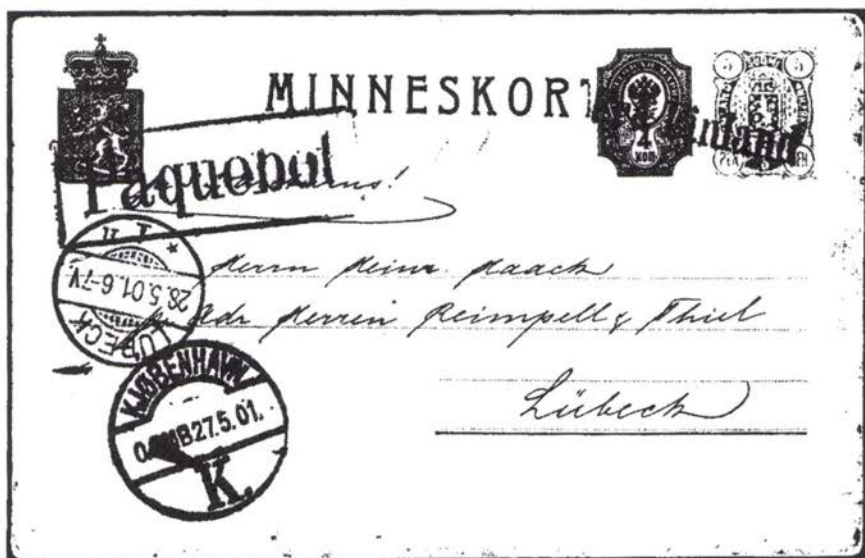


Figure 18 Memorial card with facsimilie impression of the 1895 5 penni issue.

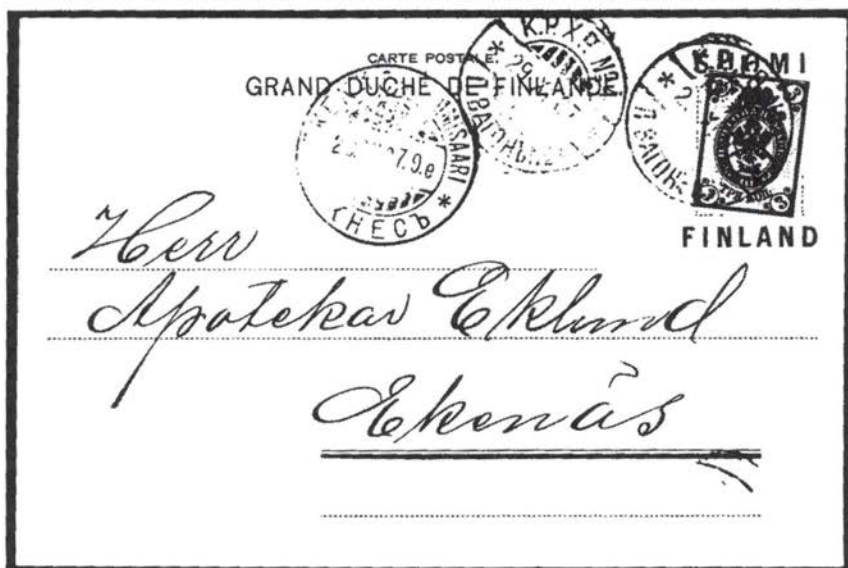


Figure 19 Grand Duchy de Finlande inland post card privately overprinted "SUOMI-FINLAND" in bold letters franked with 3 kopek Russian.

Further measures of passive resistance on Finnish mail include the violet rubber stamp "SUOMI FINLAND" imprinted on post cards and envelopes; "FINLAND" printed in large red or black capital letters in the top right corner of the envelope above and/or below the place designated for the stamp; added imprint "Grand-Duche de Finlande" in red on the left margin or simply an imprint of the Finnish Coat-of-Arms. These added imprints exist in various types and colors and were used over a longer period of time. The following post card shows a cancel of August 1909.



Figure 20 Imprinted country identification on UPU post card to Rome.

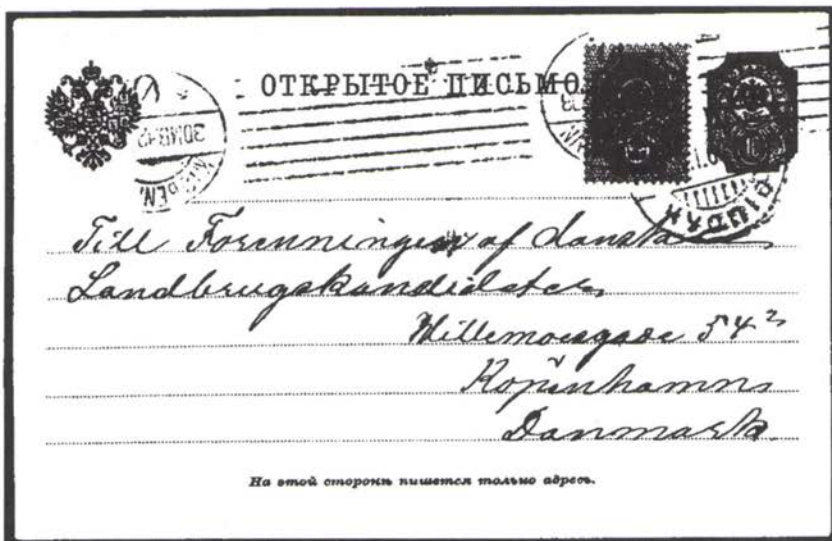


Figure 21 4 kopek Russian issue added to meet foreign rate on 10 penni postal card authorized for domestic traffic only. Uncommon protest.



Figure 22 "Grand Duchy de Finlande" imprinted in strong red block letters.

Positioning the stamp upside down was the most widely used method of protest throughout the entire Russification period. On the postal card pictured below, the address was written upside down, a rather unique way of adapting this form of protest to the pre-printed postal card.

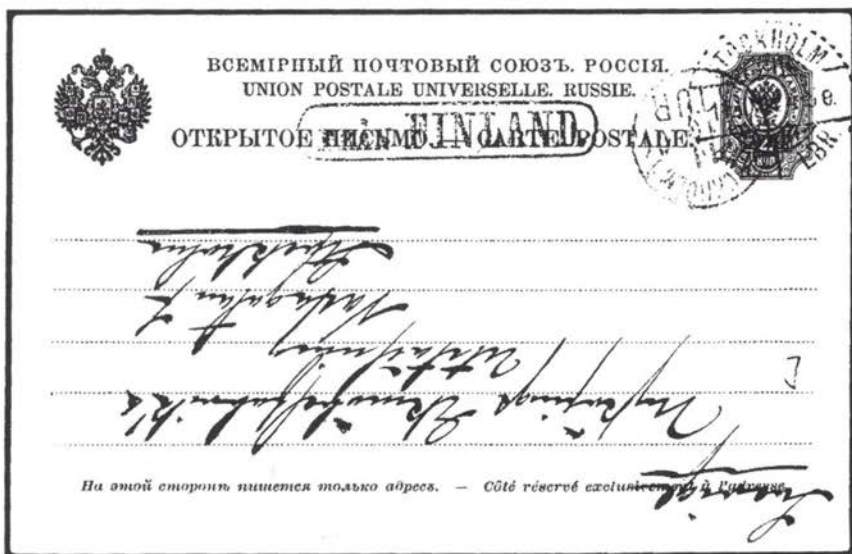


Figure 23 Upside down addressed postal card to Stockholm.

References

- 1 See Figure 9, page 12, Mourning cover to Norway.
- 2 M. Poutvaara, *Postia sortokaudelta*, K. J. Gummererus, Oy., Finland, 1973.

Chapter V

The Individual Issues

1891 Ring Stamps

The 1891 Ring stamp set consisted of twelve values ranging from 1 kopek to 7 rubles (*Facit* & *Michel* Nos. 35-47; *Scott* Nos. 46-58). The data about the numbers of Ring Stamps delivered to Finland between 1891 and 1899 are not identical in the catalogues: According to *LaPe*, 1988 and *Norma* 1994/95, there was a total of 14.1 million items. In contrast, *Michel* and *Facit* list a shorter press run for the 1 and 7 kopek stamps; in fact two million fewer 7 kopek stamps based on a press run of 7.6 million according to the *Ring Stamp Centennial*.¹ The last delivery of Ring stamps was made in March, 1899.

In contrast, about 121 million items of the Coat-of-Arms set were issued in the period 1889 to 1900. If one takes into account that about half of the Ring stamps printed were used for postage (because the prices for canceled and uncanceled stamps are about equal), then one can see that the Ring stamps made up only a small fraction of the stamps used in Finland in those years. For the most part, the Ring stamps were used only when it was unavoidable, namely on mail to Russia and later to other foreign destinations. Otherwise, the Finns preferred to frank mail with the local Coat-of-Arms stamps.



Figure 24 Ring stamps remained in service for twelve years after the introduction of the Russian ringless issues in 1899 but post office supplies of the common values were sold out by the early 1900's. Hämeenlinna, 20. VII. 02, to Norway.

The 1891 Ring postal stationery issues consisted of entires to meet all basic letter rates for domestic and foreign mail, postal cards, lettercards and newspaper wrappers.

Envelopes of 7, 10, 14, and 20 kopeks in large and small format (*Norma* Nos. 33-36 I and II): 7 kopeks = 161,600; 10 kopeks = 21,200; 14 and 20 kopeks = 20,200 items each. During this period envelopes were often issued in the same value denomination but in two different formats. The reason is likely to be found in the different sizes of the formerly common letter paper, the German folio size and the smaller English size.

Postal cards of 3 and 4 kopeks, single or double cards (*Norma* Nos. 27-30). Altogether, 1,645,400 items of which 1,234,850 were 3 kopek single cards.

Lettercards of 7 and 10 kopeks (*Norma* Nos. 1 and 2) : 7 kopeks = 200,850; 10 kopeks = 100,850 items. A large quantity of all types of postal stationery items remained unsold.



Figure 25 1 kopek Ring Wrapper with 2 penni 1889 issue used for domestic postal traffic shortly before demonetization.

Newspaper mailing wrapper of 1 and 2 kopeks were printed in small quantities (*Norma* Nos. 1 & 2): 1 kopek = 30,100; 2 kopeks = 40,200 items. The Ring postal stationeries were generally available until demonetized on May 14, 1911; accordingly, they are much more easily found with Finnish town cancels than the purely Russian stationeries of the same period.

1889-1902 Russian Definitive Issues

Stamps of these issues range from 1 kopek to 7 rubles on horizontally laid paper, without the 5 kopeks however, which should be classified as a co-runner (*Facit* Nos. R1-14, & R16; *Michel* Nos. 41x-55x; *Scott*²).

The first delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration took place on March 22, 1899.³ Sales at the post office counters did not begin before October,

1899 and possibly not until August of the following year. Altogether 19.6 million items of this set were delivered to Finland. The numbers of stamps of each individual value ranged from 9,200 items for the 7 ruble value to 4.5 million each for the 2 and 3 kopek values.



Figure 26 By 1908, the Russian definitive issues of 1902-1906 on vertically laid paper are most often found on covers sent abroad.

Envelopes 1883, 1889/90, 1907, and 1913:

Envelopes of 14 kopeks from the 1883 issues and the 7, 10, and 20 kopeks (1889/90) in small and large formats (*Michel Ost* Nos. U 31, 33-35 A + B; *Facit*, 1980/81 Nos., RF 1-4 A + B).

First delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration on June 30, 1899. 7 kopeks = 151,404; 10 kopeks = 59,180 (including the envelopes of 1907 and 1913 = *Facit* 1980/1981 (RF 6-8), 14 kopeks = 1,161; 20 kopeks = 1,514 items. It is not known how many items were returned or unsold.

Postal cards 1889/90:

Double card of 4 + 4 kopeks with text imprint in black (*Michel Ost* No. P 12; *Facit* No. RP 1). First delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration on March 22, 1899.

Single cards and double cards of 3 and 4 kopeks with text imprint in red (*Michel Ost* Nos. P 13-16; *Facit* 80/81 Nos. RP 2-5). Delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration between March 22, 1899, and 1902.



Figure 27 1889/90 entire with scarce Korsnas cancel, 9. XII. 01, to Germany. Earliest known use of this stationery type in Finland.

Lettercards 1890 Text imprint <Russian Text> = closed letter:

5 kopeks (*Michel Ost* No. K 5; *Facit 80/81* No. RK1). First delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration on September 13, 1909; in total, 1,000 items were sold in Finland. According to Fagerholm, not a single item is known.

7 kopeks (*Michel Ost* No. K 6; *Facit 80/81* No. RK 2). Date and size of delivery are not known. According to Fagerholm, 4 items have been found to date with Finnish cancels.

10 kopeks (*Michel Ost* No. K 7; *Facit 80/81* No. RK 3). First delivery on June 30, 1910, size of delivery not known. Fagerholm mentions 6 items with Finnish cancels.

Newspaper mailing wrappers 1890 and 1891.

1 and 2 kopeks without text above value imprint (*Michel Ost* Nos. S 1 + 2; *Facit 80/81* Nos. RB 1 and 2). First delivery to Finland on June 30, 1899.

The same with three lines of text above the value imprint (*Michel Ost* No.'s 3 + 4; *Facit* No.'s RB 3 and RB 4 B, C). First delivery to Finland on January 17, 1913 and October 4 1905, respectively.

Altogether 4,597 items were sold or available for sale in Finland of the 1 kopek value, and 66,522 were sold or available for sale of the 2 kopek value. According to Fagerholm, between 1 and 6 items are known of each issue, for a total of 22 items. A review of recent Finnish auction catalogues indicate that there are additional items in circulation.

1902/06 Russian Definitive Issues

Stamps

From 1 kopek to 7 rubles on vertically laid paper (*Facit* Nos. R1-R17;⁴ *Michel* No.'s 41y-55y, 62, 63) but without the values of 35 and 50 kopeks as well as 1 ruble, which together with the 15 and 25 kopek values should be classified as co-runners.

The first delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration took place on March 18, 1903; in total, 63.7 million items of these issues were delivered to Finland. Of the total, the 2 kopeks by itself accounts for 24 million items, the 70 kopeks, however, only 1,000, and the 7 ruble only 734 items. Consequently, very few items are known of these last two values with Finnish cancels, contrasted to several thousand or more items for the 2 kopek value.

The large number of used 2 kopek stamps is explained from the exchange rate of 1 ruble = 2.70 Finnish marks, which meant that a 10 kopek stamp (the single franking for a letter sent abroad) cost 27 pennies, but a 2 kopek stamp (rounded down) only 5 pennies. One could save 2 pennies, by using on such a letter, five stamps of 2 kopeks instead of one stamp of 10 kopeks. This is the reason why letters with strips of five or blocks of ten (on a registered letter mailed abroad) can be found relatively frequently.

Stationery

Envelopes:

5 kopeks (*Facit* 80/81 No. RF 5 A; *Michel Ost* No. U 35A). First delivery to Finland on September 1909, size of shipment 1,000 items. According to Fagerholm not a single item is known with Finnish cancels.

7 kopeks small and large size; (*Facit* 80/81 No.'s RF 6 A, B; *Michel Ost* Nos. 36 A + B). First delivery is reported on April 25, 1907. Approximately 151,000 items were delivered to the Finnish Postal Administration.

Postal cards: Text imprint <Russian text> = open letter:

Single cards of 3 and 4 kopeks; also double cards with attached reply card in the same denomination (*Facit* 80/81 Nos. RP 6-9; *Michel Ost* Nos. P 17-20). Delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration between April, 1907, and February, 1910. To date, 50 items have been found with Finnish cancels (3 kopeks: 42 items; 4 kopeks: 8 items).

1909 Russian Definitive Issues

Stamps

With certainty, all values of the 1909 definitive issued were sold in Finnish post offices. The delivery to the Finnish PO took place between September/October 1909 and March 2, 1917, when the 5 kopek stamps were delivered. The size of the delivery⁵ amounted in total 88 million items, of which 43 million were the 2 kopek stamp, with the 70 kopek stamp only 27,211. But, according to *Facit*,⁶ only 1,000 stamps were delivered to the Finnish Postal Administration. This last stamp value is the scarcest with approximately 60-65 items known, followed by the 35 kopeks with 90 or so items with Finnish cancels. In contrast, over 20,000 copies of the 2 kopek stamp have been found with Finnish cancels; this is, according to Fagerholm, in round figures a third of all presently known Russian stamps with Finnish cancels!



Figure 28 1889/90 red ink 4 kopek Russian postal card .



Figure 29 An anomaly in the exchange rate allowed for a 2 penni saving on the purchase of five 2 kopek stamps for 25 penni whereas a single 10 kopek stamp cost 27 penni. Two kopek multiples are very common on cover.



Figure 30 The 25 penni and higher values of the 1909 definitive series are most often found on insured letters, money orders and parcel cards.

Stationery

Envelopes of 1913:

7 and 10 kopeks (*Facit* 80/81 Nos. RF 7/8; *Michel* Nos. U 47, 48 A + B). First delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration on October 21, 1913 and July 28, 1914, respectively. According to Fagerholm, one item of 7 kopeks and eight items of the 10 kopek envelopes are known with Finnish cancels.

Lettercards: Cyrillic text <Russian text> translates to "Closed Letter":

- 7 kopeks blue/beige of 1909 (January 13, 1910)
- 7 kopeks blue/blue stiff paper of 1913 (October 21, 1913)
- 10 kopeks blue/blue stiff paper of 1913 (March 13, 1915) (*Facit* 80/81 Nos. RK 4-6; *Michel Ost* Nos. K 9, 12, and 13). The date in parentheses is the date of first delivery to the Finnish Postal Administration.

A total of 25,274 10 kopek lettercards of both the issue of 1909 and 1913 were used in Finland. Of the two lettercard types or folded letters of 7 kopeks, a total of 56 items is known with Finnish cancels; however, the lettercard of 10 kopeks is not mentioned by Fagerholm.

Postal Cards:

Cyrillic text imprint translates to "Post Card" or "Open Letter." Both single and doublecards of 3 and 4 kopeks were delivered to the Finnish Post Office (*Facit* Nos. RP 10-13; *Michel Ost* Nos. P 21-24).

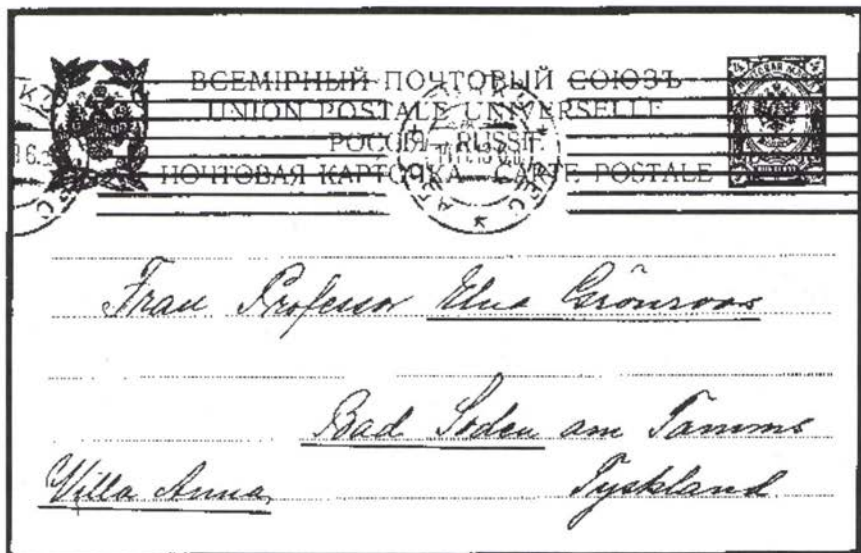


Figure 31 More than 1,000,000 4 kopek 1909 type postal cards were used in Finland. Sweden is the most common destination.

1909 Postal Cards - Dates and Sizes of Delivery

Type	Dates	Quantity
3 kopeks	Nov. 8, 1909	6,775,306
3 + 3 kopeks	Sept. x. 1909	152,500
4 kopeks	Nov. 8, 1909	unknown
4 + 4 kopeks	Oct. 23, 1911	unknown

Sales in Finland

Type	Quantities	Facit Nos.
3 kopeks	3,060,000	RP 2 + RP 6
3 + 3 kopeks	77,000	RP 3 + RP 7
4 kopeks	1,163,638	RP 4 + 8 + 12
4 + 4 kopeks	24,398	RP 5 + 9 + 13

References

- ¹ *Ring Stamp Centennial*, page 31; see Appendix for simplified delivery table based on this data.
- ² The *Scott* catalogues do not separately list, or mention, the purely Russian stamps used in Finland.
- ³ See Appendix for delivery chart.
- ⁴ In the *Facit* catalogues, the 1889 issues on horizontally laid paper are designated P1, the 1902 issues on vertically laid paper are designated P2
- ⁵ See delivery chart in Appendix.
- ⁶ *Facit*, 1995/96, page F-603

Chapter VI

1914/1915 Russian Semi-Postal Charity Stamps



Figure 32 The 1914/15 semi-postal charity stamps with Finnish town cancels, Toijala, Mikkeli, and Helsinki. The 7 kopek value was issued on colored paper only.

These four stamps with an additional charge of 1 kopek were issued in Russia in 1914 on colored paper and in 1915 in changed colors on white paper, in each case in perforation 11.5, 12.5, and 13.5 as well as imperforate (*Facit* Nos. RV1-RV7; *Michel* No.'s 96-104 A-D).

The charity stamps were not regular issues of the Russian postal administration. These special semi-postal stamps were issued by the Imperial Patriotic Women's Organization in St. Petersburg with the permission of the Russian Interior Ministry. This organization also handled the distribution of the stamps to post offices in Russia and Finland. The additional charge of 1 kopek per stamp was intended for aid to wounded soldiers and their next of kin.

Substantial numbers of these stamps were used in Finland. Fagerholm lists 2,342 items in only three years of use with cancellations from at least 77 localities throughout the country. With certainty, these stamps were sold at Finnish post offices. The first series, on colored paper, was sold between September, 1914 and January, 1915 and the stamps on white paper went on sale in March, 1915.

These stamps and the 1915-1917 emergency money stamps were popular with philatelists and are found most often on dealer and collectors' covers from this period. Covers addressed to or from Granberg, Åkesson, Pehrsson, and Gyllenberg, to mention just a few, are more or less philatelic, but this correspondence represents a substantial amount of the available surviving material.

Prior to the demonetization of the charity stamps in Finland and Russia on September 28, 1917, mixed franking with the Finnish eagle, new Russian types of 1911-15 and other mixed issue combination covers were created by dealers and collectors. Again, without the interest of the philatelic community there would be virtually no record of these mixed franking covers.



Figure 33 Popular with philatelists, the war charity stamps are found on many unusual rate covers such as this double weight express cover. Additional 19 kopeks franking on reverse side to meet 40 kopek rate.



Figure 34 1 and 7 kopek values on colored paper. Inspected and passed by a Finnish war censor in Pori, but note censorship stamp in Russian.



Figure 35 Only reported cover of the 13.5 perforated stamps on white paper. The 7 kopek stamp was issued on colored paper only.

Scarcest of the charity stamps on colored paper are the 3 and 10 kopek values perforated 13.5, and the 1, 3, and 10 kopek values on white paper, also perforated 13.5. Of the latter, according to Fagerholm, only 27 (1 kopek), 13 (3 kopeks), and 12 (10 kopeks) items have been found with Finnish cancels.

The letter above shows the three stamps of 1, 3, and 10 kopeks on white paper in perforation 13.5. According to correspondence from the late Mr. Fagerholm, no other letter with this franking is known.

Chapter VII

Finland Currency Issues of 1901 and 1911

Based on the Postal Manifesto of 1890, the Russian Minister of the Interior confirmed on July 23, 1899, a directive to the Russian postal administration to require purely Russian stamps for mail in Finland without any differentiating marks or rings, and to do so effective January 1, 1900 for mail abroad and effective July 1, 1900 for domestic mail.

This decree was never carried out in this way. Because of the strong objections of the Finnish Senate, which protested to the Czar himself, the Czar granted the Finns, in a "lenient proclamation," the right to issue stamps for domestic mail denominated in Finnish currency. This was followed on May 18, 1900 by the final decision of the Russian Minister of the Interior to require purely Russian stamps for mail abroad on August 14, 1900, and starting on January 14, 1901, the corresponding stamps with denominations in penni and marks for domestic mail. These stamps had to be identical in design and color to the corresponding Russian stamps.

Stamps

Thus, effective January 14, 1901, the stamps of 2, 5, 10, and 20 penni, as well as 1 and 10 marks (corresponding to the Russian stamps of 1, 2, 4, 7, and 35 kopeks and 3.5 rubles), were issued in Finland (*Scott* Nos. 64-74; *Facit* Nos. 48-60; *Michel* Nos. 48-60a-c).

When the 1889 and 1902/06 definitive issues were withdrawn from use in Russia and were replaced by stamps of a new design, the Eagle definitive issues of 1909/1918, the Finnish domestic stamps were changed as well. The corresponding Finnish issues were in the same design and colors of the Russian Eagle stamps but in Finnish currency denominations (*Scott* Nos. 77-81; *Facit* Nos. 62-66; *Michel* Nos. 61-65).

The 10 mark stamp was issued in 1913 on white paper and in 1915 in changed design and perforation (*Scott* Nos. 75, 82; *Facit* Nos. 60, 61; *Michel* Nos. 60a-c).

Stationery

All Finnish postal stationery is listed in the *Norma Catalogues* except in the 1994/95 edition.¹

Only one postal envelope was issued for domestic mail during this period, namely the 20 penny large envelope first issued in 1901. This envelope met the first class letter rate (15 grams) until 1914. Wide and narrow gum types are recognized. There were several printings on smooth and different types of laid paper (*Norma* No. 37).

Single and double postcards of 10 penni value or 10 + 10 penni red were first issued in 1901 (*Norma* Nos. 33-37) and a new style of single and double

cards was released in 1911 (*Norma* Nos. 38-39).

These postal stationery items are known with additional franking with Russian stamps. Such items are more commonly found canceled during the last several months of validity for Russian franking in Finland, i.e. October and November, 1917.

A Return Receipt Card (Retourkort) was issued in 1901 (*Norma* No. 10).

A detailed discussion of these issues is outside the scope of this review. Nevertheless, it is important to mention these issues as they clearly demonstrate the degree of control realized by the Russian Ministry of the Interior in diminishing the Finnish national identity in its postal stamps. Yet, they were Finland's only Finnish stamps and an occasional accidental or attempted invalid protest use to abroad may be found. All of the Russian design, Finnish currency stamps were withdrawn from post office counters at the end of May, 1918 and demonetized on June 1, 1920.



Figure 36 Occasionally, the Finnish eagle stamps were successfully used on mail abroad; censor tape (text and stamp on back) affixed in Tornio. Backstamped at Helsingborg, Sweden. Note the similarity in design of the Russian and Finnish stamps.

References

- ¹ A special postal stationery edition of *Norma* was scheduled for publication in conjunction with **FINLANDIA 95**; however unexpected problems arose and its publication was canceled. A postal stationery section will be included in the next edition of *Norma*. Listings in this *Posthorn* Supplement refer to *Norma Special Catalogue*, 1988/89 edition.

Chapter VIII

The Co-runners - Mitläufer

Co-runners are Russian stamps and postal stationery that were used in Finland between May 1, 1891, and March 12, 1918, but had not been ordered by the Finnish Postal Administration and were not sold in post offices in Finland. The term co-runner, or Mitläufer, also applies to those stamps for which sale by Finnish postal authorities cannot be proven from available government or post office archival records.



Figure 37 The 1889 Russian definitive issues (ringless) were valid franking in Finland concurrently with the Ring stamps throughout the 1890's. Therefore, it is impossible to identify the earliest cancellations of ringless issues sold by the Finnish Post Office in 1899/1900. The 1889 5 kopek issue on this 1894 cover was never sold by the Finnish Post Office, the 1 kopek issues went on sale in March, 1899.

Theoretically, all stamps valid in Russia in this time period (1891-1918) could be found with Finnish cancels. Many of these co-runners were imported and used by philatelists of that time. The telegraph offices obtained their needed stamp supplies directly from Russia. Members of Russian society liked to spend their summers as spa vacation guests in Finland, for example at Terijoki, and frequently franked letters with the Russian ringless stamps for correspondence back to Russia and for domestic mail. Members of the Russian armed forces stationed in Finland also added to the use of Russian stamps in Finland. So, there were many possibilities to bring Russian stamps into the country without having to purchase stamps from the local Finnish post office.

In detail, the following issues belong to the group of co-runners or Mitläufer.

Russian Definitive Issues

Issue of 1889: 5 kopeks on horizontally laid paper (*Facit* No. RM1; *Michel* No. 44x).

Issue of 1902/04: 35 and 50 kopeks as well as 1 ruble on vertically laid paper (*Facit* Nos. RM2, RM3, & RM4; *Michel* Nos. 47y, 54y, & 55y).

Issue of 1905: 15 and 25 kopeks (*Facit*, unlisted; *Michel* Nos. 56, 57). It is possible that 1,000 each of these two stamps were included in the delivery on September 13, 1909, but this cannot be proven with certainty.¹ Accordingly, they have to be classified as co-runners. Fagerholm mentions two items of the 25 kopeks with a Finnish cancel. Possibly this is the only known cover.

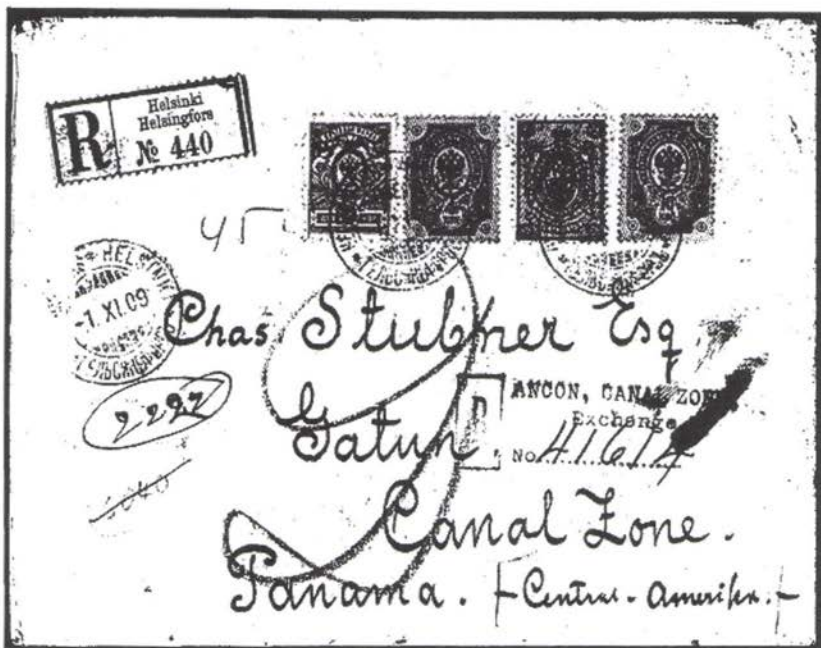


Figure 38 Only reported cover with 1902 vertically laid 25 kopek Russian issue. Helsinki, November 1, 1909 to the Canal Zone.

Issue of 1909 imperforate: namely the values of 1-5, 15, 20 kopeks, 1 and 7 rubles (*Facit* Nos. RM30-38; *Michel* Nos. 109 and following). These stamps remained imperforate after the perforation machine was destroyed in the disturbances of the February (old calendar) Revolution in 1917 in Russia. This happened after the Finnish Postal Administration had received its final shipment of Russian stamps. Thus, it is a certainty that these imperforate stamps were not sold at Finnish post offices.

Issue of 1909 overprints: 10/7 and 20/14 kopeks of 1916/17 on the original 1909 definitive issues. (*Facit* Nos. RM28 & RM29; *Michel* Nos. 107/108). These stamps were not ordered by the Finnish Postal Administration and thus could not have been sold at Finnish post offices. They may have been included in deliveries of ordinary stamps to the Finnish Postal Administration. However, there are no receiving or inventory records supporting that possibility.

1905 Charity Semi-Postal Stamps

These stamps with additional charge (*Facit* Nos. RM5 - RM8; *Michel* Nos. 58-61) were issued in three perforations in the cause of the Russian-Japanese War by a patriotic women's organization. This organization, and not the Imperial Postal Administration, organized the printing and distribution of these stamps throughout the country.

These stamps were never sold by Finnish post offices, even though items are known with Finnish cancellations. They are all quite scarce; according to Fagerholm, fewer than 25 items have been found. It should be noted that it is our judgement that Fagerholm referenced items include individual stamps on and off cover. In this regard it is our belief that there are more than 25 canceled 1905 charity stamps items held by collectors. Covers with complete sets are known addressed to Philadelphia, PA, Sweden, and Germany.



Figure 39 Accurately franked 7 kopek 1905 war charity issue on cover from Helsinki, July 14, 1905 to Moscow. Backstamped, July 3 & 4, 1905.

1913 Romanov Commemorative Issues

This beautiful set was issued in 1913 for the 300th year anniversary of the ascension of the House of Romanov to the throne (*Facit* Nos. RM9-RM25; *Michel* Nos. 79-95). To this were added in 1916 the overprint stamps 10/7 and 20/14 kopeks (*Facit* Nos. RM26 & RM27; *Michel* Nos. 105/106).



Figure 40 The Romanov issues are known with more than one hundred Finnish town cancels. Nevertheless, there is no documentary proof were sold at these post offices. Joensuu, 11. IX. 17, to Laimaa.

The classification of these stamps has been disputed by Finnish philatelists for many decades. Fagerholm asserts that there is proof that the Romanov stamps were sold in Finland in the post offices of a number of cities, without offering any documentary evidence to support that assertion.

In contrast, the specialized catalogues of *Facit* and *LaPe* and the editors of the *SFFF Handbook* series list this issue only as a co-runner with the reasoning that these stamps were never ordered by the Finnish Postal Administration and were never sold at post offices in Finland. However, they imply that the 1-4, 15, 20, 35, and 50 kopek and 1 ruble stamps and the two overprint values of 1916 may have been included in shipments to the Finnish Postal Administration of definitive stamps, but there are absolutely no surviving orders or receiving entries in the post office records.

In this context, the classification of the Romanov stamps as co-runners is justified until proof of sale by the Finnish post offices can be substantiated by official post office records. On the other hand, one cannot overlook that Fagerholm's research found almost 3,500 items of these 1913 issues and about 300 items of the overprint stamps with Finnish cancels. 1,677 items were found with Helsinki cancels, 859 items with Uleåborg cancels, and 106 items with Nikolaistad cancels. Altogether, 107 different locality cancels are known on Romanov stamps. The high number of cancels in total, the broad distribution throughout the country, and the remarkable concentration of cancellations for several larger cities could certainly justify the presumption that, at least in several cities, sales of these stamps by the post offices took place.

Postal Stationery

All stationery not listed above under Chapter V, 1 - 4 has to be classified as co-runners. These are specifically listed according to the *Facit Special Catalogue 1980/81*, page F-34: See table of co-runners on page 43.

Some Russian postal stationery items such as the 1890 type, 5 kopek lettercard (*Michel Ost K 5*) are listed as having been sold by the Finnish Post Office, but are known with Finnish cancellations only as co-runners; i.e. canceled earlier than the date sold by the Finnish Post. These same peculiar facts also apply to the 1907 type, 5 kopek small envelope (*Facit RF5; Michel Ost U 36*) which is not known with Finnish cancellations after the delivery date to the Finnish Post; this includes the H:fors-P.Burg railroad cancellation.

The 1886 red ink 3 kopek single card (*Michel Ost P 7*) has not been found with a Finnish town cancellation. A 3 + 3 intact double card (*Michel Ost P 8*) with additional franking is known used to Natal, South Africa.

The status of the 1889 postal cards is also unclear. The 4 kopek, three line, black ink postal card (*Michel Ost P 11*) is listed in *Norma* but not in *Facit*. It is unmentioned by Fagerholm, but known canceled in Finland. Finding the double card (*Michel Ost P 12*) canceled after delivery to the Finnish Post in 1899 is very difficult. Examples of these postal cards with Finnish town cancels from the 1890's have been shown in Professor Lauri Siivonen's exhibition collection. In fact, most of these cards with Finnish cancellations predate delivery to the Finnish Post; they are better known as co-runners.



Figure 41 1,000 5 kopek lettercards may have been sold by the Finnish Post in 1909, but it is known canceled only as a co-runner, i.e., postmarked prior to September, 1909, except several later Granberg items (without arrival cancellations) have been recently reported.

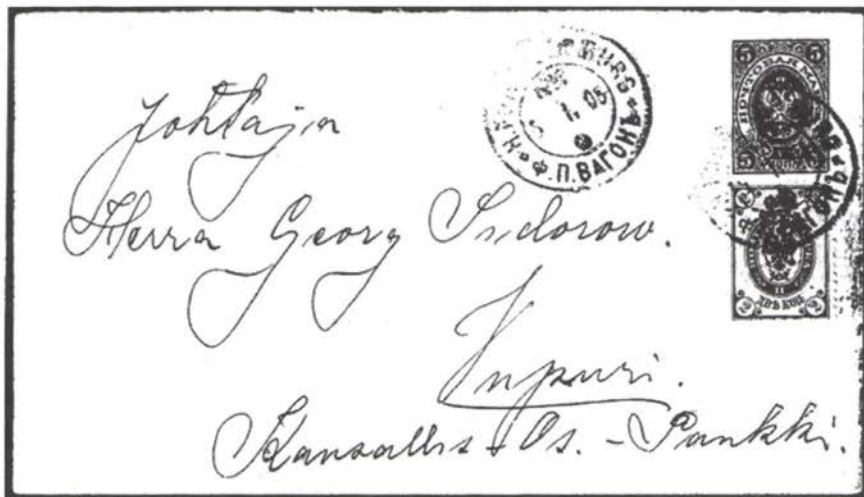


Figure 42 Not a single item of this type stationery is known with a Finnish cancellation after September, 1909. All the earlier cancellations as above, January 5, 1908, classify these stationeries as co-runners. Who has a later town cancellation? Surely, philatelic items must be in circulation.

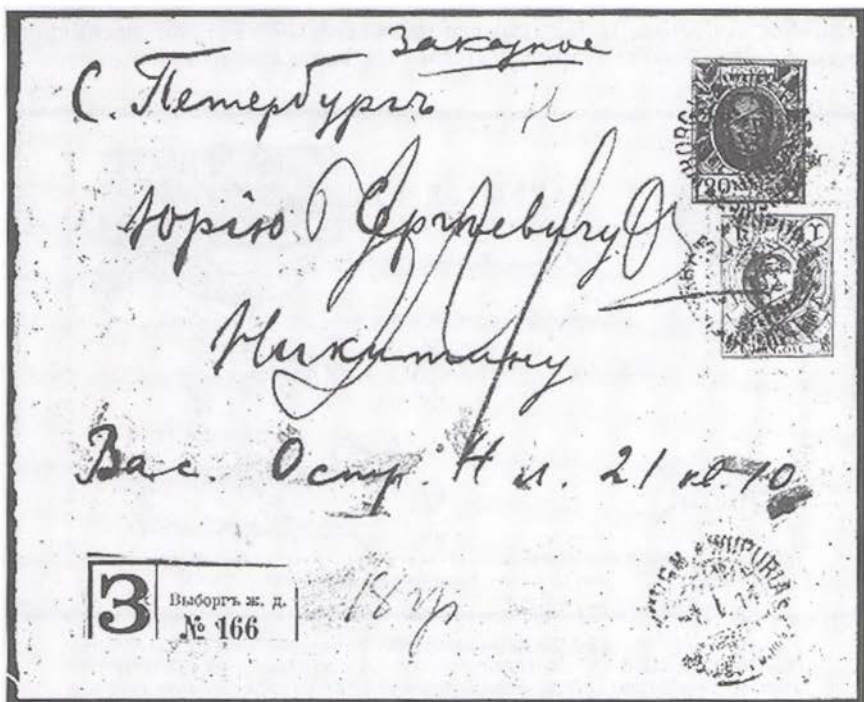


Figure 43 Romanov postal stationery and wrappers are very difficult to find with Finnish town cancellations. 20 kopek large envelope from Wyborg to St. Petersburg correctly addressed in the Russian style.

We encourage collectors who may own any of these items with Finnish town cancellations after the reported delivery date to the Finnish Post to report them in the philatelic press.

Also, we have not found the 4 + 4 1906 double card (*Michel Ost P 20*) used in Finland; surely they are possible. The 1917 Kerensky card (*Michel Ost P 29*) is also rather elusive. It is not known used in Finland to foreign destinations and it is surprisingly scarce with added kopek and/or penni franking during the inflation period of October and November, 1917.

This is one area of Finnish postal history for which we do not have a definitive listing of items received and sold by the Finnish Post Office; earliest and last usages; and other usages as permitted such as mixed franking with Finnish penni issues. Therefore, it would be especially helpful for collectors to add their research to the current knowledge base.

Petersburg correctly addressed in the Russian style.

Russian Postal Stationery: Co-runners

Stationery Type	Year	Description
Envelopes	1890	5 kopeks lilac, small size
	1909	3/5 kopeks lilac, large & small
	1913	3 kopeks red, large & small
		Romanov: 3, 7, 14, & 20 kopeks large & small and overprint issues of 10/7 & 20/14 kopeks
Lettercards	1890	5 kopeks lilac
	1890	7 kopeks, yellow-white stiff paper
	1913	Romanov: 3, 7, & 10 kopeks
	1913	3 kopeks red, light blue stiffpaper
	1916	Overprint 10/7 kopeks, blue
Postal Cards	1886	3 + 3 kopeks, black ink, four lines
	1889	4 kopeks, black ink, three lines
		4 + 4 kopeks, black ink, four lines of text
	1913	Romanov: 3, & 4 kopeks;
		Romanov: 3 + 3; 4 kopeks half cards only
Wrappers	1917	Kerensky: 5 kopeks brown
	1913	Romanov: 1 kopek orange & 2 kopeks green
Money Order		25 kopeks red

References

1 See *Handbook*, Vol. II, page 196.

2 According to Facit, 1,000 items were delivered to the Finnish Post in September, 1909.

3 According to Facit, 1,000 items were delivered to the Finnish Post in September, 1909

Chapter IX

Emergency Money Stamps 1915/17

Soon after the outbreak of hostilities of W.W. I, a shortage of small denomination coins for change appeared in Russia. The Russian Ministry of Finance therefore replaced metal coins with paper money in the form of bills and stamps.

The first "stamp" coin issues were released in November 1915 in the values of 10, 15 and 20 kopeks of the Romanov series. They were printed on stiff paper and were not gummed in keeping with their intended use. These stamp coins showed on the reverse the Czarist Coat-of-Arms with the Russian text translated: "Has equal validity with silver coins" (*Facit* Nos. RN1-RN3; *Michel* Nos. I a-c).

These paper coins were often confused with stamps and were occasionally used to frank letters. This was tolerated by the Finnish Post Office in the period from October 21 to December 18, 1915, after which it was forbidden. Items with later cancels are often philatelic creations, favor cancels, or letters inadvertently overlooked by postal employees. Philatelic covers with complete sets of the 1915 money stamps are fairly common. They are all overfranked.



Figure 44 1915 10 kopek money stamp with Finnish KPXP No. 10 RR cds, 7. IV. 16, to Reval, Estonia. Unusual single stamp franking.

Three more paper coin values were issued in 1917 with overprints on the front and back of 1/1, 2/2, and 3 kopeks on Romanov "stamp" values. (*Facit* Nos. RMN1-RMN-3; *Michel* Nos. II a-e, III a-c). They show on the reverse the Czarist Coat-of-Arms with the Russian text translated as: "Has equal validity with copper coins." Later, the 1/1 kopek paper coin was reprinted without the Coat-of-Arms on the back (*Facit* No. RMN4).



Figure 45 Although never officially allowed for postage, examples are known in both domestic and foreign traffic. This complete set was canceled at Äggelby, 5. XII. 17.

The 1917 emergency money stamps with Finnish cancels cannot be classified as co-runners, rather they belong in their own category. Their use as stamps was expressly forbidden and had been merely unofficially tolerated for a short period. They were, after all, money and not stamps. The *Michel Catalogue* is therefore logically consistent when it refers to them as stamp forgeries. The *Facit Catalogue* classifies them as co-runners despite acknowledging that they were officially invalid for franking mail.



Figure 46 4 kopek Romanov commemorative and a complete set of 1917 money stamps on a post card to Copenhagen.



Figure 47 Combination covers franked with co-runners were popular with philatelists as the Russian period came to a close. 2 kopek Romanov, 20 kopek money coin, and several imperforate values on cover from Åggelby, 22. I. 18, via Helsinki to Copenhagen. One week later, mail from Red Finland to abroad was suspended because of the Finnish Civil War. When service resumed, kopek franking was already invalidated.

Chapter X

Special Cancellations: 1890-1918

The 1893/94 Russian type circular date stamp is the most common cancellation occurring in Finland from the beginning of the Russian Period until 1918. In addition, one can find the postage due accounting cancels ("Poststyrelsens Räkenskaps Afdelning") as well as the postal wagon (train) cancels relatively often on Russian stamps. Other special cancellations are far less frequent, and some are relatively scarce on Russian stamps and stationery used in Finland.

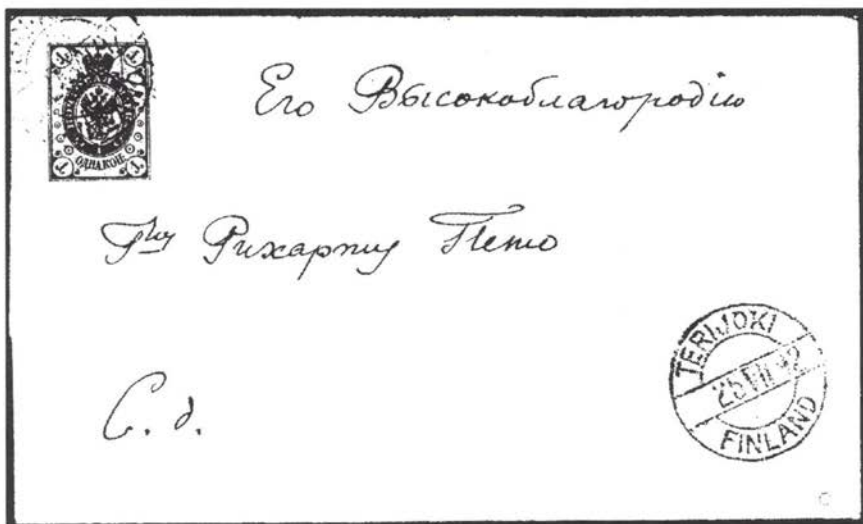


Figure 48 "Finland" cancel on 1892 Terijoki church notice with 1 kopek Ring stamp to meet local printed matter rate. Unusual domestic use.

1888 Finland Cancels

Beginning in 1888, the independent Finnish Postal Administration ordered several types of FINLAND cancellation handstamps. However, as explained in Chapter 1, this cancellation type was replaced with the trilingual Russian Type in 1893/94, which remained in use until late 1918. The removal of the FINLAND cancellations follows other postal changes culminating in the loss of Finnish identity on letters mailed in Finland. Although very scarce, some 25 stamps and covers with the FINLAND cancellations have been reported on the purely Russian stamps. The scarcity would likely be explained by the fact that, except for cancels on precursors, they could occur on Russian stamps only in 1892 and 1893, because they were withdrawn from use by the end of 1893.

More common, but relatively difficult to find on or off cover, are the FINLAND cancellations on Ring stamps like the one shown above.¹

1873 Double Ring Type Cancellations

This type of date cancellation remained in parallel use with the Finland cancels and was also withdrawn by late 1893. The authors are unaware of any Russian definitive stamps of 1889 with this cancellation. However, they are known on Ring stamps and covers from 1891 to 1893.²

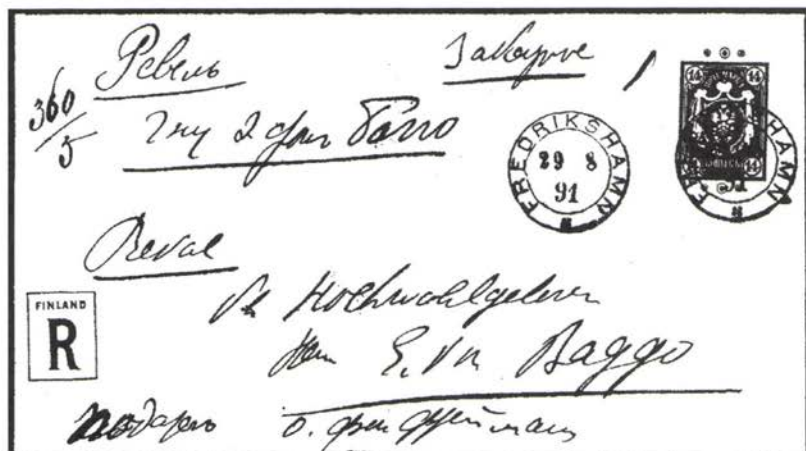


Figure 49 Fredrikshamn 1873 type double ring cancellation, 29. 8. 91, on registered, 14 kopek small Ring entire to Reval. The Finland registration label was replaced in 1896 with the red framed rectangular "R" type with locality name.

Village / Mail Stop Cancellations

To date, about 550 items of the village cancels from 143 localities have been found. With some luck, the collector who searches may come across new, currently unknown, cancels.³



Figure 50 Ojakkala mail stop cancellation on post card to Buenos Aires.

The Ojakkala mail stop cancellation is known on a variety of Russian definitive issues over a period of years, while the Kauttua cancel shown in the following illustration was first reported just a few years ago.



Figure 51 The Kauttua mail stop cancellation was first reported by Vorwerck in 1991.

Carrier Cancels

They are not often found on Russian stamps. Fagerholm mentions 240 items from 69 different postal routes. New discoveries are possible here as well, as shown in the previously unreported carrier cancel 434, Perniö As-Kkaolen Kylä, on a 4 kopek post card to Sweden.⁴

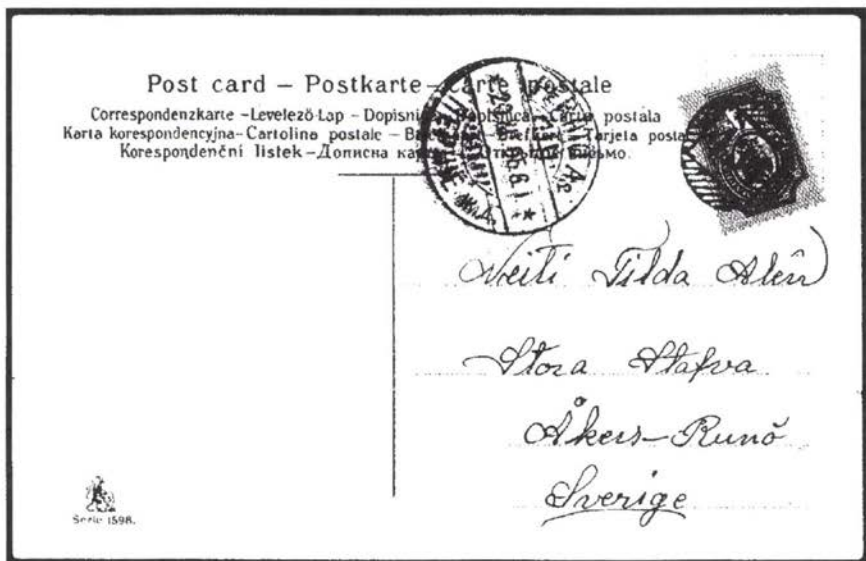


Figure 52 Newly discovered Route 434, Perniö As-Kkaolen Kylä with Perniö As cds, 20. XII. 05, on New Year's greeting to Sweden.

Figure Cancels

These cancellations must be classified as great rarities on Russian stamps as just two items have been recorded to date. However, these cancels are known on Ring stamps, but they too are difficult to find as rural Finns served by independent carriers had little commerce or correspondence with Russia and therefore did not have a significant requirement for the Ring stamps or the ringless Russian definitive issues.

Ship Cancels

The ship cancels are not quite as scarce as the figure cancels mentioned above, but it does need some luck to find an occasional stamp or even a complete letter. According to Fagerholm's research, about 60 Russian stamps with ship cancels have been found to date, but it is almost certain that since his book was published more than twenty-five years ago, additional items have come to light. Finnish ship cancels on Russian stamps are known from Viborg, Helsinki, Turku and Hanko.



Figure 53 Turku ship cancel on 3 kopek Ring postal card with Åbo cds.

This is another area where more information from collectors would be useful to supplement the authors' and Fagerholm's research. At this juncture we are not sure if every Finnish ship cancel from the period is known on the Russian stamps and, with the present day limited information, it is certainly not possible to develop a census for these cancellations.



Figure 54 Alberga straight line railroad station cancellation.

Foreign Cancels

It is also possible to include in this group of special cancellations those cancels of Russian stamps on Finnish mail canceled at a foreign destination. The most common foreign cancel is the FRÅN FINLAND Stockholm harbor cancel. This cancel is usually struck to the left of the stamp and the stamp itself is always canceled with a Stockholm arrival cds. "The Danish from Finland" cancellation is quite rare. See Figure 18, page 21.

The Iz Finlandia ("From Finland" in the Cyrillic alphabet) cancel was used in St. Petersburg on uncanceled mail arriving from Finland. These letters were often, although not necessarily, mailed on ships departing Helsinki and other Finnish ports for Russia. These cancels are not rare, but clear, strong strikes on cover are seldom found.



Figure 55 'Iz Finlandia' struck at St. Petersburg, then to Moscow.

References

- 1 See: Suomen Postileimojen Käsikirja, Volume III, SFFF, Helsinki, 1991.
- 2 See: Suomen Postileimojen Käsikirja, Volume II, SFFF, Helsinki, 1977. 27 different double ring town cancellations are known on Ring stamps on and off cover. Rarity factor for each is 9 (3 or 4 known) or 10 (1 or 2 known).
- 3 Das fehlende Glied, p. 28.

Appendix - Rates

The postal rate structure in Finland from May, 1891 to March, 1918 was relatively stable but complicated by two weight measuring systems and two currencies. Russian weight measures were used from May, 1891 for inland letters and to Russia at 12.8 grams (rounded to 13) = 1 luotia. First weight letter to the rest of the world = 15 grams. Russian weights were withdrawn for domestic mail in 1900 and on mail to Russia in 1914.

The Finnish and Russian currencies affected the computation of postal charges and rates in several ways. In the 1890's, the ruble-mark exchange rate fluctuated considerably while the postage 'rate' remained constant. The cost in marks for a 7 kopek letter to Russia could vary 15 to 20% in the course of a year with the result that the Finnish post office suffered substantial losses in the early years of Russian franking.

Computing accurate franking for money orders and insured letters in the different currencies can be difficult. It was possible to send domestic money orders in rubles franked with Finnish currency stamps and vice versa. Money orders to foreign destinations, except Russia, were sent in Swedish krona. Insured money letters to foreign destinations were valued in French gold francs. Value items to Russia were usually marked in rubles, sometimes in francs.

Fluctuating exchange rates, especially during the inflation period of October and November, 1917, lead to several short lived rates and many rate errors on Finnish domestic mail.¹

The following table provides a simplified ready reference for the reader of this Supplement. For detailed rate information, see *The Ring Stamp and Postal Stationery Centennial* and *Suomen Postimaksuja* in the bibliography.



Figure 56 In June, 1917, the domestic letter rate was 25 penni or 10 kopeks. The two kopek Russian was equivalent to 5 penni, plus pair of 10 penni Finnish issues for combined accurate franking of 25 penni. This is a very common mixed franking combination.

Kopek Postal Rates in Finland

Effective, May 1, 1891

Type of Mail	Weight in Grams	Domestic	To Russia	Weight in Grams Abroad	Abroad
Letter I	*-13	7 kop	7 kop	-15	10 kop
Letter II	14-26	14 kop	14 kop	16-30	20 kop
Local Letter	-13	3 kop			
Registered			7 kop		10 kop
Postcard			3 kop		4 kop
Printed Postcard			2 kop		2 kop
Double Card		6 kop	6 kop		8 kop
Wrappers					
- documents	** -52	3 kop	7 kop	-50	10 kop
	53-104	7 kop	7 kop	51-100	10 kop
-printed	-13	1 kop	1 kop	-50	2 kop
	-52	2 kop	2 kop	51-100	4 kop
-merchandise	-52	3 kop	3 kop	-50	4 kop

* 13 grams = 1 luotia. Effective January 1, 1901, kopek franked letters within Finland were measured in 15 gram units, same as mail abroad. This weight measure was applied on mail to Russia effective with the October 4, 1914 rate changes.

** 52 grams = 4 luotia

Rate Changes to Russia - October 4, 1914

Letter*	-15	10 kop	10 kop
Letter II	16-30	20 kop	20 kop
Registered		10 kop	10 kop
Postcard		4 kop	4 kop

Rate Changes- to Russia, Sept. 5; & Abroad, Sept. 14, 1917

Letter I	-15		15 kop	20 kop
Letter II	15-30		30 kop	40 kop
Registered				20 kop
Postcard			5 kop	8 kop

Rate Changes - Domestic Mail -October 1 & 4, 1917

The devaluation of the ruble resulted in rate increases for all classes of kopek franked domestic mail. International mail rates were not affected. For example, Letter Rate I went to 12 kopeks and three days later to 24 kopeks; postcards went to 6 kopeks, then to 12 kopeks. Delays in distributing notices to post offices meant delays in charging the new higher rates for kopek franking. The October 4th rates were not fully implemented for two or three weeks. Franking errors are common. Kopek franking was invalidated for domestic mail on November 29, 1917 and for international mail on March 12, 1918.



Figure 57 This 5000 marks, express money order was sent from Viborg to Helsinki on September 10, 1917. Franked with 4.89 rubles Russian issues. 5000 marks = 1880 rubles. Money order rate was .25 of face amount of money order. $1880 \times .25 = 4.70$ rubles. Express rate was 50 penni or 19 kopeks. This money order was accurately franked.



Figure 58 1913 insured money letter to Austria in the amount of 45 rubles, 40 kopeks. In accordance with UPU practices, value was converted to 98 francs, 46 centimes. 23 grams, double weight letter = 20 kopeks; registration fee = 10 kopeks; insurance for each 300 francs = 6 kopeks; and 2 kopeks for wax seals = accurate 38 kopeks franking.

Annotated Bibliography & References

The most complete representation of this area of Finnish postal history is the work of Sven Fagerholm, *Das fehlende Glied*, first published in 1969. (See below). This book was reprinted in 1985/86 by the Scandinavian study group of the German Philatelic Organization and served as a basis for Dirk Vorwerck's paper. Two comments concerning *Das fehlende Glied* are appropriate. The argument that certain Russian issues such as the 1913 Romanov stamps were certainly sold by the Finnish Post Office is unsubstantiated and without supporting documentary evidence. Further, the estimates of known items reported by Fagerholm were undoubtedly understated. Since the publication of Fagerholm's work, there has been increasing interest in this collecting area in Finland, western Europe and the United States. Important items, quietly resting in collectors' albums for decades, are now appearing on exhibition pages, the auction marketplace, and more importantly, in philatelic journals.

Catalogues

Facit Special Catalogue;

1980/1981, pages F-26-34. Very complete postal stationery listing.
1995/1996, pages F-599-609. Most comprehensive catalogue listing, although postal stationery has not been included since the 1980/1981 edition. Recent editions include full English text.

Norma Special Catalogue;

1988/89. Listings for Finnish postal stationery begin on page 222.
1994/95, pages 269-272. Listings do not include catalogue numbers for all Russian stamps and postal stationery used in Finland and do not differentiate between Russian stamps ordered and sold by the Finnish Post Office and stamps brought to Finland by philatelists, tourists, Russian officials and others. Concerning the co-runner issue, the editors of *Norma* write:

The question of which denominations or types of stamps were imported from Russia by the Finnish Post Office is a moot point and can only be determined in part. Not that the question bears any legal pertinence, since they were all valid, as was decreed in Circular XII of April 20, 1891.

The 1994/95 edition does not include a listing for Finnish postal stationery.

Michel Europe Catalogue; 1988/89

Michel Ganzsachen-katalog Europa Ost; 1994/1995

LaPe Catalogue; 1983/84, pages 284 ff. 1988, pages 437 ff. Russian listings are not included in every edition. Text in Finnish and Swedish.

Scott Catalogue, 1995/1996

The *Scott* catalogues provide a good listing of Russian stamps without referencing possible use in Finland. See *Facit* or *Norma Catalogues*.

General Listings

- Arvelin, Seppo; *The Ring Stamp and Postal Stationery Centennial May 1, 1991*, Hanko, 1991. Full text in Finnish and English. Contains good review of the origins of the Russian period. Excellent examples of mixed franking covers shown. Excellent rate tables.
- Dromberg, D. A.; "Suomessa Käytetyt Venäjän Postimerkit" *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*, Vol. II, pages 194-196, Helsinki, 1982. Text in Finnish. Tables are based on Post Office archival records, showing dates and quantities of Russian stamps delivered to the Finnish Post. Note that some delivery dates and quantities listed are different in *Facit*.
- Fagerholm, Sven; *Das fehlende Glied (The Missing Link)*, Helsingfors, 1968. First and most important study to date; text in German. Excellent statistical analysis of Russian stamps used in Finland, but, as noted above, author's argument that certain Russian stamps were sold by the Finnish Post is not supported by Finnish Post Office records.
- Hillesum, Rene; "De russificering van Finland," *Het Noorderlicht*, No. 89, October, 1986, pages 16-35. Fine overview. Text in Dutch.
- Johansson, Valter V.; *Russian Stamps In The Postal History of Finland*, Pargas, 1993. This privately published volume reproduces the author's collection with annotations of rates and postal markings. Mostly in English. Some very unusual and interesting objects are illustrated.
- Mattila, Esa; *Suomen Postimaksuja 1881-1985*, Loimaa, 1985. (Finnish Postal Rates 1881-1985) The standard reference on rates.
- Poutvaara, Matti; *Postia sortokaudelta*, K. J. Gummerus, OY, Jyväskylä, Finland, 1973. Profusely illustrated history of the passive resistance to Russification of the Finnish Post Office and culture circa 1900-1901. All relevant post office directives of the period are reproduced. Text in Finnish, no English or German summaries.
- Quinby, Roger P.; "Finnish Postal History 1891-1918," *Finlandia 95, Bulletin No. 2*, Helsinki, 1994. Thumbnail sketch of the Russification of the Finnish Post, illustrated with items from author's exhibit.
- Vorwerck, Dirk; *Die Verwendung russischer Postwertzeichen in Finnland 1890- 1918*. Text in German. This overview provides the basis and organizational structure for the *Posthorn* Supplement.
- Zimmermann, Bengt; "Rengasmerkit 1891" *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsikirja*, Vol. II, p 182-193, Helsinki, 1982. Text in Finnish.

