



The Finnish Philatelist

Vol.11, No. 4 • November 2006 • Whole Number 41
ISSN 1536-8807



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

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The Finnish Philatelist

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

The newsletter will be sent free of charge to all members of the FSG thru 2006. A \$5 (USA & Canadian readers) and \$10 (International readers) contribution to cover printing/ mailing costs is appreciated. Contributions should be made payable to and sent directly to the Editor.

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Editor's Message:

This newsletter is about a month late; several fall judging assignments, a trip to Finland for NORDIA 06, a stop in Paris for a visit with our daughter and her family then a stop at Emory Crawford-Long Hospital for knee replacement surgery put a lot of pressure on the newsletter publication schedule. The knee is healing well and we should be back on schedule in February.

NORDIA 2006, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the first Finnish stamp issue was a magnificent show. Jeffrey Stone of Scotland and John Campbell of New Zealand offer their accounts of this important Nordic philatelic tradition. I hope that we can marshal more a larger North American contingent for the next NORDIA. These Nordic shows provide an opportunity to find elusive material and view outstanding exhibits which are simply not available at any show in Canada, USA or the UK. Plan ahead to attend the next NORDIA, 2008 in Norway.

Last September Bob Hisey of Florida scanned the first six issues of the newsletter and "saved" them in a PDF format; they have been transferred to Volume 1 of TFP CD ROM, which now contains all the newsletters through 2002, Vols. 1-7, Whole Numbers 1-25. Bob, many thanks for your contribution. For acopy of the CD, contact the editor.

The 3 registration article elicited several responses and we can now confirm at least 14 covers with the elusive Cyrillic language registration label. David Skipton, a well known Russian linguist and postal historian, has provided some insight and revealed a new marking on a well traveled cover from Raumo to St Petersburg. See pages 3 and 4.

Photos on pages 5 and 6 are the courtesy of John DuBois and Janne Sahlstein.

Several years ago I asked for cards or covers showing certain Postiljoonivaunu cancellations that were missing from my collection. Illustrated below is PJ Type 1, Postilj.v.S-J, on a 1909 card from Jyväskylä to Helsinki. There is another Postilj.v.S-J cds indicating the Sordavala-Joensuu train. From the date line on the message side of the card it is usually possible to identify the correct train route. Elo Hannu, thank you for this card.



Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 15

By Alan Warren

Our cover this time is a first day for the 1940 Red Cross semi-postal issue that features warriors (Norma 241-244). The stamps were released January 26, 1940 in a set of four values. The 50 p + 5 p shows a 15th century crossbowman and the 1 ¼ Fmk + 15 p has a 16th century mounted cavalryman.

A soldier in the service of King Charles XII during the 18th century is seen on the 2 Fmk + 20 p value, and the 3 ½ Fmk + 35 p stamp depicts a 19th century officer and soldier. It is a registered FDC to Sweden and appears to be overfranked. This is often the case where an entire set of stamps is used on a first day cover. The letter rate up to 20 g was 2 Fmk and the registry fee an additional 2 Fmk.

The cachet is a general purpose handstamp with “First Day Cover” in four languages—French, English, German and Swedish. Instead of the expected Helsinki origin, this cover was hand cancelled at Vaasa.

The return address on the reverse of the cover indicates it was serviced by the noted antiquarian book dealer and stamp dealer Georg Lindman. His address is in Stockholm although



about ten years earlier he was known to have prepared cachets for Scandinavian area first flight covers while residing in Gräsberg, Sweden.

One other item of note is the rectangular censor handstamp at lower left used at Vaasa. This is Moxter type TG-S-53 and falls within the period of the Winter War.

Reference

Maxter, Hans G. *Die Postzensur in Finnland*, FG Nordische Staaten im BDPH e.V., Kassel, Germany 1975.

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Ovalpoint.com is now available. It is the product of collector Esa Kärkäs' passion for compiling the most significant items of Finnish philately into a reference collection.

In 2007 the reference collection aims to comprise all Finnish stamp issues from 1856 to 1891, and in the future the reference collection can be extended to other areas in which the collecting community is interested. The first issues available in the reference collection is the oval issue of 1856, i.e. the first Finnish postage stamp issued 150 years ago and celebrated at NORDIA 2006.

The construction of the Finnish reference collection is a significant international project. Partners include the Philatelic Federation of Finland, The Finnish Postal Museum, several of the most important Finnish auction houses and stamp shops including, Hellman Auctions Ltd, Suomen Filatellapalvelu Oy, and Merkki-Albert. Participating Scandinavian auction firms include Postiljonen AB of Sweden and Thomas Høiland of Denmark. The Swiss firms of Corinphilia Auctions Ltd of Zurich and David Feldman S. A. are also partners in this important project.

Ovalpoint's aim is not to have a fully complete reference collection one day because our knowledge of items is augmented and refined all the time. Each user can submit proposals concerning items that are still missing in the collection. The collective input will develop the reference collection into a service that optimally meets the needs of us all.

You can access the service without registration, but as a registered member you have more classification options for making searches. There is no registration fee.

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3 Registration Label Update

In the August newsletter we listed 3 registration labels from 21 different town or railway post offices, including seven on cover. As a result of the article several readers have submitted covers from Raumo, Voikka and Helsinki. The Raumo cover is new. The Voikka cover confirms the previous listing, but at that time we did not have the label on cover. Helsinki 3 registration label No. 75 on cover is also a new find. This label is also perforated. Helsinki 583, 767, and 911 are also known on cover. Wyborg As. is also new, illustrated in Figure 2. We previously reported covers from Ekenäs and Imatra with the 3 labels, however no illustrations are currently available. In summary we now have confirmed 14 covers with the elusive 3 registration labels. New finds will be reported from time to time.

Updated 3 Registration List: 11-2006

Registration Labels	3 Number
Kaitärvi	Nos. 21 & 36
Johannes	No. 139
Koirinoja	No. 149
Kavantsaari	No. 166
Tornio	No. 419
Wyborg	Nos. 644 & 736
Åbo	No. 808
Uleåborg	No. 903
Tammerfors	No. 319
Tammerfors As.	No. 517
Tasvastehus	No. 224
Imatra	No. 722
Ekenäs	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
Voikka	No. 47
Vuoksi	No. 122
Raumo	No. 559
Helsinki (perforated)	No. 75
Helsinki	No. 583
Helsinki	No. 767
Helsinki (perforated)	No. 911
Wyborg As.	No. 873



Figure 1. Helsinki, 18. XI. 10, to Lifyand via Yur'ev, *Laissgol'm*, Kersel'skoye Volost Board of Administration. Very early use of the Cyrillic registration label.

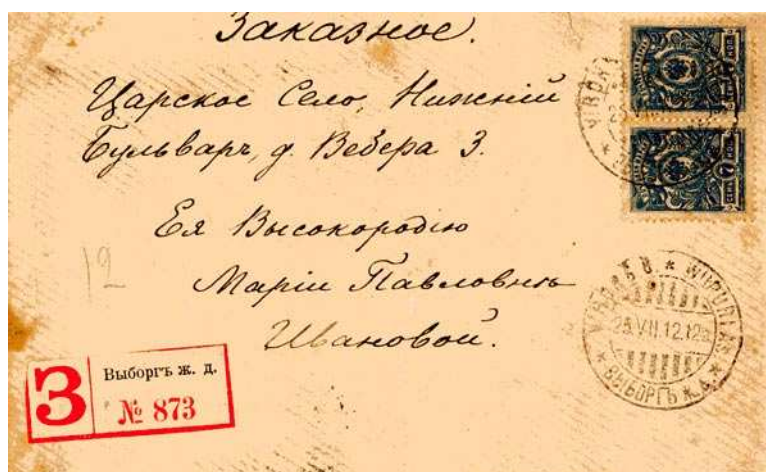


Figure 2. From the railway station at Wyborg, 25. VII. 12, to Tsaskoye Selo. From the collection of Leonard Tann.



Figure 3, right. Voikka, 12. VII. 16, to Petrograd.

For David Skipton's analysis of the Raumo cover, turn to page 4

Cyrillic Addressed Raumo Cover with 3 Registration Label Examined

By David Skipton

This well traveled cover (*Figure 4, right*) from Raumo to St. Petersburg properly addressed in the Russia style and affixed with the elusive 3-Registration label has an interesting story to tell.

1) The cover is addressed to Engineer Lauri Gelenius, St. Petersburg, Wyborg side (Storona), Simbirskaya St. 47, Apartment 56.

2) The diagonal handstamp reads in Russian <<По указанию Адресного стола>> (“By instruction of the Address Office,” or “At the direction of the Address Office”). I have never seen this handstamp, and it is not listed in Dobin and Ratner’s, *From the history of the St. Petersburg Post*. The black ink scribble immediately below it and on the line appears to be a signature, but I cannot make it out.

3) The red-ink inscription with the address is “To Raumo.”

4) The blue-pencil inscription looks like “26/a” but this observation is not certain. If it were the apartment number I would have thought the postal carrier would have crossed out the “Apt 56” rather than underline it. Same or the street number.

5) The word “verti” or “varti” in the lower right-hand corner is a mystery to me. The word does not appear in Wirkberg’s, *Expressions Postales* (1897), but because it is underlined in red, it would seem that was important to someone.

What does all this mean? The fact that “St. Petersburg” was written in by a different hand at the bottom of the cover would suggest that they tried yet again to deliver it in St. Petersburg and because the city name, street address and the apartment number are all underlined in red, I think the address was correct to begin with. So, the timeline would look like this:

- 15 June 1913 – the cover is sent from Raumo.
- 16 June 1913 – it arrives in St. Petersburg.
- 16 June 1913 – uniform postal carrier(s) unsuccessfully attempt to deliver the item to Mr. Gelenius.
- On or about 17 June 1913 the cover is sent to the Address Office and from it gets routed back to Raumo (red ink), and the handstamp “By instruction of the Address Office” is applied, the Address Office official signs it and scribbles something in blue pencil.
- Probably on 21 June it leaves St. Petersburg for Raumo.
- 22 June - the cover arrives in Raumo.



At this point it is not clear what path the cover traveled. The sender once again dispatched the letter to St. Petersburg after crossing out “To Raumo” and underlining the address indicating that the original address is correct. Was the cover delivered on the second attempt or was it again returned to Raumo? There are no further marks to complete the story of this unusual cover from Raumo with the Cyrillic 3 Registration label.

NORDIA 2006

New World Participants

John DuBois: *Danish West Indies Mail 1748-1879* (Gold & Grand Prix International 2006)

Mark Lorentzen: *Across the Danish Border 1851-1865* (Gold & Grand Prix Nordique 2006)

Roger Quinby: *Russia in Finland* (Invited Class – Gold)

John Campbell: *A Tribute to Czeslaw Slania 1921 – 2005* (Open Class – Vermeil)

James A. Gaudet: *Danish Advertising Booklets 1927-1934* (Large Vermeil)

James A. Gaudet: *Danish Advertising Booklets* (Literature - Large Vermeil)

Don Halpern: *Danish Mail During the Napoleonic Period 1794 - 1814* (One frame - Large Vermeil)

Stephen P. Kaplan: *Usages of the 1891 Ring Stationery* (Large Vermeil)

NORDIA 2006 in Retrospect - Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the First Finnish Stamps

By Jeffrey Stone



A large crowd assembled in the foyer of Helsinki's main exhibition and fairs center for the opening ceremony of the 24th international NORDIA stamp exhibition on October 27, 2006. The speakers raised their voices to make themselves heard above the sounds of animated conversation and the clink of glasses, as collectors from across Scandinavia and the wider world renewed acquaintances. At 11am, the tape was duly cut and the crowd rapidly dispersed throughout the extensive floor area of the exhibition hall, some intent on finding the bargains at the dealers stands, others to gain a first glimpse of an impressive array of exhibits or to join long and orderly queues in the Finland Philatelic Center's sales area.

The three-day exhibition was the culmination of a year of events in Finland to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first issue of Finnish postage stamps, the extraordinary oval stamps of 1856. The exhibition catalogue contained a long article on the issue, in Finnish and Swedish with an English summary, and well illustrated with many of the rare pieces from this issue. It is strange to think that the original announcement of the availability of stamps to prepay postage amounted to seven lines in a newspaper some two weeks after they became available. Postage stamps were not much used at first in Finland and only about 442,000 of the 10 kopek denomination were sold over the following four years. It is thought that only about 3-6,000 of

these have survived so they are not easy to acquire, whilst the 5 kopek denomination is much scarcer. It was appropriate that the prize for the lucky purchaser of the exhibition catalogue (price 4 Euros) whose number was drawn during the event was an oval stamp of 1856.

An encouraging feature over the three days of the exhibition was the evident interest of visitors in the great variety of exhibits. The passage ways between the frames were often crowded with groups of people discussing what was on display, whilst individuals moved from frame to frame, browsing the collections of particular interest to them. Selective viewing was essential since there were 172 exhibitors, with every aspect of philately well represented. Postal history and traditional philately were particularly well supported, with strong showings of thematics as well. The one-frame and open classes were remarkable for variety and breadth, ranging from the esoteric ("Nordic travel cards 1929-1941") to the personal ("the ecclesiastical career of my great grandfather"). There were also fine airmail collections, postal stationery and revenues on display.

No less than four Grand Prix awards were open for competition. The awards are made by the international jury of ten judges who nominate one or more exhibits for each award. Where there is more than one nomination, they hold a ballot using sealed envelopes. These are opened one by one. As soon as six votes have been cast for a nominated exhibit, counting stops in what remains a secret ballot and the winner announced. The National Grand Prix was unanimously awarded to a fine display of classic Finland, particularly



strong in the 1856 oval type. The Nordic Grand Prix went to a postal history exhibit entitled "Across the Danish Border". The International Grand Prix went to another postal history display of Danish West Indies Mail. The Grand Prix NORDIA 2006 overall was awarded, to the great delight of his friends and fellow stamp club members from the town of Jyväskylä, to Jussi Murtoasaari, a Finnish collector exhibiting the 1875-84 definitives of Finland. The votes are counted during the Palmares banquet which added excitement to a splendid social occasion in grand surroundings and with an accompanying musical program. Needless to say, for many the conviviality continued informally well into the night!

There was also a program of music and dance throughout each day on a stage adjacent to the stands and exhibits, perhaps providing relief from philately for long-suffering spouses. The twelve philatelic bureaus from Scandinavia and beyond seemed to be well patronized, as was the Philatelic Federation of Finland's stand which included a preview and demonstration of a remarkable project about to be launched. The intention is to compile as full a record as possible of classic Finnish philately from 1856 to 1891. Individual items will be recorded with details of provenance and with further contributions invited from collectors through the Internet. The reference collection will start to become available on line as from 1 December 2006 at www.ovalpoint.com.

Another stand with a steady stream of clients was the Finland Post Personalized Stamp stand which stood apart from Finland Post's main sales area. Personalized stamps were introduced in Finland in 2003 and to date, 1.8 million have been ordered with more than 15,000 picture themes. Some 1,200 companies have used them to enhance their corporate image, using a choice of seven frames. Orders from private individuals are likely to be for the popular themes of children, pets and hobbies. Although Finland Post emphasizes that personalized stamps are not eligible for exhibition, they claim that these



Mark Lorentzen, left, of the Scandinavian Collectors Club, USA, receives a gold medal and the Grand Prix Nordique NORDIA 2006 from Chief Judge, Juhani Pietilä.

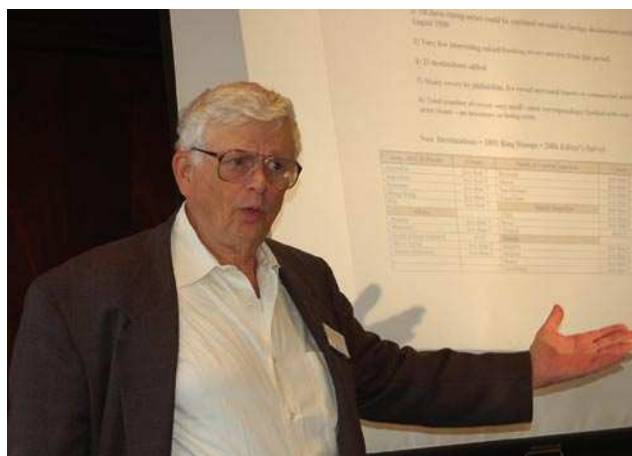
items have raised the profile of stamps and of philately.

Commemorative and first day postmarks could be obtained on the spot and stamp designers sat patiently signing their products at appointed hours. Related topics were on display at stands exhibiting calligraphy and the minting of coins. The Finland Postal Museum stand not only offered stationery depicting some of its best known holdings but they also displayed some unique items of Finnish philately. A truly remarkable display of the oval stamps of 1856 was mounted, not in the exhibition hall but in the Postal Museum itself at the same time as the exhibition.

This was the seventh occasion that Finland has hosted a NORDIA exhibition. Unfortunately, there will not be another NORDIA exhibition anywhere in Scandinavia in 2007, but Finland has once again put on a splendid show, enjoyed by visitors not only from other Scandinavian countries but with notable contributions from the USA, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Japan and the UK, a truly international event which confirmed the strength of Scandinavian philately.



NORDIA President Kari Rahiala (right) and Roger Quinby share animated stamp talk at the gala Palmares.



Roger Quinby discusses mail from Finland to abroad at a joint meeting of the Swedish and Finnish postal history societies.

A New Zealander's Perspective of NORDIA 2006

By John Campbell

My first visit to Scandinavia was over 50 years ago. Some of you may know of the strong ties that I have in that part of the world. Not only have I been a serious collector of Czeslaw Slania for many years, but I also have a twin brother and a son living in Sweden. During this extended overseas trip I had the pleasure of exhibiting and attending the Nordia weekend.

Finland is such a beautiful country especially in late October. The capital city of Helsinki was an ideal choice of venue especially as Finland Post was celebrating 150 years, the jubilee anniversary of the introduction of their first postage stamp, and the 40th anniversary of Nordia.

The Exhibition was held in the Helsinki Fair Center, a very well laid out exhibition, with plenty of space around the frames. It was also nice to be in one hall. Catering facilities were excellent. Over thirty Postal Administrations were present and dealers and auction houses from Denmark, Norway and Sweden as well as Finland were represented. Although Finnish was the main language, both spoken and on the address system, English was widely spoken. I found though, that hearing foreign languages tended to give the show that International feeling. Another feature that I also liked was the stage featuring Finnish culture from classical ballet to Rap groups.

The Nordia Show had 204 exhibitors contributing over 1000 frames, which included 17 one frame exhibits and 25 Literature entries. All Nordic countries were represented, along with the Scandinavian Collectors Club of the USA. A well balanced International Jury did a splendid job with some high caliber exhibits. Of the Four Grand Prix awards, two were from the United States, John DuBois, Grand Prix International NORDIA 2006 for "Danish West Indies Mail 1748-1879" and Mark Lorentzen for "Across the Danish Border" and two from Finland, Jussi Murtosaari for "Finland, Coat of Arms, Type 1875" Mauri Lahtinen for "Suomi mallit 1856, 1860 ja 1866."

The quality of the exhibits can be summed up by noting that over 60% of the exhibitors were awarded Vermeil or higher medals. As was to be expected the Exhibition was strong in Postal History, Traditional, and Thematics. Finnish material alone made up 250 frames with another 290 frames showing additional Nordic material. I enjoyed the five exhibits showing Zeppelin Mail, much of which I had never seen before. In Thematics there were some eye-catching exhibits; The Power



of Gold (which had two essays of the NZ 1940 Centennial issue), The Royal Game (Chess), and A History of European Church Architecture to name but a few. I have always had a soft spot for Open Class / Social Philately and this class was represented with 82 high quality frames. The Gold Medal

in this class was a superb entry - Traveling Transatlantic, although I was also impressed with The Life and Work of a Traffic Planner, Turtles, Squirrels, and The Mysterious Cat. The One Frame exhibits also proved very popular with the general public, and a good insight into philately at a glance.

If I had to choose my top six exhibits, I would nominate - Iceland until 1901, Postal History in the Åland Islands 1637-1967, Danish West Indies Mails 1748-1879, which won the Grand Prix International, LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin, The Power of Gold, and The Show of Mr. Turtle. My favorite One Frame would have to go to Danish Mail during the Napoleonic Period (1794-1814).

Both the Medal Ceremony and Palmars were held at the Holiday Inn which is adjacent to the Fair Centre. I liked the idea of holding the Award Ceremony prior to the Palmars. The Palmars was a lavish affair and well attended. A live band played throughout the evening, with a well-known Finnish female Opera singer performing classic Finnish and modern pop songs. The evening was concluded with dancing and I believe wound up around midnight.

Full credit must go to the Organizing Committee, with backing from the Finland Post. The whole event was held in a very friendly atmosphere. Most of the exhibits are not seen here in the South Pacific region so it certainly was a treat for me.

The Exhibition was held under FIP guidelines. I spoke at length both to Knud Mohr (ex FIP President) and the other Nordic Presidents from Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland and they all agreed that NORDIA should be recognized as an International by all countries. I only hope in the future that I will not be the sole representative from New Zealand.

If any of you want any further information on future NORDIA Exhibitions please feel free to drop me an e-mail at: johncampbellnz@hotmail.com.

It has been my pleasure to share my experiences with you.

Double Censoring in Finland 1916-1917:

An Unnecessary and Ultimately Failed System for Comprehensive Censorship

By Roger Quinby

Editors Note: The original article on double censorship was sent to Jorma Keturi for peer review. He graciously reviewed the article and offered suggestions and new information, which I have incorporated into the article. I am very grateful for Mr. Keturi's assistance. Of course, I am fully responsible for any errors or mistakes in the article. R Quinby

Introduction

Finland embarked on a comprehensive postal censoring program in August 1914 that included censoring all mail to and from abroad as well as all inland mail with few exceptions for official and diplomatic letters. Insured and registered letters, parcels and mail in international traffic were subject to "active" censorship; that is, opening and inspection of the contents of the envelope or package. Most ordinary inland letter mail, including post cards, official forms (money order cards, parcel cards and so forth) were also subject to censoring, but this mail was subject to cursory or "passive" censorship unless randomly selected for further inspection or the censor noticed a name or address on a restricted (secret) list.

The censor offices throughout country operated under the supervision of the Censorship Committee at Helsinki. The Committee consisted of president Holmberg, and the following members: Army Captain Obolenskij, Mr Kanninen from the Office of the General Governor for Finland, Mr. Golenko of the General Board of Printed Matters, and Mr. Virkberg of the General Post Office. The secretary of the Committee was staff Captain Slusal.

The Russian Sixth Army was the overseer of the Finnish Censorship Committee, and shortly after the outbreak of hostilities, Finland was put under martial law. The Governor General for Finland was then only responsible for administrative matters. He was put under the military command of Finland. The Governor General tried to be active towards Censorship Committee, but without success.

Throughout the war, censorship responsibilities placed a considerable strain on the General Post Office. It was especially difficult maintaining delivery schedules and the financial burden was enormous as the post office was required to subsidize all payroll and administrative expenses for the ten censorship offices established throughout Finland.

The censor offices operated under the ultimate supervision of the Russian Sixth Army (through the Censorship Committee) as well as the Governor General for Finland and the Russian Ministry of the Interior. The basic rule which remained in effect throughout the period of censorship was that domestic mail was subject to censoring at the designated destination censor office. Operating rules frequently changed resulting in redirecting domestic mail from one censor location to another. Foreign

mail (inbound and outbound) was also subject to handling changes causing some hardship on normal processing and delivery of the mail.

Double Censoring

The Censor Committee advised the Finnish postal authorities on August 14, 1916 of a new rule that all mailed items were to be "double censored," that is domestic mail was to be censored at both the departure censor office and the receiving or destination censor office. Then on August 27th 1916, a clarifying bulletin was issued by the president of the Censorship Committee that instructed all postal deliveries which were subject of censoring to be directed to the oldest censor of the censorship office closest to the departure post office. After inspection, he then forwarded the mail to the assigned censorship office for the receiving addressee.

At first the Finnish General Post Office resisted this rule because there was a shortage of censors and it imposed a major financial burden on the post office, which picked up all the costs for the censor offices. Mr. Jamalainen, the Postmaster General, wrote on September 9, 1916 to his superiors that huge problems would be expected from double censoring. It was not only the censoring work alone that added a huge burden to the post office, but readdressing and rerouting of the postal deliveries to another censor station before final delivery would greatly overload the postal transportation and delivery system and unnecessarily delay the delivery of the mail.

According to Mr. Jamalainen, he informed the Censor Committee that the Wyborg post office alone would require at least 30 new postal clerks, although in the end only five new censors were hired. He suggested in his letter a more flexible system for the oldest censors to make their own decision on which deliveries were to be sent for double censorship and which were to be sent directly to the addressee. The Russian military authorities rejected the Postmaster's recommendations and although this rule would prove to be onerous, the Finnish Post Office ultimately relented and ordered double censoring to begin on September 21, 1916.

Double censoring required censor inspection at both departure and receiving post office censor offices. For instance a letter from the city of Heinola addressed to city of Lahti (only 30 kilometers apart each other), first travelled via Lahti to Kuopio and then back bypassing Lahti to Tampere for censoring second time and then to the final destination in Lahti. Travelling back and forth took one week's time. Mail sent from one post office to another post office within the same censorship district would have to be inspected by a second censor from the originating district office. This requirement for double censoring local mail was soon abandoned, but the public noticed long travel times and many people decided to curtail their use postal services.



Figure 1. Censored on departure from Tornio well before official “double censoring” on 15 VIII. 16, CS No. 2, and then on arrival at Helsinki, CS No. 18, dated 4, VIII. 16, according to the Julian calendar. This card which did not require special rerouting to either the departure or destination censor office was handled with unusual efficiency.



Figure 2. Oulu, 8. IX. 16 to Helsinki. First censored at Oulu with CS. No. 13, CM No. 7. “Tark 7” (Inspected by censor 7), then to Helsinki, 9. IX. 16 and again passed by the censors and struck with CS No. 18, 30. VIII. 16, according to the Julian calendar.



Puolanka, 25. IX. 16, via Oulu censor station and struck with CS No. 13 (“T” is missing in Tark 7) and finally departing Helsinki censor station on 1. X. 16 after CS No. 18 was dated according to the Julian calendar.

Implementing Double Censoring

According to Olamo, official double censoring went into effect in Wyborg on September 24, in Helsinki on October 3, Turku on October 14, and in the other locations, Björnborg, Oulu, Pori, Raumo, Nikolainkaupunki/Wasa, Tampere and Tornio, on October 28. However, in fact Helsinki, Tampere and Raumo never censored outgoing mail.

Early Double Censoring

Apparently, the Censor Committee had advised the censor offices before the official date because double censoring has been found well before the official order went into effect. In an article by Hannu Forsblom, “About Double censoring,” one doubled censored cover is noted with the comment that this picture post card was the only item known to him. The card described by Forsblom was addressed to Äänekoski, postmarked by Kuopio and censored there on 14. IX. 16, sent to Nikolainkaupunki where it was censored again, 16. IX. 16 and then finally sent to Äänekoski, 17. IX. 16. This card confirms Olamo’s report that double censoring has been found to exist well before the order went into effect. Were these “early” double censored objects part of a series of tests to ascertain the feasibility of the program? Without written directives and other archival documents as references I am left to speculate why these objects were subject to censoring at both the departure and arrival censor offices. For another example, see Figure 1.

Double Censoring Unravels

If all letters, official cards and forms and other objects that traveled across censor districts (i.e. Wyborg to Nikolainkaupunki) were subject to double censoring from about the time the order was implemented, then double censored objects should be rather common. Nevertheless, it appears that double censored objects are not common; in fact, they are quite scarce. There must be an explanation for this apparent inconsistency because there was still a great deal of mail handled by the General Post Office in 1916/17. One reason is that the Censor Committee quickly appreciated the burden and futility of double censoring local mail. Thus, on October 14, 1916, before double censoring was even implemented at seven censor offices, a directive was issued that “local mail deposits” in the cities were exempt from double censoring. On November 6th, another directive was issued that postal mailings already inspected by a war censor should not again be directed to the same censor office.⁷ This directive strongly suggests that there would be no necessity for double censoring local mail, that is, mail addressed within the same censor district office even if it was addressed to a different town within the district. Still later in November and December a series

continued on page 12



Figure 4. Package card from Nikolainkaupunki, 20. X. 16, struck with dateless passive censor stamp No. 20 without town identification, then censored at Åbo/Turku and struck with CS No. 6 with ink spots showing in the center. Collection of Jorma Keturi.



Figure 5. Censored at departure in Nikolainkaupunki, 15. X. 16 with CS No. 17 with ink blotches in the center, to Björneborg/Pori and censored on arrival with oval date stamp, CS No. 5, 3. IX. 16, according to the Julian calendar. Collection of Jorma Keturi.

Figure 6, right. From Woikoski, 15. II. 17, to Wyborg, opened, inspected, resealed with CT No. 1, and marked with Wyborg CS No. 14, CM No. 58 dated 17. 2. 17, and then marked with a Wyborg machine cancel the next day noting departure on 18. II. 17, to Helsinki. The cover arrived in Helsinki on 19. II. 17, 9 f (AM) and departed that evening at 7 e (PM) after passing Helsinki censorship noted by CS No. 18 with date given according to the western calendar.

17. II. 17 is the earliest known use for Wyborg resealing tape No. 1 on brown paper. The prior date was March 3, 1917. The resealing tape is on the left hand side.



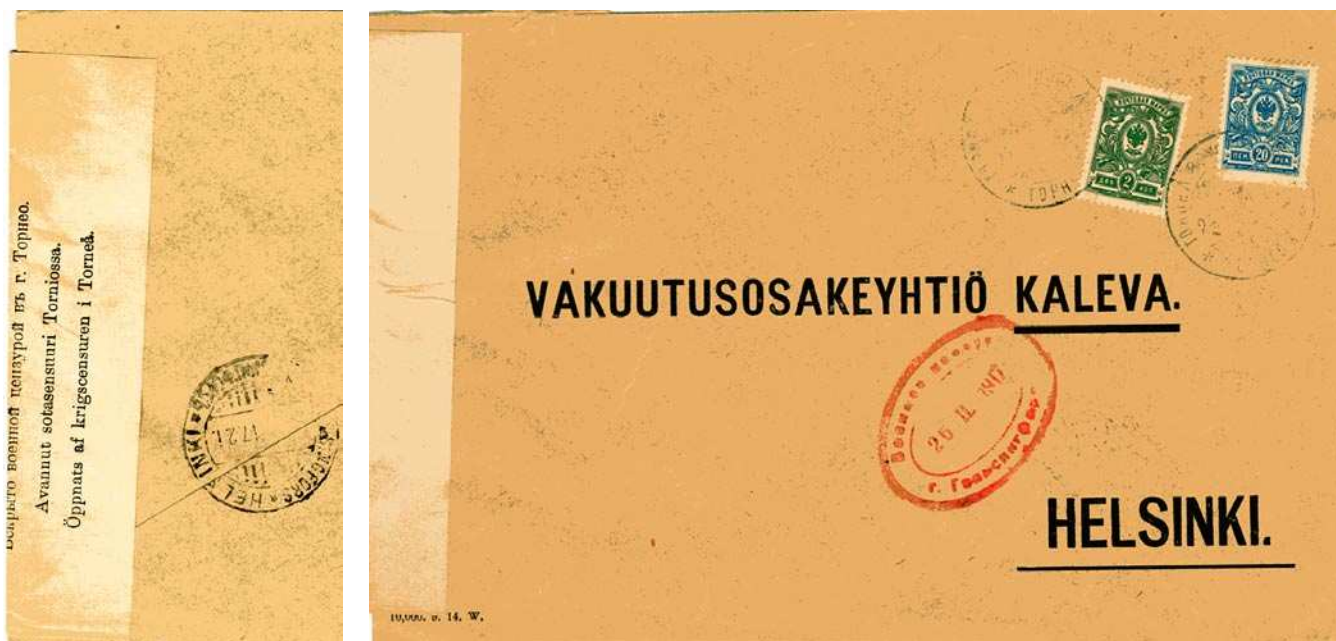


Figure 7. This cover to a Helsinki insurance company was opened, inspected and resealed in Tornio on 24. II. 17. Before departure to Helsinki the cover back was struck with the two line personal date stamp, Tornio CS No. 7, CM No. 8. The cover was censored a second time in Helsinki indicated by Helsinki CS No. 18, dated 26. II. 17 by the western calendar. This is the latest double censored cover from Tornio.



Figure 8. Mail from abroad was frequently subject to censorship at the port of entry and the again at the destination censor office. From Stockholm, 23. 2. 17, via Helsinki, 26. II. 17, struck with very common two line CS No. 20, CM 35, then to Wasa (Nikolainkaupunki) where it was again inspected and struck with (Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 15, which by this point in time was so worn that only illegible ink spots remained.

Although “double censored,” this card was not censored according to the August/September 1916 rules, rather according to the original 1914 rules requiring censoring at port of entry and at the destination censor office.

Place of First Censor	Earliest	Latest
Nikolainkaupunki	Sept. 6, 1916	Jan. 3, 1917
Tornio	Sept. 28, 1916	Feb. 24, 1917
Tornio	Aug. 16, 1916? Collection, R. Quinby	
Wyborg	Nov. 17, 1916	Jan. 17, 1917
Turku	Jan. 2, 1917	Jan. 2, 1917
Helsinki	None	None
Oulu	Sept. 8, 1916	Jan. 25, 1917
Pori	Dec. 20, 1916	Dec. 20, 1916
Kuopio	Sept. 9, 1916	Oct. 7, 1916
Tampere	None	None
Raumo	None	None

Table 1. This table was compiled from the collections of Jorma Keturi and Roger Quinby and shows the earliest and latest dates recorded when items were first and last censored according to the double censoring rules promulgated in August and September 1916.

The Tornio card illustrated as Figure 1 was first censored on August 15, 1914, just one day after it was decided to embark on the double censoring initiative. If this card is confirmed as properly marked (and I see no reason why it should not be), it establishes that the Censor Committee was in direct contact with the Tornio censor office before the General Post Office issued its September 21st circular to post offices to direct mail to the departure censor office for initial censorship inspection.

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of rules and rule modifications were introduced to streamline the delivery of parcels, which together with the address card, were also subject to double censoring, but often the “second” mark was a postal cds (circular date stamp) and not a second censor mark. However, without the second censor mark, it is not possible to establish that the object received the required second inspection from a censor.

With a substantial amount of mail already exempted from double censoring before the order was fully implemented, the question arises if mail traveling across censor office districts was consistently subject to the double censoring requirement. If the answer is in the affirmative, there should be no difficulty finding double censored items from the period of September/October 1916 to March 1917. However, double censored covers are difficult to find in this time period, although I did find 14 covers in my collection, several of which are illustrated in this article. Jorma Keturi reports that of more than 1,000 censored covers from this time period, he found only 40 that were double censored. And only a handful of double censored covers are known during the last two months of censorship of domestic mail.

Scarcity of Double Censored Objects

I can only conclude at this time, based on Jorma Keturi’s review and an empirical review of hundreds of covers in my collections and from thumbing through many hundreds of dealers’ covers that double censored objects are scarce as previously reported in the philatelic press. There are several reasons for this: First, Helsinki, Tampere and Raumo never censored outgoing mail. Second, a notice was issued by the General Post of Finland on November 6, 1916 that, “Notice is hereby given to post offices, that postal deliveries, which are already censored at some censorship office, should not be redirected to another censorship office.” Third, the time period for double censoring was very short, only 5/6 months and finally, there was declining interest and motivation among the Russian supervisors for censoring routine domestic mail in Finland. The practice of double censoring gradually disappeared under the weight and futility of the rule itself and the lack of interest by the Russian Army in enforcing censorship rules in Finland at time when Russia itself was imploding into internal chaos from a disastrous war.

End Game and Aftermath

The double censoring did not last for long. The Kerensky revolution in Russia took place in February 1917 and by March 23 and General Post Office informed by circular that domestic mail was free from censorship operations.

Censorship reorganisation took place on June 13, 1917 in Finland. The main focus was directed to foreign mail exchanges and mails to and from Russia. Of special interest was foreign printed matter. Domestic mails were screened against secret name lists.

A Note of Caution

“Double censored” objects appear throughout the entire period of WWI censorship in Finland, but not all the items are related to the orders of August and September 1916. Other examples of “double censorship” are noted on redirected mail, in such cases the mail was censored at each destination censor office in accordance with standing rules; or on mail from abroad where the mail was first censored at the arrival port censor office and then again at the destination censor office. One further comment might be mentioned here; namely, that multiple censor marks on a cover do not automatically signal double censorship, especially multi-marked covers from Helsinki that might have been opened and resealed, struck with a censor’s personal mark and then again with a censor’s date stamp, showing the date the cover was returned to the mail stream.



Figure 9. Not all mail with censor marks from two censor stations automatically indicates that the item was subject to double censoring according to August and September 1916 directives from the Censor Committee. This cover from Ruovesi, 17. VII. 16, to Yläne, 20. VII. 16, was first sent to Turku, 19. VII. 16, for censoring according to the normal practice of censoring at the destination censoring station and then to Yläne where it was redirected to Helsinki arriving 21. VII. 16, censored, and released for delivery to the addressee, 22. VII. 16. Censoring at two locations more than doubled the normal delivery time for this cover.

References & Abbreviations

- 1) Jorma Keturi, e-mail and general correspondence, November 2006.
- 2) Juhani Olamo, *Postal Censoring in Finland, 1914-1918*. Published as a supplement to TFP, Vol. 3, No. 2, May 1998 and now available on a CD with an extensive listing of Finnish censor marks, 1914-1918.
- 3) Hannu Forsblom, “About Double Censoring,” *Philatelica Fennica*, 3/1980
- 4) Postal Regulations: No. II 11792, November 6, 1916 1) Postal mailings that already once have been inspected by some war censor must not again be directed to the same or another censor office.
- 5) Finnish General Post Office, postal circulars and bulletins, 1914-1917
- 6) Roger Quinby, extensive accumulation of censored covers.

CS = censor stamp
 CM = censor mark (subtype)
 CT = censor tape
 cds = circular date stamp