

HELSINKI CITYPOST 1866 - 1891

Helsinki Citypost was one of the oldest privatposts in Europe serving the citizens of Helsinki for 25 years.

Helsinki was in the 1860s Finland's largest town. The operation of the State Post was experienced imperfect because it had only one postoffice and no home delivery without extra charge. All pharmacy owners (6) in Helsinki established a private citypost which began its operation 1.3.1866. It ceased its operation 15.9.1891 because State Post had begun home delivery of letters in 1881 and telephone system was established in 1882. Estimated number of delivered postal items during 25 years was over one million.

The goal of this exhibit is to show all known postal activities of Helsinki Citypost: stamps and their proofs, cancellations, postal stationaries, reprints and forgeries.

The postage was during the whole period 10 pennies. That is why there exists no genuinely used pairs or bigger groups on postal items. Apart from types 1890 and 1891 unused groups are considerably rare. This is so because the Citypost bought back unused stamps when it ceased its activities.

There exists no archives, but I have solved some problems like the printing places of the stamps (6).

Treatment and importance

The exhibit is the best example of this subject ever shown and it cannot be duplicated or expanded to eight frames.

Knowledge and research

The exhibit is based on longlasting own research and published literature. My personal research has cleared many errors in former

literature, e.g. printinghouse, plate errors. Of the key subjects the exhibit shows all aspects of activities of this private post.

Condition and rarity

The exhibit contains numerous items which are either the only recorded pieces or there are only under five recorded pieces; e.g.

- all colour essays
- 6- and 4-groups of type 1866
- 24-group of type 1871
- 20-group of type 1884
- use with statepost and shippost

These 40 items are marked with a magenta frame.

Content	Pages
1.1 Types 1866 and 1868	5-19
1.2 Type 1871	20-33
1.3 Type 1883	34-36
1.4 Type 1884	37-45
1.5 Types 1890 and 1891	46-52
2. Cancellations and timestamps	53-63
3. Letters without stamp	64-69
4. Stationaries 1874 and 1891	70-80

Main literature

- 1 Emmerfors, A.: Helsingfors stadspost, 1986
- 2 Enehjelm af, P.E.: Helsingfors stadtpost, 1923
- 3 Olli, M.: Helsingin kaupunginpostista, Suomen postimerkkilehti 2010
- 4 Olli, M.: Helsingin kaupunginposti, Tabellarius 2012
- 5 Olli, M.: Begin and end of Helsinki Citypost, Nordia 2016
- 6 Olli, M.: Helsingin kaupunginpostin merkkien painopaikka, Filatelisti 2016
- 7 Olli, M.: Helsingin kaupunginpostin vanhimmat ehdotteet, Filatelisti 2018