



Philatelic Review Bulletin

Wyong & Districts Philatelic Society

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Produced in Australia by

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Dear members,

The content of this bulletin aims at informing hobby and calendar items relevant to our hobby and club.

It is hoped that errors and omissions are kept to a minimum.

All members are invited to submit articles that they like to share with others. Articles can be short or long and the editor will decide to publish those in one or more than one bulletin.

The editor

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Meetings and other information:

[Philatelic Association of NSW \(philas.org.au\)](http://philas.org.au)

Evening Meeting:

The **third Wednesday** of the month at
7.00 pm
Canton Beach Sports Club
11 Hibbard Street
Toukley NSW 2263

Daytime Meeting:

The **first Wednesday** of the month at 1.00 pm

RFBI Lake Haven Masonic Retirement
Village
12 - 16 Christopher Crescent
Lake Haven NSW 2263

George V Study Group

The **first Wednesday** of the month
following the daytime meeting.

2024 Meeting Dates

Evening meetings at Toukley 7.00 pm

Roo
17 July
AGM
21 August

18 September

16 October

20 November

18 December

Daytime meetings 2024 at Lakehaven 1.00 pm

3 July
Exchange & KGV study group
7 August

Exchange & KGV study group
4 September
 Exchange & KGV study group
2 October
 Exchange & KGV study group
6 November
 Exchange & KGV study group
1 December
 Exchange & KGV study group

Philas Connection

All meetings can be found at
[Wyong and District Philatelic Society \(philas.net.au\)](http://philas.net.au)

Monthly Display

David Watts talked about Queen Victoria in a professional way that got the interest of the audience.

Finland – Notes

Coat of Arms used in Finland

Written for Virtual Finland by Maunu Harmo, Master of Pol. Sc., Former President of Finnish Society of Heraldry.

The pictures of the new provincial coats of arms are digitised from original drawings by graphic artist Juhani Vepsäläinen.

The following is a brief description of Finland's national coat of arms and the arms of the nation's nine provinces. A short account is given of what each of these symbolises and how it came into being. The article is based on the official blazon and the most widely approved explanation of each coat of arms.

National Coat of Arms



Figure 1

When King Gustav I of Sweden (died 1560) gave his son John the title of duke of Finland in

1556, the territory also received its own coat of arms, which was probably approved by the king in 1557, although as far as we know Duke John never used it. In addition to national emblems, this coat of arms (Figure 1) included two other symbols referring to northern and southern Finland, in actual fact the areas of Satakunta and Varsinais Suomi (Finland Proper). These two symbols were later retained in the arms of these two provinces.



After ascending the Swedish throne, King John III adopted the title of "Grand Duke of Finland and Karelia" in the year 1581. It was probably at this time or a little later that Finland received a second coat of arms, which is somewhat like the present one. This coat of arms is generally thought to have been modelled on a shield sculpted for the tombstone of King Gustav I at the Uppsala Cathedral (completed 1591). This monument was designed during the reign of John's elder brother, Erik XIV, who was king from 1560 to 1568, but it was only completed some thirty years later during John's reign. The shield was probably designed by the Dutch artist Willem Boyen, who served under both Gustav I and Erik XIV.

There is no way to know whether Finland's second coat of arms was purely the product of Willem Boyen's own imagination or whether it was based on Erik XIV's wishes or some other unknown historical tradition. It is known, however, that Erik XIV was himself interested in heraldry. This matter has been the subject of considerable academic debate among scholars and laymen.

At any rate, the general consensus has been that the symbol of the lion is derived from the arms of the Folkung family, which are included in the royal arms of Sweden. The two swords were

borrowed from the Karelian coat of arms, which was publicly displayed for the first known time on a banner at the funeral of King Gustav I in 1560.

The placing of the curved Russian sabre beneath the lion's paws is undoubtedly a reflection of the political situation at this time. Sweden and Russia were almost constantly at war, and the Swedes made use of this propaganda device to imply that they had the upper hand over their enemies. The nine roses are decorative, although they have falsely been interpreted as referring to Finland's nine historical provinces. It is worth noting that the number of roses has varied over the centuries.

During the Russian occupation Russian stamps (currency Kopek- КОП) were used in Finland and can only be distinguished by postmark
Issued: 1 May 1891 (set of 13)
Currency: kopek



Issued: 1901 (set 12)
Currency: PEN



Issued: 1911 – 1915 (set of 7)
Currency: PEN



When Finland gained independence in 1917, the "lions arms" became the coat of arms of the new nation. Before this it had served as the common symbol for all the Swedish territory to the east of the Gulf of Bothnia; and from 1809 to 1917 it served as the coat of arms for the Grand Duchy of Finland, which was under Russian rule during this period.

The Finnish coat of arms appears on the state flag, official seals, coins, banknotes and postage stamps. On the President's car it takes the place of an ordinary registration plate.

It was not until 1978 that legislation was passed concerning Finland's coat of arms. This legislation gives the official blazon and prohibits the sale of the national coat of arms, subject to fine.

The national coat of arms displays a crowned lion standing on a red field. The lion holds a raised sword in its right gauntleted fore leg and is trampling a curved sabre. The lion, the crown and the sword and sabre handles are gold, as are the gauntlet joints. The blades and the gauntlet are silver. The field is adorned by nine silver roses.

Finland's nine historical provinces include VarsinaisSuomi (Finland Proper), Satakunta, Ahvenanmaa (Åland), Uusimaa, Häme (Tavastia), Karijala (Karelia), Savo, Pohjanmaa (Ostrobothnia) and Lappi (Finnish Lapland). Several Finnish provinces had their own seals as early as the Middle Ages. No present day coats of arms have developed from these seals, however, which included representations of saints. It was probably not until the reign of Gustav I that Finland's provinces received arms similar to those existing today.

The provincial arms were all apparently designed under kings with a personal interest in heraldry. Each coats of arms is clearly representative of the province, its fauna or other special characteristics. The coronets which appear in Finland's provincial arms are based on historical practice and show a certain degree of ignorance regarding continental heraldic tradition and conventions. The ducal coronet on some provincial arms differs from the normal crown,

while the count's coronet on other provincial arms resembles a baronial crown.

Today provincial arms are used in various provincial symbols. The coats of arms of Finland's modern administrative provinces are in the main derived from those of the historical provinces. Many municipalities have also adopted the colours and motifs of provincial arms.

Provincial coats of arms

Varsinais-Suomi (Finland Proper)



A golden jousting helmet in front of crossed golden lances on a red field. Each lance bears a blue forked pennon with a golden cross. Ducal coronet.

The arms of this province appeared on the coat of arms designed when King John III took the title of grand duke of Finland. The helmet and lances no doubt have reference to Turku Castle, the military and administrative centre of southwestern Finland. The helmet also bears witness to the importance of the nobility and knighthood, established in Medieval times.

Satakunta



A black bear standing on a blue and golden field, with red claws, tongue and teeth. The bear holds a silver sword with golden haft and wears a golden crown. On either side of the bear's head is a silver star. Ducal coronet.

This coat of arms also figured in the arms created for Duke John. The bear is a reference to the old fur trade and the existence of bears in this region in the Middle Ages and the early part of our own era. The bear may have appeared on the

arms of this province as early as the 15th century. The animal is a symbol of the wilds. The sword and the two seven-pointed stars are mainly ornamental. Swords and stars have always been common heraldic devices. The stars can be thought of as referring to the clear winter sky of the North, for example. The ducal coronet indicates the importance of the province.

Provincial coats of arms

Ahvenanmaa (Åland)



A stag on a blue field. Baronial coronet.

As mentioned above, the coat of arms adopted by Duke John in 1556 included the arms of southern and northern Finland (Finland Proper and Satakunta). In 1569 Katarina Stenbock, the widow of Gustav I, received the Åland Islands as a fief, and this area was then considered a province in its own right. This is reflected by the baronial coronet.

This province's first coat of arms displayed two deer one above the other, symbolising the rich game of the islands. Around the beginning of the 17th century, however, the two deer were replaced by one stag.

According to one view, this change resulted from the confusion of the names Åland and Öland. The arms of Öland did in fact show a golden stag on a blue field, a reference to the splendid hunting which Öland offered the nobility.

The arms of Åland have remained basically the same since the early 17th century. The Öland arms, on the other hand, for a time displayed two deer. Nowadays they, too, feature a stag and greatly resemble the Åland coat of arms.

The coat of arms of Åland was slightly changed in 1951, when a ribbon was removed from the stag's neck. The arms were redrawn by the renowned Finnish heraldist Gustaf von Numers at this time.

Uusimaa



A golden boat between two wavy silver lines on a blue field. Baronial coronet.

The oldest known depiction of this province's arms is in a runic painting in Uppsala which dates from 1599. The boat is a traditional symbol of coastal areas and refers to the importance of navigation and fishing. The wavy lines supposedly represent the Vantaa and Porvoo rivers, which are old trading routes and connections between the coast and the interior, i.e. the province of Häme. Another interpretation is that they refer to the Kymi and Mustio rivers, which border the province to the west and east.

The arms of municipalities in this province quite often make use of the provincial colours: blue, gold and silver. The modern administrative province of Uusimaa also makes use of the same arms, without the coronet.

Häme (Tavastia)



A golden lynx with black ear tufts on a red field, with three sixpointed silver stars above and four silver roses underneath. Ducal coronet.

An armorial banner representing the province of Häme was also noted at the funeral of King Gustav I. The principal charge, the lynx, was added later as part of the coat of arms for Gustav's tombstone. Since then it has always figured in the provincial arms.

The lynx was once a very common animal in this part of Finland. The stars and roses are ornamental. In the days of Gustav I, Häme was regarded as a duchy, hence the ducal coronet.

The arms of this historical province nowadays appear as one side of the arms of the administrative provinces of Häme, Mikkeli and Keski-Suomi (Central Finland). The "Häme lynx" also appears on the arms of several municipalities. Many organizations, including one of Finland's best known icehockey and football clubs, have also adopted the lynx as their symbol. The provincial colours are often found in municipal arms.

Karjala (Karelia)



A golden crown above two duelling arms, the right guantleted arm holding a sword and the left mailed arm a scimitar, all silver except for golden hafts and gauntlet joint. Ducal coronet.

The oldest known Karelian arms date from 1562. An armorial banner representing this province most probably appeared before this time at the funeral of King Gustav I in 1560, however. This banner carried the same shield which has remained on the provincial arms for four centuries.

The origin and symbolic function of the Karelian arms have long been debated. The emblem is generally interpreted as a reference to the province's position as an eastern border region and to the lengthy struggle between Sweden and Russia for ownership of this area. Finland's national coat of arms borrowed the sword and scimitar from the Karelian arms. The ducal crown in the shield itself reflects the province's historical heraldic status. The Karelian arms, without the coronet, nowadays serve as the coat of arms of the administrative province of PohjoisKarjala (North Karelia).

Savo



A drawn bow on a black field, with golden bow and arrow and silver feathers and arrowhead. Baronial coronet.

The simple and quite beautiful arms of the Savo province also appeared on a banner displayed at the funeral of King Gustav I. The Savo arms have remained unchanged since the 16th century. The bow and arrow refer to hunting and the need to defend the nation's border. The Savo arms, without the coronet, nowadays serve as the arms of the administrative province of Kuopio. The bow and arrow also appear on the arms of Mikkeli province, together with the lynx of Häme, as well as in numerous municipal arms. Black and gold are also commonly found in various municipal arms in this part of the nation.

Pohjanmaa (Ostrobothnia)



Six silver ermines with black-tipped tails on a blue field. Baronial coronet.

Various interpretations have been advanced concerning this province's arms. The Ostrobothnian arms also appeared on a banner displayed at the funeral of King Gustav I. In 1562 the province had its first known coat of arms, consisting of a pine marten on a white/silver field. This animal has also been interpreted - erroneously - as a black fox or even a hound. Over the course of time the province's symbol has changed in size and shape, although it has always remained a fur animal. The number of animals has also varied. It is worth mentioning that the Ostrobothnian arms appeared on a 1576 medallion in practically the

same form as today. The ermine was once quite common in this area.

The Ostrobothnian arms appear on the arms of the modern provinces of Oulu, Vaasa and Lappi (Finnish Lapland) and in various municipal arms.

Lappi (Finnish Lapland)



A wild man carrying a golden club on his shoulder and wearing a green garland and girdle on a red field. Baronial coronet.

King Karl IX, the third son of Gustav I, is responsible for giving Finnish Lapland its own arms. The original arms were depicted for the first time on a 1606 coin as part of a chain around the king's seal. The shield shows a wild man apparently clothed in furs and carrying a club on his shoulder. Later on the man was shown with only a laurel girdle and garland. This figure, which also appears in the arms of Swedish Lapland and Finland's modern administrative province of Lappi, is no doubt a poor symbol of this cold northern region. The wild man is a reference to the primitive conditions of the province's inhabitants.

It is worth mentioning that a list illustrated in the 1580s by Rev. Johan Klint of Östra Stenby, Sweden, includes a Lappi coat of arms with two golden/yellow wolves on a silver/white field. This coat of arms never came into general use, however.

1997 saw the redrawing of the boundaries of the Finnish administrative provinces, and a reduction in their numbers was from twelve to six. The present provinces are (from north to south) Lapland, Oulu, Western Finland, Eastern Finland, Southern Finland and the autonomous province of Åland, whose status was not affected by the changes. In line with the old heraldic traditions new coats of arms had to be designed for the new administrative units. The work was based on the coats of arms of the former administrative provinces and the nine historical

provinces, the latter of which are presented above. The new coats of arms all bear ducal coronets, except for Åland, which retained its traditional baronial coronet.

The New Provincial Coats of Arms
The Province of Lapland



The red right-hand field of the coat of arms of the Province of Lapland displays a wild man, the traditional heraldic symbol of the province. He is silver-coloured, rather than flesh-coloured as in the coat of arms of the historical Lapland. As the historical province of Ostrobothnia used to extend to the territory of the present-day administrative province of Lapland, the blue left-hand field displays three silver-coloured ermines.

The Province of Oulu



The boundaries and the coat of arms of the Province of Oulu remained unchanged, though a new coronet was adopted. The shield of the coat of arms is paly with the blue right-hand field displaying the six silver-coloured Ostrobothnian ermines and the left-hand field showing the castle symbol from the coat of arms of Kajaani. This refers to the old, now ruined, castle in the city. The adoption of a city symbol is unusual; the other administrative provinces make use of elements taken from the coats of arms of the historical provinces.

The Province of Western Finland



As the provinces of Western and Southern Finland are quite large and cover several historical provinces, both have had to draw on more than two provincial coats of arms. The shields of the coats of arms of these two new administrative units are accordingly paly and horizontally divided. The coat of arms of the Province of Western Finland displays the heraldic symbol of Finland Proper on its right-hand field and the coat of arms of Satakunta on the left-hand field. Below these there is a blue field with three ermines to represent Ostrobothnia.

The Province of Southern Finland



The coat of arms of the Province of Southern Finland also has three fields. A lynx, the symbol of Häme, is displayed on the right-hand field and the Karel'ian sword and scimitar on its left. Below these is displayed the symbol for the historical province of Uusimaa.

The Province of Eastern Finland



It was relatively easy to design a coat of arms for the Province of Eastern Finland, because the new administrative unit only covers the historical provinces of Karelia and Savo. As the historical duchy of Karelia used to be the more important of the two, its symbols were placed on the right-

hand field, with the coat of arms of Savo on the left.

Even though the coats of arms of the new Finnish provinces may not display the same considered, simplified design as the coats of arms of the historical provinces and municipalities, they aptly symbolize Finland's administrative and historic traditions. Nowadays, coats of arms are rarely used. The former practice of displaying the heraldic symbols of the provinces on the roadside on their boundaries has been abandoned, and the coats of arms are mainly found on desk pennants and the stamps, seals and documents of the provincial State offices.

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Juva, Einar W.: Suomen suuriruhtinaskunta, Helsinki 1951 Suomen Kunnallisvaakunat - Finlands kommunvapen - Municipal Coats of Arms of Finland. Association of Finnish Municipalities, Helsinki 1970

Last update: September 28, 2000

The Roaring Lions of Finland

by Mike Mills

Finland's first definitive set, the 1917 Saarinen Lion, carried the mails from 1917 to 1930 and is a rewarding field for specialization.



The M-17 shows the coat of arms of Gustaf Vaasa, King of Sweden from 1523-1560, when Finland was a frontier region of Sweden. A dense pattern of undulating lines, surrounds the lion in a very natural and unselfconscious pattern

of undulating color, resembling the water of Finland's many lakes.

The classic design and its 13 years of service during the country's turbulent infancy offer rewarding possibilities for specialization.

Thirty-four distinct issues of the Saarinen M-17 were distributed, going through 161 print orders. Values, colours, paper gum and perforation changed periodically over the 12 years that they were printed. Each individual emission had at least one official color variety and many have more than two color varieties. Color hue changed with nearly every print order and cliché faults and botched lettering and inking problems occurred frequently. Perhaps it is fair to say, that no two are alike. Others have perforation varieties, 14 1/4 or 14 3/4, which also can come as pin-perforation or rough-perforation.

Of the two distinct watermark designs, the 1925 swastika has two varieties and the 1927 posthorn, four. The posthorn watermark issues have to be checked carefully. The correct position is with the bell of the horn on the left and the loop of the horn on the top. A 40 penna green with an upside-down horn lists for 4000 Fmk in 'Norma,' mint, and 2 Fmk for the pedestrian cousin with the watermark in the correct position.

The Lion's varieties come in the usual areas, but there's also a wide selection of Saarinen's to collect based on usage.

Early 1917 and 1918 postmarks are desirable, as well as those from the last days of validity. The Finnish Civil War of 1918 pitted Finnish Soviet Red Guards against the nationalist White Army of General Gustav Mannerheim. His 'people's army' ousted the last Reds from Finland on 15 May, and covers dated at offices at or near the fighting tell stories. Likewise, M-17 postmarks from the 'lost territories' are a poignant reminder of history. These were territories in eastern Finland, Finnish Karelia, grabbed by the late-USSR during WW II. 'Viipuri' is no more.

Issued: 31 January 1922 (set of 14); Karjala



Good stamp collections tell stories, and the Saarinens tell the story of the fall of Old Europe and the start of a new Europe. They represent not only that beginning, but also the resurgence of Finland's native culture, so the next time you find a Saarinen in your mix look it over closely. It may be trying to tell you something.

Saarinen definitives 1917 - 1930

The errors or "differences" found in so many of the 169 printings of the 1917 definitives can provide a challenge for any collector of Finland. Since 1997 celebrated the 80th anniversary of their issue I will try to provide a framework on which to base studies. Used stamps are relatively common and inexpensive although there are rarities arising from inconsistencies occurring in the printing house.

The history of these issues has to be taken in the context of the postal rates decreed for the previous issues, the 1911 Eagle stamps of Russia, the eagerness with which the Finns sought to re-introduce the definitives of 1896 which bore the words SUOMI and FINLAND and which had been banned since 1900; and the civil war that followed independence which led to the production of the Vaasa issues in early 1918 concurrently with the Saarinen designs in communist held Helsinki

The changes in postal rates dictated the stamp values which were to be produced, and although most values were printed, some values were abandoned at either the design or proof stage and specimens are much sought after.

The key aspects in studying Saarinen definitives are

- 1.Changes in postal rates
- 2.Periods of validity

3.The print Order Numbers and the plates used for each printing.

4.Attempts at relating individual copies of used or mint stamps to the original Order Nos

Occasionally detail on a stamp can lead to positive association with a particular print order, plate or even position on a sheet; and if you cannot be sure, then there may be assessed a degree of probability. By and large the stamps used for study will be relatively common, the design looks superficially just like all the others, and microscopic examination is often needed to see "errors".

FINLAND¹

The first Saarinen definitive (5p green Order No 1) was issued on 1 October 1917



80th Anniversary of Saarinen definitives

These definitives are among the most exciting of all the Finnish stamps - if only because they don't cost the earth, they present a challenge to those who try to make sense of the huge variety in colours, perfs, watermarks, papers etc. Moreover, and most importantly, they are steeped in Finnish history - born of a struggle for independence and freedom, designed even before Finnish Independence was declared on 6 December 1917.

Go back to those days in the 1880s when Finnish stamps proudly bore the words SUOMI and for the Swedish speakers, FINLAND. Then came a period of gradual Russification: first the addition of the name FINLANDIA, followed by a ban from 1/14.8.1900 of the use of stamps for mail abroad bearing any mention of Finland.

¹ By Andrew Watson

How eagerly was the opportunity presented by the Russian revolution in early 1917 seized, and it was taken that the rule prohibiting the use of stamps bearing the name of Finland was no longer valid - and that the 1880 stamps could be used again. Of course, there were no stocks left - so the Architect Eliel Saarinen was commissioned to prepare a new design: this was approved on 21 June 1917.

Printing started in September and the first issue of a green 5p stamp was on 1 November 1917. The various sequential printings are defined by their Order Numbers, and the first printing of the 5p green was Order No 1.

We call these issues the Saarinen definitives, and I am writing this to celebrate the 80th Anniversary.

SPECIALISED STUDY OF THE 1 Mk Red / black

Of all the values, I find the 1 Markka Red/black the most interesting and to some extent frustrating to study if only because very few full sheets are still in existence, even in the Finnish Postal Museum. Without such references blocks are needed for plating and these are beginning to be difficult to come by. Some of the great Finnish philatelists like Matti Poutvaara, Anton Salmenkyla and Erkki Larkka have plated most of the 1 Mk red/black issues but the elusive left hand half of the Order No 97 has yet to come to light in the form of a mint sheet.

Here is a picture of a typical 1 Mk red/black stamp:



Lets have a look at some of the detail
Note the blob in the bottom of the leg of M
There is a dot close to the centre rosette and at the top inner part of the frame you can see a

patch of red where the routing of the frame plate has not been perfect.



Of course the centre plate, printed black, was a different plate - and in fact used for other values. This means we can trace the error in the centre plate to check if it occurs elsewhere.

Maybe this page will stimulate some feedback! My apologies to my Finnish friends for any inaccuracies in summarising the historical aspects of their stamps. I will be very grateful for any correction to facts !

Special greetings to Hannu Kauppi, Jan Simberg and Markku Vuoremaa who produced an excellent handbook "Catalogue of Sheet Flaws M/17" published by the Philatelic Federation of Finland in 1989.

Essential reading for English speaking Saarinen enthusiasts is of course the Handbook of Finnish Stamps Part V (issues of 1917 and 1918) published by the Philatelic Federation of Finland in 1986. Based on the original work of Matti Poutvaara, Anton Salmenkyla and Yrjo Tielinen (Suomen Postimerkkien Kasikirja Osa III, SPL 1968), it was extensively revised by Erkki Larkka and translated into English by Andrew and Anja Watson.

Gustaf Mannerheim

He was Finland's George Washington and Lincoln all rolled into one.

Issued: 26 October 1960



The Winter War

Stuck between a rock and a hard place, is a good way to describe Finland. Through the years, mainly for territorial reasons, it has 42 wars against Russia, and lost all 42 of them. What has enabled the Finns to keep on fighting is what the Finns would call *sisu*. *Sisu* refers to the concept of life that says "I may not win, but I will give my life gladly for what I believe." A good example of the Finns *sisu* is fighting the Russians in the Winter War of 1939 and 1940.

Issued: 4 June 1937



In the fall, of 1939, the Soviet Union demanded that Finland give up harbors and cede land. In November of 1939, after Finland tried maintaining a position of neutrality, Russian troops poured over the border and attacked. There were 50 Russian soldiers for every Finnish one.

Issued: 31 December 1941 (set of 6)



Even so, the Finns' reputation as fearless and staunch fighters held true. Battered and weary they held their lines. Knowing what route invaders would take, they caught them in narrow defiles so that the advance was stopped and scattered units were made vulnerable. The Finns had only two resources. One was *sisu*, the raw courage of men who would die in defence of their homes, and the other was their supreme military commander Carl Gustav Mannerheim. Mannerheim deserves a background himself.

Born a Finn, he began his career in the army of Czar Nicholas II and became a Major General. At the end of World War I, the new Republic of Finland was fighting a civil war. The Reds, or the communists versus the whites or those in favour of a democratic government. At the age of fifty Mannerheim returned to Helsinki to take control of Finland's White armies. His military expertise in the bloody civil war turned the tide for the Whites. Now at the age of 72 the old soldier took up his burden and began again to serve his country.



Current Map of Finland

Mannerheim's cleverness and the Finns' courage were put to work fighting this war against Russia. When night came, shadowy forms slipped out of the darkness to pour water over the Russian tank tracks as they parked on frozen lakes, causing them to freeze and become immobile. A battalion of Russians was deployed to watch a Finnish "unit", which was actually made largely of cardboard figures and empty tents, with a few people to give it substance. Large holes were sawed in the lake ice that Russians had to cross, and their heavy vehicles sank to the bottom. And Finland's ski troops could strike like ghosts in their white robes.

Issued: 4 March 1952 (set of 3)



The Finns took nine Russians for every one of their countrymen. Humour surfaced from this fact. One Finnish joke was "If the Russians keep coming where will be able to bury them all?"

Issued: 4 June 1967



The Soviets make much of the supposed "Mannerheim Line" to explain their losses. The Mannerheim line was actually a number of outmoded concrete bunkers with gun tubs, wire and trenches. The secret of its strength was the Finnish troops. The world cheered, unbelieving, as the Russians were forced back by the Finns who were fighting was bound to be a losing battle.

Issued: 22 January 2009:



Finland got a lot of sympathy from the world, but not much else. Sweden encouraged young officers to enlist in Finland's army and sent \$100 million worth of material. The United States contributed a company of Finnish American volunteers and a loan of \$30 million for the purchase of civilian goods.

Issued: 6 September 2017



But in the end, Finland had to surrender. A treaty signed in Moscow on March 13, 1940 made it official. Terms of the agreement were stiff. Russia wanted Karelia, the beautiful eastern part of Finland that made up 11 percent of its total land, Petsamo, Finland's outlet to the northern waters, and Porkkala, a peninsula very close to Helsinki to lease as a military base.

The 420,000 Finns living in Karelia began the weary trek from the ceded lands to Finnish territory. Only 19 people elected stayed behind in the new Russian land.

Issued: 22 January 2020

Children's Drawings - The 100th Anniversary of the Mannerheim League for Child Welfare



Following the Winter War, the Finns tried to gain back the land they ceded. After Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were annexed by the Soviet Union, in the summer of 1940 Finland felt it would be next if it didn't launch an offensive. The Continuation War, as it was called, went well at first. Mannerheim's troops swept across Karelia and reoccupied the territory for 2 and a half years.

Finally following a Russian offensive Finland was forced to give up Karelia for good. Finland was also forced to pay more than \$225 million dollars in reparations and this largely in engineering goods and machinery that Finland did not produce. The Finns did not take time to weep and mourn, in eight years they paid the reparations, producing eighty turbogenerators, seven hundred locomotives, fifty thousand motors and engines and six hundred ships. No

other country achieved this; no other country even attempted this.

In the long run the factories used for manufacturing the reparation good became factories for Finland's valuable exports. Thus making Finland an elite technologically advanced nation.

So, you see, Finns have put their sisu to good use. They have given their lives gladly for what they believe must be done and they look ahead to the future. As Patrick O'Donovan puts it best, "few countries have been so tricked, betrayed, bullied, sold, deserted, and exploited in modern times. And none have so wonderfully survived it all."

Note by the editor: My father's brother fought in this war as volunteer.

Finland Steamship Mail²

During the late 1800's, Finland had an extensive array of ships delivering mail in both coastal and lake areas.

The first group are selected stamps from the Abo Area.

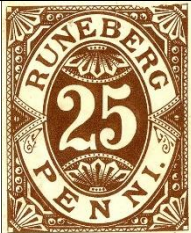
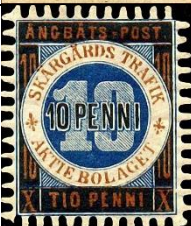
The ship's name is on most. Translation, Abo (area) Angslup (steamlaunch without decks) Bolag (company)

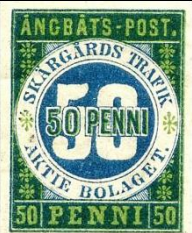
I believe the words biljetter bör förstöras - note something about destroying the ticket??

Issued	Ship	Stamp
1892	Vulcan	
1889	-	
1889	Helmi	
1889	Abo Angslups	

Issued	Ship	Stamp
1892	Oinonna	
1889	Helmi	
1892	Runsala	
1889	Abo Angslups	
1889	Helmi	
1889	Abo Skargards Angbats	
1875	Angfartygs Aktiebolaget Thyra	
1869	Angslups Aktiebolaget Nadendal	
1891	Borga Angfartygs AB	
1891	Borga Angfartygsaktiebolag.	

² <https://stampbears.net/thread/6075/finland-ship-mail>

Issued	Ship	Stamp
1891	Runeberg	
1914	Drumsö	
1914	Drumsö	
1907	Lovotsa	
1915	Meritoimi	
1929	Perna	
1929	Perna	
1874	Skargards	
1874	Skargards Not perforated	
1874	Skargards	

Issued	Ship	Stamp
1875	Skargards	
1912	Absommaroarna	
1912	Absommaroarna	
1869	Tampereen-Wirtain	
1889	Abo Crichto & Co Aktiebolag	
1889	Abo Crichto & Co Aktiebolag	
1866	Wanajavesi Angbatsbolag	

Finland - Olympic Games

The first time Finland applied to host the Olympic Games was for the 1940 games.

1939

Olympic Rings over Flame

41 to 42 mm diameter

English In collection:	Suomi In collection
French	German
Italian	Spanish
Swedish	

1940

XII OLYMPIA (poster essay)

1940 / XII OLYMPIA / HELSINKI –
HELSINGFORS; 28 mm x 49 mm;



Essays



Stamp Magazine; page 74; September 2004;
Hammarsten-Jansson essay from composite
sheetlet in black



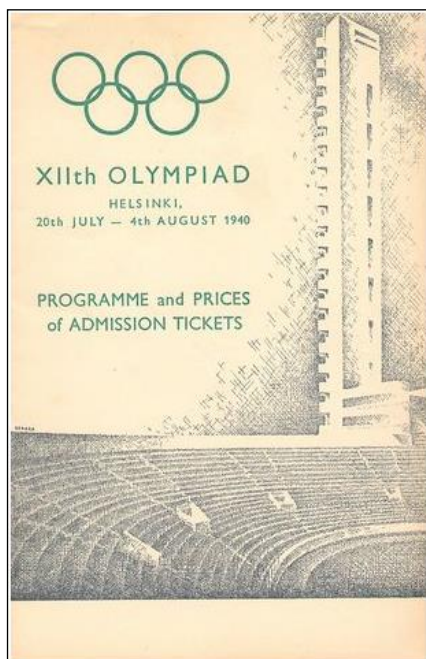
HAMMARSTEN-JANSSON essays of seven
different vignettes in composite sheetlet in dark
blue on thin paper³

Programme and Prices

Size: 144 mm x 224 mm

20 pages

³ David Feldman auction; September 2007



Finland succeeded after the war and hosted the 1952 Summer Olympic Games. The Winter Olympic Games 1952 were awarded to Oslo, Norway.

1951	Image	Mint	Used
1951/1952 15 th Summer Olympic Games, Helsinki, 19 July – 3 August Print: recess Perforation: comb 14			
503 B110 399	 Diving 12+2m Issued: 1 615 341 Date: 16.11.1951	X	X
504 B111 400	 Soccer 15+2m Issued: 1 615 341 Date: 15.2.1952	X	X
505 B112 401		X	X

1951	Image	Mint	Used
	Olympic Stadium 20+3m Issued: 1 369 365 Date: 16.11.1951		
506 B113 402	 Running 25+4m Brown Issued: 1 380 778 Date: 15.2.1952	X	X
	Running 25+4m Sepia brown		
Margin blocks of 4 of each denomination were cut from regular or perforated through margin sheets and pasted by the selvage, overlapping, in a printed folder to create a souvenir booklet			
			

1951	Image	Mint	Used
	 Booklet Mint: Used:		
1952	Image	Mint	Used
10 August 1952 10 th Chess Olympiad, Helsinki, 9 – 31 August 1952 Print: recess Perforation: comb 14			
308 412	 25M Chess Olympiad Issued: 994 642		X

The other competing country to host the 1940 Olympics was Japan.

The other competing country to host the 1940 Olympics was Japan. No stamps or essays are known but propaganda material has been

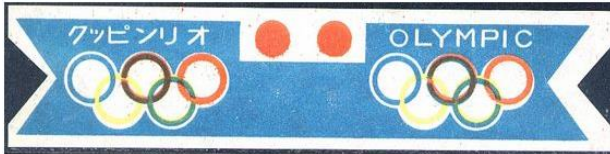
documented. There are also postcards with reference to the Olympic Games 1940 available.

1940

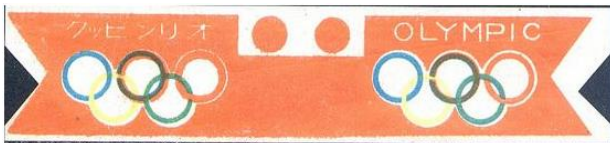
No stamps were issued but there are labels and other ephemera expecting Olympic Games.

Bandage

Size: 115 mm x 26 mm



Size: 113 mm x 25 mm



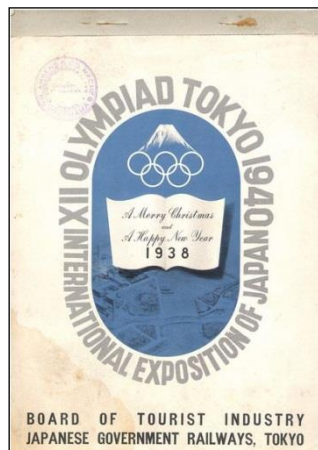
Best Safety Matches

55 mm x 35 mm

Horse and Olympic Rings



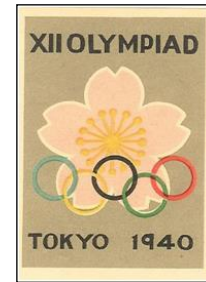
Calendar



Cherry Blossom

Size: 40 mm x 53 mm

Not perforated



Flag and Rings

Size: 29 mm x 45 mm

Not perforated (die cut)



Flag and Map

79 mm diameter; carto; no gum; issued by a sock company



Bell

Privately printed by the Osaka Savings Bank (became Kyowa Bank now Osaka Bank)



Blooming Cherry Tree; Pagoda

Size: 40 mm x 61 mm

Not perforated



Bridge

Size: 40 mm x 61 mm

Not perforated

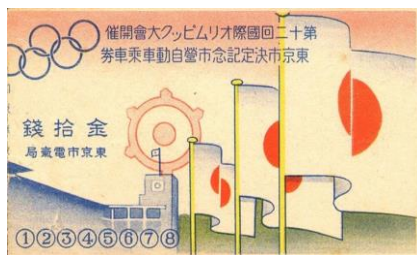


45 mm x 65 mm; XII OLYMPIAD TOKYO 1940



Bus Ticket

84 mm x 51 mm; part Stadion; Flags; Olympic Rings



Green Star

Green star in shadowy terrain, further below are Olympic Rings and '2600' with Japanese writing: Lernt / learn / Laren Eder / Imparate 1' / Apprenez 1' / Aprended el / HJapan. Text / ESPERANTO

Size: 100 mm x 55 mm

Not perforated

Mountain and Rings

Size: 42 mm diameter

Mountain: blue

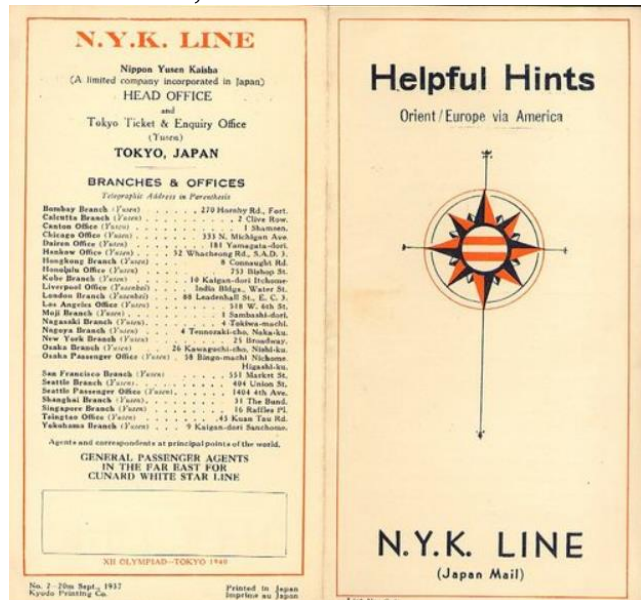
Not perforated; die cut



N.Y.K. Line

Helpful Hints

With orange inscription: XII OLYMPIAD TOKYO 1940; 95 mm x 180 mm



Worldward Ho!

With black inscription: XII OLYMPIAD TOKYO 1940; 98 mm x 230 mm

Front page

Territory of New Guinea – 1925 – Native Huts
£1 – Genuine



Forgery