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EUROPEAN CLASSICS

XI. FINLAND

Finland, or *Suomi* as the native Finnish population calls it, is one of the smaller states in Northern Europe. During the classic stamp period, it was a Grand Duchy under Russian sovereignty, but enjoyed almost complete autonomy. The ruler of Russia, who was also Grand Duke of Finland and ruled through a Governor General and a Senate of 16 appointed members, had to take an oath to uphold the constitution, the laws and the privileges of the country. Except for foreign affairs, which were handled by Russia, all government activities were in the hands of Finnish representatives, directed by a "Diet" of 251 members. Situated between the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Ocean, Finland is bounded on the north by the Arctic Ocean as well as the Finnmark and Troms provinces of Norway, on the east by the Norbotten province of Sweden and the Gulf of Bothnia, on the south by the Gulf of Finland and on the west by the Russian provinces of Arkhangelsk and Olonetz. The Aland Islands, at the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia, also belonged to Finland. Its total territory, which was divided into eight districts, covered about 145,000 square miles, of which over 11½% was water area, consisting of more than 60,000 lakes. Finland was, and still is, a sparsely populated country. The population was only 1,637,000 in 1850, 1,747,000 in 1870 and 1,880,000 in 1875, of which about 80% were Finns and 20% Swedes, the latter concentrated mainly in the larger towns. The capital Helsingfors (Helsinki), which was founded in 1550, had in 1855 a population of about 16,000 and of over 32,000 in 1870, of which more than two-thirds were Swedes.

The *history* of Finland is a comparatively young one. The territory was first, at the end of the 8th century A.D., inhabited by the Finns, an Asiatic tribe which had moved

westward and settled about 1500 B.C. on the Volga, where it remained until driven northwards in the 7th century A.D., eventually to settle in the "Land of Thousand Lakes" which now became known as Finland. This name is derived from the Germanic word "Fennen" which means marsh or swamp; "Suomi" has a similar meaning in Finnish. The wild Finns soon became the terror of the Baltic, they harassed not only the merchant ships trading between Sweden and the German States but, from time to time, they also attacked the coasts of these countries. This led eventually to the dispatch of a Swedish army which landed in Finland and conquered part of it in 1157. The population slowly was converted to Christianity but additional expeditions were required until in 1293 the country was completely pacified and as "Oesterland" became a Swedish province. The Swedish rule, which lasted for more than 500 years, was not oppressive. In 1306, the country was ruled by a Swedish Governor General and had been divided into three districts, ruled by governors. In 1347 the population received all privileges which were enjoyed by the population of Sweden proper. In 1528, King Gustavus Vasa introduced Lutheranism and in 1560 King Johan III made the country a Duchy and in 1581 a Grand Duchy of the Swedish Crown. Although Sweden did not suppress the use of the Finnish language—belonging to the Ural-Altai family of languages, which con-

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tains also Manchu, Mongol, Samoyede, Magyar and Turkish—it remained mainly the language of the peasants, while the official language and that of the educated classes was Swedish. Toward the end of the 15th century the first signs of Russian expansion in the direction of Finland became noticeable and this led to several wars between Sweden and Russia, during which Finland frequently became a battleground. During the 18th century, there was almost constant fighting between Sweden and Russia. The wars of 1743 and 1790 were especially disastrous for Sweden and led to the loss of small slices of Finnish territory. Eventually, after the destruction of the Swedish army in the war of 1808-09, in the peace treaty of Fredriksham of 1809, Finland was ceded to Russia. Czar Alexander I now became Grand Duke of Finland and swore to uphold the constitution and the laws of the country. This promise was faithfully kept by Alexander I, as well as by his successors, Nicholas I (1825-1855) and Alexander II, who ruled from 1855 to 1881. Finnish and Swedish remained the official languages and the use of the Russian language was restricted to matters related to Russia. For practical reasons, the Russian currency gradually replaced Swedish money and in several other respects, for example, in units of measurement, a similar development occurred. But during the whole classic stamp period Finland acted as an autonomous country, with little or no interference, except in respect to foreign relations which were handled by Russia. The capital had been Abo in 1809, but the seat of the government was transferred in 1817 to Helsingfors, which in 1821 definitely became the capital of Finland.

Finland's *postal history* is closely connected with that of Sweden, which had organized a general postal service in 1636. Only two years later, in 1638, the service was extended to Finland and the first mail routes, through Finland to the Baltic provinces, commenced operations. Seven post offices were opened on Finnish territory and the mail service was organized in the same way as in Sweden proper. The service developed during the following years and the number of post offices increased to 22 in 1710. When the country came under Russian sovereignty in 1809, there existed 39 post offices. The Russian influence soon

made itself felt, but the Swedish regulations generally continued in force and the Swedish influence on the postal service remained obvious during all of Finland's classic stamp period. Despite this two-fold influence, Finland conducted its postal service during that time rather independently and in some respect was ahead of its neighbors, for example, in respect to the introduction of stamped envelopes. As far as the mail service with foreign countries was concerned, Finland had to depend upon its neighbors; all such mail during the classic stamp period went in transit either through Russia or Sweden, and special postal treaties regulated this service. In 1875, when the Universal Postal Union was created, Finland was represented by Russia and in this way became, as part of the Russian Empire, a founding member, effective July 1, 1875.

The postal service, although well organized, suffered from the low density of the population and its mainly agricultural occupation, which was not favorable to letter writing. The number of *post offices* did not increase from 1809 until the end of the pre-stamp period; it was only 36 on Jan. 1, 1845, and 37 on March 1, 1856. Only then did a slow but steady development start. In 1869, the number of post offices was 58 and at the end of 1875 had increased to 82. Prior to 1856 there were no letter boxes outside of the post offices and during the whole classic stamp period there was no delivery service and no rural mail service. Mail had to be delivered and picked up at the post offices. Private mail services, which served city as well as rural mail and made use of steamboat lines for collecting and delivering mail in outlying part of the country, in some way supplemented the governmental postal service. Due to the adverse conditions, the number of pieces of mail was small. Only 150,000 letters were handled in 1849, an average of about only a dozen letters a day by each post office. This figure increased considerably only after lower letter rates were introduced in 1850, but in 1874 still only 1,747,000 pieces of mail were handled, of which 197,000 went outside of the country. Mail was carried by runners, mail coaches, in winter time by sleighs, along the Baltic coast and across the lakes by boats and ships. The first railroad of the country, from Helsingfors to Tavastehus, was opened in 1862 and im-

mediately was used for carrying mail. The first *travelling post offices* on railroad trains were introduced in 1870. No post offices on board of ships existed during the classic stamp period. The postal service was directed by a General Post Direction at Helsingfors which was supervised by the Finnish Senate.

The failure of the governmental postal service to provide a rural mail service as well as the non-existence of a delivery service in the cities during the classic stamp period led to the creation of a number of *private mail services*. Such ventures either acted as feeders to the existing post offices from villages and smaller towns which had no post office, or they provided, in the larger cities, a city mail service as well as a feeder service between the government post office and the outlying parts and suburbs of the city. Only few of these private mail services were properly organized commercial enterprises, the others being a sideline of steamship companies which had, as their main business, the transportation of passengers and goods. During the classic stamp period, only four private mail services issued their own postage stamps. The oldest such service was the *Helsingfors City Post*, which served the city of Helsingfors and its suburbs. It started operations on March 1, 1866. The *Tammerfors Local Post* operated in close connection with the Tammerfors government post office, its main job being the delivery to and the pick-up from the post office for the outer parts of the town and for the neighboring villages. This supplementary postal service which had a semi-official character, because it was operated by the postmaster of Tammerfors, existed long before the government postage stamps were introduced. Until the issuance of its own stamps, the Tammerfors Local Post collected its fees in cash. Two of the ship lines, which plied the coast and inland waterways from Helsingfors and for a fee also carried private mail to the towns and villages along their route, which had no post offices, also issued stamps before 1875. The first was the *Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag*, also called Tavastehus & Helsingfors Steam Packet Co., which operated a ship service from Helsingfors to the inland towns of Tammerfors and Tavastehus, the second, the *Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget*, which collaborated partly with the Helsingfors

City Post, operated a number of small ships along the coast from Helsingfors. All these mail services, except that of the *Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag*, which must have ceased operating not later than 1875, remained active long after the end of the classic stamp period, until the introduction of governmental mail service in the cities and the creation of a rural mail service forced them out of business, the last ones vanishing only at the turn of the century. While the Helsingfors City Post was a flourishing business and handled a rather large amount of mail before the decline began—we only know the figure for the first day of business, 418 letters—, the other private mail services were of much less importance and, as they handled mail only as a sideline, were content with that. So for example, the Tammerfors Local Post handled not more than 1400 letters a year or less than four letters a day. It seems surprising that it paid at all to keep such a service going and even to print stamps for it. In later years, of course, the purchases of stamps by stamp collectors and dealers seem to have provided these small private mail services with much more revenue than the obviously unprofitable collecting and delivering of mail.

There was only insufficient *parcel post service*, therefore parcels could also be sent by private means, especially by the various ship lines. After 1862, the railroads organized the shipment of parcels within the country and also to neighboring Russia and Sweden. During the classic stamp period, only the government owned railroads, the "*Statsjernvägarne i Finland*" issued special stamps for the parcel service.

When postal envelopes and stamps were introduced in Finland, the *currency* used in the postal service was the Russian, 1 ruble divided into 100 kopeks. By an Imperial decree of April 4, 1860, a separate Finnish currency was created. It was used in the postal service from Jan. 1, 1866. The new currency, 1 mark (markka) equal to 100 penni (penniä), was on the one hand attached to the Latin monetary union and therefore related to the French franc, 1 mark being equal to 1 gold franc, while on the other hand a fixed relation was maintained to the Russian ruble, 25 silver kopeks or 30 paper kopeks being equivalent to 1 mark. The unit of *weight* was the pound (Finnish "naula"), divided into 32

loth ("luoti"), 1 loth being equivalent to about $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. Distances were measured by the Russian unit, the verst, which was equivalent to about two thirds of a mile.

For the purpose of this monograph, we have confined the classic stamp period to the time before the introduction of perforated stamps in a new design during the year 1875. Therefore, the last issue which we will deal with is the 1866 issue of postage stamps and all postal stationery with stamps of the same design.

Finland was one of the few countries which issued regular postal stationery ahead of postal adhesives. On Jan. 1, 1845, *Envelopes* were issued and, in 1850, also *Letter Sheets*, although the latter on private order only. On March 1, 1856, the first adhesives, *Postage Stamps*, followed by more than eleven years the first envelopes. No other kinds of adhesives were introduced during the classic period, only several other kinds of stationery, namely *Postal Cards* as well as *Return Receipts* on Oct. 1, 1871, and *Postal Cards with attached Reply Card* on July 1, 1875.

Of the private mail services, the *Helsingfors City Post*, started to use *Postage Stamps* from March 1, 1866 and *Letter Cards* from May 1, 1874. The *Tammerfors Local Post* issued its first *Postage Stamps* on July 1, 1866. The *Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag* introduced *Postage Stamps* on May 1, 1867 and the *Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget* in May 1874. The first *Railroad Parcel Stamps* of the "*Statsjernvägarne*" were issued in 1871.

Finland's *postal rates* were simple. It had rather early a uniform letter rate for the whole country. Following the example of Russia, which had started to use one year earlier a uniform letter rate of 10k, the same rate of 10k for each loth, without regard to distance, was introduced in Finland on Jan. 1, 1845, for all domestic letters, simultaneously with the introduction of the first envelopes. This rate, too high for a small country, led to a considerable reduction of the number of letters mailed and, in turn, to a loss of revenue. The result was a return to different rates according to distance and reduced rates for shorter distances, beginning Jan. 1, 1850. Domestic letters now paid 5k for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ loth and for each additional loth up to 125 verst distance, and 10k for the first

$\frac{1}{2}$ loth and for each additional loth beyond 125 verst distance. Letters to Russia were now charged the higher fee, regardless of the distance. When the change of currency in the postal service took place on Jan. 1, 1866, the rates were again changed. Now letters paid 20p for the first $\frac{1}{2}$ loth and each additional loth up to 200 verst distance, 40p beyond 200 verst distance and to Russia. For domestic printed matter, 5p was the lowest rate. The registration fee was 20p, the fee for return receipts 10p. When postal cards were introduced on Oct. 1, 1871, the rate was fixed at 8p for domestic cards, from Dec. 1, 1872, also for cards to Russia. On July 1, 1875, new uniform rates, again without regard to the distance, were introduced. Domestic letters now paid 20p up to 1 loth, 40p over 1 loth up to 4 loth and 60p over 4 loth up to 8 loth. Letters over 8 loth paid 1m for each pound or part of it. The printed matter fee remained 5p for the first 4 loth. Postal cards now were 10p, the fee for registration remained 20p and for a return receipt 10p. Mail to foreign countries originally paid varied fees, depending how the letter was forwarded, with the Russian or Swedish fees for the specific destination added to the Finnish domestic fee, in some cases in addition to a transit fee. To Russia, reduced rates were charged, usually not higher than the top domestic fees. There was no reduced fee for printed matter, neither to Russia nor to foreign countries, the full letter rate being required. From July 1, 1875, when the uniform rates of the Universal Postal Union became effective, the letter rate to all foreign countries including Russia was fixed at 32p for each 15 grams. Printed matter now paid 8p for each 50 grams and postal cards 16p.

The private mail services also had simple rates. The *Helsingfors City Post* and the *Tammerfors Local Post* charged a uniform rate for letters and parcels, regardless of distance and weight, the first 10p, the latter originally 3k, then 12p. The mail-servicing steamship companies had 10p as letter rate, but charged higher fees for parcels. All private mail services had greatly reduced rates for bulk mail, printed matter and other items to be delivered in quantity. The *Helsingfors City Post*, for example, sold its stamps at a 20% discount per hundred and charged only 5m for the delivery

of 200 circulars and 50p for each additional hundred. The rates for parcels, charged by the railroads and steamship companies, depended upon weight and distance.

The *denominations* of the postage stamps and envelopes first covered only the most necessary letter rates. The two values of the first envelope issue, of Jan. 1, 1845, were 10k and 20k, these being the rates for single and double letters within Finland. The three values of the envelope issue of Jan. 1, 1850 were for the new rates, which were introduced on that day, 5k for single letters up to a distance of 125 verst within Finland, 10k for single letters over 125 verst within Finland and to Russia, and 20k for heavier letters. The last denomination proved rather unnecessary and when the first adhesives were introduced on March 1, 1856, they as well as the envelopes were reduced to two values, 5k and 10k, which values were also maintained for the second issue of postage stamps and envelopes of Jan. 1, 1860. When the new Finnish currency was introduced in the postal service on Jan. 1, 1866, aside from the two values of 20p and 40p, which were equivalent to the 5k and 10k of the previous issues, new values of 5p and 10p were introduced for printed matter and as additional values for foreign mail. The envelopes were continued in two values only, 20p and 40p. For foreign mail, two more values of the postage stamps became necessary, an 8p as additional value, especially for mail to Russia, and an 1m for the high amounts frequently needed on letters to foreign countries. The former was issued in December, 1866, the latter in May, 1867. No other denominations of postage stamps and envelopes were issued during the classic stamp period. Of the postal cards, only one value, 8p, for domestic mail and from 1872, also to Russia, was issued on Oct. 1, 1871. The rate changes of July 1, 1875, resulted in two new values in the old stamp design, 10p for domestic cards and 8p+8p (=16p) for cards to Russia. The domestic postal cards with attached reply card, issued the same day, had a 10p stamp printed on each card. Only one denomination existed of the return receipts, 10p, issued first on Oct. 1, 1871.

The private mail services, due to the uniform letter rate, required only one value of postage stamps, 10p in Helsingfors—where also a letter-card in the same denomi-

nation was issued—and 12p in Tammerfors. The steamship companies issued for their mail service several values, the Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag 10p, 20p and 25p, the Skär-gards Trafik Aktiebolaget 10p, 25p and 50p, the last two only from February 1875. It seems that only the 10p stamps were used for letters, while the higher values were for parcels. The railroad parcel stamps were issued in Finnish as well as in Russian currency, the latter for parcels to and via Russia. The denominations were 10p, 20p, 25p, 50p and 70p, as well as 3k, 5k, 8k, 15k and 20k.

The *use* of postage stamps and envelopes in Finland did not become immediately obligatory. During the use of stamped envelopes, from Jan. 1, 1845 to Feb. 28, 1856, it remained at the discretion of the sender to use a stamped envelope or to pay the postage in cash at the post office, at the same rates. The envelopes were only permitted for domestic letters and could not be used for registered letters nor for printed matter, for both of which the fees had to be paid in cash. Unpaid or insufficiently paid mail was not accepted and, when found in mail boxes, was held for the sender. From Jan. 1, 1850, this was changed in regard to insufficiently paid domestic letters, which were forwarded and the deficiency collected from the addressee. The envelopes henceforth could also be used for letters to Russia. When the first adhesives were introduced on March 1, 1856, the regulations remained the same, but now stamps and envelopes could also be used on mail to all foreign countries. The use of stamps and envelopes was still voluntary. Only a decree of June 16, 1862, made their use obligatory on domestic mail and fixed additional postage due to be collected for unpaid or part-paid mail. From Jan. 1, 1866, the use of stamps on printed matter and on registered letters, for which the fees until then had to be paid in cash, became obligatory; on Oct. 1, 1871, likewise on return receipts. The use of stamped postal cards was obligatory from Oct. 1, 1871, the day on which this kind of mail was introduced. For foreign mail, the use of postage stamps remained voluntary until the end of the classic stamp period.

The private mail services all permitted payment of the fees in cash and the use of stamps seems never to have been made obligatory. The fees on mailings in bulk,

printed matter, etc., for which reduced fees were charged or quantity discounts granted, had to be paid in cash anyway, because no stamps existed for these reduced fees.

The early issues were *withdrawn* and *demonetized* simultaneously with the issuance of new envelopes or adhesives replacing them. The 1845 envelope issue was withdrawn and demonetized on Dec. 31, 1850. The 1850 envelopes, together with the 1856 issue of adhesives and envelopes, were withdrawn and demonetized on Dec. 31, 1859; the claim of several authors, that they were not demonetized but remained valid is erroneous, a fact which cannot be changed by the rare occasional use of a few 1856 stamps or envelopes in 1860, which slipped through. The 1860 issue of adhesives was not withdrawn but was used up when the new issue of Jan. 1, 1866, made its appearance. We can find copies used until the end of 1866. The 1860 issue of envelopes was retained and new printings made until 1871, when these envelopes were withdrawn in April 1871 and replaced by envelopes in Penni currency. Of the 1866 issue of adhesives, only the 40p adhesives were withdrawn on June 30, 1875, because there was no use for them at the new rates of July 1, 1875. The other values were withdrawn when the corresponding values of the new 1875 issue were issued, which took until Jan. 1, 1877, when the new 1m was introduced. Shortly afterwards, on Jan. 15, 1877, all adhesives of the 1866 issue were demonetized. The envelopes, postal cards and return receipts of the 1866 issue were not withdrawn—except the 8p postal card which had become useless after June 30, 1875—and remained valid even after the adhesives of the 1866 issue were demonetized. They lost their validity only on Dec. 31, 1900, when all stamps and stationery in Mark and Penni currency were demonetized, due to the re-introduction of the Russian currency on Jan. 1, 1901.

Finland was the only country which did not create a special *design* for its first adhesives, but used the design of envelope stamps, which had been in use for several years, for this purpose. All Finland stamps, without exception, show the coat of arms of the country — a sword-carrying lion, standing on a sabre, on vertically lined ground, surrounded by seven (later eight) stars, with the ducal crown above it. On

the 1845 envelope stamps, the arms were in an upright oval, flanked on each side by a posthorn, with the inscription "PORTO STEMPEL" at top and the value indication, "10. KOPEK." or "20. KOPEK." attached in a band at the bottom. For the issue of Jan. 1, 1850, the arms were in an oval, with two posthorns below and value indications at left and right.

When adhesive postage stamps were introduced in 1856, the same design was used for the new stamps and continued for the envelopes, but small distinctive marks added, namely circles of about 3/4mm. diameter ("pearls") in each of the two posthorns and also a similar "pearl"—but which is of somewhat "diamond" shape on the 5k—inserted between crown and shield of arms. These "secret marks", as they were officially called, were included to prevent fraudulent use of cut square envelope stamps of the 1850 issue, because the envelope stamps had until then been left uncanceled when the envelopes were used. The 1860 and 1866 issues show the arms again in an upright oval, as central feature of an upright rectangular frame, with value indications at top and bottom, while a meander-type design forms the frame at left and right. Vertical wavy lines fill the space between the oval with the arms and the frame. The 1m value has the arms in an upright rectangle with rounded corners, the frame shows the figure of value in all four corners and value indications on all four sides. In the coat of arms of the 1845, 1850 and 1856 issue, as well as the first dies of the 1860 issue, there are 7 stars in the shield. On the second dies of the 1860 issue, created in 1865, another star was added above the head of the lion, making it eight stars, supposed to represent the 8 districts of the country. The 1866 issue also shows this eight-star coat of arms, except the 8p adhesive, which is derived from a first die of the 1860 issue and therefore shows the seven-star coat of arms. It is also the only stamp with a double frame line all around; the 1m has a double frame line at left and right, while all other values, including the 8p stamps on postal cards, have only a single frame line.

Of the postal stationery, the postal cards and return receipts had *printed text*. The postal cards had a meander-type frame on the face, from 1872 also on the reverse side,

the latter including tri-lingual inscriptions. The text on the face of the postal cards underwent several changes. On the early cards, with Swedish text only, the word KORRESPONDANSKORT was curved, on the tri-lingual cards of 1872 and later it was in a straight line and from 1873 it read KORRESPONDENSKORT, on the 10p card of 1875 BREFKORT. The foot note received additional words in 1873, which were again removed on the 10p card of 1875. The reverse side of the cards had printed lines, which first were dotted, from late in 1871 solid. There are also slight differences in the spelling of some words, which characterize certain printings. The return receipts, which had printing on both sides, first had the word "Retour Receptisse" without hyphen, from 1872 with a double-line hyphen. The stamps were on the envelopes first in the bottom left corner on the face (1845 issue), then on the top flap on the back (1850 and 1856 issues) and eventually in the top left corner on the face. On the postal cards and return receipts, the stamp was first in the top left corner, only on the 10p card of 1875 and the 10p return receipt of 1876 in the top right corner.

The inscriptions on the stamps and the text of all postal stationery were influenced considerably by the *language problem*. None of the stamps show the name of the country. Except for the 1845 envelope stamps, which have the Swedish inscription "PORTO STEMPEL", none of the stamps have any inscription aside from value indications. These value indications were in Swedish only on the 1845 envelope stamps, while on all other issues—except the 1m of 1866—Russian was used together with abbreviations, which were valid for Finnish as well as for Swedish. The 1850 and 1856 issue had the value indication "KOP." at the left and the same in Cyrillic letters at the right. The 1860 issue had "KOP." at bottom and the equivalent Cyrillic inscription at top, while this was reversed for the 1866 issue, "PEN." being at the top and the Russian equivalent in Cyrillic letters at the bottom. The 1m of 1866 had tri-lingual value indications, Swedish twice, at top and bottom, Finnish at right and Russian, in Cyrillic letters, at left. Of the stationery, the envelopes had no printing except for the stamps. On the postal cards, the text was first (1871) Swedish only, from 1872 tri-

lingual, Swedish, Finnish and Russian. The return receipts had Swedish text on the face and Finnish text on the reverse side. On the stamps of the private mail services, the Helsingfors City Post used Swedish and Finnish—but the letter-card had the text exclusively in Swedish—while the Tammerfors Local Post used Swedish only. The ship companies as well as the railroad had only Swedish inscriptions on their stamps.

The *dies* of all issues, adhesives as well as stationery, were cut in steel. For the envelope issue 1845, the oval design was cut only once and the ribbons with the value indications "10.KOPEK." and "20.KOPEK." cut separately. They were screwed to the bottom of the oval die whenever the specific value had to be printed. For the 1850 issue of envelope stamps, the dies were cut separately for each value, complete with all inscriptions. As dies for the 1856 issue of stamps and envelopes, working dies taken from the dies of the 1850 envelope stamps (5k and 10k only) were used and the "secret marks" inserted, with a new 5k die made in the same way in 1858 for the larger "secret marks". For the 1860 issue of stamps and envelopes, the new design was cut for each value (5k, 10k) separately (Type I), but in 1865, new dies for both values were cut (Type II), which had the coat of arms improved, now with 8 instead of 7 stars, by inserting an additional star above the head of the lion, and the shield less heavily shaded, with 13 vertical lines instead of 22 (5k) and 17 instead of 20 (10k). The new dies originally were not used for adhesives, only for envelopes, but when the 1866 issue was introduced, instead of preparing new dies, these 5k and 10k dies in Type II were used as a basis. Working dies were made from both dies, the top and bottom labels cut off and replaced by newly cut labels, now with the value indication in Latin letters at top and in Cyrillic letters at bottom. For the new 5p and 10p the 10k die was used, for 20p and 40p the 5k die. The new labels with the value indications were attached very carefully and only slight breaks in the frame lines which are in some cases visible at left and/or at right show how it was done. Therefore, except for the top and bottom parts of the frame with the value indication and for some unimportant retouching, the design of the 5p and 10p adhesives of 1866 is identi-

cal to that of the 10k envelope stamps of 1860, Type II, and the design of the 20p and 40p adhesives and envelope stamps of 1866 identical to that of the 5k envelope stamps of 1860, Type II. When new values were introduced in 1866-67, for the 1m value a complete new die was cut in steel, but for the 8p the same method was used as for the other values. This time, the die of the 5k of 1860, Type I, was used by exchanging top and bottom labels in a working die. An additional outer frame line was added in this case, without apparent reason. Therefore, except for this outer frame line, the design of the 8p adhesive is identical to that of the 5k adhesives and envelope stamps of 1860, Type I, and shows the arms in the old fashion, with 7 stars and heavy shading in the shield of arms. Curiously enough, when 8p and 10p stamps started to be printed on post cards and return receipts, beginning 1871 and 1875 respectively, the dies made for the adhesives of these values were not used to supply the clichés, but new dies were made, again with the help of the dies of the 1860 issue in Type II. Now for the 10p the die of the 5k, Type II, was used and for the 8p the die of the 10k, Type II, in the same way as for the dies of the 1866 adhesives, replacing the top and bottom parts of the frames by newly cut parts with the needed value indications. Therefore, the design—aside from these two parts—of the 8p postal card stamps is identical to that of the 10k envelope stamps of 1860, Type II, and of the 10p postal card stamps and 10p return receipt stamps is identical to that of the 5k envelope stamps of 1860, Type II. This procedure of procuring new dies by changing old ones was in line with the general tendency of the period, to save expensive material if this could be done by the employment of more labor, which was cheap. All original dies were the work of the engraver C. M. Mellgren.

All Finland adhesive stamps and stamps on stationery were printed from typographed dies or settings. For the postage stamps of 1856 as well as the stamps on all envelopes, postal cards and return receipts, single dies or clichés were used, while the 1860 and 1866 postage stamps were printed from settings, assembled from single clichés. The frames as well as the text of the postal cards and the text of the return receipts

were type-set.

For the early issues, the *printing material* was rather easily obtained, due to the fact that until 1860 the stamps on the envelopes were printed singly and the 1856 adhesives were also printed singly. Therefore, printing could be done either with the original dies or with duplicates of these dies, obtained by stereotyping. It seems certain that the 1845 envelopes were printed from the original die and that the same was the case for the 1850 issue of envelopes. For the 1856 issue of envelopes and adhesives, the inclusion of the "secret marks" in the design probably has been made by way of matrices and stereotypes and recent research claims that four stereotyped clichés of each value were used for the printing. For the 1860 issue, settings of 40 clichés (5 horizontal rows of 8) were used, the clichés being copper electrotypes taken from the original dies in Type I. The spacing between the clichés was originally about 1½mm., horizontally as well as vertically. After each printing, the settings were taken apart, the clichés cleaned and reassembled, when a new printing had to be made. From 1864, new settings had wider spacing. Between horizontal rows, the spacing now was generally about 2½mm., while between vertical columns no such uniformity seems to have existed as we can find spacings of about 1½mm. and about 2½mm. in the same setting. Even some irregular wider spacing, up to 3½mm., can be found in exceptional cases. It seems that the spacing was made generally wider to provide more space for the rouletting. For the 1866 issue, settings of 50 copper electrotypes (5 horizontal rows of 10), taken from the dies of each value, were used. Again the settings were dismantled after each printing, the clichés cleaned and reassembled for a new printing. The spacing was about 2¼mm. between horizontal rows as well as vertical columns, with slight variations.

The use of settings of single clichés for this issue led to several *plate errors* which occurred in early printings. In one setting of the 5p, a cliché of the 10p was erroneously inserted and vice versa a 5p cliché in one setting of the 10p. These mistakes resulted in two errors, 5p in the color and on the paper of the 10p, and 10p in the color and on the paper of the 5p. Of the former, obviously only one rather small



Fig. 45



Fig. 46



Fig. 49

printing on thick laid paper was made in 1867 and about a dozen copies of the error, all used, have survived, while of the latter two printings, on thick and thin laid paper, were made in 1867 and 1868, of which about fifty copies of the error seem to have survived. The 5p error we know in a pair with the regular 10p, while we know of the 10p error two pairs together with regular 5p stamps, namely a horizontal tete beche pair, 5p+10p error (Fig. 45), and a vertical pair in regular position, 5p above the 10p error (Fig. 46). There also exist tete beche pairs 5p+5p from the same printings as the 10p error (Fig. 47), which enables us to come to conclusions about the composition of the setting in which the 10p error occurred. Considering that we know more than half a dozen tete beche pairs 5p+5p, but only one tete beche pair 5p+10p error, it can be assumed that there were several cliches inverted in the particular setting of the 5p and it seems a good guess that either a complete vertical column of five cliches, including one 10p, was inverted, or part of the setting, possibly one half of 25 (5x5) cliches, with the 10p cliche in the row touching the other part, was inverted, both possibilities resulting in four 5p+5p tete beches and one 5p+10p error tete beche in each printed sheet. While the 5p error remained undetected for several decades, the 10p error was discovered as early as 1868 by an observant Hamburg stamp dealer. It is reported, that his request to the post office at Helsingfors for a supply of such errors not only led to the removal of the wrong cliches from the settings but also to the casting out of the errors from the still

available printed sheets and the destruction of the withdrawn errors in 1869 and 1870. We have some doubts that this was actually the case, because almost all known copies of the 10p error are used in 1869 and 1870, which contradicts the above story. The existence of a number of unused 10p errors also suggests that some collectors and dealers could still secure copies of the error after the detection was made. We are inclined to believe that the casting out of the errors was done only on the sheets still in the hands of the postal administration and that the sheets already delivered to the post offices remained untouched. A few of the cast out errors may also have found their way into the hands of influential contemporary philatelists.

There also exist a number of rather conspicuous *plate flaws* of the 1860 and 1866 issue, which were partly constant and therefore can be found on stamps from various printings. Some of these flaws were caused by damage to certain cliches, but the most obvious ones—as for example “PEN” instead of “PEN” and a corresponding flaw in the Russian value indication and “MARKK” instead of “MARKKA”—were caused by hardened ink which had filled recessed parts of some cliches and escaped



Fig. 47

removal during the cleaning of the cliches. The sheets of all issues had no margin print.

While the stamps on the postal stationery were printed from single cliches, the type-set frame and text of the postal cards was transferred to a lithographic stone, which probably contained six or eight units. The text was reset several times, partly to make wanted changes, and the resulting differences in the text permit distinguishing of the various printings. The type-setting of the return receipts was done by the Kartasigillata Kontoret at Helsingfors, which also manufactured the cliches of the 1860 issue. The frame and text for the postal cards were type-set by the Zilliacus Printing Works of Wiborg. The cliches used for the settings used for the 1866 issue were made by the Finnish Mint at Helsingfors.

The *printing* of the first envelopes was done in the Kartasigillata Kontoret, the printing office for government obligations at Helsingfors, in a rather primitive way. For the 1845 issue, the die was inked, placed in the correct position face down on the envelope and hit with a hammer, which procedure transferred the design to the envelope and also provided a more or less heavy embossing. For the 1850 and 1856 issues, a hand-operated lever press was used, which printed the design on the opened flap of the envelopes, which were singly inserted into the press. The same hand-operated lever press was also used for the first issue of adhesives in 1856. The stamps were printed singly on a sheet of paper, one after the other, first a horizontal row of ten, then the sheet turned around and another row of ten printed in the same way. Therefore, each sheet consisted of twenty stamps, in two horizontal rows of ten, which were in *tete beche* position to each other, creating ten vertical *tete beche* pairs. Lever presses had been used previously for stamps, but only for embossed issues (Great Britain from 1847, Portugal from 1853) and Finland was the first country which used this printing method for regular typographed stamps. Only one other country, Romania (Moldavia and Moldavia-Walachia) followed this example, in printing its issues from 1858 to 1863 with hand-operated lever presses. The primitive way of printing which was used for all printings of the 1856 issue resulted in very uneven spacing between the stamps, which averages about 4mm., but in

extreme cases is known up to 11mm., while on the other hand stamps are known without any space between and even some slightly overlapping. The two rows of designs were sometimes printed so that the stamps of one row were exactly above the stamps of the other row. Other times the stamps of one row were more or less shifted and even above the spaces between the stamps of the other row, to that *tete beche* pairs had to be cut obliquely. Due to the hand operation of the press, the design is often more or less embossed, in which case the ink is sometimes squeezed to the borders of the lines of the design. Uneven inking or pressure rather frequently produced unevenly printed stamps and generally the aspect of the stamps varies greatly, depending upon the care the worker took to obtain a good product. The 1860 and 1866 issues, adhesives as well as stamps on stationery, were printed on the letter press, by the Kartasigillata Kontor at Helsingfors. It is claimed that the settings were printed twice, one above the other on each sheet, leaving a gutter of varying width between the two panes. This is confirmed by the fact that vertical gutter pairs are known of several values of the 1866 issue. The frames and text of the postal cards were printed on a lithographic press by the Zilliacus Printing Works of Wiborg.

The printing of adhesives and stationery was not too careful and poorly inked as well as overinked prints are frequent, especially of the stamps on stationery. Of major *printing varieties*, only double prints of the 10k 1860 and of the 20p 1866 are reported, but we have not seen them and therefore we cannot confirm their existence; maybe they are only shifts—of which we have seen several examples—but not real double prints. There exist copies of the 20p 1866, which are printed on both sides, with the design of a 40p in blue on the back. Several copies of this rare variety are known, all used in Lovisa in 1870. Of the envelopes, we know a used 10k of the 1850 issue which has the stamp in a distinct double print, one of them colorless. The 8p 1873 postal card, with the additional Russian note printed in black, is known with this note twice, at the left upwards and at the right downwards. The first 10p return receipt of 1871 exists as a printing error with the stamp on the side with Finnish text instead on that with Swed-

ish text.

The *paper* used for the early stamps and envelopes came from different sources. This is not only proved by the rather different texture and quality of the papers, but also by the various papermaker's watermarks which can be found. For the 1845 envelopes, hand-made papers, wove as well as several kinds of laid, all of various thickness (0.09 to 0.17mm.), were used, white, often with grayish or yellowish tint. On the laid paper, the lines usually run diagonally, but envelopes with vertical or horizontal lines occasionally also can be found. Nine different papermaker's watermarks are known on these envelopes, consisting of double-lined letters as well as ornamental designs (bee hive in a flower wreath, tree trunk, vase with flowers). The 10k and 20k envelopes are known on laid paper, both with and without watermark (the 10k with all 9 different kinds, the 20k with one only), the 10k also on wove paper (without watermark and with one kind of watermark). For the 1850 envelopes, with one exception only wove paper of various textures was used for all three values, white with yellowish or greyish tint. First the paper was hand-made, rough, often of a parchment-like character, later machine-made and smoothed, all of various thicknesses. The 10k is also known on diagonally laid paper, with or without papermaker's watermark "1855". The letter-sheets of the 1850 issue, which were printed on private order, are known on various kinds of paper, because the paper was provided by the party who ordered them. White, yellowish and bluish paper, as well as blue pelure paper are known. For the 1856 issue of adhesives and envelopes also various kinds of paper were used, hand-made laid paper as well as machine-made wove and laid paper. The machine-made wove paper of the adhesives was white or slightly bluish, first rather thin (0.05 to 0.075mm.), shortly becoming somewhat thicker (0.075 to 0.1mm.) and eventually, in 1858, partly really thick (0.1 to 0.13mm.). Two kinds of laid paper were used for this issue, one (early in 1858) was machine-made, the other (late in 1859) hand-made. The watermark lines of the laid paper always run vertically and there are 12 to 13 lines in a width of 2cm. On the machine-made laid paper, the watermark lines are about 1mm. wide and on the hand-made laid paper about 1½mm. wide. At least

part of the paper for the adhesives seems to have come from the Tervakoski paper mill, because stamps on wove paper as well as on hand-made laid paper are known with parts of the Tervakoski papermaker's watermarks. The 5k in both types and the 10k come regularly on wove paper. They are much rarer on laid paper. The 5k with small pearl and the 10k are known on the machine-made laid paper, the former as a great rarity, of which only a few copies were found rather recently. On the hand-made laid paper, the 5k with large pearl and the 10k are known, the former as a rarity, of which less than a dozen copies seem to have survived. For the 1856 envelopes, the same papers as for the contemporary adhesives were used, but the envelopes on laid papers are regular items not much rarer than those on wove paper. The laid papers of the envelopes on which the lines run always diagonally, come with and without two kinds of papermaker's watermarks of the Tervakoski paper mill, a lilly or "TERVAKOSKI 1855" in double-lined Roman capitals. The 1860 and 1866 issues of adhesives were printed on machine-made papers without watermark which were colored through. For the 1860 issue, the paper was pale blue for the 5k and pale rose for the 10k, with slight shades. Generally the paper was rather thin, but very thick paper can be found as an exception for both values. The 10k is known in the 1860 to 1862 printings on paper which shows thin horizontal shiny lines on the face, less frequently on the back, spaced about 8mm.; therefore there usually are three such lines on a stamp. It seems that these lines were applied after the printing, as a protection against re-use of the stamps. They usually disappear when the stamps are soaked, but sometimes remain, showing as watermark lines. The 5k has also been reported on such paper but we have never seen it. The 10k on thick white paper is claimed to be the result of discoloration but this has been disputed and the accidental use of white paper for a small printing in 1865 suggested. For the 1866 issue of adhesives, similar colored papers as for the previous issue were used. The 20p and 40p took over the pale blue and pale rose paper of the 5k and 10k of the 1860 issue. The paper used for the 5p was lilac, for the 8p green and for the 10p buff, all with rather distinct shades. The 1m was printed

on white paper. For the 40p, from 1873 the same lilac paper was used on which paper until then only the 5p had been printed. The colored papers were wove; only for the 5p and 10p vertically laid papers, which had about 13 lines on a 2cm. width and one horizontal crossing line every 27 to 28mm., were first used. These laid papers were first thick, later thinner. Beginning in 1870, for 5p and 10p wove papers as for the other values were used. All wove papers were of rather uneven thickness, 0.04 to 0.09mm., but occasionally also very thick paper can be found. For the 8p and 40p, from 1872 paper with a fine vertical ribbing was used. As it seems that this ribbing was applied after the stamps were printed, it was probably another device to protect used stamps from cleaning and re-use. Paper with one shiny vertical line, which also appears as watermark line and can be found on one printing of the 20p, must have had a similar purpose. White paper on values other than the 1m is claimed to be the product of discoloration. The paper of the 1860 envelope issue was of various thicknesses, white, often with grayish or yellowish tint. Wove as well as diagonally laid machine-made paper can be found, the former only on the 10k, Type II, envelopes. The laid paper can be found with or without papermaker's watermark, of the latter the same two kinds as on the 1856 envelope issue. Of the 1866 envelope issue, both values come on wove as well as diagonally laid paper, similar to the previous issue, but no papermaker's watermark has been found on them. The thin colored cardboard used for the postal cards consisted until 1872 of several layers pressed-together, of which only the outside layer or layers were colored. The first cards were buff—also with a dark blue center layer—, yellow, reddish, straw, light brown, greenish, partly strongly smoothed or glazed. From 1872 only regular buff and brownish cardboard was used. The return receipts were printed on yellowish white thin paper.

Of *paper varieties*, only stitch watermarks which can be found on the machine-made papers, are remarkable. On the 1856 adhesives, they always run horizontally.

The envelopes came in various *sizes*, but only the 10k, Type II, of 1860, and the 40p of 1866 come in two different sizes, 145x114mm. and 145x80mm. All other envelopes

as well as the postal cards and return receipts exist in one size only, with small variations. The postal cards with attached reply card had exactly the same printing and other features as the single cards. They were joined at the left and when separated cannot be distinguished from single cards.

The *color scheme* for the adhesives and stamps on envelopes was a rather simple one and underwent few changes. For the first envelopes of 1845, black was used for the 10k and rose for the 20k. This was reversed for the 1850 envelopes, now the 10k was rose, the 20k black and the new 5k value blue. The same colors, blue for 5k and rose for 10k, were continued for the adhesives and envelope stamps of 1856 and 1860, the latter being printed on colored papers in tints similar to the colors of the respective printings. The adhesives of the 1866 issue also were printed on colored papers, the colors remaining the same for the corresponding values in the new currency, blue for the 20p and rose for the 40p, on blue and rose paper respectively. The new values were brown on lilac (5p) and black on buff (10p). Of the additional values of 1867, the 8p was black on green, the 1m yellow brown on white. On the envelopes, the 20p and 40p were printed in the same colors as the adhesives. On the 8p postal cards, not the black color of the adhesives, but green was used for the stamp. The 10p stamps on the postal cards were lilac, while the 10p stamps on the return receipts were first rose, after a few months became brown and eventually also lilac.

The *inks* used for the printing were of various kinds. While there were only insignificant shades on the 1845 envelopes, mainly caused by insufficient or overinking, the 1850 envelopes already show more obvious differences, the 5k from light blue to dark blue, the 10k from light rose to carmine, the latter with a tendency to brownish tints, probably as result of oxidation of the ink. Of the 1856 issue of adhesives and envelopes, the 5k can be found in all shades from light blue to dark blue, sometimes with a slight greenish tint, while the 10k runs from pale rose to dark carmine. The adhesives of the 1860 issue show much less distinctive shades than the contemporary envelope stamps, especially the 5k on the provisional envelopes. The 5k adhesive runs from light blue to dark blue, with

greenish and grayish tints, while the stamps on the envelopes also show distinct prussian blue and lilac blue shades. The 10k runs from rose to dark carmine on adhesives and envelope stamps. The greatest variation of colors can be found on the adhesives of the 1866 issue. The 5p comes in various shades of brown, red brown and lilac brown, the 20p runs from light blue to dark blue, with greenish shades, the 40p from light rose to carmine, with brownish shades, and the 1m in very slight variations of yellow brown. It is claimed that the brownish shades of the 40p are errors due to accidental mixing of the ink with that of the 5p but we believe that it is rather a matter of oxidation. The black ink of 8p and 10p is rather uniform, with slight grayish shades, caused by insufficient inking. On the envelopes, the 20p and 40p show only slight shades of blue and rose, but on the postal cards, the 8p comes in many shades, light to dark green, with strong yellowish, bluish and olive shades. The lilac color of the 10p on postal cards as well as the rose and lilac colors on the return receipts are even, while on the latter the brown comes in blackish and reddish shades. The "color errors" of the 1866 adhesives, 5p black on buff and 10p brown on lilac, were caused by the insertion of clichés of a wrong value in the plates and therefore are plate varieties, not errors of color.

The *gum* used for adhesives and stationery (envelopes on the flap, return receipts on one side) was of various origin and varying materials. But until 1858, the adhesives were issued un gummed and the envelopes had no gum on the top flap. Only the last printings of the 1856 and all 1860 and 1866 adhesives were issued gummed and the envelopes of the 1860 and 1866 issue also had the top flap gummed. The return receipts were gummed on one side, first at the left, from late 1871 at the right.

The 1856 issue of adhesives was issued *imperforate*, while for the 1860 and 1866 issues *rouletting* was used as a means of separation. The rouletting was done with a wheel which had a sharpened wavy-line edge. It was applied by hand for each row of roulettes separately, first in one then in the other direction, so that for the 1860 issue 15, for the 1866 issue 17 operations were necessary to roulette a full sheet of 40 and 50 stamps respectively. Despite this primi-

tive kind of rouletting, the job was done rather accurately and relatively few varieties have been found. Double wavy line roulettes can occasionally be found, also copies which show overlapping or broken rouletting lines. Due to the application by hand, the spacing between the rouletting lines was more or less uneven and conspicuously small or large stamps can be found. The latter are the reason that occasionally found unrouletted stamps are treated with suspicion although some of them have such wide margins (Fig. 48) that it seems very unlikely that they can be trimmed rouletted copies. No completely unrouletted multiples seem to exist, but a few part rouletted multiples are known and there can be no doubt that a small number of part rouletted sheets were issued. Of the 1860 issue, we know the 5k, unrouletted vertically. Four values of the 1866 issue exist part rouletted, either unrouletted vertically, 5p laid—of which a strip of 6 is known, which is rouletted at the extreme left side only—, 20p and 40p, or unrouletted horizontally, 5p, 8p (Fig. 49), 20p and 40p. In a few cases, only the margin roulette was omitted, creating stamps which are rouletted on three sides and have part of the unrouletted sheet margin on the fourth.

During the use of *rouletting* as a means of separation, several rouletting wheels were used which differ from each other considerably, mainly in the steepness and depth of the wavy lines. For the 1860 issue, four different wheels were used, of which three were so similar, that they have to be grouped together, therefore leaving two roulette varieties, *Roulette I*, $7\frac{3}{4}$ to 8 indentations on 2cm. width, 1.1 to 1.5mm. deep, and *Roulette II*, which was used from 1864 only, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{3}{4}$ indentations on 2cm. width, 1.6 to 1.8mm. deep. Both values come with both kinds of roulette. When the 1866 issue came into use, two wheels in *Roulette I* continued to be employed for a short period, in 1866 only; they were again put in use for a few months in 1873, together with another new wheel, which applied the same kind of roulette. The one wheel of *Roulette II* and a second one of the same kind, introduced in 1867, were used until 1870 and then again from 1872 to 1875. In 1867 and 1868 two more new wheels came into use, which applied a new kind, *Roulette III*, 7 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ indentations on 2cm. width, 1.9 to 2.5mm.



Fig. 48



Fig. 50



Fig. 51

deep. Both were used until 1875. All values of the 1866 issue exist with Roulettes I, II and III except the 1m, which comes only with Roulettes II and III. Aside from these three roulettes which were regularly used for the 1866 issue, two more kinds of roulettes are known on this issue, these having been used only occasionally. Two wheels applied *Roulette IV*, which was very similar to *Roulette I*, having $7\frac{3}{4}$ indentations on 2cm. width, about 1.4mm. deep, but having indentations more in the shape of a spade. It was used regularly from 1865 for revenue stamps and only during short periods, in the years 1866 to 1868 and 1873-74, also for postage stamps. The 20p and 40p of the 1866 issue are known, they are scarce, especially the latter. The 8p has been also reported in *Roulette IV*, but we have never seen it. *Roulette V* differed considerably from the other roulettes, because it had $10\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{3}{4}$ indentations on 2cm. width, 1.6 to 2mm. deep. It is usually called a private roulette because it is claimed that it was applied to unrouletted or part-rouletted sheets which came into private hands. This seems very unlikely and it is our considered opinion that this roulette is just as official as the four others and that stamps with *Roulette V* were regularly sold at post offices. The wheels which applied this roulette were obviously used generally for other purposes—for example, from 1874 for the stamps of the Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget—and only as an exception, in 1867, also for postage stamps. We know only the 8p with this roulette all around (Fig. 50), while we have seen it on the 40p—with fine vertical ribbing—only horizontal in combination with another roulette (Fig. 51). All are rarities. Mixed roulettes are generally not very rare, but usually they are irregular, only the roulette on one side differing from the roulette on the other three sides. This fact suggests that the main source of these mixed roulettes were sheets, on which one line of roulettes was erroneously omitted, which

was detected by the control and the missing roulette applied with another rouletting wheel, which often differed from the one originally used for the particular sheet. We know such mixed roulettes of *Roulette I* with Roulettes II, III and IV, *Roulette II* with Roulettes I, III, IV and V, *Roulette III* with Roulettes I and II, and *Roulette IV* with Roulettes I, II and III. All values of the 1860 and 1866 issue, except the 1m, are known in such mixed roulettes, but we know mixture with *Roulette IV* only of the 20p and 40p, with *Roulette V* only of the 40p.

Finland issued several *provisional items* during the classic period but they all concern postal stationery only. First, in 1860, when the envelopes of the 1856 issue were withdrawn and demonetized on Dec. 31, 1859, to use up the rather large remainders, on a quantity of such envelopes—5k with small and large pearls, as well as 10k—the envelope stamp was pasted over with a new 5k adhesive of the 1860 issue and such provisional new envelopes again put on sale at the post offices. But this was stopped after a few days, because people soaked the stamps off and used them on other correspondence, making use of the permission to exchange the old envelopes against new ones, thus defrauding the post office of 5k or 10k. Actually used copies are very rare. From the overpasted envelopes of this kind, after they were withdrawn from the post offices, the stamps were soaked off again and, together with the other remainders of the 1856 envelopes, re-issued in the middle of 1864, after a 5k stamp of the new 1860 issue was printed in the top left corner on the face of the envelopes. These provisional envelopes therefore have two stamps printed on them, one on the flap in the design of the demonetized 1856 issue—5k with small or large pearls, as well as 10k—, the other on the face, a 5k in the design of the 1860 issue, which alone was valid for postage. These provisionals are also reported on envelopes of the

1850 issue, 5k and 10k without pearls, but we have never seen undoubtedly genuine copies and must doubt their existence. The 5k stamp of 1860 was first in Type I, but for an additional printing in 1865, a cliché in Type II was employed, which type was otherwise not used, neither for adhesives nor for envelopes. Two further provisionals occurred on the postal cards. First, in 1872, an additional note on the cards, concerning the use of Cyrillic letters in addresses on cards to Russia was considered so urgent, that a three-line black overprint was placed vertically on the cards, which otherwise were printed in green, before the additional note was incorporated in 1873 in the text of the regular cards. When, due to the new rates to Russia, on July 1, 1875, a 16p postal card became necessary, the regular domestic 8p card obtained an additional 8p stamp printed below the original stamp, creating a provisional, which only several months later was replaced by new 16p cards, already in the design of the 1875 issue.

The stamps of the private mail services were a rather colorful lot. Those of the Helsingfors City Post, of the Tammerfors Local Post and of the Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget were all bi-colored and lithographed, those of the Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag lithographed and punched to oval shape. All have, except in regard to the separation, little in common with the governmental postage stamps.

The first stamps of the *Helsingfors City Post* had an oval design, "KAUPUNGIN POSTI" at top, "HELSINGFORS" at bottom, "10 PENNIA" at left and "10 PENNI" at right. The center had an ornamented background with the colorless figure "10" inserted twice, at top left and bottom right, and was crossed by a colorless band, in which a bar with wavy-lined border, containing the word "STADSPOST" was inserted in a second color. The first issue was green, later yellow green, with "STADSPOST" imprinted in shades of red to carmine. In 1868, the colors were changed, the stamps were now brown, in grayish or olive shades, and "STADSPOST" was inserted in various shades of blue, later ultramarine. In January 1871, a new rectangular design was introduced, which had a large colorless "10" in the center, surrounded by a double oval, with "10 PENNI" at top and "10 PENNIA" at bottom.

The also double-lined rectangular outer frame had a Roman "X" in each corner, "HELSINGFORS" at the left, "STADSPOST" at the top, "KAUPUNGIN POSTI" at the bottom and "HELSINGISSA" at the right. The use of two colors for the printing was arranged in the way as was done one year later for the 1rs stamp of Sweden. The design was diagonally divided—from bottom left to top right—into two parts and each part, forming a triangle, printed in a different color. In this case, the color combination returned to that of the first issue, the top left part was red, the bottom right part green. All stamps were printed from stones of unknown composition, on white wove paper. They were issued with a serpentine roulette similar to Roulette V of the government stamps but with shorter teeth, first 12 (more accurately $11\frac{3}{4}$) on 2cm. width, later—during the use of the brown/blue stamps—11 ($10\frac{3}{4}$). From 1875 they were issued perforated, in conformity with the government stamps. The letter card, issued on May 1, 1874, had the numeral design of the 1871 adhesives, but was lithographed in one color only, green, together with the text, on thin white card.

The *Tammerfors Local Post* also used an oval design which had the arms of Tammerfors in its center, crossed by a diagonal colorless band from bottom left to top right, in which a bar with colorless inscription "12 Penni" was imprinted in another color. The frame contains "TAMMERFORS" at the top, "LOKALPOST" at the bottom, the figure of value "12" at the left and at the right, as well as below "TAMMERFORS". The stamps were printed from stones of unknown size, in various shades of green, with blue bar, on white wove paper and are imperforate.

The rectangular stamps of the *Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget*, which were issued in 1874, have a large shaded (10p, 25p) or colorless (50p) figure, crossed by "PENNI", in a double circle, with "SKARGARDS TRAFIK" at the top and "AKTIE BOLAGET" at the bottom. In the frame is "ANGBATSPOST." at the top and "X TIO PENNI X," "TJUGUFEM PENNI" or "50 PENNI 50" at the bottom. The stamps were printed in two colors, but by overlapping of the two colors a tri-colored effect was obtained in parts of the design. The 10p is blue and yellow brown, the

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25p—which has the frame diagonally divided as on the 1871 adhesive of the Helsingfors City Post—yellow brown and blue, and the 50p blue and green. The stamps were printed from stones of unknown size on white paper and were serpentine rouletted 10½ with Roulette V, the same kind which was also used as an exception for government postage stamps. All three values also exist unrouletted but were never issued in that condition. After 1875, they were issued perforated.

Little is known concerning the stamps of the *Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag* which were issued on May 1, 1867. They show in an oblong oval, colorless on solid ground, an old-fashioned steamship, "WANAJAVESI ANGBATSBOLAG" at the top and "10 PENNI", "20 PENNI" or "25 PENNI" at the bottom. They were printed from stones of unknown size in brick red on white paper, and punched to size before delivery.

The *parcel stamps of the government railroad*, which were issued in 1871, were oblong rectangles (10p, 20p; 3k, 5k), or squares (25p, 50p, 70p; 8k, 15k, 20k), with the figure of value in the center, surrounded by "STATSJERNVAGARNE I FINLAND". The corresponding values in the two currencies were printed in the same color, 10p/3k grayish brown, 20p/5k black, 25p/8k carmine, 50p/15k blue and 70p/20k orange. The first printings were imperforate, from the middle of 1874 line perforation 13 was introduced.

All Finland stamps were issued to the post-offices in unseparated *sheets*. The only exception was the 1856 issue, of which the sheets were first—for a short period only—cut up into single stamps and distributed to the post offices in boxes of 100 each. The sheets of all issues were issued with sheet margins intact, but margin or corner copies are scarce to rare, especially of the rouletted stamps.

(To be continued)

OUR OFFICE
will be closed
from July 6 to 31, 1954
and on all Saturdays
during June, July and August

● *The next issue of the MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL is scheduled for September 1954.*

● *Nos. 15, 20 and 25 of the Mercury Stamp Journal are out of print, as are most issues of Volume I. A number of readers have returned surplus copies to us and we want to thank them here for their kindness. But we need more copies, especially of Nos. 15, 20 and 25, to complete volumes and to satisfy the requests of collectors who missed these numbers and want to complete their volumes. Return of the above three issues as well as all surplus copies of Nos. 1 to 12 will be greatly appreciated.*

● *During the summer months, our office will be closed all Saturdays from June 1 until Labor Day and will remain open Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Due to vacations of the staff and the absence of the partners of the firm, our office will be closed from July 6 to 31, 1954. No business can be transacted and no mail will be answered during that period.*

● *The European trip of our editor will start on June 5, 1954 and will include the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Western Germany, France and England. Until June 25, mail can be addressed to Edwin Mueller, Hotel Regina, Waehringerstr. 1, Wien I., Austria; afterwards until July 10 e/o L. Varga, 9 Rue Gounod, Paris XVII., France; and until July 24 e/o F. Pollak, Ann's Cottage, Brook Farm Road, Cobham, Surrey, England. Return to New York on July 31, 1954.*

● *The Friedl Expert Committee will hold its last meeting before the summer on May 26, 1954. During June and July, no meetings are scheduled and material received for an opinion will be held for the first meeting after the summer recess, on August 4, 1954.*

● *International Philatelic Exhibitions will be quite numerous in the coming years. While in 1954 only one such exhibition, the *Braxex III* at Sao Paulo (Brazil), is scheduled, for the following years two exhibitions each are sponsored by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie, namely 1955 in Oslo and Stockholm, 1956 in Helsingfors and Buenos Aires. 1955 will also have an International Exhibition at Auckland (New*

EUROPEAN CLASSICS

XI. FINLAND *

Of the stamps and postal stationery, which were issued on fixed dates, *first day* cancellations and covers are possible but only a few such items are actually known, all being rarities. *Last day* cancellations are somewhat easier to obtain, but they are also rare to very rare.

While of the adhesives only several varieties—laid papers of the 1856 issue as well as the 5p and 10p errors, the *tete beches* and the rare *roulettes* of the 1866 issue—belong partly in the category of great rarities, Finland can boast of some of the rarest postal stationery items. Of the 1845 envelope issue, the 20k is known as entire in two unused and six used copies only, while of the 20k envelope of 1850 only two copies, both used, one of which is now in the collection of the Finnish Postal Museum, are recorded. It is one of the rarest envelopes of the world.

There were no *remainders* of classic Finland stamps or stationery of any importance and therefore all—except for a few items of the stationery—are considerably rarer unused than used. While of the 1860 and 1866 stamps and stationery unused stamps are somewhat more plentiful, due to small purchases by old-time dealers during their period of use, the earlier issues of the adhesives and envelopes, as well as some postal cards, are rare to very rare in unused condition. Of the laid paper varieties of the 1856 stamps no undoubtedly unused copies are recorded, and the same is true of some other varieties and of the rare *roulettes* of the 1866 issue. Of the errors of the 1866 issue, a few unused copies of the 10p error only are known, but none of the 5p error. Of the envelopes, only two unused entire of the 20k of 1845 are known, while no unused entire of the 20k of 1850 seems to exist. Some other unused entire, such as the 10k envelope of 1845, 5k and 10k envelopes of 1850, all 1856 envelopes, the 5k envelope of 1860 and most of the provisional 5k envelopes of 1864, also belong among the rarities. The early 8p postal cards, the provisional 8p+8p postal card and the 10p postal cards are very rare unused. On the other hand, there

seems to exist no regularly used copy of the 10k postal card of 1875 with attached reply card and the provisional 8p+8p postal card of 1875 is even rarer used than unused.

Multiples of all Finland issues are uncommon and all blocks are rare to very rare. *Unused* we know of the 1856 issue, wove paper, blocks of 5k with small pearls and 10k (Fig. 52, 53), the largest being blocks of 4 of the 5k and blocks of 6 of the 10k. No full sheet of 20 seems to have survived. No unused block is known of the 5k with large pearls. Of the 5k with small pearls and of the 10k we know pairs, horizontally and, not much scarcer, *tete beche* vertically, but we do not know any larger strips. Neither pairs nor strips seem to exist of the 5k with large pearls. No unused multiples are known of the laid paper varieties, of which not even undoubtedly unused singles seem to exist. Of the 1860 issue, which was completely used up, we know no unused multiples larger than pairs and we doubt that unused blocks exist. The 1866 issue can be found with unused blocks of all values except the 1m, but they are all rare to very rare. Of the errors and the rare *roulettes*, of which no unused singles seem to exist, no unused multiples are known. Of the 5p+5p *tete beche* of 1866, also no larger units seem to exist.

As far as *used* multiples are concerned, of the 1856 issue we know only the 10k in a block of 4. Of both 5k we know no larger multiples as strips of 5, of the 10k a strip of 7. Of course, all three come in used vertical *tete beche* pairs. The laid paper varieties are recorded used in no larger units than pairs, horizontal for the 10k and 5k with large pearls (Fig. 54), vertical for the 10k only, the last two claimed to be unique. No multiples of the laid 5k with small pearls are known. Used multiples of the 1860 issue are scarce. We know only the 5k in a used block, not the 10k, and the largest strips we know of both values are strips of four. In this and the following issue, almost all pairs and strips are horizontal and vertical pairs and strips are much scarcer. Of the 1866 issue, used pairs and strips are not too rare for values up to 10p, but scarce for 20p, 40p and 1m. Blocks are rare, very rare of 1m and still rarer—although not as valuable—of 20p

* Concluded from page 136.



Fig. 52

and 40p. Of the errors, the 5p is known in about a dozen used singles and in one used pair with the regular 10p, which seems to be unique. The 10p error, which is much less rare, exists in used singles and pairs with the regular 5p. Only two such pairs are known, horizontal tete beche (Fig. 45) and vertical (Fig. 46). Of the tete beche 5p+5p (Fig. 47) more than half a dozen used pairs but no larger units seem to exist. The rare roulettes come only in singles, except the 40p rouletted VxII, of which a used pair exists.

On *entires*, Finland stamps are comparatively not much rarer than off cover; there are no real cover rarities. Of course, stamps on cover are much more desired by specialists and therefore are sold at a rather high premium, especially all scarce varieties, the 1m of 1866 and, of course the 5p

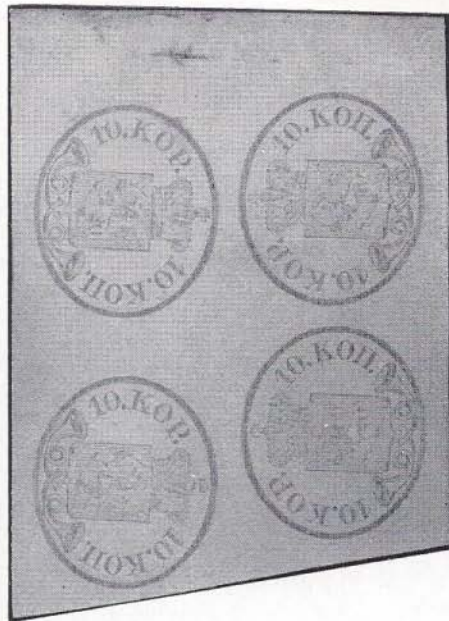


Fig. 53

and 10p errors as well as the 5p tete beche of the same issue. High frankings, as well as interesting combinations are scarce and are sought for, for example 5k+10k of 1856-58, which combination is very rare. Of the 1866 issue, the 8p was used as additional value only and is not known alone on entire. The 5p and 10p are also much scarcer alone on entires than in combination with other values. Mixed frankings were regularly only possible between the issues 1860 and 1866; they are not rare. The same is the case for combinations between the issues 1866 and 1875. There exist also a few combinations between 1856 and 1860, but they are irregular because both issues were not valid concurrently and the 1856 stamps were either not recognized or merely slipped through. The stamps of the private mail services are all scarce on entires, some even being great rarities or not known at all on entires. The small number of covers with these local stamps which have survived is in few collections and covers very rarely are offered, in which case very high premiums are paid compared with copies off cover. Only the 10p and 12p values can regularly be found on covers, the use of higher values—which were intended for use on parcels—was probably philatelically inspired.

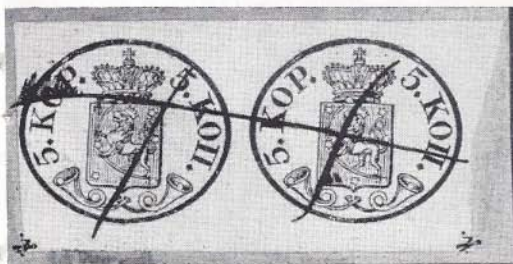


Fig. 54

There exist few *emergency frankings*, of which only the *bisects* undoubtedly deserve this designation. The 10k of 1860 is known, used for the 5k rate, and the 20p of 1866, used for the 10p rate. While of the latter only an unconvincing copy on piece is known, of the former a number of copies (with the horizontal shiny lines), diagonally cut, exist. Several such bisects are known on cover and are undoubtedly all right, being rarities. Of the stamps of the private mail services, the 50p of the Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget stamps is also known bisected, used on cover. It is claimed that such use—on covers mailed in the Eighties—was not an emergency measure but philatelically inspired and the features of the covers with such bisects seem to support that claim. Of the *envelope cut squares*, used for postage, a few may have been used for lack of stamps as an emergency measure, but most of them originated in the desire to make good use of the stamps on spoiled envelopes. The use of envelope cut squares for postage was specifically permitted, a rather natural measure, because such cut squares, pasted on covers were undistinguishable from adhesives. Of the 1856 issue, both 5k and the 10k are known used in such way. A curious kind of franking which may have been caused by an emergency is reported of the 1856 issue but we have not seen it. Some one had only 10k envelopes and 5k stamps, so for letters which required 5k postage, he cut out the 10k stamp of the envelope and pasted a 5k stamp in its place, probably using the cut-out 10k envelope stamp later to pay postage on another letter. Aside from the 1856 envelope cut squares, which are all rare on cover, we occasionally also find 5k and 10k cut squares of the 1850 issue (without pearls), used for postage in 1856 and later. Such use was not permitted, because before March 1, 1856, the envelope stamps were not cancelled. The use of such cut squares therefore is usually a fraudulent one, because the stamps were cut from previously used envelopes, but nevertheless they slipped through in some cases.

Finland started to use *postmarks* rather late. No postmarks are known from the period of Swedish rule, although letters with manuscript rate markings and other notations exist. As in Sweden, feathers were attached to urgent letters, to be delivered by special messengers and these

“feather letters” are interesting documents of the primitive but well working postal service of those times. Only under Russian rule, following the example of Russia proper, the first postmarks were introduced in 1812. They showed a strong Russian influence, in being straight lines with the town name only, in Swedish spelling but in Cyrillic letters. Only two towns, Abo and Wiborg, had similar postmarks, but in Latin script letters. The Wiborg postmark had the spelling Wiburg, indicating the strong German influence in the postal service of that time, which is also evident in the spelling of some other postmarks. The straight lines in Cyrillic letters were centrally manufactured and used at all 37 post offices, partly for more than 35 years. They were the only postmarks in use at the end of the pre-stamp period on Dec. 31, 1844. Only in 1847, they were replaced by rectangular boxes, which show the town name in Swedish spelling, but now in Latin letters, with the date—day, month (in letters) and year (in full)—below. This type of postmark was also centrally manufactured and used by almost all post offices. From 1852, a new type of postmark, similar to the type of 1847, was introduced and given to new post offices as well as necessary replacements to other post offices. These postmarks are also rectangular boxes, but generally higher and narrower, with the town name in Swedish spelling and the date—now with the day and months in figures, inserted in the middle of the year date, for example “18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 53”—below. This particular kind of date indication was copied from Swedish postmarks and also is characteristic for all later types of Finnish postmarks during the classic period.

When adhesives were introduced on March 1, 1856, there were only two kind of town postmarks in use, namely the two types of rectangular boxes introduced in 1847 and 1852 respectively. The Cyrillic straight lines were withdrawn about 1847 and therefore can be found only on the earliest envelopes, but not on letters with adhesives. During the use of the 1856 postage stamps, the distribution of postmarks in the 1852 type of the rectangular boxes was continued only at three post offices; in 1856 a new type, large single circles of about 29mm. diameter, came into use. Shortly after the 1860 postage stamps were introduced, a

new type of small single circle postmarks of 19 to 22mm. diameter gradually was introduced at almost all post offices and remained in use until after the end of the classic period. In 1870, a new type of postmarkdouble circles of about 24mm. diameter, was introduced, but only few post offices obtained this type during the classic period. Aside from these regular types of postmarks, a few post offices used straight line markings, showing the town name only, or date stamps without town name, for example "18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 74". It seems that only small subordinated post offices used these unusual kinds of postmarks. An odd kind of cancelling device was used at Christinestad; instead of using pen and ink for the regular manuscript cancellations, the postmaster used a special canceller consisting of a 38mm. long line of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. thickness, applying it in the same manner as a pen stroke, on the 1856 issue.

From 1870, the travelling post offices on railroad trains used postmarks of uniform type. They were double circles of about 28mm., similar to the new type of town postmarks introduced in the same year. The inscription read FINSKA JERNVAGENS POST KUPE EXPED. between the two circles, in the center there was a number on top, indicating the train or trip, then the post office number, preceded by "No." and below the date in the peculiar arrangement, for example "18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 72". As there were no travelling post offices on ships, no special ship markings existed during the classic period. But a Swedish arrival marking of Stockholm, a single circle STOCKHOLMS K. K. with date, was frequently used on ship letters from Finland, and can be found occasionally also on Finnish stamps.

Few additional markings were used, almost all of them introduced after 1845. For paid letters, each post office had a marking FRANKO or FRANCO, also abbreviated FR.KO, straight line or in various boxes or ovals, for unpaid letters a similar PORTO or PRTO marking. To registered letters and money letters markings REKOMD. and WARDE were applied. Special arrival markings were used by all post offices, showing ANK. and the date (day and month in figures) in a small rectangular box. They were usually applied to the front or, as an exception, to the back of arriving letters.

The ink used for all Finnish postmarks was exclusively black during the pre-stamp period. Only after the introduction of adhesives, a few post offices used blue ink. Red ink was sometimes, rather as an exception, used for the additional markings, FRANKO and the ANK. arrival markings. During the use of the 1860 and 1866 issues, the use of colored ink became more frequent and after 1866 blue and black ink were of about equal frequency. Red ink can also be found, but its use remained a rare exception.

The stamps of the envelopes, until adhesives were introduced in 1856, were not cancelled, but the town postmark was stamped in one of the top corners on the address side. The postmarks of the pre-stamp period—first the Cyrillic straight lines, then the two kinds of rectangular boxes—were now used for that purpose. When adhesives were introduced on March 1, 1856, these regulations had to be changed, to prevent the fraudulent use for postage of stamps, cut out of used envelopes, because they looked just like the adhesives. The new regulations provided that the town postmarks were now to be used as cancellers for the envelope stamps as well as for the adhesives. But due to misunderstood instructions or for other unknown reasons, quite a number of post offices cancelled the stamps with manuscript ink lines or crosses and put the postmark alongside the stamps on the letters. During this early period, the post offices had to record all mailed letters on a list with consecutive numbers and this number had to be written in the top right corner of the address side of the letters. When a stamp occupied this place, which was often the case, the number was usually written on the stamp, as sole cancellation or in addition to a postmark. In 1858, a change in the regulations took place and double cancellation of all stamps, with postmark plus pen strokes, was ordered. But many post offices, even large ones, continued to use pen strokes only and placed their postmark alongside of the stamps on the cover. Only after the introduction of the 1860 issue, the use of pen cancellations gradually ceased and the use of the postmarks alone as cancellers became more and more frequent, so that on the 1866 issue pen cancellations are rather scarce exceptions. The town postmark which was used as canceller was repeated by many

post offices alongside of the stamp, obviously a relic from the period of pen cancellation.

The 1856 issue can be found predominantly with pen cancellation only or with postmark plus pen cancellation. Stamps with postmark cancellation alone are much scarcer, especially of the 5k with large pearls and the stamps on laid paper, which were all issued in 1858, from which time on pen cancellation, alone or in combination with a postmark was the rule. The regular postmarks—the two types of rectangular boxes as well as the large single circles—can be found equally frequent, in black or, very much rarer, in blue. As rare exception, the boxed ANK. marking is known used as canceller. On the 1860 issue, the same three kinds of town postmarks are rather frequent, but they were replaced more and more by the small circles of 1860 which predominate on the last printings. In the first year pen plus postmark cancellations can be found rather frequently, while manuscript cancellations alone are somewhat scarcer. The ink used for the postmarks was first black, later to an increasing degree also blue. Aside from the town postmarks, oval FRANCO, straight line FRANKO and boxed FR.KO as well as the boxed ANK. arrival markings can be found used occasionally as cancellers. On the 1866 issue, only few of the rectangular boxes can still be found and they are rather scarce, as are the large single circles. About 95% of all stamps of this issue show small circle postmarks of the 1860 type as cancellers, of which in the later 1860's also some with sans-serif town names were introduced. The new double circles of 1870, of town and travelling post offices, are not very frequent and can be found on later printings only. Straight line town or date postmarks are scarce, as is the occasional use of FRANCO, FRANKO, FR. KO or PRTO and the ANK. arrival markings as cancellers. Blue cancellations on this issue are as frequent as black ones, green or violet ones are scarce, while red cancellations are rare exceptions.

Of the private mail services, the Helsingfors City Post and the Skärgårds Trafik Aktiebolaget had their own cancelling devices. The former used a type of postmark, which was very similar to the small circle markings of the government mail service

but was flattened at the bottom. It was applied in black or blue. The latter used an oval canceller of five bars, with STAB in center, also in black or blue. The Tammerfors Local Post, which worked in close collaboration with the post office, used the small circle town postmark of that office also as canceller for its own stamps. But only a small percentage of the used stamps, especially in the early period, is cancelled with a postmark, most of them show pen marks of various kinds as cancellation. The stamps of the Wanajavesi Angbätsbolag are known uncanceled only.

Reprints were made of all classic stamps and stationery of Finland. There were four printings of such reprints, in 1862, 1871, 1881 and 1892. Only the first three were made with the help of the original dies, while for the last one, of 1892, new dies were cut and transferred to lithographic stones. These lithographed reprints of 1892 therefore actually are not real reprints but official imitations. But as the "reprints" of the stationery in penni currency were still valid for postage in 1892 and were indeed in some cases used and recognized for the payment of postage—although such use was always philatelically inspired—the imitations of the 1866 stationery are actusally re-issues and therefore have a considerably higher standing than real reprints. The first reprints, of 1862, were made for the dealer, J.B. Moens of Brussels, who wanted to have a quantity of cut squares of all issued envelopes. They were made from original dies on the same lever press on which the original stamps of the 1850 and 1856 envelopes and the 1856 adhesives were printed, in sheets of 20, two *tete beche* rows of ten, just as the 1856 adhesives were printed, but generally with wider spacing, and were not gummed. Reprinted were the two values of the 1845 envelopes—but erroneously in reversed colors—the 10k red and 20k black—, the 20k of the 1850 envelopes, as well as the 5k with large pearls and the 10k of 1856. Due to the printing in *tete beche* rows, all these reprints exist in *tete beche* pairs, vertical for the 1856 values, but horizontal for the 1845 envelope stamps. Two kinds of papers were used for this reprint, wove paper, of uneven thickness with yellowish tint, and laid paper—horizontal for the 1845 stamps and vertical for the others—which shows 17

lines on 2cm. width. The second reprint was made in 1871, mainly to satisfy requests of foreign postal administrations for collections of all Finnish stamps. The same values as in 1862 were reprinted and in the same way, on white wove smoothed paper, the 1845 issue in reversed colors as in 1862, but also in correct colors. The third reprint was manufactured in 1881, for unknown reasons. Again the same five values as in 1862 were reprinted, but the 1845 stamps in correct colors only, on white wove smoothed paper, the 5k with large pearls and 10k of 1856 also on light blue paper, obviously to simulate cut squares of the 1850 letter sheets. This third reprint seems to have been printed in a different way from the two previous ones because no tete-beches are known and the printing shows rather heavy embossing, suggesting single handstamping. While the first three reprints were manufactured in unknown but certainly small quantities, the reprint—or better the official imitation—of 1892 was printed in larger quantities, officially given as 1000 copies of each, but probably considerably larger. It consisted of adhesives—5k with large pearls and 10k of 1856, both values of the 1860 and all six values of the 1866 issue, all gummed—as well as, for the first time, of entires. Both values of the 1845 envelopes, all three values of the 1850 envelopes and the two values of the 1850 letter sheets, the 5k with large pearls and the 10k of the 1856 envelopes, as well as both values each of the 1860 and 1871 envelopes, were printed. Of the 1864 provisional envelopes, all possible combinations between 5k and 10k of 1860 on the one hand, and 5k and 10k 1850, 5k with large pearls and 10k 1856 on the other hand, several of them not known as originals, were manufactured, furthermore the 8p postal cards of 1871 and 1872, the provisional postal card 8p+8p, the 10p postal card and the 10+10p postal card with attached reply card of 1875, as well as the 10p return receipts of 1871 and 1872. As can be seen, all classic stamps and stationery were imitated in this reprint, except the 5k with small pearls, adhesive as well as envelope, which also was not reprinted in the three previous reprints and of which therefore no reprints exist at all. While of some of the entires the same quantity of 1000 reprints was manufactured, of others

only smaller quantities were made, it being claimed that there were only 15 copies each of some of the 1864 provisionals. As stated previously, the stamps of this reprint are lithographed; the imitations of the adhesives were printed in sheets of 20, four horizontal rows of 5 (1856 issue) or of 10, two horizontal rows of 5 (1860 and 1866 issue). The 1860 and 1866 issue imitations were rouletted with roulette IV, which only occasionally had been used for the originals (20p and 40p only), but several values are also known imperforate. The reprints in the same color of the 1860 and 1866 issues—5k and 20p, 10k and 40p—seem to have been printed on the same sheet and sheets of the 10k and 40p reprints were found se-tenant. Of the envelopes, aside from regular sizes and colors, also some items were made of this reprint, which do not exist as originals, for example 115x76mm. size envelopes on blue paper of 5k and 10k 1850 and 151x75mm. size envelopes on blue paper of 5k and 10k 1856. In 1928, a special reprint was made from the die of the 5k with large pearls, 1856 issue, in blue on thick paper, to adorn the program of the Philatelic Exhibition held at that year in Helsinki. The first three reprints can be recognized by the papers and the colors; they are dark blue, red and gray black, while the originals are usually blue, rose and black. The reprints of the 1856 issue also can be spotted by colored dots in the cross above the crown. The 1892 reprints can be rather easily distinguished by the different printing method and small differences in the designs, due to the fact that they are derived from new dies. The thick papers and the colors, which are generally much brighter, also give them away. For the envelopes, different knives and in part papers with watermarks, which cannot be found on originals, were used, and the text for the postal cards and return receipt was re-set and therefore varies in many details.

Of the stamps for the private mail services, almost all classic issues were reprinted several times, due to philatelic demand, partly shortly after they became obsolete. Therefore, it is in some cases very difficult to distinguish between remainders and reprints. Generally, all varieties and printings, which are not known on commercial covers from the correct period, must be considered reprints and cancelled copies as cancelled

to order after the originals had become obsolete. This is true for various varieties of the 1866, 1868 and 1871 stamps of the Helsingfors City Post—rouletted, perforated and imperforate—, of the Tammerfors Local Post 1866 issue, and of the Wanajavesi Angbätsbolag ship stamps of 1867. Generally all printings which come from new stones—and therefore differ in small details from the originally issued stamps—must be considered reprints, such new stones having been used for the reprints of Helsingfors City Post and Tammerfors Local Post stamps.

Of all Finland postal stamps and stationery, rather numerous *forgeries* and *fakes* are known. Complete imitations are known of all adhesives and of all envelope stamps, but most of them are crude and can deceive only a very naive collector who has never seen genuine copies. But dangerous forgeries exist too, especially of the 1856 adhesives (both 5k and the 10k), as well as of the 5p, 10p, 1m and of the two errors, 5p and 10p in reversed colors, of 1866. The two errors as well as the 5p tete beche exist genuine only on laid paper and all copies on wove paper are forgeries, some of them so dangerous that until not long ago the 10p error on wove paper was considered genuine and listed by several catalogs, including the specialized Finland catalog and the Kohl Handbook. The forgeries of the envelope stamps exist almost exclusively in cut squares; especially the great rarities, 20k of 1845 and the still rarer 20k of 1850, have been extensively imitated. Forgeries of some of the private stamps are also known, especially of the Helsingfors City Post 1866 and 1868, as well as of the Wanajavesi Angbätsbolag 1867 issue, this later frequently being misleadingly offered as a reprint. Very numerous are the fakes. In this category must be included cut squares of the 1856 envelopes offered as adhesives. Such cut squares from wove paper envelopes are sometimes difficult to distinguish, because envelopes and adhesives were printed with the same clichés and partly on the same papers. But the texture of the paper often gives a sure indication, because the pores on the adhesives run parallel to one of the sides, while on the envelope cut squares they always run diagonally. Laid paper cut squares are much easier to spot,

because the lines on the adhesives run vertically, on the cut squares always diagonally. Actual fakes, produced by changes applied to genuine items, are sometimes quite dangerous. This is especially true for manipulated cut squares or reprints, as well as for faked cancellations on reprints especially of the 1856 adhesives, several envelopes and on some stamps of the private mail services, faked laid papers and fakes of rare roulettes. Less dangerous are color changelings trying to simulate the 1866 5p and 10p errors in reversed colors, or stamps supposed to be imperforate, but actually produced from rouletted stamps by clipping the roulettes, sometimes adding new wide margins to make the fakes more convincing. The 40p of 1866, perforated 12½ as the issue 1875, which was previously considered a legitimate variety, has also been proven to be faked. An industry in itself is the removal of pen cancellations on the 1856 adhesives and many good stamps have been spoiled by such manipulations. Copies, which were pen cancelled only, after removal of the pen strokes with a suitable chemical, are either sold as unused or a faked postmark is applied as cancellation. Of copies which were cancelled with pen strokes plus postmark, the pen strokes are removed and the items offered as the much more desired copies with postmark cancellation only. The "repair men" also have a rewarding field, by supplying the missing margins on cut-to-shape stamps of the 1856 issue and they also like to do some "dental" work for the 1860 and 1866 issues by adding the missing teeth to create "perfect" copies. All together, collectors of Finland stamps have been quite harassed by the forgers and fakers; they have to be alert when purchasing more expensive items to avoid future disappointments.

For the collector who is particular about *condition*, Finland is a rather difficult country. The imperforate stamps can be had with sufficient margins, due to the usually wide spacing, but the difficulties begin when the collector wants to have all stamps cancelled by a postmark only and rejects pen cancelled copies, even when the pen cancellation is in addition to the postmark cancellation. Some varieties are considerably rarer with postmark only and therefore rightfully sell at considerably higher prices than those with pen cancella-

tion or pen plus postmark cancellation. The specialized Finland catalogs value stamps with pen plus postmark cancellation 50% to 80%, only with postmark cancellation 200% to 350% higher than the same stamps with pen cancellation only. Most collectors are so antagonistic towards pen-cancelled stamps—a remainder of the old-time belief that every pen-cancelled stamp was fiscally used—that general collectors do not like to have such stamps in their collections even when they know that such stamps, at least in the case of Finland, come from legitimate postal use on mail. Therefore, even those stamps for which pen cancelled copies form a small minority—the 1860 issue and especially the 1866 issue—nevertheless pen-cancelled sell considerably cheaper than postmarked. Quite a percentage of the imperforate stamps were cut to shape and such stamps, although of some interest on cover or piece, are quite unpopular off cover and sell for not more than one tenth of the price of rectangularly cut copies. But, compared with the difficulties the condition-minded collector has with the rouletted issues, those encountered for the imperforate stamps fade away. The primitive rouletting procedure made it almost impossible to separate the stamps in a way that kept intact all teeth created by the rouletting. This is especially true for the roulettes with longer teeth, III and especially V, while the three others somewhat easier can be found in satisfactory condition. Average copies with roulette V have three to five teeth shortened, with roulette III two or three, while for the other roulettes the figure is one or two. Prices in the general catalogs are for average copies as described in the preceding sentence. Stamps which have all teeth intact are exceptions and several of the roulette rarities are not known in such exceptional condition. The specialized Finland catalogs have separate price columns for "one tooth missing" and for "complete roulette". The proportion between average, one tooth missing and perfect copies is generally 1 to 1½ to 5, and the gap between average and perfect copies is steadily widening, the former selling at a fraction of catalog while the latter fetch considerably more than full catalog. Even collecting postal stationery of Finland has its pitfalls for the condition-conscious collector, because the

1850 and 1856 envelopes had the stamp on the flap which was often torn when the envelope was opened and the stamp more or less damaged.

When we forget the condition troubles, Finland is a rather easy country for the general collector. Scott lists 17 main numbers of the classic stamps but of these six are paper or roulette varieties which have acquired a main catalog number although they do not deserve one by accepted cataloguing principles. This leaves only 11 stamps to be considered, which are all priced unused higher than used. The prices of these 11 stamps add up for unused to little more than \$680, while used—the 1856 issue pen cancelled—they cost a little more than \$150, and therefore are within the reach of most collectors of even small means. The price for used is more than doubled to over \$315 when postmarked copies of the 1856 issue are substituted for pen-cancelled ones. Finland has no very cheap classic stamps, the cheapest used is listed \$1.00 and unused \$4.00, but also there are no great rarities among the regular stamps, the highest Scott quotation being \$45 for used and \$225 for unused. Finland becomes considerably more expensive when varieties are considered. The six varieties, listed in Scott as main numbers, are priced used at no less than \$2610, and unused three of them are not priced at all; there are other varieties which belong in the same price class. But a real field for the collectors of great rarities is Finland's postal stationery. There is practically no chance ever to get all main numbers together in entires, because only two copies are known of the 20k envelope of 1850, one of them in the Finnish Postal Museum, the other formerly owned by Agathon Fabergé. Of the 20k envelope of 1845, also only a few entires are in private collections and of some combinations of the 1864 provisional envelopes only one or two copies seem to have survived. Fortunately in this case, the number of stationery collectors is much smaller than those who collect stamps only, which makes other rare stationery items—still in the real rarity class, considering the number in existence—much more readily obtainable than equally rare adhesives. This may be some inducement to get interested in the attractive field of Finland envelopes, which preceded the adhesives for 11½ years. Con-

sidered all in all, Finland is a rather inexpensive field for the general collector of stamps only, but a specialized collection of stamps and stationery will not get very far without a substantial amount of hard cash. A collector, who does not insist upon assembling a gold medal collection, can have real fun with the roulettes and cancellations for much less money, especially if he is satisfied with average copies. He will find collecting Finland no less rewarding than the wealthy collector who can afford to assemble the great rarities of adhesives and envelopes.

There is no dearth of *philatelic literature* dealing with Finland. In the early years of philatelic writing, Finland was a favorite, not so much in regard to its stamps but more in respect to its postal stationery, providing many problems which were mostly solved only early in this century. The most important and well documented monograph was by L. Hanciau "The Postal Issues of Finland", first published in "Gibbons Monthly Journal" (1905-07), which was translated into German (also published as a brochure in 1909) and Swedish. This monograph deals with adhesives as well as stationery. The latter part was partly based on a book by R. Granberg "Die Ganzsachen von Finnland" (1903, German). In these two books the best available data are compiled and they are still valuable, because later research is scattered in magazine articles. The results of this research were used in a number of publications by the Helsingfors Frimärks-samlare Förening, which organization not only has provided excellent catalogs but also has published continuously new research in their magazine and occasionally in other publications. The catalogs are in German and deal with the stamps (6th edition, 1934), the postal stationery (1923) and the locals of Helsingfors and Tammerfors (1923); other publications are partly in Swedish or Finnish. The Finland part of the Kohl Handbook, in Volume II, is more elaborate than the monographs of other countries in earlier parts and the classic issues fill 25 pages plus a one-page supplement; it is mainly based upon the publications mentioned before and must be considered one of the weaker parts of the Handbook, without any important new findings and outdated in some respect by later research. No English translation has

been published. Of other publications, a 326-page book by P. Grosfils-Berger "Finlande" (1947, French) is useful for the recording of the known copies of the rarities, multiples, etc., but it is mainly a compilatory job and contains quite a number of outdated or erroneous statements, taken over from older literature. The only recent book in English, "Postal Issues of Finland" by C. E. Pelander (1940), will be helpful in providing the basic data for specializing. No book exists about the postmarks of Finland and information is scattered in magazine literature. Concerning postal history, a monumental three-volume "Suomen Postilaitoksen Historia 1638-1938" was published in 1938, but unfortunately it is written in Finnish and therefore is useful for only a small percentage of philatelists. All together, there is plenty of guidance for the collector who wants information about the stamps and stationery of Finland and no one should have much difficulty in establishing correct facts on which to base specialization or research.

Finland is a pleasant and interesting country to collect. The attractive stamps and envelopes are a highlight of every general collection and a fine specialized collection of Finland will be admired by all connoisseurs of classic stamps. In regard to philatelic research, much good work has been done, but when we compare literature only a few decades old with our present knowledge, we see how many "facts" previously considered correct have been found not to be facts at all but merely wrong conclusions or misunderstandings. There are still a number of features of the stamps and envelopes where the empirical findings can be notably improved; we are confident that philatelic research will provide still further surprises in the field of the classic stamps and stationery of Finland. One of the most difficult jobs still to be done is the reconstruction of the settings of the 1860 and 1866 issues, which has been attempted several times. Due to the flexibility of the settings of single clichés, of which several must have existed for most values, the separation of the different settings offers almost insurmountable difficulties. There is still a field for ambitious collectors who like to tackle jobs which seem hopeless at the start.

(Next: XII. France)