

The Post of Today

A century ago, when fast transmission of mail was crucial, a letter could be sent from North America to Europe within a week or two. Crossing the Atlantic by mail steamer took usually about six days, and the train to the final destination a few more days, depending on the country in question.

Today things are very different. While communications by the Internet, Skype, mobile phone, etc. are instantaneous and real time, shipping of material by the post has become slow and unpredictable. And expensive, too.

Even though a digital version of *The Posthorn* is available, most people prefer to read a “hard” paper copy. Sending the journal by ordinary mail takes 4–6 weeks, about three times longer than it did a century ago. The great “communication hub” of New York seems to cause a major part of the delays.

The Posthorn No 1/2017 was sent in a different way. The non-American copies, excluding Canada, were brought directly to the Editor in Finland in a single package by FedEx. They arrived in two days, and they were posted on the same day to their final destinations. That was a Friday.

On Monday the copies were delivered in Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. On Tuesday they arrived in Norway and the Netherlands, and on Wednesday in Denmark and France. In eight more days, still less than two weeks from printing, *The Posthorn* was received in Australia.

I received more than 30 reports on deliveries from readers in various countries. Thank you very much for your contribution! We will continue our efforts to deliver a fresh journal to all of you.

As another example of how the post of today has changed from the one that transported letters and postcards a century ago: no one is expected to use its services any more. I purchased ten picture postcards in the Maritime National Historical Park museum shop in San Francisco to be sent home to friends in Europe. The shop had no stamps to sell.

In fact, there were no stamps in any other shop that I visited either. And there were no stamps at San Francisco airport. Or JFK. I still have those postcards – written and addressed, but never be sent to the intended recipients. They do not use the Internet – perhaps I should next time call them by telephone instead.

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Celebrating Finland's 100th anniversary – At Finlandia 2017 exhibition in Tampere



This crowd was on its way to the award ceremony. SCC members Chris & Birthe King and Richard Bodin can be seen in the picture, as well as Gisli Geir Harðarson, the President of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation.

The international (FEPA) exhibition Finlandia 2017, held in Tampere on 24–28 May, was strong in Finnish philately but also exhibits of other Scandinavian countries were well represented. For SCC members the exhibition was a major success with three Large Gold medals and three Golds.

Gregory Frantz from the United States received a Large Gold medal for his “World Steamship Companies and Their Stamps”, which includes also a major section of rare Finnish steamship mail with private stamps from the 19th century.

Jeffrey C. Stone from Scotland received his Large Gold for “Finland: The Arms Type of 1875”, a study of the 83 printings of the eight denominations, together with postal usages. Jeffrey Stone’s book about Agathon Fabergé was also published during Finlandia 2017, see literature awards.

Hannu Kauppi from Finland was the third SCC member who received a Large Gold. His exhibit “Finland, M-1930 Definitive Series” tells about Model 1930, the largest Finnish stamp issue ever.

Hannu Kauppi is an expert on that issue, and he published an excellent book about it a few years ago. All three Large Gold exhibits received 95 points.

Roger Quinby from the United States displayed Finnish postal history in “Finnish Railway to St. Petersburg 1870–1918”, which traced the development of the railway between Helsinki and St. Petersburg during those years. He received a Large Vermeil with 85 points.

Kauko Aro, from the United States, showed “Finland Postal Stationery with 1875 Stamp Design”, receiving a Vermeil with 81 points.

SCC members Jussi Tuori and Ari Muhonen both were on the jury. Their exhibits of the Saarinen stamps were placed among other invited exhibits