

Finland Postal Stationery with 1875 Stamp Design

This exhibit shows all main types of Finland's postal stationery with the Finnish 1875 stamp design issued between 1875 and 1898, mint or used.

Historical Background:

Finland is located in Northern Europe, between Sweden and Russia. It became a Grand Duchy within the Imperial Russia in 1809 and gained its independence in 1917. As Grand-Duchy it had semi-autonomous status within Russia and its own postal system.



Philatelic Background: In 1875, the Grand Duchy of Finland adopted a new design for all postal issues as an associate member in UPU under the Imperial Russia. This design remained in use for 25 years with a few minor text changes in 1890. It resulted in 39 main types.

In 1875 uniform postal rates were now adopted within Finland irrespective of distances.

In January 1901 this design was demonetized and prohibited from use.

No proofs or essays are known in private hands.

Different paper manufacturers supplied the paper for the stationery often in small quantities of a few thousand. They also cut and printed these forms. However, the indicium was separately stamped on by the Senate security printers.

Structure of the exhibit: The exhibit is organized by types: (A) envelopes, (B) receipts and (C) postal cards and in chronological order within each category.

A - Envelopes

1. Issued in 1875:
 - a. domestic;
 - b. foreign;
 - c. provisionals (1883-84).
2. New colors in 1885:
 - a. domestic;
 - b. foreign.
3. 1890 tri-numeral with Russian text:
 - a. domestic;
 - b. foreign.

B - Receipts

1. Issued in 1875:
 - a. Return receipts;
 - b. Forms of acknowledgement;
2. New colors in 1885;
3. 1890 tri-numeral with Russian text.

C - Cards

1. Issued in 1875:
 - a. domestic;
 - b. foreign.
2. New rate in 1879.
3. New colors in 1885;
4. 1890 tri-numeral with Russian text.

Key items: Used provisional envelope (A.4 in Frame 1); used to India (A.8 in Frame 2); card with inverted reverse side (C.1 in Frame 4); two used cards (C.2 in Frame 4); attached double-card (C.8 in Frame 5); used to Mauritius (C.12 in Frame 6).

These items have been matted with captions in bold.