

# Russia in Finland

## **Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery Used in Finland 1899 – 1918**

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Editorial Assistance – Seija-Ritta Laakso

An international philatelic collaboration

# Russia in Finland

Stockholmia 2019

Waterfront Congress Center

Level 3, Room 33

Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 13:30

## Welcome

# Russia in Finland

“Russian stamps and postal stationery were an integral part of Finland’s postal operations for almost thirty years at the turn of the 20th century.

This comprehensive book written by the leading experts of this field gives us an insight to this so far little researched period. I am sure this book will be heavily used by the friends of Finnish and Russian philately.”

– Ari Muhonen FRPSL  
FIP judge, Postal History, Finland

“The story of the Russification of Finland Post, from the late 20th century up until 1918 after Finland became independent, is a fascinating one as revealed in this thorough study by three experts.

Over 150 million Russian stamps were used in Finland during this period. The authors document and shed new light on an interesting area of Finnish philately.”

– Alan Warren FRPSL  
APS judge, United States

ISBN

EAN-code

Russia in Finland – The Story of Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery Used in Finland, 1899–1918

## Russia in Finland

The Story of Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery  
Used in Finland, 1899–1918

Jon Iversen  
Morten N rstad  
Roger P. Quinby FRPSL



Scandinavian Collectors Club

# Why this postal history book?

- No general postal history overview of this era available in English
- Introduce & explain scope of Russification on Finnish postal operations
- Review of optional and mandatory kopek franking in Finland
- Timeline of significant postal events from 1899 to 1918

# The Postal History - Part 1

- Importance of Russian Stamps in postal history of Finland
- Fagerholm Study – 1969
- Russification of Finnish Post 1890 -1899
  - Reintroduction of kopek franking
- Administering postal operations under Russian authority:
  - Dual currencies
  - Dual weigh systems
  - Mixed franking (rate computations)
  - Special regulations
    - Addressing, labels ....

# The Postal History - Part 2

- Russification of Finnish Post 1899 – 1918
- Optional & Mandatory uses for kopek franking
- Removal of Finnish national identity from postal mailings
- Finnish Passive Resistance to Russification to Finnish Post
- End of kopek franking in domestic mail, 1917
- End of kopek franking in foreign mail, 1918

# Russian Stamps / Stationeries Used In Finland

- Russian Stamp Issues
  - 1) 1889, 1902 & 1909 Russian Definitive issues
  - 2) Russian postal stationery
- Other Russian Issues Used in Finland – Co-Runners
  - 1) 1905 & 1914 / 1915 Charity Issues
  - 2) 1913 Romanov commemoratives
  - 3) Overprints, exchange stamps, imperforate stamps
  - 4) Other postal stationeries not sold by Finnish Post

# Discussion Issues Presented

- Use of Russian stamps in Finland - numbers sold / surviving stamps for collectors
- Valid periods of use
- Co-runners – importance?
- Rates and uses during end of kopek franking 1917 / 1918



# Mandatory kopek franking to abroad



- Tables of mail to abroad 1900 to 1918 – many missing destinations
- Rarity table

# Mixed Franking

After UPU Generally Uncommon– Allowed in Finland

Many Combinations Possible, Many Unknown



## Basic Mixed Franking Periods

Domestic 1891 to 1917

To Russia May to December 1891

To abroad May 1891 to May 1911

## Cover Franking

Russian 2 kopek 1909 pair = 10 penni

Finnish 10 penni 1911

Domestic letter rate = 20 penni

# Postal Forms

## Money Orders – Address Cards - Telegrams

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Osoitepaikka }

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Sisäänjättöpostitoimiston leima ja kassakirjan numero.

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Bostad: gata och N:r }

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№ 66.

*J. Hakkinen*  
Postivirkailija. Postfunktionär.

Каав. № 134.

**Left:** Showcase stamps infrequently seen on letters: 25 and 70 kopek Russian definitive issues

**Right:** Showcase mixed currencies

6 Russian rubles paying for 1500 Finnish marks on domestic money order

5 ruble Russian issue known only on postal forms and postage due accounting forms

# End of Kopek Franking

- Russian revolutions of 1917 – restoration of Finnish civil autonomy
- September 1917 – kopek devaluation, Post's exchange losses
- Finnish Senate ends kopek franking on domestic mail – 28 November 1917
- Independent Finland ends dual currencies and kopek franking on mail to abroad – 12 March 1918



**Left:** Last day of kopek franking: 2 kopek issues on 10 penni postal card



**Right:** Late Red Finland lettercard to Russia

# Appendices

- Rates
- Postal Administration Bulletins
- Catalogue cross-indexes
- List of cover illustrations
- Annotated Bibliography

# Summary

- Goal – to open door and interest collectors to explore the many rooms in this large mansion of philatelic possibilities.
  - Few general exhibits and virtually no specialized exhibits of any of the areas mentioned in this presentation
- 
- This world is yours to explore – and enjoy