

POSTAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION IN FINLAND

From the Russian Grand Duchy to the independence era 1881 – 1924

The Postal Service of Finland delivers:

- A) Basic postal matters including
 - 1) covers,
 - 2) postcards,
 - 3) documents,
 - 4) printed matters,
 - 5) samples, and
 - 6) parcels, all of them without given value
- B) Insured postal matters (covers and parcels with given value).

In addition, the postal service delivers:

- C) Money orders
- D) Cash on deliveries and
- E) Newspapers and magazines and their subscriptions.

[The Postal Regulation of 1881, 2§]

INTRODUCTION

This collection presents the development of the postal service organization in Finland through the autonomous Russian Grand Duchy, the russifying era, the World War I, the independence war until the first years of independence.

The presentation is based on the Postal Regulation and the Management Order of 1881 which came into practice on the 1st of July, 1881. Additional orders are published in the Imperial Rules and Declarations and also in the circular letters and in the general letters of the Postal Service. This presentation covers the validity time of the Postal Regulation of 1881: 1st of July 1881 - 1st of July 1924, when the next Postal Regulation was published.

The postal arrangements are presented

using the postal documents, focusing in the markings on them. The markings have been made either for the sender or for the addressee and they may have been written either on the postal matter itself or on the related documents, such as receipts.

THE EXHIBIT PLAN

	Page
1. Different postal items	
1.1. Letter	3-6
1.2. Local letter	7-8
1.3. Postcard	9-16
1.4. Printed matter	17-21
1.5. Parcel.....	22-24
1.6. Postal money order.....	25-34
1.7. Newspapers and magazines.....	35-39
1.8. Cash on delivery.....	40-44

2. Additional services	
2.1. Registration	45-47
2.2. Insured postal items.....	48-51
2.3. Express delivery	52
2.4. Return receipt card.....	53
2.5. Certificate of receipt	54-56
2.6. Enquiry	57-58
3. Handling	
3.1. Forbidden contents.....	59-62
3.2. Writing of the address	63-64
3.3. Distribution of the postal items.	65-77
3.4. Non-delivered postal items	78-84
3.5. Franking and postage stamps	85-100
3.6. The right to send mail free of charge	101-104
3.7. Cancellation	105-111
3.8. Getting lost or damaged	112-113
3.9. The post offices	114-118
4. Under martial law	
4.1. War censorship	119-122
4.2. Field post and prisoners of war mail	123-125
4.3. Postal service in red Finland.	126-128

CONDITION AND RARITY

The material of the collection may seem to be quite ordinary when glanced over quickly, but in such a case the quality of the material compared to the average will be neglected. Lots of effort has been put out to select the items, and the objects represent the highest quality available. When taking into consideration the exceptional conditions of the era, all the items are at least unusual. There are also quite a rarities in the collection, of which the following items deserve to be especially mentioned:

- Several parcels are combined with one parcel card (page 24)
- An insured letter sealed with three seals (page 49)
- A postal money order, which has been paid only after the inspection of the Finnish Postal Service Accounting Division (page 61)
- A letter opened by the rights of the Postal Regulation (pages 79 and 80)
- A request for the change of address (page 82)
- An insured letter, from which the money inside has been stolen (page 112)
- A parcel card of Red Finland franked by M1911 stamps (page 128)

SPECIFICATION OF RARENESS

The specification of rareness is based on the registers of detected postal items. For example the register created by Mr. Ari Mu-honen is used in the case of the model Saari-nen stamps (M1917); in this register there are around 5200 postal items from 66 different exhibition collections.

PERSONAL STUDIES

There has been substantial personal archive studies to create this collection. The results of the studies has been published *by the maker of the collection in his books* "Domestic Postal Organization in Finland", 2004; "Finnish foreign letterpost 1875-1943", 2010; and "The parcel post from Finland to abroad 1888-1942, rates and main regulations", 2013; published by Joutjärven Postimerkkikerho ry and printed in Espoo, Finland.

OTHER SOURCES

Information about different post offices is found in the book "Suomen postitoimipaikat 1638-1985" ("Post offices of Finland 1638-1985"), published by the Philatelic Federation of Finland and printed in Vammala, Finland, 1988.

DEVELOPMENT

This exhibition was awarded large vermeil at the FIP exhibition in Indipex 2011 (87 points). Since that *about 20 % of the former items have been replaced* by the new items with more powerful evidence. Each new item shows several facts, which were earlier presented with at least two different items. This compressing made it possible to include many new regulations to the renewed collection.

TYPOGRAPHY

The story of the collection, the leading of the topic, is printed in this kind of letter type.

The analyses of specific items are shown in this kind of letter type.

The items with special interest are framed with a wide cyan-colored frame.