



# The Finnish Philatelist

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## The Finnish Philatelist

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

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## Editor's Message

The supplement with this issue concludes the listings of Finnish W.W. I censor stamps and resealing tapes from the Olamo handbook. However, these lists are far from complete and new censor stamp or censor mark discoveries await the patient and diligent collector. See the cover shown on page 16. Censor stamps used during the Finnish War of Independence (Civil War) and thereafter on foreign mail (to 1919-1920?) is far more difficult area of study; items are scarce and censorship administration was more haphazard. Possibly we will have something to publish on this area in the not too distant future.

My wife and I visited Germany and attended IBRA last month and met for the first time our frequent contributor and good friend, Dirk Vorwerck. We discussed the possibilities for collaborating on a few projects. IBRA was a smashing success; the show was very well attended and I was especially struck by the number of families at the show. The bourse was very busy and the exhibits were fantastic. Congratulations to Austrian FSG member A. K. Loidl for his fine exhibit on classic Finland. We visited with Kaj Hellman and, of course, added a few items to the collection.

The next issue of TFP will be a double issue. It will be sent out sometime after I return from Turku and Nordia 99 in early October. Every cover tells a story - send something for TFP - we miss not hearing from you. Enjoy the summer.



*Is this 20 kopek entire the earliest known kopek franked cover to Australia? Nystad, 11. 9. 93, via St. Petersburg, Bologna, & Melbourne, 16. 10. 93.*

# 1917 Saarinen Type & 1918 Vaasa Type Postal Cards

## Norma Nos. 40 - 58

from *Suomen Postimerkkien Käsaikirja*, Volume 5, 1970

by Ilmari Koskimies

translated by Carita Parker

m/17 1917 - 1929 TYPE SAARINEN  
POSTAL CARDS

Size 140 x 90 mm with minor deviations. The value mark was designed by Eliel Saarinen. Initially, the cards were printed by Finland's Charta Sigillata printing office. Beginning in 1923, the printing was done at the Bank of Finland Mint. The printed sheet consisted of 32 (4 x 8) cards.

The typical paper board characteristics presented here often appear obvious only on the other side of the card which may actually be the reverse side also.



Figure 1. 20 penni single card and 40 penni doublecard with address side without vertical dividing line in center.

10 PENNI RED

Issued: November 3, 1917.

Printed quantity: 4,541,000.

- A. Grainy, coarse paper board
  - a. carmine
  - b. red
- B. Grainy or textured, smooth or smooth-like paper board
  - b. red
- C. On paper board surface, a horizontally embossed streak caused by dot like indentations.
  - a. carmine

- b. red
- c. dark lilac

USAGE

The postage rate for the cards had increased on October 1, 1917 from 10 penni to 15 penni. Hence, the added 5 penni postage on standard cards to April 15, 1918, and from there on a 10 penni value had to be added.

The Vaasa Senate increased the rate to 20 penni beginning April 16, 1918, and the Senate in Helsinki likewise on April 25th. Few cancelled specimens without added postage have gone as printed material. On the reverse side of these there are various printed or duplicate notices or only the word "greetings" in longhand and sender's name. Also known are small quantities of cards inadvertently delivered after the rate increase and lacking the added postage; or those having reached their destinations carrying a T-mark or 'postage due' mark.

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

m/18 VAASA TYPE POSTAL CARDS

Size 140 x 90 mm with minor irregularities. Value mark designed by Matti Björklund (Visanti). Printing done by the Julius Björklund lithography company in Vaasa. The printed sheet consisted of 30 (5 x 6) cards.

15 PENNI GRAY

Issued March 14, 1918.

Printed quantity: 101,000.

- a. olive gray
- b. gray

Special characteristics

Right-side slanted line on headline letter “M” is broken and the upper cusp of the right-side vertical pillar is thick and irregular; several found. On headline second row letter “o” right-side there is a white dot; several items are known.

Unofficial curiosities:

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

### USAGE

The postage rate for the cards increased to 20 penni after the Vaasa Senate decision on April 16, 1918, and the Helsinki Senate order on April 25th. The card usage without added postage was thus short-lived and objects so mailed are extremely scarce. After the rate increase, objects delivered

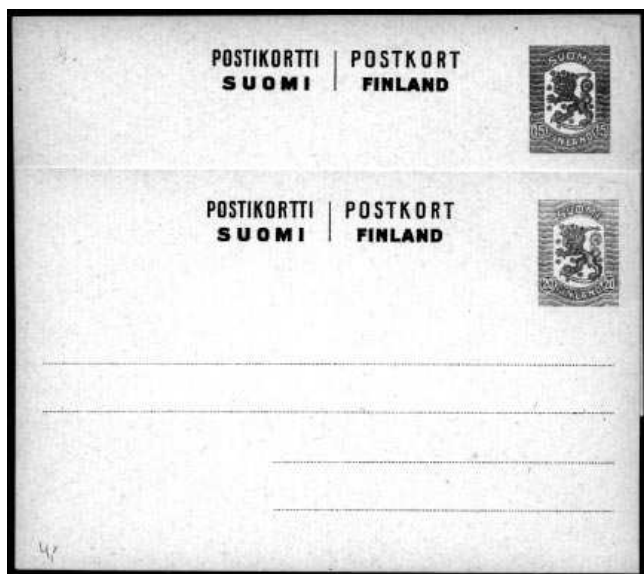


Figure 2. The 15 and 20 penni Vaasa cards are known in several shades of gray and red/brownish red.

inadvertently without the additional postage do exist. Usually though, a 5 penni additional stamp is affixed to the card.

### 20 PENNI RED

Issued April 23, 1918. Printed quantity: 204,000.

- a. brownish-red in several shades
- b. red

Degree of darkness and cleanliness varies in category b. This can further be divided into sub-groups of turbid, pale and bright.

Special characteristics:

Red vertical line on value mark downward from lower sword between letters “N” and “L”. Several such objects known.

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

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

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

Unofficial curiosities:

Two value stamps of which one is inverted on card lower left corner. Like the corresponding 15 penni, the card was cut with scissors from waste paper sheet. There are both cancelled and uncanceled specimens. Spotted, “specks of cloud-like” paper board; this special quality is best discerned against a light. So far only one specimen discovered.

### m/17, 2 x 10 PENNI, RED VALUE STAMP

Issued November 5, 1918. Two value marks side-by-side (not a double card). Printed quantity: 4,980,000. Can be divided into two different types:

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

II. Address line “dots” thin broken lines

#### I. Type of address line

##### A. Grainy, rough paper board

- a. light carmine
- b. carmine
- c. carmine-red

##### B. Uneven, smooth-like paper board

- a. light carmine
- b. carmine
- c. carmine-red

## C. Even, smooth paper board

- a. light carmine
- b. carmine
- c. carmine-red

## II. Type of address line

- C. Even, smooth paper board
- c. carmine-red

## Special category:

Upper text thick, for instance, the upper opening on second letter “K” nearly closed. Seen in categories I Aa, I Bb, and I Cc.

## USAGE

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

## m/17 2 x 10 PENNI &amp; 2 x 10 PENNI DOUBLE CARD, RED, “CARTE POSTALE” (CP)

Issued January 3, 1919. Printed quantity: 199,500. Seen only as type I address line like the previous main category.

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

## USAGE

Cancelled half-cards have been discovered mailed both without added postage as well as after the April 12, 1920 rate increase with additional stamps. Cancelled intact doublecards, especially on mail abroad, are extremely scarce.

## m/17 20 PENNI, RED VALUE STAMP

Issued at the end of March, 1920. However, already in April the postal rate rose to 40 penni and

in August a card corresponding to this rate was issued. The quantity of the 20 penni for consumption is unknown, because the quantity of the 90 penni with added printing and those destroyed is also unknown. The 20 penni card was needed only on foreign mail until February 1, 1921.

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

## USAGE

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

## 20 PENNI + 20 PENNI DOUBLECARD, RED, CP

Issued in September of 1920.

Printed quantity: 30,000

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

## USAGE

There are a few rare specimens mailed abroad (rate until February 1, 1921 was 20 penni) without added postage. It is doubtful whether the card could have been used domestically without added value because of the rate increase to 40 penni on April 12, 1920. The card was used also during the 60 penni rate period, which began February 1, 1921. All cancelled intact doublecards are extremely rare.

## 40 PENNI, VIOLET VALUE STAMP

Issued on August 27, 1920

- a. pale violet
- b. darker violet

For the same reasons as the 20 p cards, the printing here is also unknown.

40 PENNI + 40 PENNI DOUBLECARD,  
VIOLET, CP

Issued July 28, 1920 Printed quantity: 119,000

- A. Porous paper board
  - a. pale violet
  - b. darker or dark violet
- B. Smooth paper board
  - b. darker violet

USAGE

There are cards without added printing, but mailed with additional stamps during the 60 penni rate period. Of those mailed abroad, a few may still exist. Cancelled intact doublecards are very scarce. It is unlikely that category Bb, so far, has appeared cancelled.



Figure 3. The 90/20 and 90/40 penni overprinted cards met new postcard rates to abroad beginning February 1, 1921 and the 1.20/40 overprinted card met yet another increase beginning January 1, 1922.

1921 CARDS WITH OVERPRINTED  
VALUE STAMP

On February 1, 1921, the domestic rate rose to 60 penni and the foreign to 90 penni.

60/40 PENNI, VIOLET VALUE STAMP

Earliest issue February 1, 1921.  
Printed quantity at least: 534,779

- A. Porous paper board
  - a. pale violet
  - b. darker violet
- B. Smooth paper board
  - a. pale violet

Faulty overprint: On the upper part of the left outer edge of the zero there is a gap. Several such specimens found both cancelled and uncanceled.

60/40 PENNI + 60/40 PENNI  
DOUBLECARD, VIOLET, CP

Earliest issue February 1, 1921.  
Printed quantity: 30,000

- a. pale violet
- b. darker violet

USAGE OF 60/40 PENNI CARDS

Since the rate increase to one Fmk did not happen until October 15, 1925, domestically mailed cards are almost systematically lacking added postage. The 90 penni cards with the overprinted value stamp for foreign mail appeared on February 4, 1921, and so the 60 penni cards with additional postage were not really needed for that (foreign) purpose either. Although, such do exist: 60/40 penni and 30 penni with additional postage to Germany on April 23, 1921. Cancelled intact doublecards are extremely rare.

90/20 PENNI RED  
90/40 PENNI RED  
90/20 PENNI + 90/20 PENNI  
DOUBLECARD, RED, CP

These cards were for the purpose of foreign mail. The total printed quantity of the single cards were 309,000. Of preserved items the majority consist of 90/40 cards. The single cards were issued on February 4, 1921, and the double on February 7, 1921. The doublecard printed quantity: 68,000.

USAGE OF THE 90 PENNI CARDS WITH  
OVERPRINTED VALUE STAMPS

As originally intended, the 90 penni cards were used on mail abroad, between February 4, 1921 and January 1, 1922, but lacked additional postage. Because of the minor quantity, there are only a few

specimens left of the 90/20 penni card. Considered standard use domestically are the 10 penni added postage specimens after the 1 Fmk rate was enacted on October 15, 1925. Regrettably, not many of these remain either. When the rate for foreign mail rose to Fmk 1,20 on January 1, 1922, the equivalent of 30 penni postage had to be added to the 90 penni cards. There are still a few of the intact doublecards abroad without added postage; and of the half-cards, a very scant few exist. Corresponding items with added value are also scarce.

#### Unissued cards

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

- 40 p red
- 60 p lilac
- 60 p + 60 p doublecard, lilac
- 90 p red
- 90 p + 90 p doublecard, red

A number of model specimens agreed to were made and sent to the World Postal Union in Bern. From there the specimens were given to the postal services of different countries. It is unlikely that any extra specimens were left with Finland's Postal Administration. The objects in care of the Postal Museum as well as those few remaining with collectors have filtered in from abroad.

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

#### 60 PENNI, LILAC VALUE STAMP

Issued on June 15, 1921.

Printed quantity: 11,300,000

- A. Porous paper board
  - a. light bluish-lilac
  - b. bluish-lilac
  - c. dark bluish-lilac

- d. reddish-lilac
- B. Smooth paper board
  - a. light bluish-lilac
  - b. bluish-lilac
  - d. reddish-lilac
  - e. dark reddish-lilac
  - f. black lilac

C. Embossed paper board light bluish-lilac; uneven coloring exists.

Manufacturing flaw: Swedish text on right, Finnish text on left, value mark in center.

#### USAGE

Cards mailed domestically are regularly without added postage (1 Fmk rate not in effect until October 15, 1925). There are specimens mailed abroad (fee Fmk 1.20) as well as specimens mailed domestically during the 1 Fmk period. The latter are of the category C. The scarce Ac and Bf sub-groups are not known cancelled.

60 PENNI + 60 PENNI DOUBLECARD,  
LILAC VALUE STAMP  
Issued September 30, 1921.



Figure 4. The 60 penni and 1 Fmk single and doublecards were designed with a vertical line to provide additional space for the message.

Printed quantity: 376,000

- A. Porous paper board
  - a. bluish-lilac
  - b. reddish-lilac
- B. Smooth paper board
  - a. bluish-lilac
  - b. reddish-lilac
- C. Embossed paper board
  - a. bluish-lilac; uneven coloring exists.

Manufacturing flaw: Swedish text right, Finnish text on left, value mark in center

### USAGE

Most of the domestic specimens lack additional postage because the 60 penni rate remained in effect for over 4 years after the cards were issued. The cancelled half-cards are rather common, but the intact doublecards are extremely uncommon. There are additionally franked half-cards (cost Fmk 1,20), mailed to and returned from foreign destinations. There are domestic specimens additionally franked and mailed during the 1 Fmk period, that belong to sub-group C.



Figure 5. 60 penni additional postage was necessary to meet the Fmk 1.20 rate to Java, then part of The Netherlands East Indies.

### 1.20/40 PENNI, OVERPRINTED VALUE STAMP, RED

Issued September 9, 1922. Printed quantity: 125,000. On January 1, 1922, the foreign rate was raised to Fmk 1.20 and remained until December 1, 1931. Cards mailed abroad, those few that remain, are thus without the added printing. The postage value of the cards was unsuitable for domestic use because the 1.25 Fmk rate did not go into effect until December 1, 1931, when the value mark type had already changed. However, there are domestic overfranked specimens of these cards especially after the 1 Fmk rate went into effect on October 15, 1925. The date of validity expired at the end of 1930.

### 1 Fmk ORANGE

Issued on April 10, 1926.

Printed quantity: 6,665,100  
A. Smooth paper board  
B. Porous, slightly rough paper board

The degree of darkness varies somewhat on the value mark being either light orange or of a slightly darker orange. The cards were allowed to be used until the end of 1930, when the domestic rate was still 1 Fmk. Thus, objects with additional postage are not encountered.

### 1 Fmk + 1 Fmk DOUBLECARD, ORANGE VALUE STAMP

Issued July 6, 1927. Printed quantity: 129,000  
A. Smooth paper board  
B. Porous paper board

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

### LETTER CARD

### 1 Fmk ORANGE VALUE STAMP

Issued 10.10.1925. Printed quantity: 39,650.  
Postage value: 1 Fmk.  
Sale price Fmk 1.25.  
Valid until the end of 1930.

The card size including borders is 140 x 90 mm with minor deviations. Without borders 120 x 82 mm with minor deviations. Known, one uncanceled test printed letter card with red mark borders and black center.

### USAGE

The use without additional postage was short-lived, since the domestic letter rate rose already on 15.1.26 (Jan. 15) to 1,50 Fmk. Thus, most cancelled specimens are franked with a 50 penni stamp added. There are also objects attached with a postage due label and T-mark. The borders on standard specimens have been torn off. Only rarely are cancelled letter cards found with borders still intact.

## The 15 & 20 Penni 1918 Vaasa Postal Cards

by Kari Lehtonen, from *Filatelisti*, 2/98

translated by Carita Parker



Figure 1. The domestic rate rose from 15 to 20 penni on April 15, 1918, but the new 20 penni cards were not issued until May 2nd. 15 penni cards with 5 penni additional postage during this interim period are very difficult. The OULU, 24. IV. 18, postmark without Russian text is earliest known.

Both the 15 and the 20 penni postal cards are known with double value printing. During the initial printing, text and lines were printed on the cards. On the second pass, the value stamp was printed near the left corner about halfway down the card. The sheet was then turned to its regular position, and on the third pass, the value stamp was finally printed at the intended location in the upper right corner.

The printing was done on sheets of 30 (5 x 6) cards. Inspector Onni Hallsten, in charge of the printing, helped himself to some of these “specialties” by taking (as souvenirs) whole sheets, in addition to 2-3 of each; or a total of 32-33 objects. While in Vaasa and elsewhere after that, Hallsten mailed both of the values. The addressees are known to be mostly Hallsten himself, though some specimens were sent to a person named Kallia, and at least once to another named Eklund. Collectors have in their possession both cancelled and uncanceled items.

Another idiosyncrasy about the cards is that they were cut loose from the sheet with scissors. Thus, the cut marks are slanted and on some of the cards, pencil lines along where the cutting was supposed to be done, are still visible. The sizes vary by several millimeters both in height and length. To this writer’s knowledge, of the 15 penni values, the shortest/longest measure 135/144 and the lowest/highest 87/91 mm. Again, of the 20 penni, the shortest/longest measure 135/141 and the lowest/highest 86/90 mm.

Of the 15 penni cards there are also versions that have been printed twice only, and so the value stamp is

absent on the upper right corner. Mr. Hallsten has admitted having taken for himself only 2-3 of these items. At least two of them are known cancelled, one on April 20, 1918 in Vaasa; the other on April 21st. Both are addressed to Hallsten’s relatives in Vaasa.

Also known to exist is a 20 penni double value “sub-specimen” with a thick line (paperstring or similar) of value stamp color, horizontally positioned the whole length of the card, and located below the bottom address line. Apparently it is located on each of the lowest cards on the printed sheet. This writer has included this “sub-specimen” in the aforementioned quantity of known 32-33 objects. I do not know for sure at which stage in the printing process the color could have shifted onto the sheet. Of the other peculiar issues, I would like to refer to the 20 penni specimens, where the value stamp is right next to the text (space about 2 mm in between). Known, both cancelled and uncanceled versions.



Figure 2. Value stamp printed twice on this card, first inverted, then right side up in correct position. Kouvola, 16. III. 19, to Helsinki, 17. III. 19.



Figure 3. Value stamp shifted to left.

## Part 5 THE UPU INFLUENCE ON FINNISH POSTAL CARDS

### starting July 1, 1875 (part 2)

by Juhani Pietilä

reprinted from *Abophil*, No. 6, 1994

#### NEW 16 PENNI CARD

(Norma 11 & 13)

The membership in UPU as of July 1, 1875 brought with it a postal card rate for foreign usage, which was confirmed at 16 penni. In connection with the change, new properly rated postal cards had to be prepared whose delivery was put into motion already in May 1875. At that time the Postal Administration also ordered forms from N. Zilliacus in Viborg for foreign postal traffic. The two copper 'galvanos' (clichés) needed for the printing of the value stamp arrived from Copenhagen in late June or during the first days of July. As a temporary arrangement, 8+8 penni postal cards were manufactured which were covered in *Abophil* 4/94 (TFP 11/98).

#### FOUR SUB-TYPES OF 16 PENNI CARDS

Just as in the corresponding 10 penni cards, the 16 penni cards also have three sub-types which differ from each other on basis of the text in the bottom instructions. In addition, the header of the 16 penni cards used both wide and narrow letters which meant that subtype III can be found with both headers.

Type I: Tällä puolella — ainoastansa

Type II: Tälle puolelle — ainoastansa

Type III: Tälle puolelle — ainoastaan  
Narrow letters on top

Type IV: Tälle puolelle — ainoastaan  
Wide letters on top

The first batch of 16 penni forms were delivered to the Postal Administration at the beginning of July and the distribution to the Post Offices started on July 8, 1875. The size of the batch was 10,000 cards. The following delivery was still made in September, again 10,000 cards; thus, a total of 20,000 of type I



Figure 1. Correct rate foreign usage of the scarce type IV to Sweden, albeit to near the border in Haparanda, Sweden. The card is datelined in Helsinki, but cancelled on a mail car February 11, 1879. Trip to the North did not advance very rapidly as Tornio arrival strike is February 17, 1879.

cards were printed and distributed. The print color of the form was brown which is found in at least two clearly different shades, namely dark brown and a lighter, clearly yellowish brown. Also the value stamp varies from light brown to dark brown. According to Kaj Hellman, the earliest usage is September 5, 1875, in Helsinki.

#### 16 PENNI TYPE II

The 10,000 cards ordered in May 1876 were type II on basis of the bottom text. The forms had been printed with the same stone as those of type I, only the text of the bottom instructions had been corrected. Cards were delivered rather rapidly to Post Offices since the earliest known use is from 4.7.76, again in Helsinki. Both the form and the value stamp are brown in color, and no attention deserving variations of color shade are found on this type.

#### 16 PENNI TYPE III

During 1877-78 Zilliacus delivered 25,000 cards



To some extent, the 16 penni cards were also used in domestic mail. The added joy on the attached type I card comes from a really scarce handstamp of the Walkeasaari station.

in a few batches to the Postal Administration. They were type III with narrow headers. The color of the cards was a slightly lighter brown than the earlier cards, and no significant changes in color have been found. The earliest known use is in April 1877 in Helsinki, perhaps no longer a surprise.

#### 16 PENNI TYPE IV

The final delivery of forms — now only 5,000 cards — occurred immediately in early 1879. Even though the header of this type comes in wide letters, it differs from the header in types I and II in part, and thus, has been printed with a new printing stone. The header is also located nearer to the left frame line than in earlier types. The form and the value stamp are again slightly darker than above.

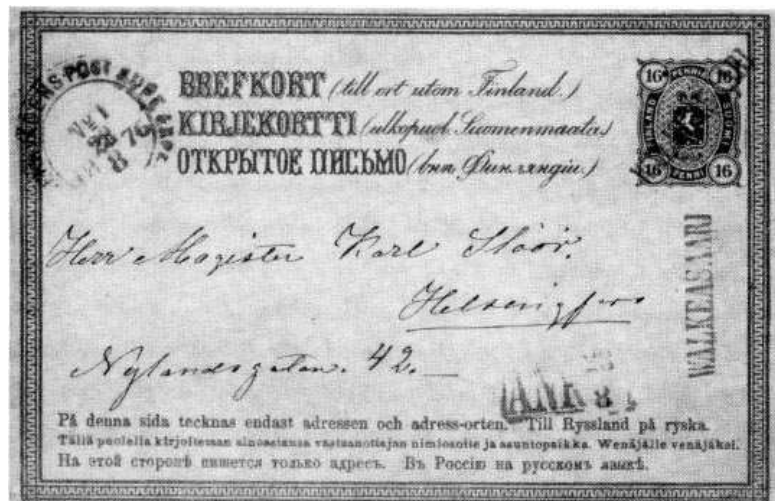
The final 16 penni card is clearly the scarcest. This is the result of a smaller printing coupled with the drop in the foreign postal card rate 10 penni as of April 1, 1879— except to Russia when it dropped as of May 15, 1879. The author knows of only six cards used during the correct period, i.e. cards sent abroad with a proper rate. [Ed: The number today is 8-9 cards as a few have been found since the article was written.]

The earliest known usage is in Helsinki 11.2.79. Thus, this card is the scarcest of Finnish postal cards when the evaluation includes main types and sub-

types based on differences in the bottom instructions. Still more scarce are the red paper stock on the sub-type III of the first 8 penni card (Norma 1) and certain sub-types of the 8 penni cards with extra printed text (Norma 4), the so called 'reversed value stamp colors'. [Ed: The scarcest card is probably a unique copy of an inverted printing on the reverse side of 10 penni cards (subtype IV) discussed in the previous segment which has been known to exist since at least 1956.]

#### CLICHÉS OF THE VALUE STAMP

As mentioned above, two clichés of the 16 penni value were received from Denmark. Both were used in printing the cards. The clearest distinction between the two clichés is a brown dot found by the letter 'o' in the word 'Suomi' (Finland) in one cliché. Another difference is a white dot found in the SE edge of the background for the shield; also, there are some differences in the leg of the upper right numeral '1'. These distinguishing marks are missing from the other cliché. The author



Scarce destinations and postal strikes add pleasure to a postal card collection. Here type III card combines both: card has been sent to Norway and cancelled with a figure cancel #293.

is not sure whether one of the clichés is rarer than the other.

#### USAGE OF THE CARDS

A total of 60,000 cards printed. Over the years, more than 10,000 were returned to be destroyed;

thus, the net usage fell below 50,000 cards. There is no certainty on the types of the returned cards, but majority were probably type III, perhaps also type IV. The great majority of the cards were used in Helsinki and Viborg which can also be observed from the cancellations of the used cards. Also the usage in Turku (Abo) was over 1,000. Cancellations from other localities are scarce. Cancellations on mail cars are also found often as many cards were left for the railway to transport onward.

## FORMS WITHOUT VALUE STAMP

Both cards of the last sub-type are also found without a value stamp. A few copies are known unused. I have just heard that a card of type IV has been found properly used and the Post Office did not require additional adhesives in place of the missing value stamp. The card must primarily be considered an interesting curiosity.

# Step Perforation - Type 1875

text and pictures by Heikki Reinikainen, from *Filatelisti*, No. 9/94  
translated by Carita Parker

I present now a perforation discovery, which only a couple of years ago was completely unknown. It is a step perforation in 5 penni LBc stamp. Step perforations have not been found earlier in this issue, although both serpentine roulette and Type 1885 issues are known to have these curiosities.



Figure 1. (Left) Step perforation on the right vertical side of 5 penni LBc stamp. Figure 2. The reverse side shows some markings of Mr. Agathon Faberge.



and the defective perforation completed from the opposite direction. This is confirmed by the overly wide perforation in the step, i.e., it is not a part of an ordinary double perforation. It is of significance, that our subject item was perforated with the same machine as Type

The reason for their existence is in the production techniques. Let us have a closer look at this performance.

In the perforation of serpentine roulette stamps a corrugated hand wheel and a metal edged ruler were employed. Handling errors (wheel slipped too far) are not uncommon and, the results, i.e. step perforations are available in stamp auctions fairly regularly.

A manually fed line perforator acquired in 1875 stroke one complete row of holes at a time over the sheet. Assuming that the feeding gate of the machine was wider than the perforating edge, it was possible to drive the press sheet so much to one side, that the other end of a sheet remained untouched. The sheet was not discarded (the allowed waste was 1 %, and everything above it had to be paid by the manager), but the sheet or a strip of it was turned

1885 stamps. In this issue the step perforations have been known for a long time. On the other hand., they are not known in the Senate printings 1875—81. Perhaps the old 11—perforating machine was more narrow by the construction., and it did not allow similar side movement as the new 12 1/2 perforator did. Moreover, at least part of the personnel had been changed together with the printing place in early 1882, which may have had some influence upon the printing results, too.

All considered, one may assume, that step perforation is possible primarily in the stamps perforated with a new machine. The rarity of them seems to correspond to the the fact that the machine was in use for just three years, 1882—84.

Some step perforations have been previously reported in the philatelic press, but, so far, they were all found to be forgeries.

## POSTAL CENSORING - A BRIEF OVERVIEW

by Kaarlo Hirvikoski

translated by Carita Parker

### GENERAL

In principal postal censoring does not really belong to the function of the postal service; rather it falls under the category of some other official authority. Nonetheless, censoring may be connected to postal operations in some general sense, because regulations concerning confidential letter information tend to have mail marked as if already inspected. And furthermore, since censored mail often alters the postal route and prolongs transit time, censoring has been included as a specialized study area within postal history. And regardless whether a collection includes postal routes and delays, research and cataloging official censor marks, tags, resealing tapes and other notations makes for interesting study.

### ABOUT FINNISH POSTAL CENSORING COLLECTIONS

Postal censoring and other means of control seem to be practiced by governments in exceptional circumstances, whereas others consider any circumstance exceptional. As far as Finland is concerned, I have only included in this text those instances where I personally have encountered some visible proof on delivered mail.

#### a) Newspaper censoring in the 1890s

At the turn of the 1890s the Czarist regime through its agents began keeping an eye on printed material sent to Finland from abroad. There were control stations in every part of the country. The controls apparently were focused mainly on printing offices, because there are only a few censor location marks on mail deliveries. Censor marks seem to be apparent mostly on various wrappers of printed material and such similar items. If I were to make a collection with this subject in mind, and items were available, I would go about it in the following manner: First I would look for the marks and ink colors of each control station. Then I would devise some type of system in order to glean from what country the censored mail originated and what route had been taken to reach port. Additionally, the collection would include instructional texts from

postal and other authorities, copies of regulations etc. More on this subject has been written by D.A. Dromberg, Kalle Vaarnas and lastly Lars Trygg in the 22/77 issue as well as later issues of the Finnish postmark collectors magazine.

#### b) Postal Censoring 1914 - 1917

The previous period presumably ended with the 1905 riots. World War I caused even the Finnish censoring to be rekindled in 1914. This historical period lasted until spring of 1918, when Czarist government activities were considered to have come to an end in Finland. Censoring was in effect in many locations both for domestic as well as foreign mail. More detailed reading about this period is found in the J. Olamo book on postal censoring in Finland 1914 - 1917, and in magazine articles. In my recollection there is also a small book by B.E. Saarinen, Johanson and Johansson that gives a general description of censoring in all of Finland

It might be possible to gather plenty of information about this period from every censor location. There were several different main groups in every location, not to mention hues and enclosure slips. Of these, dates of validity, sub-categories etc., would then have to be introduced. Then there would have to be information on censor regulations, especially on postal directives, what was included and where, lists of censors and their initials. All such knowledge would make it a whole lot easier.

#### c) Then...

During the War of Independence (January - May, 1918) and afterward there was Finnish censoring first run by the Whites and Reds; and thereafter Finnish government censoring of foreign mail until somewhere between 1919 - 1920.

The aforementioned information about marks, slips, regulations, what inspected and when, as well as research on the criterion for censoring, gives some idea of what is basically needed in order to start a collection, albeit a modest one. In addition, there are articles available in philatelic journals.

#### d) 2. World War II and censoring 1939 - 1947

After the outbreak of the Winter War, censoring was again reinstated in the autumn of 1939. Initially, there were two or three types of marks and a couple of slips. After that more cancels such as machine- and rectangular marks and slips etc., were added. During the extended war, number marks with the coat-of-arms were introduced.

A collection ought to include besides background information at least the main categories of marks, i.e., rectangular with different texts and some specimens where the spaces have been initialed with pencil, machine cancels, slips and coat-of-arms cancels with different numbers, in addition to brief explanations about usage. Double censoring on foreign mail as well as a minor selection of mail from various countries, and for instance from POW's or from enemy territory, in general, would constitute an interesting addition. In my opinion, a collection should adhere to its headline and include a well-rounded description about the subject from all angles. Basic information can be obtained from books, magazines, and other sources, but a descriptive imagination must come from the collector him/herself. Always useful works of reference are the historic perspectives of different

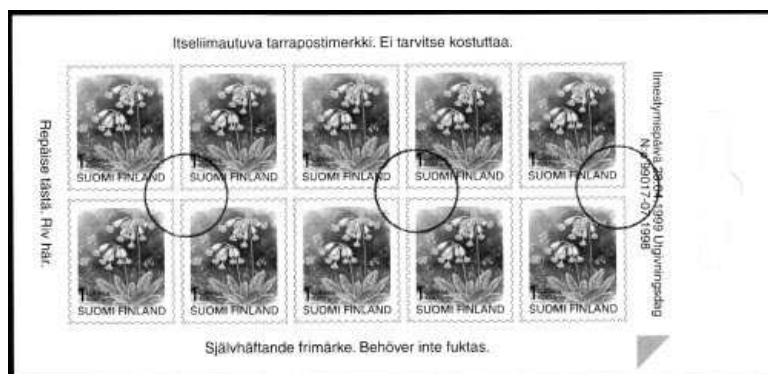
wars, encyclopedias and the index of philatelic articles compiled by Pentti Anttila.

## CONCLUSION

Postal censoring is thus a rather multi-faceted field for the collector. In compiling a collection one is sure to learn a lot, and one will be able to create at least some type of general collection. Markings on mail deliveries, for example from Finland's postal censoring period of 1890 - 1947, are still encountered.

There are also a number of different types of prison mail in circulation. In the writer's opinion, whether to include such mail in a postal censoring collection might at least be negotiable. To my understanding, these are items that are mailed after first having been censored; or inspected after the postal service had released the mail for forwarding to the addressee. In other words, postal censors inspected mail held by the postal service. Somewhere here, I would draw the line between philatelic and other miscellaneous censoring.

## “The Cowslip”, Rare Åland Provincial Flower Featured on Self-adhesive Booklet



On April 28th, Finland Post issued a Class 1 stamp without a printed face value featuring the Provincial Flower of Åland, the Cowslip. On the same day, a similar stamp was issued by Åland Post. “The Cowslip” is the first joint issue of the Posts of Finland and Åland. The flower was drawn by the artist Paavo Huovinen, who also has designed the First Day Cover and postmark.

“The Cowslip” is self-adhesive and was issued in sheets of ten. The stamp issued by Finland Post is priced at FIM 3 and the sheet thus at FIM 30. The issue is unlimited.

On 28 April, Finland Post also issued a two-piece card priced at FIM 10. The front cover features stamps cancelled with the First Day postmark; the back cover displays a detachable postcard with the cowslip motif.

With the cowslip, 16 Provincial Flowers in all have now been introduced in the series. Three are yet to come: the pasque flower of Southern Karelia, the pale pasque flower of Central Häme and the cornflower of Pöijöt-Häme.

The Cowslip (*Primula veris*) is common only in Åland. In continental Finland, it can be spotted as a garden flower and runs wild almost over the whole country, but it grows wild only in the most luxuriant meadows of southwestern Finland.

The cowslip blooms in early May. Its bright yellow flowers grow in an umbel on the 20-30 cm high stalk. The leaves grow in a rosette.

On mainland Finland, it is forbidden to pick cowslips or to sell them. The prohibition does not cover cultivated plants.

## 1999 Europa Stamp Theme Mark Famous City Parks in Helsinki and Turku



The Esplanade in Helsinki and the island Ruissalo in Turku in all their luxuriant verdure adorn the new Europa stamps, which were issued on March 15th. Parks are the theme of this year's joint stamp series of all European postal administrations.

The stamps are designed by Asser Jaaro. For the FIM 2.70 stamp, depicting the Esplanade, he has used Markku Ulander's photograph of the park at its most beautiful: a popular place for a stroll and for meeting your friends on a lovely summer's day. The FIM 3.20 stamp, dedicated to Ruissalo, features an aerial photograph by Pentti Harala, emphasizing both the lushness and the size of the area.

To the inhabitants of Helsinki, the Esplanade, affectionately called "Espa", is the real heart of the city. In the old days, it was a romantic promenade as well as a venue for many elevated national festivals, but this beautiful oasis in the center of the city, offering recreation of all sorts, is extremely popular with the inhabitants of today's Helsinki as

well. The northern walk leads to the theater and to the monuments honoring the great authors Zachris Topelius and Eino Leino, whereas the center of the park is dominated by the statue of the Finnish national poet, Johan Ludvig Runeberg. In the south, the market place and the Kappeli restaurant, rich in tradition, invite you to enter the world of exciting tastes.

The Ruissalo island is located in Turku, at the northwest coast of the Gulf of Finland and the mouth of the river Aura. It has a surface area of 870 hectares, of which approximately a half is forested. Nowadays the most popular nature resort and recreation area in Turku, it was a royal hunting ground in the 16th century. It was bequeathed to the City of Turku in the 1840's on the condition that the unique nature in the area would be well preserved. Finland's largest oak forests can be found in Ruissalo. This island of oak and lime trees and hazels is also the habitat of almost 260 species of birds and, for instance, 19 endangered species of butterflies. The Turku University botanical gardens as well as some architecturally valuable villas from the 19th century are also situated on the island. Ruissalo is included in the Natura 2000 program of the European Communities, and there are plans to turn it into a national city park.

## WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION EMBRACES FAMILY WELL BEING



A special stamp was issued on March 15th in honor of the Martha Organization, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The stamp features Magnus Weckström's photograph of a zestful group of smiling women of various ages and a man, forming a Martha circle sparkling with life.

The stamp has a face value of FIM 3 and is designed by Marc Wood. The First Day Cover and

### STAMP FACTS

|                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Issue date:                      | March 15                         |
| Face value:                      | FIM 3                            |
| Issue:                           | 2,000,000                        |
| Designer:                        | Marc Wood/<br>Magnus Weckström   |
| Perforation:                     | 13.33 x 12.8                     |
| Size:                            | 36 x 25 mm                       |
| Paper:                           | stamp paper 102 g                |
| Printers:                        | Walsall Security<br>Printers Ltd |
| Printing method:                 | offset 4/0 colours               |
| First Day Cover<br>and postmark: | Juha Siro                        |
| Price of FDC:                    | FIM 5.50                         |

postmark are designed by Juha Siro.

The stamp was printed by the Walsall Security Printers Ltd. and the issue is 2 million.

#### The Martha Organization Today

“Martha - the woman of her time” is the theme of the organization’s jubilee year. Founded on the initiative of Lucina Hagman (1853-1946) in 1899, the organization has always aimed at enhancing both the mental and material well-being of families as well as at encouraging women to be active in the community. The modern Marthas help prepare for the Euro age and emphasize the importance of

lifelong learning. Just as their sisters did before, they also give advice on housekeeping and household management: Healthy eating habits and personal well-being as well as caring for the environment remain key targets in the Marthas’ educational work.

There are approximately 67,000 Marthas in Finland. A couple of thousand are men.

The Martha Organization and the Marthaförbundet, the national central organizations, will be organizing a comprehensive series of events in the jubilee year, including exhibitions as well as instructional and educational campaigns. The main festivities and the festive reception will take place in Helsinki in June.

## NEW MINIATURE SHEET FEATURES FIVE POPULAR SONG BIRDS



Birds singing in the summer night are the motif for a miniature sheet of five stamps, was issued on May 18th. The miniature sheet has been designed by professor Erik Bruun. The new stamps feature a Nightingale, a Corncrake, a Bittern, a Nightjar and a Cuckoo. Each stamp is priced at FIM 3, and the miniature sheet of five thus at FIM 15.

“Birds in the Summer Night” is the fifth stamp issue with a bird motif by Erik Bruun. Earlier, he has drawn water and shore birds and a crane as well as owls.

The Nightingale sings its most beautiful songs at midnight. It begins with gentle whistles, moves on to pure flute notes, makes a series of sounds like the plucking of castanets and finally

lets out a series of rattles. It repeats the same pattern over and over again. It is possible to hear the nightingale during the day as well, but then it only sings fragments of the repertory. This master singer thrives in the damp thickets of southern and central Finland, often near water. Its song can be heard from early May until June.

From the beginning of May until June one can also hear the mating call of the Corncrake. The bird, well concealed during the day,

gives its presence away at night by its loud, creaky mating call, which it may repeat for hours. The sound carries a long way, especially in calm weather. The creaky bird, earlier familiar to all, is now rare, nesting only on cultivated pastures and dry meadows in southern and central Finland. The Corncrake is an endangered species everywhere in the world.

The rare Bittern may also participate in a summer night concert. The cock repeats its loud, booming call, resembling a fog horn, in series of 3-5, mostly during the night. The Bittern nests among reeds on sea gulfs and lakes in southern Finland.

Approximately an hour after the sunset, the Nightjar nesting on the sunny pine heaths of

southern and central Finland, begins its mating call. It is a monotonous chirping roll, varying only in pitch. The Nightjar sings until dawn, then spends the day motionless on the ground or in a tree.

Of all the night-time singers, the best known is the Cuckoo. It is a popular belief that the number of the cuckoo's calls reveal the number of years one has left to live, or the years until one's wedding. Besides its unique song, the cuckoo is well-known for its habit of laying eggs in other birds' nests. The Cuckoo can be heard from early May until July. It thrives in all types of forests, and is common both in Finland and all over Europe.

## STAMP FACTS

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Issue date                   | May 18, 1999                                     |
| Face value:                  | FIM 15 (5 x FIM 3)                               |
| Designer:                    | Erik Bruun                                       |
| Issue:                       | 450 000  |
| Perforation:                 | 13 1/4 x 13 3/4                                  |
| Stamp size:                  | various  |
| Sheet size:                  | 120 x 80 mm                                      |
| Paper:                       | stamp paper 102 g/m <sup>2</sup>                 |
| Printers:                    | Joh. Enschede Security Printers, the Netherlands |
| Printing method:             | Offset 5   |
| First Day Cover and postmark | Erik Bruun                                       |

## FRANKING LABEL MACHINES ARE BEING MODERNIZED

Finland Post's Frama label machines will be modernized during the spring. All Frama machines were temporarily removed by the end of February. They will be back in business in August/September.

At the moment, 19 Frama label machines are being used by customers in different parts of Finland. Furthermore, there are Frama machines in office use at the polar circle Post Office, in the Post Museum and at the Philatelic Center.

The aim is to repair 20 - 30 machines. The final amount of machines as well as their placement was decided in late spring.

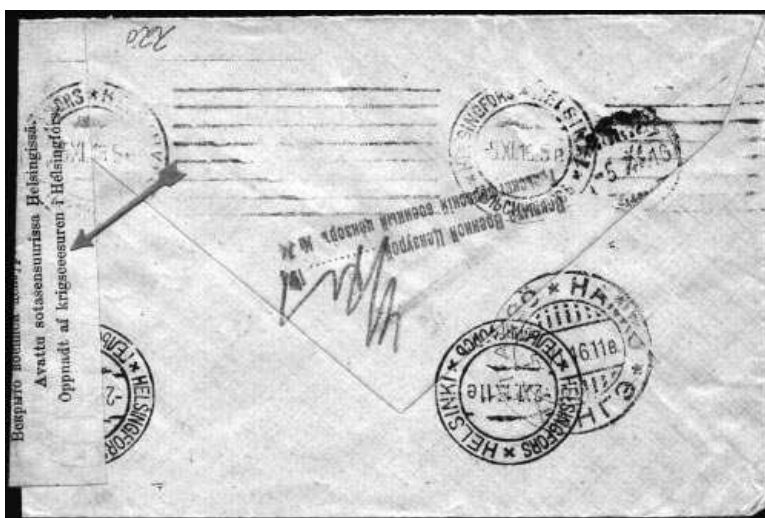
The improved franking label machines will have a ten-button user interface. In the future, all Frama

label machines will print in four colors. They will also be numbered with the number appearing on the ticket or label.

The machines were removed during February, each at its scheduled time.

The Philatelic Center removed its Frama label machine on 26 February. Until then, it delivered Suomi-Finland and Santa Claus Frama labels uncanceled and/or cancelled, in series of four. The face values of the labels in the series are FIM 2.40, FIM 2.70, FIM 3 and FIM 3.20 so both series are priced at FIM 11.10. Labels with the above-mentioned values are also delivered individually, in which case the minimum amount is 50 labels/value.

## Misspelled Censor Label and CS No. 20, Mark No. 34 Found on Helsinki Cover



During a visit to Helsinki earlier this year, I found this W.W. I censored cover in the Merkki-Albert stamp shop. Cancelled at Turku, 1. XI. 16, then to Helsinki, 2. XI. 16, released by the censor office on 5. XI. 16, to the intended destination, Hango, 5. XI. 16. It is interesting for two reasons. First, the resealing tape contains a misspelling in the Swedish text; "krigscesuren" instead of "krigsensuren". This label is not mentioned in the Olamo list of Helsinki resealing tapes; possibly it is one of the several that were missing from my text. Second, Helsinki Censor Stamp No. 20, Mark 34 was not listed in the Olamo text.