



# The Finnish Philatelist

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## In This Issue

Editor's Note  
First Day Cover -14  
Mixed Franking  
Saarinen/Kopek Mixed Franking  
Insured Mail to Russia  
Figure (Cork) Cancels, Part 4

## The Finnish Philatelist

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## Editor's Message:

We have moved to Alpharetta, Georgia. Our new address is listed in the left hand column. We are now just thirty minutes away from my son's home and grandma Sue is enjoying her time with two small grandsons. We will certainly miss Upstate New York, but there are many attractions here including several active stamp clubs that sponsors the annual Southeastern APS-WSP show in September. I look forward to getting involved in as many club activities as time permits as well as participating in the Southeastern Stamp Show. I will serve on the jury panel this year.

The past several issues of the newsletter have dealt with the fascinating Russia in Finland era during which purely Finnish stamps were withdrawn and Russian kopek and Russian design, Finnish currency stamps were used for franking mail in Finland. Additional subjects discussing the "Russian period" will be covered in future issues, but we encourage our readers to contribute articles of other areas of Finnish philately or recommend articles that we can translate and republish. We are already preparing articles on WWI "double censoring," Russian postal cards used in Finland, 1885/1899 unusual perforations, to mention just a few. Illustrations are best if sent to the editor on a CD in RGB color, tiff format at 300 dpi or higher for small pictures such as individual stamps.

## Finland and Scandinavian Revenue Collectors Roundup An Invitation From Finland's FIP Revenue Representative

I have received a communication from Jukka Makinen requesting information about who might be collecting Finnish and Scandinavian revenue stamps. Jukka writes, "I'm trying to make a list of collectors who are interested in Finnish revenues. I would like to add your name also on that list. It will be distributed only to the persons on the list, not to anybody else. The list is intended to help making contacts with others enjoying the same interests, sharing experiences and tips, even for some exchange of material. The list will not be shared with dealers nor will you be solicited. This type of contact list came into my mind because I am the Finnish delegate in FIP Commission of Revenues, and promoting fiscal philately is so important. At the same time, it will be nice to see who we are and how we can enhance our enjoyment and knowledge of this area of Finnish philately. In Finland, we have just about five advanced collectors and perhaps ten more who are intermediate or passive collectors, but worldwide, we have no idea who is collecting Finnish and Scandinavian revenues.

"If you agree, in addition to your name, mailing address and e-mail address, I would like to know all of your fiscal collecting areas for the list. Finland, Scandinavia and other revenue areas should be listed. They can be detailed, for example 'Revenue stamps of Finland 1865-1895' or 'Swedish revenue stamped papers' or whatever revenue area you collect."

Send your information to Jukka Makinen at his e-mail address:  
jukka.makinen@24.fi

# Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 14

By Alan Warren



Figure 1, above; Figure 3, right

January 2, 1939 was the date of issue of four semi-postal values with a view of the battlefield at Solferino, Italy, and bearing a red cross. This 1859 battle with the French and Italian Armies on one side against the Austrian Army resulted in such bloodshed with high casualties of dead and wounded as well as missing in action on both sides, that the horrors stimulated a Swiss businessman

and social activist to lay the foundation for an organization that would provide humanitarian relief in the future.

Henri Dunant, born in Geneva, witnessed the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in 1859 and immediately set about organizing the local women to tend to the wounded and set up temporary hospitals. He then wrote a book about his experiences at the battleground and suggested that a neutral organization be established to provide care to soldiers wounded in battle.

His efforts resulted in the First Geneva Convention in 1864 “for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick Armed Forces in the Field.” This led to the



day cover

establishment of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, which eventually spawned a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the world over to provide relief efforts in emergencies. For his work Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

The four semi-postal stamps (Norma 236-239) carry the values of 50 p + 5 p, 1 ¼ Fmk + 15 p, 2 Fmk + 20 p, and 3 ½ Fmk + 35 p. All four of our FDCs carry a complete set of the four stamps and are registered. Figure 1 shows the Helsinki cancel on an all-purpose 4-language first day cachet sent to Sweden. Figure 2, with a Red Cross-specific cachet,

Figure 2, left.



Continued on page 15

## Mixed Franking of Russian Kopek issues with Finnish Kopek and Penni Issues

By Roger Quinby and Morten Nørstad

According to <Linn's.com>, precise definitions for many philatelic terms do not exist. The term "mixed franking" is one of these terms. While its more common usage refers to covers bearing the stamps of two or more stamp issuing entities (usually in different currencies, properly used), it has also been used by philatelic exhibitors to identify covers with stamps from the same country and in the same currency but from different issues or different reigns. Although the more precise terminology such as "mixed issues" would unambiguously describe such a cover with stamps from two different stamp series or issues such as Finland's 1866 serpentine and 1875 coat of arms stamps, the term "mixed franking" is frequently applied by auction houses and exhibitors of classic material because the term "mixed franking" has gained a certain gravitas in describing the franking on a cover as "mixed."

However, in this article "mixed franking" applies only to covers franked with stamps (or a value stamp on an entire) of one stamp issuing entity combined with the stamps of another stamp issuing entity in the same or different currency, properly used. Many philatelists would also include covers of one stamp issuing entity franked with stamps in different currencies, properly used, in the unusual situation where a country or stamp issuing entity recognized a dual



Figure 1. 1889 3.5 ruble Russian issue with five 1 Fmk issues and four 20 penni issues from the 1901 first temporary Finnish issues. The franking is accurate: Extraordinary mixed franking cover.

currency as in Finland after 1890. Accordingly, a Finnish cover franked with an 1891 ring stamp and an 1895 coat of arms stamp could quite legitimately be classified as a mixed franked postal mailing.

Given this definition of the term "mixed franking," three groups of mixed franking covers were allowed in Finland from May 1891 until November 1918. The first group of covers are Russian kopek stamps combined with Finnish penni stamps, the second combines Russian kopek and Finnish kopek ring stamps, and the third combines Finnish kopek ring stamps and Finnish penni stamps.

At first, all three mixed franking combinations were permitted on all inland mail as well as mail to all foreign destinations. Over time the Russian Ministry of the Interior, which had oversight responsibility for the Finnish Postal Administration (FGPO), imposed restrictions on Finnish penni franking on mail to Russia and later to other foreign destinations.

In this article we are primarily concerned with the first two mixed franking combinations because the 1891 ring stamps are considered Finnish stamps, not Russian, and so their use with other Finnish stamps is outside the scope of this article, which is concerned solely with mixed franking combinations of Russian kopek stamps and Finnish kopek or penni stamps.

Mixed franking of



Figure 2. 10 kopek Russian entire with 10 kopek Finnish ring stamp added to meet foreign registered letter rate. This 1901 cover is fairly early example of this type of combination franking, examples of which are known through circa 1908, when the ring stamps were sold out at branch post offices.

stamps in Finnish and Russian denominations was allowed from May 1, 1891 when the kopek valued Finnish ring stamps were first issued. At the same time the 1889 Russian ringless issues were also valid franking in Finland and they could also be combined with any Finnish stamps on any type of mailing to meet the rate until subsequent regulations restricted Finnish penni franking on mail to Russia after December 31, 1891 and to other foreign destinations after August 14, 1900. Thereafter mixed kopek/penni franking remained valid only for domestic mail until November 28, 1917.

The most common mixed franking combination is the Russian ringless and Finnish ring kopek denominated issues used during the transition period from 1900 to 1908 during which the ring stamps were phased out and replaced with the Russian definitive issues. Post offices were instructed to first use the ring stamps from inventory before ordering and selling the ringless kopek stamps. During the first years of the transition the lower valued ring stamps were sold out and then examples of low value ringless issues were used as makeup values with higher value ring stamps on insured mailings, COD cards, parcel cards and other types of mailings requiring several different valued stamps to meet the rate. Almost all of these mixed franking possibilities were used in the normal course of commercial mailings and did not hold out special interest for philatelists and dealers at that time.

Three basic types of mixed franking were possible with many combinations of stamps to meet the rate; Russian kopek and Finnish penni stamps, Russian kopek and Finnish ring kopek valued stamps, and Finnish ring kopek stamps and Finnish penni stamps.<sup>1</sup> The Finnish people, however, objected to the ring, Russian definitive stamps and other kopek issues and for the most part kopek/penni usages on cover are relatively uncommon. Many combinations were possible and collectors



Figure 3. Here the Russian ringless stamps are used to upfrank a 14 kopek Finnish ring entire to meet the 20 kopek foreign registered letter rate. This combination is also fairly common during the 1900-1908 period.

In summary, universal mixed franking was allowed in Finland for only eight months, namely from May 1 to December 31, 1891 at which time Finnish penni stamps were prohibited on mail from Finland to Russia. Then on August 14, 1900, Finnish penni stamps were prohibited on mail from Finland to all other foreign destinations. Thereafter, mixed franking remained possible on all domestic mail until the Russian kopek stamps were invalidated for domestic mail on November 28, 1917. However, the Russian kopek stamps remained the only valid franking until the UPU recognized Finland as an independent country with the authority to issue its own postage stamps for international mailings effective March 12, 1918.

Unfortunately for philatelists, there was no possibility for valid mixed franking mail to abroad after the UPU recognized Finnish penni franking as the kopek stamps were then immediately demonetized.

The following listing outlines all the Russian issues valid in Finland and the Finnish issues with which they could be combined and the time period during which such mixed franking was allowed. Nevertheless, the listing dates must be

read in conjunction with the restrictions of use of the Finnish stamps to Russia and abroad as set forth above.

#### Russian Definitive Issues Sold by the Finnish Post with Finnish Penni Issues

##### 1) 1889-1906 Russian Definitive Issues and Postal Stationery with:

a) 1875 Finnish Coat of Arms 2 penni value until January 13, 1901, several specimens



Figure 4. Because the FGPO never issued penni valued wrappers, kopek valued wrappers were mostly upfranked with Finnish penni issues to meet the rate. Here 20 penni added franking was required for printed matter weighing 151-200 grams.



Figure 5. This inland insured letter is franked with the 10 and 20 penni 1901 First Typography (Berlin plates) and a pair of 2 kopek vertically striped 1902 Russian definitive stamps. Rate computed as follows: letter = 20p, registration = 20p, insurance = 20p, for total franking of 60p. Sender opted to substitute 4 kopek Russian franking for another 10p Finnish issue. Unusual mixed franking for inland insured mailing as kopek franking was optional and unnecessary.

have been reported, but are unconfirmed by the authors. **Very rare.**

b) 1885 Finnish Coat of Arms values until January 13, 1901. However these stamps were withdrawn from sale at post offices in February 1891 and only a few mixed franking combinations are known. **Rare to very rare.**

c) 1889-1895 Finnish Coat of Arms issues. Specimens are known in foreign mail until August 13, 1900 and on domestic mail until the stamps were demonetized on January 13, 1901. **Uncommon, but not rare.**

d) 1891 Finnish ring stamps. Although both the ring stamps and the Russian definitive issues are both kopek-valued issues, they are recognized as stamps of different countries. This mixed franking combination is fairly common during the period from 1900 until circa 1908 as the ring stamps in post offices inventories were depleted. **Common.**

e) 1901 5 Penni Emergency Issue, invalidated on May 14, 1911. **Uncommon.**

f) 1901 First Temporary Issues, penni values invalidated April 14, 1911 and the 1 mark value was invalidated on June 1, 1920. Mixed franking on inland mail possible until November 28, 1917. The 2 penni and 1 mark issues are **Uncommon to rare** and the 5, 10 and 20 penni issues are **Fairly common**, often found on wrappers.

g) 1901 10 Mark Second Temporary Issues, invalidated June 1, 1920. **Very rare.**

h) 1901 First Typography Issues (Berlin Plates),

penni issues invalidated May 14, 1911, 1 mark stamp invalidated June 1, 1920. **Uncommon to very rare.**

i) 1902 10 Mark Comb Perforated 13.5 x 13.5 issue, invalidated June 1, 1920. **Very rare.**

j) 1908 Second Typography Issue (Helsinki Plates), invalidated on May 14, 1911. All the Finnish issues from the 1901 Emergency Issue to the 1908 Second Typography Issues are known on domestic covers with the Russian definitive issues and the Finnish Ring stamps. However, many of the combinations are elusive. **Fairly common to rare.**

k) 1911 New Design definitive issues. The 1889-1906 Russian kopek values were invalidated or withdrawn before the 1911 New Design issues were released for sale. The ruble values remained in use until the general demonetization of kopek franking in Finland but examples of use with Finnish franking are, **Very rare.**

**2)1909-1918 Russian Definitive Issues and Postal Stationery with:**

d), e), f), g), h), i) and j) above. However, many of the Finnish issues were invalidated in 1911 limiting the time for the application of these stamps with the 1909 Russian Definitive issues. **Uncommon to very rare to none reported.**



Figures 6, top and 7, below. It was not unusual for postal clerks to add lower valued kopek stamps, especially the 2 kopek stamp, to inland money orders to make up the rate as shown in Figure 6, above. However, on the lower card, Figure 7, the sender must have supplied the 2 kopek Romanov stamp as these issues were not sold at Finnish post offices. Extraordinary mixed franked item, possibly unique. Figure 7 is from the Jon Iversen collection.



no mixed franking covers exist from this period. Later usages are almost certainly philatelic, often with multiple issues on souvenir covers from late 1917. The imperforate issues are also known on philatelic covers with Finnish penni franking during October and November 1917. **Generally uncommon to very rare**

**Endnotes**

1. The Ring stamps are considered “Finnish” and they are treated here only in connection with their use with the Russian ringless issues. Nevertheless, mixed franking covers of Ring and Finnish penni stamps and postal stationery represent some of the most spectacular covers of the 1891-1911 period.

Figure 10, right. Russian 1914 Charity Stamps and Finnish New Eagle 1911 penni stamp were combined to frank this second weight inland letter. These combinations are surprisingly rather elusive given the fact that the Charity stamps were very popular with philatelists.



**Mixed Franking Of The Russian Kopek Issues And The 1917 Saarinen Issues**

**By Leonard Tann and Roger Quinby**



Figure 1. The Finnish Saarinen and Russian kopek mixed franking combinations is one of the most elusive mixed ranking combinations allowed for inland mail. This combination was possible only from October 1, until November 28, 1917. This card was 8 penni underfranked. The Russian ruble been devalued on October 4 and 3 kopeks was equivalent to only 2 penni, plus 5 penni is well short of the 15 penni card rate in effect from October 1, 1917.

The Russian Revolution of March 1917 forced the abdication of Czar Nicholas II, which brought about the Provisional Government of Russia and ushered in the promise of a democratic government. Among the earliest acts of the Provisional Government was to annul the requirements and accompanying regulations that in 1890 shackled the Finnish Post (FGPO) to the Russian Interior Ministry and the regulations attendant thereto.

Alexander Kerensky, Russia’s Prime Minister and Minister of War, authorized the Finnish Senate in March 1917 to resume administrative authority and oversight of postal operations in

Finland. This authority included the authority to prepare a new set of stamps for Finland independent of Russian issues for use in autonomous Finland. After months of delay, the Saarinen stamps were released beginning on October 1, 1917. The design of the new issue shows the Finnish lion brandishing a sword with rosettes representing the provinces of Finland. During the summer of 1917 when Russia itself had been declared a republic an attempt was made to create an independent Finnish monarchy, and there were negotiations with a German prince to become the new grand-duke of Finland with the expectation that he would restructure Finland to become a state similar to the other Scandinavian states but it failed. By December 1917, Finnish opinion was strongly in favor of a republic and so it was.

The Saarinen stamps were not intended to be an issue of an independent Finnish state, but to restore the situation as it was before 1901 when Finnish stamps were valid for all types of mail both inland and foreign mail, except Russia, and that Russian stamps would also be in Finland and to abroad.

Nevertheless, the Senate decreed on November 15, 1917 that “the postage stamps in Russian currency denominations are prohibited on postal locations from one location to another within Finland’s borders.”<sup>1</sup> This Circular affected the validity of the 1909 Arms types, 1913 Romanoff Jubilee stamps and the 1914/1915 War-Charity stamps, already demonetized in Russia in September 1917 including the imperforate and overprint stamps of those issues. The kopek stamps were all demonetized and invalidated for franking on domestic mail in Finland on November 28, 1917.

The Saarinen 5 penni stamp was introduced on October 1, 1917, the 10 penni on October 15; the 25 penni on October 25; the 50 penni and 1 Fmk stamps were issued on November 24, 1917.

Thus there was a very narrow window in which the new Saarinen stamps could be used alongside the dying days of validity of the Russian kopek stamps. Thus the 5 penni was co-valid with the kopek stamps for about 8 weeks; the 10 penni for 6 weeks; the 25 penni for 4 1/2 weeks, the 50 penni and 1 Fmk for just five days, that is November 24 -28 inclusive.

Covers and pieces are known with the combination franking of the 5 penni Saarinen used correctly in this narrow time-band. From time to time Kaj Hellman Auctions will offer a mixed franked 5 penni Saarinen/kopek cover, most frequently a 5 penni Saarinen with an appropriate kopek issue to meet the domestic post card or letter rates.

The challenge for collectors is to find the 10, 25, 50 penni and the 1 Fmk Saarinen issues with any kopek issues on cover. These combinations are extremely scarce if they exist at all. Kaj Hellman mentioned<sup>2</sup> that he believes he has seen a 10 penni Saarinen on a mixed franking item with a kopek stamp, but we are unable to confirm this observation with a picture of the object. In fact we have not identified a single example of the 25, 50 penni or the 1 Fmk Saarinen with a kopek issue on cover and, again, according to Hellman<sup>3</sup>, such objects more than likely do not exist.

The Finnish Post Office did not submit the Saarinen issues to the Universal Postal Union for validation for foreign mail until January 1918 because of delays in Finland receiving international diplomatic recognition as an independent sovereign nation. Therefore the Russian kopek and ruble issues continued duty for foreign mail despite the fact that they were invalid on inland mail. Finally, use of Russian stamps for foreign mail was demonetized on March 11, 1918, thirty days after receiving UPU approval for the Saarinen stamps. As the Saarinen stamps were invalid for foreign mail until March 12, 1918, there cannot be any mixed franking on mail destined for foreign destinations during this period. Nevertheless, there



Figure 2. Stamp dealer Ilmari Ponsio posted this 4 kopek Russian postal card on November 27, 1917, in Tampere the next to last day of valid kopek franking for inland mail. The card is frontstamped in Helsinki on 28. XI. 17. This card is also underfranked, but it passed unnoticed or was simply ignored by postal clerks. The authors are unaware of the existence of any Saarinen first day covers with added kopek franking and any Saarinen kopek item franked on the last day of kopek franking for inland mail. Surely Ponsio or other philatelists should have been aware of these historic dates in the philatelic calendar. If these items exist, we would like to illustrate them in the newsletter.

are numerous bogus covers in the market of various kopek and penni stamps in the period immediately following the demonetization of the kopek stamps in November 1917.

We would be especially interested to know if any of our readers have examples of properly used Saarinen stamps (other than the 5 penni value) on mixed franked objects mailed within Finland until the demonetization of the kopek stamps on November 28, 1917. Do you have one of the rarest mixed franking combinations of the Twentieth Century? If you do, we entreat you to share your gem with Finnish philatelists worldwide.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> FGPO Circular No. XXXIX, November 29, 1917.

<sup>2</sup> E-mail correspondence in June 2006 with Roger Quinby

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

## Insured Mail From Finland to Russia 1891 - 1918

### By Morten N rstad

In the literature there are some “black holes” regarding postal rates, particularly in early insurance and parcel rates to Russia and abroad. For many years I have been trying to find documentation for insurance rates from Finland to Russia during the period from 1891 to 1918. To the best of my knowledge the standard rate book<sup>1</sup> dealing with Finnish postal rates does not include insurance rates to Russia. Specific information regarding the registration and wax seal fees on insured mail to Russia is also not included as well.

Nevertheless, there have been several articles on the subject, but then usually dealing with the rate on one specific item or a shorter period of time.<sup>2</sup> In this paper I have attempted show all the applicable insurance rates to Russia for the period from 1891 to 1918.

Note that insurance rates for insured parcels are the same as for covers. Rates and periods stated for registration and seal fees in this paper pertain exclusively to insured covers, although registration and seal fees might be the same for other kinds



Figure 1. This cover was mailed from Tavastehus/Hämeenlinna on April 21, 1894, addressed to Gattsino south of St. Petersburg. Franked with 3 x 20 kopeks and a single 7 kopeks Ring stamps, for 67 kopeks franking. Insurance is for 50 rubles. The insurance fee in 1894 was 0.5 % corresponding to 25 kopeks. Registration fee was 7 kopeks. The letter is of fifth weight class, which required a franking of 35 kopeks. There is a postal seal from Tavastehus on reverse, but no seal fee is collected. See Figure 3 for image of seal. There are also four other seals on reverse, but these are private ones. Total postage rate is then 67k, also corresponding to the postal clerk's annotation on the reverse side. Collection of Jon Iversen.

however, it was also possible to use stamps in Finnish currency. Then the weight fee was 25 penni per luoti. From November 15, 1913 the weight system changed in the Russian Empire and, therefore, on mail from Finland to Russia. From that date, the weight fee was 15 grams per unit, which was the same as on international mail.

### Registration

FGPO Circular 9/544, valid March 13, 1882, states that the registration fee for an insured cover was 25 penni, but if the insured cover contained Russian currency the registration fee was paid with 7 kopeks. From September 17, 1891 the registration fee changed to 7 kopeks. From January 14, 1905 the registration fee was no longer applied on insured covers.

### Sealing

According to FGPO Circular 9667, valid October 13, 1900, a seal fee of 5 penni was applied. The seal fee applied only if an official postal wax seal was affixed to the cover at the post office, which was to cover the post offices costs. On January 14, 1905 the post office no longer assessed a fee for wax seals on insured mail.

I have noted insured covers from 1890s where it might seem that a seal fee of 1 kopek has been collected. It is not always easy, however, to calculate the proper insurance rates on early items. The reason for this difficulty is that we do not always know the correct exchange rate between rubles and marks that applied on insured mail on that date. So far I have not been able to find any postal documentation for a seal fee at this time although some clerks or post offices may well have collected a seal fee to cover their expenses.<sup>3</sup> It is also possible that documentation for a seal fee at an earlier point of time exists without my knowledge.

### Insurance Fees

It was possible to send insured covers before 1891. At least from May 29, 1879 and from March 24, 1882 the insurance rate remained in effect until the kopek stamps were introduced in Finland in May 1891. I have not been able to find any document stating maximum amount to be insured per shipment. Nevertheless, such limits probably did exist.

### Civil war

The outbreak of the civil war (War of Independence) commenced on January 28, 1918. From this day it was no longer possible to send any mail, including insured mail, to

| Valid From        | Weight Fee                              |
|-------------------|---|
| May 5, 1891       | 7 k or 25 p per 1 luoti or part thereof |
| January 1, 1892   | 7 k per 1 luoti or part thereof         |
| November 15, 1913 | 7 k per 15 gram or part thereof         |
| October 4, 1914   | 10 k per 15 gram or part thereof        |
| September 5, 1917 | 15 k per 15 gram or part thereof        |

Table 1. Weight fees for insured letters to Russia

| Valid From         | Registration Fee  |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| March 13, 1882     | 25 penni          |
| May 1, 1891        | 25 penni or 7 kop |
| September 17, 1891 | 7 kop             |
| January 14, 1905   | None              |

Table 2. Insurance fees on insured letters to Russia

of shipments in shorter or longer periods. All rates stated are found in official circulars issued by the Postal Administration. (See reference 1)

### Weight

Weight fee for insured covers was calculated in the same manner as for the weight for an ordinary covers. From May 5, 1891 the cover rate to Russia was 7 kopeks per 1 luoti (Lod) or part thereof, where 1 luoti equals approximately 13 grams according to postal documents. Until December 31, 1891,

| Valid From                    | Sealing Fee |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| October 13 <sup>th</sup> 1900 | 5 p         |
| January 14 <sup>th</sup> 1905 | None        |

Table 3. Sealing Fees on Insured Letters to Russia



Figure 2, left. Postal seal from Tavastehus/Hämeenlinna in Swedish. Figure 3, right. Helsinki postal seal in three languages, Finnish, Swedish and Russian..

Russia from the White Government controlled areas that were loyal to the Senate and had been relocated to Wasa in northern Finland.

### Red Finland

From the revolutionary southern part of Finland it appears, to the best of my knowledge, that the existing rates from September 5, 1917 were still valid after the outbreak of the civil war despite the fact that it was not possible to send mail to Russia. It appears that there was no postal connection to Russia the first week or so after the outbreak of the civil war. Between February 5 and 11, 1918 it was again possible to send ordinary, non-registered mail from some post offices. Finally, from February 18, 1918 it was also possible to send registered mail, but only from specified post offices. The list of post offices was extended on March 2. From April 12 the new cover rate valid on March 12 was confirmed. No registration fee was collected on insured mail to Russia

If a postal seal was used, a 10 penni seal fee was applied on insured domestic mail. I have not found any postal circulars or notices indicating that a seal fee was to be collected on insured mail to Russia.

From March 12 new insurance rates went into effect, which

| Insurance Fees to the Russian Empire 1882 - 1918 |   |   |                            |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|
| Valid From/Amount to Insure                      | ≤ 600 R<br>or<br>≤ 2400 M                 | > 600 R ≤ 1600R<br>or<br>>2400 M ≤ 6400 M | > 1600 R<br>or<br>> 6400 M |
| May 5, 1891 (March 13, 1882)                     | 0,5%                                      | 1,5 R + 0,25%                             | 3,50 R + 0,125%            |
| October 13, 1900                                 | ≤ 600 R                                   | > 600 R ≤ 1600 R                          | > 1600 R                   |
| January 14, 1903                                 | 0,25%                                     | 0,75 R + 0,125%                           | 1,75 R + 0,0625 %          |
| January 14, 1905                                 | ≤ 10 R                                    | > 10R ≤ 100 R                             | +100 R                     |
|  | 10 k                                      | 25 k                                      | 15 k                       |
| September 5, 1917                                | 15 k                                      | 30 k                                      | 30 k                       |
| January 18, 1918                                 | Insured mail no longer possible to Russia |   |                            |
| R = rubles, k = kopeks, M = Fmks                 |   |   |                            |

Table 4. Finland Insurance Fee Table

| Red Finland - Valid from         | Weight fee                         |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| March 12, 1918<br>April 12, 1918 | 35 kop per 15 gram or part thereof |

Table No. 5. Red Finland Letter Weight Rate Table

| Red Finland - Valid from/Amount to insure           | ≤ 1 R | + 1 R | At least 70 kop per shipment |
|---|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| March 12, 1918<br>April 12, 1918 (From Red Finland) | 1 k   | 1 k   |                              |

Table No. 6. Red Finland Insurance Fee Table

were confirmed on April 12. The Circular giving us the rates states it was not possible to send insured mail until further notice. To the best of my knowledge this notice was not distributed to local post offices. Therefore, it was most likely not possible to send insured mail to Russia from Red Finland at all. This rate was valid until early May 1918 or earlier, until the Senate or White Government regained control of southern Finland declaring in a April 18, 1918 Circular that “all of the regulations issued by the unlawful ‘Postal Council’ are null and void in that part of the country that is again under the rightful government...”<sup>4</sup> By early May 1918 the White Government regained complete control of Finland and reestablished administrative and operational control over the national post office.

**Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> For example, Esa Mattila, *Suomen Postimaksuja, 1881 - 1985*.
- <sup>2</sup> Janne Sahlstein, “Scarce May 1891 Mixed Franking Cover to Russia,” *The Finnish Philatelist*, Vol. 3, Feb. 1998, p 3.

- <sup>3</sup> Valter Johansson, *Russian Stamps in the Postal History of Finland*, Pargas, Finland, 1993. This book illustrates many insured covers, parcel cards, money orders and other mailed items with rate information.
- <sup>4</sup> Circular, Wasa, April 18, 1918 for the Interim Postal Administration.

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- 2. *The Ring Stamp & Stationery Centennial*, Suomen Ehiöfilatelistit Ry. Hanko, 1991.
- 3. Oy Kaj Hellman Ltd. Auction Catalogues.
- 4. “Mixed franking Covers from Finland to Russia,” Janne Sahlstein, *Suomen Postimerkkilehti* N°. 6 1998,
- 5. “Finska Statsjärvegarna Cover’s 40 Kopek Rate Puzzle Solved,” by Roger P. Quinby/Morten Närstad, TFP May 2002,
- 6. E-mail correspondence with Anatoly Kiryushkin, March 26, 2006.
- 7. “Postal Connections Between Russia and Finland 1918-1922,” J. Keturi, J. Lindeblad and Janne Sahlstein. *Filatelisti*, 6/2001 and TFP, November, 2003.
- 8. Esa Mattila, *Suomen Postimaksuja, 1881 - 1985*.



Figure 3, left. This beautiful insured letter to Moscow was mailed at Helsinki on 18. V. 94. It was insured for 200 rubles. The rate also follows the rate shown in this article for letters sent before 1905. Letter rate = 14 k for second weight, plus 1 ruble insurance fee.  $200 \times 0.05 = 100k = 1$  ruble. The letter was franked with 1891 ring issues. (ex R Quinby collection)

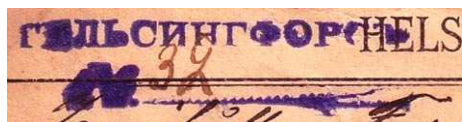


Figure 4, right. This cover was mailed in Helsinki on June 17, 1905 addressed to St. Petersburg, Russia. Amount to insure is 400 Fmk equal to 150 rubles. Franked with 2 x 20 k stamps from the 1889 Russian definitive issue, making a total of 40 k. The insurance fee in 1905 was 25 kopeks per 100 rubles and 15 kopeks for each additional 100 rubles. Total insurance fee is then 40 kopeks. Jernvägsstyrelsen (State railroad head office) had the right to sent letters free of weight charge. Marking in lower left corner indicates that this is free cover # 2. Registration fee was not applied. Registration # 32. There is a Helsinki postal seal on reverse, see Figure 4. Due to a new directive the seal fee was not applied. There are also four seals from State railroad head office on reverse. Total rate was 40 k. The addressee didn't pick up the cover within time. It is therefore struck with "VTORICHNOE" in the upper right corner and a second notice has been sent. See reference 6.

## Finland's 3 Registration Labels

By Matti Sipari, translated by Carita Parker, edited by Roger Quinby, from *Filatelisti*, 8/2005

Editor's Note: Additional information from Kaj Hellman and P. Savolainen has been added to the original text from *Filatelisti*. See references.

Some philatelists may not know that Russian language registration labels were also used in Finland from 1910 through March 1918. These labels were meant for registered postal items to the Empire. The use of the Cyrillic language text was connected to the Russian Ministry of the Interior's efforts to "Russify" the Finnish Post, that is, to remove Finnish national identification from stamps, postal forms, labels and marks insofar as this was practical.

The 3 labels are the size of the regular R-labels and imperforate except for the Helsinki label. The frame is red and the location name black. In place of the letter R is a Cyrillic letter 3 representing the word for registration '3AKA3HOE.' Such mail as this, however, is rarely seen, because the items disappeared or stayed in the vast land of Russia.

The 3's, as they were called, were used in post offices that had received them, which consisted of large postal places, towns with garrisons of Russian soldiers, postal locations on the Karelian Isthmus or other locations with substantial commercial mail to the Empire, such as Voikka.

The time period for the use of the 3-labels was 1910-1918. The mailings are from the 1910-1918 period and franked with Russian 1909-1918 definitive series stamps. Figure 1, Vuoksi to St. Petersburg 28. VI. 10, is a very early use. There are 13 different locations on loose labels and seven on covers or cards, a total of 20 locations. Hopefully, additional locations will be discovered, although at this point in time it seems unlikely.

After the Russian Ministry of the Interior relinquished authority of the Finnish Post to the Senate, the FGPO took steps to reassert Finnish national identity to postal services. One measure was to withdraw the 3-labels from use. Circular No. 1423 of July 10, 1917 states that "The 3-labels used for registration of mail items to Russia will no longer be sent from the main storage, instead when the labels run out post offices are to use the regular R-labels." According to Savolainen, the letter card addressed to Odessa, Figure 7, cancelled March 25, 1918, is the last recorded use of a 3 Registration label in Finland, (albiet, Red Finland).

We would be interested in establishing extreme dates or each location and if you should have a 3-label not listed here, please bring it to the attention of the editor.

### References:

P. Savolainen, "Punaisen Alueen Postia," *Fenno-Scandia*, No. 5, 22.10. 1964  
Kaj Hellman, "Finland's Russian Language Registration Labels"

| Registration Labels   | 3 Number       |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Kaitärvi              | Nos. 21 & 36   |
| Johannes              | No. 139        |
| Koirinoja             | No. 149        |
| Kavantsaari           | No. 166        |
| Tornio                | No. 419        |
| Viipuri               | Nos. 644 & 736 |
| Åbo                   | No. 808        |
| Uleåborg              | No. 903        |
| Tammerfors            | No. 319        |
| Tammerfors A.s.       | No. 517        |
| Tasvastehus           | No. 224        |
| Voikka                | No. 47         |
| Imatra                | No. 722        |
| Ekanäs                | No. 172        |
| Helsinki              | No. 633        |
| Helsinki (perforated) | No. 530        |
| R Labels on Cover     | 3 Number       |
| Kotka                 | No. 247        |
| Björneborg B.         | No. 730        |
| Åbo-Turku             | No. 791        |
| Sveaborg              | No. 877        |
| Hangö                 | No. 32         |
| Helsingfors B         | No. 1000       |
| Vuoksi                | No. 122        |

Table 1. Known 3-labels. Ekanäs and Imatra are also known on cover, but are not pictured in this article.



Figure 1. VUOKSI, 28. VI. 10, to St. Petersburg, 16. VI. 1910. Printed matter item. The 3-labels were introduced in 1910. Helsinki, 26. IV. 10 is the earliest recorded date for this type registration label.



Figure 2, left. KOTKA 9. V. 16, to Petrograd 27. IV. 1916, postage and registration each 10 kopeks. On the cover front and reverse side there are many notations. On the cover left upper corner the word “Зказное” was written, “registered” in Russian.



Figure 3, right. BJÖRNEBORG B. 28. V. 17, via Åbo 29. V. 1917 on back, to Petrograd 19. V. 1917 (Russian calendar). Postage and registration each 10 kopeks. On the cover left lower is sender's private mark.



Figure 4, left. HELSINGFORS B. (railway station) 21. VI. 17, Petrograd 14. VI. 1917. Letter in transit six days. The label No. 1000 is the highest number for this label type.



Figure 5, right. SVEABORG, 1. X. 17, via Helsingfors 1. X. 1917, to Vetluga - -1917. Letter weight 12 gram, postage 15 kopeks, registration 20 kopeks. The cover was returned and re-mailed. Cover was opened and inspected by the Helsinki war censor, markings on the inside.



Figure 6. ÅBO-TURKU 29.VII.17, to Jurev 18. VII. 19(Russian calendar). The Jurev arrival mark is partly on top of label. Rare bi-lingual Turku-Åbo 3-label in Russian.

Figure 7. Last reported use of 3 label from Finland, albeit Red Finland. Hango, 25. III. 18, to Odessa, Russia, returned because of war. 85 kopeks Red Finland rate is correct.

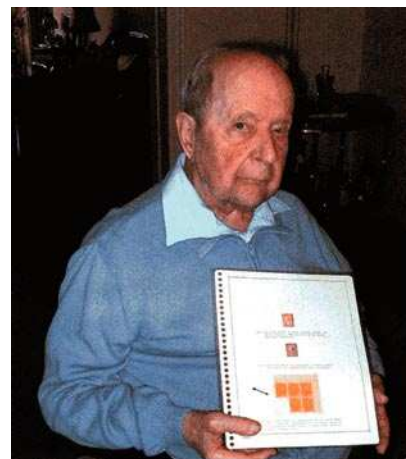
## Three Philatelic Giants Are Gone in Finland



Herbert Oesch



Göran Nykvist



Arnold Nyman

Three giants of philately in Finland closed their albums in the early months of 2006. Herbert Oesch, who died April 13, 2006, wrote the authoritative work on the 1875 issue of Finland. His work was translated into English by Kauko I. Aro and published in a two-volume edition in 1994 by the Scandinavian Philatelic Foundation. Volume I of *The Color and Printing Identification of the 1875 Issues: A New Approach* describes these stamps in detail with respect to paper, perforations, colors, the various printings and other production data. Volume II consists of tables that provide quantities and dates of production and delivery from the printer to the postal service to the cities and towns in Finland. The work was expanded and updated from the original Finnish version.

Oesch was a member of the Finnish Philatelic Federation's Expert Committee, the Finnish Philatelic Federation's board, and earlier chaired the largest philatelic club in Finland (Suomen Filatelistiseura in Helsinki).

Well-known philatelist Göran Nykvist, who was an economist, died February 12 at the age of 73, while skiing in the Lapland town of Äkäslompolo above the Arctic Circle.

He won a large gold at Philexfrance 99 for his "Finland Postal Stationery 1845-1884." He was a chairman of Finnish Philatelic Federation's Expert Committee and chaired the largest Swedish-speaking philatelic club in Finland (Helsingfors Frimärkssamlareföreningen). Earlier, he was on the board of the Finnish Philatelic Federation. Nykvist received all of Finland's major medals in philately: Pro Philatelia in gold 2003, the Philatelist of the Year 1999, Leo Linder trophy 2001.

Arnold Nyman, another economist, died March 14 in Helsinki at the age of 89. He received a large gold at Pacific 97 for his "Finland 1856-1885." At London 2000, his Finnish classics' exhibit was a candidate for the Grand Prix d'Honneur. Nyman was also a former member of the Finland Philatelic Federation's Expert Committee. He had large gold collections of classical Finland, Norway, and France. His Canada collection was said to be one of the best in Europe. During his life, he won more than 100 gold medals in exhibitions, with at least nine of them large gold.

Alan Warren and Lauri Poropudas

Continued from page 2.

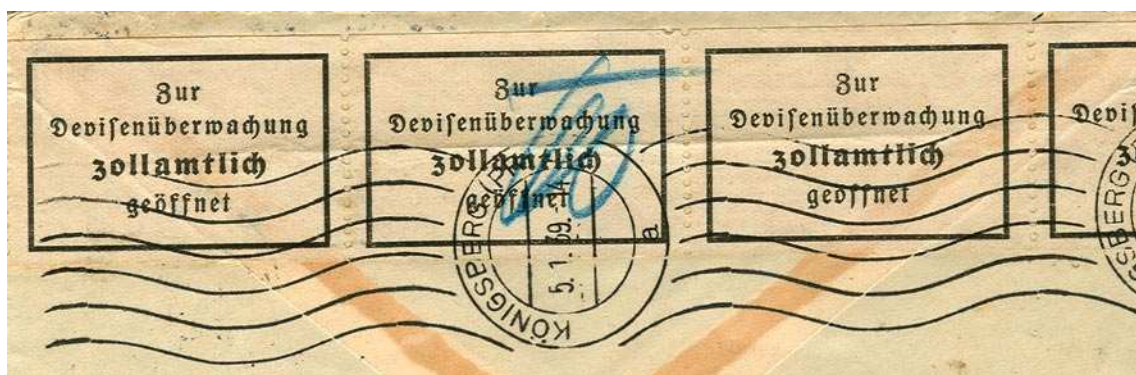
was unofficially cancelled at Hangö. Figure 3 shows another unofficial first day cancel, this time at Lohja.

The Figure 4 cover is postmarked 3 January, with a different Helsinki hand cancel, so it is a second day cover. It was sent to Germany and is backstamped 5 January. However, the back of the cover also bears an interesting label. Since 1939 brings to mind the troubled times that will shortly ensue in Europe, it is interesting to note that the envelope was opened and resealed with a strip of currency control labels (Figure 5).

The German fist was closing tightly on the mails.



Figure 4, above; Figure 5 below, currency control label on back.



## Continuing the Hunt for New Figure Cancel Discoveries

### An Unusual Figure (Cork) Cancel on a 10 Kopek 1891 Type Stamp

By Ed Fraser

Back in the November 2005 issue of TFP, pages 14 and 15, we examined an unusual 12 part grid pattern as a possible new discovery cork cancel on a 10 kop 1891 issue. Finding any cork cancels on 1891 ring issues is difficult, always interesting, and a small chapter can be written on the known cork cancels occurring on 1891 issue stamps. This suggests finding a previously totally unknown cork cancel on this issue would be quite unusual, but here again we now have a new candidate to examine in Figure 1.

To be fair, this stamp was not just recently found. It was acquired from another collector 28 years ago, when a specialized Finnish cancel collection was sold. There were no notes with this stamp, nor were there any notations on the back of it. Unfortunately, that does not give it much provenance, except to know that it has been around over 28 years. Additionally, the stamp has two thin spots.

A rough drawing of the cancel in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 2. I do not know what this design is called, or should be called. I used to think of them as “Crossroads Cancels” but

maybe they are more like a Balkan Cross? Because many of the cancels in this style look as if the cancellers themselves were made of rubber, pattern matching and pattern measuring seem more challenging. Additionally, since the Laitinen catalog lists 16 different ones, from Nos. 409 to 420A, many being quite common, it is fair to say they were a popular pattern for Finnish cork cancels. In the catalog, three have an uncertain status, and are starred to indicate that.



Figure 1. Possible new figure cancel on 10 kopek ring stamp. Enlarged.

Here, I would suggest that there are two ways to measure this style of cancel. The first approach would be to assume the cancel was cut on the flat end of a round form. Perhaps it was a round wood or rubber cork, dowel, or handle end. Then by measuring the maximum diameter of the cancel on a line going through the center, one gets a possible minimum diameter of the round form used. The second way would be to make two measurements as has been done in the three Hellman and Laitinen references: measure the length of the widest cancel mark, straight across, one side of the cancel to the opposite side; and then measure the same way, across the cancel, but at 90° to the first measurement. This effectively gives the dimensions of about the largest rectangle (or square) the cancel would exactly fit into.

For my case-in-hand, the diameter measurement seems to be 18mm, but it might be 17½mm. For the second method, it would probably be 17 x 17mm. Either way, that appears to eliminate all 16 of the cancels of similar style in the catalog. Most are just too large, some are also in just blue ink, some have more stylized Crosses, and some were probably only used well before 1891.

As was said before in discussing the cancel on the 10 kopek stamp presented in the November 2005 article of TFP, the long period of possible use of the 1891 issues, demonetized in 1911, precludes making an accurate guess of the period of use of the cancel. Other Finnish stamps used during this late 19<sup>th</sup> century-early 20<sup>th</sup> century “cork cancel period” had much shorter periods of likely use. However, we might guess that usage was before the Russian ringless 10 kopek stamps came into wide use in Finland. The ringless Russian 10 kopek stamps, per a note in the Facit Catalog, went on sale in Finland in October 1900, which suggests that 10 kopek ring stamp usage began to decline after that although usages for a while after that are not difficult to find.

Looking at the 16 other similar style Finnish cancels, most were used between 1885 and 1891, and on-cover usages dated in 1891 are listed in Hellman’s catalogue. Additionally, usages on Swedish 1891 issues are known. None, however, are listed known used on any later issues, such as the Finnish 1895 issue.

The most common of the similar style cancels is No. 410, of Åbo, shown in Figure 2. There are others of similar style that are less common, and several were used in the same period. However, they are all larger, being at least 21mm by 21mm, with one exception. Likewise, a thinner style like No. 413 shown in Figure 3, also common, also of Åbo, is 19mm by 20mm. Others similar to No.413 and used in the same period are also at least 19mm by 19mm. The one exception is 412A, indicated as of uncertain status by a star in the catalog. One example is known on an 1885 issue 5 penni stamp, it is described as in lilac-black ink, and is only 15mm



Figure 2. cancel No. 410



Figure 3. Cancel No. 413

by 15mm. It is shown in Figure 4.

[I need to ask Weber what the latest known usage of these cancels, 409 through 420A, might be. I also noticed an illustration in the 1974 Reference listed below, on page 109, of a “crossroads” cancel on an 1895 issue 5 penni that may not be a genuine cancel. Also, if any other different ones have been found since the 1981 Laitinen catalog came out, either ones assigned a new number, or ones that could not be verified.



Figure 4. cancel No. 412A.

It is always possible to be another country’s cancel, and as the 10 kopek 1891 stamp was most frequently used for franking mail going out of Finland, it may not be a Finnish cancel. However, its style and possible usage within the last years of significant Finnish figure cancel usage (the early 1890’s) support the possibility of it being a Finnish cork cancel.

Help from the expertizers in Finland

As stated before in the “Cork Cancel Corner,” without other examples or significant additional information it is not the practice to certify a new unique figure cancel discovery and assign it a new catalogue number.

In recent inquiries with Reinhard Weber to prepare this article, he advises that he knows of no similar example of this cancel.

### Other New Cancel Discoveries?

Also, if readers can present information and a scan or copy of any examples they have of cork cancels that are distinctive enough strikes to be clearly identified as not already listed in the Laitinen 1981 catalog, please let the editor know. Send any information, or your comments, to the Editor, or to Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, or by e-mail: efraser@msn.com

### Note

By 1891, apparently with the introduction of straight line village cancels in 1890, figure or cork cancels were becoming a smaller percentage of the cancels used. Most were generally phased out before the mid 1890s. Additionally, all usage of the kopek denominated 1891 issues was unpopular during their early years, explaining why very few are seen with any cork cancels. After 1891, some cork cancels continued to be actively used. Some perhaps were used for just a couple of years, and some, like prolific Nos. 441 and 442, were in use longer. However, most cork cancels well after 1891 seem to have become “special purpose” or “back-up” cancels that were used relatively infrequently.

### References:

- The 3 books regularly used and referenced are:
1. E.A.Hellman *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Suomen Kuvioleimat*, 1961- Hardbound 413 pages.
  2. E.A.Hellman and Aaro Laitinen *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Suomen Kuvioleimat*, c. 1974, 109 pages.
  3. Aaro Laitinen *Die Figurenstempel Finnlands – Preiskatalog*, c. 1981, 247 pages.