

ESTONIA – POSTAL RATES 1918-1941

Background:

This exhibit illustrates using nearly 250 postcards and letters the postal rates from when the first Estonian stamps were issued in late 1918 until they were no longer valid for postal use on January 31, 1941 with various items of postal history both commercial and private that originated in Estonia. Four rate changes were the result of a currency change and the new currency is noted with the rate period information. The prior stamps were accepted on a one to one basis with the new currency.

Presentation:

Nineteen different (some minor rates changes are combined within major changes, ie Sweden specific rates on 1/27/37) rate periods are shown within this exhibit with the first a very short period in late 1918 and ending with another short period in late 1940-1941. Each rate period is shown with **bold printing** for the time period followed by rates for postcards, letters, printed matter and registration. Air mail rates are shown for the specific countries illustrated once airmail was available.

Each rate period is first illustrated with postcards following by envelopes, airmail, and printed matter uses. The date, town cancel, and specific rate information is shown for each item with the sequence usually being local, inland and foreign destinations. Each page has a running title at the top to identify the time period and what is shown on that page.

Emphasis has been placed on documents that went beyond Europe or in Europe when unusual and these are noted with a specific country destination within the exhibit. A total of 48 different foreign destinations are shown in this exhibit. Examples that are difficult or are not common are illustrated with a **red border**. Those with special markings such as censors, added weight, express, insured, airmail, postage due and others are noted as they occur with those of major interest in **bold print**. Censoring of mail both in Estonia and other countries was active in the years after WWI and again when WWII broke out in Europe.

The first item shown is a forerunner where an Estonian cancel was used on a postcard three days before the first stamps were available. The last item is a letter which used Estonian stamps nearly three months after they were no longer valued for use.