

Martti Vihanto

Postal Rates of the 1930 Model

Presented here are selections from the collection *A general collection of Finnish postal history* (TAVASTEX, RiiHeX). In the collection, postal items are divided into classes. The classification is based on franking method, postal rate, postmark, and mode of transport. The aim is to present an example item from each class. Each item could be placed in several classes. The treatment of postal history in the collection is classifying in nature, with an emphasis on systematization.

MIXED FRANKING

Business letter sent from Helsinki to Jyväskylä in April 1930. The 1½ mk stamp of the new definitive series had been issued about three months earlier.

- **Rate:** 1.50 mk (valid 15 Jan 1926 – 30 Apr 1931)
- **Postmarks:** Helsinki 4 Apr 1930 and Jyväskylä the following day

MAIL COACH

Letter sent to Turku in December 1931, transported in a mail coach. Mail Coach 22 operated at that time on the Kristiinankaupunki–Seinäjoki railway section.

- **Rate:** 2 mk (valid 1 Dec 1931 – 15 Jun 1940)
- **Postmarks:** Mail Coach 22 (type 22.4.01b, in use 1928–37) 10 Dec 1931, and Turku the next day (machine cancel without lines)
- **Source:** Antti Lehmus & Olavi Helminen: *Postia junalla* (Mail by Train), 2009

REDUCED RATE

Parcel under 1 kg sent to a field post address in August 1941. The rate was one-fifth of the normal fee.

- **Rate:** 1 mk (valid 30 Jun – 31 Oct 1941 without field post label, Postal Circular 120/30.6.1941); cf. normal rate 5 mk
- **Postmarks:** Jalasto 15 Aug 1941 (earliest known 20 Jan 1942 according to Helkiö) and Pikonlinna the next day (in use 1933–58 according to Helkiö)
- **Cover number:** 3288, Field Hospital 5 (according to Kopsa)
- **Source:** Pentti Kopsa: *Keräilijän kenttäposti* (The Collector's Field Post), 1996

← From 1 Nov 1941 onward, entitlement to the reduced field-post parcel rate had to be shown with a field post label.

ESTONIAN RATE

Postcard sent from Imatra to Tallinn in summer 1932. Under the postal agreement with Estonia, the rate was 1.25 mk — the same as domestic postage. Cf. e.g. Great Britain: 1.50 mk.

- **Rate:** 1.25 mk (valid 1 Dec 1931 – 15 Jun 1940)
- **Postmarks:** Imatra 31 Jul 1932 and Tallinn the next day
- **Postcard:** Imatrankoski, with the State Hotel in the background

← Types I and II.

MARITIME MAIL

A letter from a Swedish forwarding company to Turku was posted on board a ship using a Finnish stamp. The cancellation and the arrival mark on the reverse were apparently made with the same cancelling machine.

- **Correct rate:** 2 mk (valid 1 Dec 1931 – 15 Jun 1940)
- **Postmarks:** *Paquebot* ship-letter cancel (in use 1920–64 in various types according to Snellman), Turku 30 Jul 1933 at 13:00, and on the reverse the same Turku 30 Jul 1933 at 13:00 (no. T6, in use 22 May 1931 – 25 Jan 1936 according to the Turku postmark register)
- **Postage due notation:** written by hand

SLOGAN MACHINE POSTMARK

A postcard sent to England in August 1939 bears the Olympic Games slogan postmark, with the date portion inverted. The cancel was used only in Helsinki and remained in use for about a month after the end of the Winter War.

- **Rate:** 2 mk (valid 1 Nov 1936 – 30 Sep 1942)
- **Postmarks:** Helsinki 22 Aug 1939 (no. 7, in use 19 Jun 1939 – 11 Apr 1940 according to Piironen)
- **Postcard:** Olavinlinna Castle

AIRMAIL

Postcard cancelled in Helsinki on 6 May 1934 and sent by airmail to Germany. The sender reserves a hotel room for 17–20 May, the dates of a conference organized in Bonn by the Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft for Physical Chemistry.

- **Rate:** 1.50 + 1 mk (2.50 mk, valid 1 Dec 1931 – 31 Oct 1936)
- **Air route:** Helsinki – Stockholm – Malmö – Copenhagen – Hanover – Cologne
- **Postmarks:** Helsinki 6 May 1934, Cologne Airport airmail confirmation stamp (*Luftpostbestätigungsstempel*), and Cologne the next day

← Mail has been transported by aircraft in Finland since 1919. During the ice-mail flights between Helsinki and Tallinn the following year, a single-engine Breguet 14 biplane on skis was used.

SPACE-REQUIRING PARCEL

A parcel containing a painting was signed for on Christmas Eve 1947. The post office classified the parcel as space-requiring, which increased the postage by 50%.

- **Rate:** 25 mk (1–3 kg) + 50% surcharge (Postal Circular 20/1924) = 37.50 mk (valid for the calendar year)
- **Postmarks:** Karijoki 17 Dec 1947 and Toejoki 23 Dec (bridge cancel, in use 1929–55 according to Helkiö)
- **Form:** No. 1 (no. T11 according to Juvonen)

EXPRESS LETTER

Express letter sent by a law office in April 1939 to another law office. According to the notation on the letter, the deadline (*fataljetid*) was noon the following day.

- **Rate:** 2 + 4 mk (6 mk, valid 1 Jan 1935 – 15 Jun 1940)
- **Postmarks:** Loviisa 26 Apr 1939 and Turku the same day
- **Express label:** no. 7 (according to K. Hellman and Peltonen)

LIQUOR CARD

The Alcohol Retail Monopoly in Karjaa sent a store certificate by registered COD mail to Nummi in February 1947. The COD amount was the redemption price of a liquor card, 50 mk, meaning the item was sent postage-free. The liquor card system was abolished in 1970.

- **Rate:** 10 (document) + 6 (COD) + 10 (registration) = 26 mk (valid for the calendar year)
- **COD amount:** 50 mk (in addition to the redemption price, an annual stamp tax had to be paid for the right to use the card)
- **Postmarks:** Karjaa 5 Feb 1947 and Nummi the same day
- **Form:** pre-printed No. 135
- **Source:** Jukka Sarkki: *Oy Alkoholiliike Ab store certificates and identity cards 1944–1970*, Exponet.info

FIELD POST PARCEL

For some reason, a field-post parcel address card was still used in 1947. The form originally had a hole through which it was tied to the parcel with string. On the same string was a smaller address card intended for the recipient (Postal Circular 135/19.7.1941).

- **Rate:** 20 (max 1 kg) + 10 (registration) = 30 mk (valid for the calendar year)
- **Postmark:** Parkano 17 Jun 1947 (in use 1936–50 according to Helkiö)

POSTAGE DUE

Picture postcard dated 4 Jul 1948 in Rovaniemi and addressed to Belgium. It was insufficiently franked. The foreign postcard rate had increased three days earlier, and the card was charged postage due.

- **Correct rate:** 9 mk (valid from 1 Jul 1948)
- **Postage due:** 0.70 fr (postage-due stamp Michel no. 31)
- **Postmarks:** Rovaniemi 5 Jul 1948, T-mark, and Ghent
- **Picture postcard:** landscape from Karigasniemi (village in Utsjoki), Finnish Tourist Association, no. 1079

← The foreign postcard rate increased nine times between 1930 and 1955. According to UPU colour regulations, a red stamp corresponding to the rate had to be available.

AFTERWARD FRANKING

A registered letter sent from Tampere to the municipality of Laukaa in October 1950. The Laukaa post office found the postage 40 mk short. Laukaa notified the Tampere posting office by sending the carbon copy of the afterward franking form. The posting office apparently paid the missing postage. The form was to be returned to the adjusting office.

- **Adjustment:** 40 mk
- **Postmarks:** Laukaa 4 Oct 1950 and Tampere 12 Oct
- **Form:** No. 81a
- **Source:** Martti Vihanto: *The Post Paid the Adjustment*, Abophil 5 Oct 2022

END-OF-VALIDITY USAGE

The stamps on a registered local letter sent in May 1962 were likely affixed at the post office. The clerk used 24-markka stamps because their validity was about to end at the end of the year.

- **Rate:** 20 (local letter) + 30 mk (valid 1 Jun 1956 – 31 Dec 1962)
- **Postmarks:** Turku 2, 24 May 1962, and Turku the following day