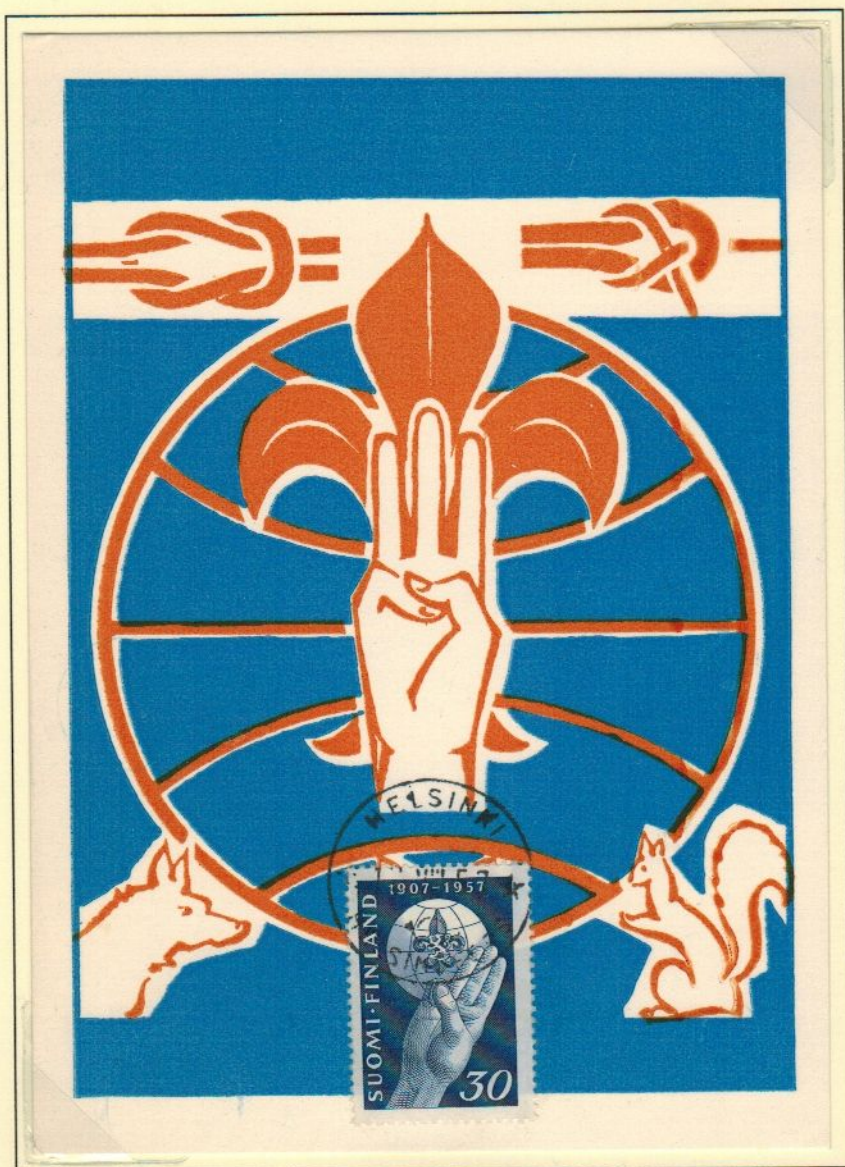


Scouting in Finland until 1957

Suomen Partiolaiset - Finlands Scouter ry (The Guides and Scouts of Finland, GSF) is the national Scouting and Guiding association of Finland.

Scouting was founded in Finland in 1910 as part of tsarist Russia, registered with the central organization of the tsarist Russian Scout movement Русский Скаут.

Finnish Scouting was among the charter members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1922. Guiding started in 1910 and was among the founding members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



50th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement.
Issued 22 February 1957.

Scouting was founded in Finland in 1910 as part of tsarist Russia, registered with the central organization of the tsarist Russian Scout movement. At the time, Finland was an autonomous part of Russia. The Russian governor-general of Finland considered Scouting to be militaristic and a danger to Russia, and therefore he banned Scouting on September 22, 1911.



Scout postcard (reduced)

Scout postcard postmarked "HELSINKI 16.II.12" to England. From the written message:
 "This is a picture of the Finnish Boy Scouts, perhaps you remember that the Boy Scout movement was suppressed here by the government some months ago!"



The ban on Scouting in Finland was not lifted until after the Russian revolution in 1917. Finland declared its independence on 6 December 1917. Interestingly, Scouting was not banned in Russia itself until 1922, when all Scouting activities had been merged into the communist youth organization.

The Finnish YMCA Scout Association was formed 1931. Prior to 1931 YMCA Scouts operated under the umbrella of Suomen Partioliitto – Finlands Scoutförbund – The Finnish Boy Scout Association.

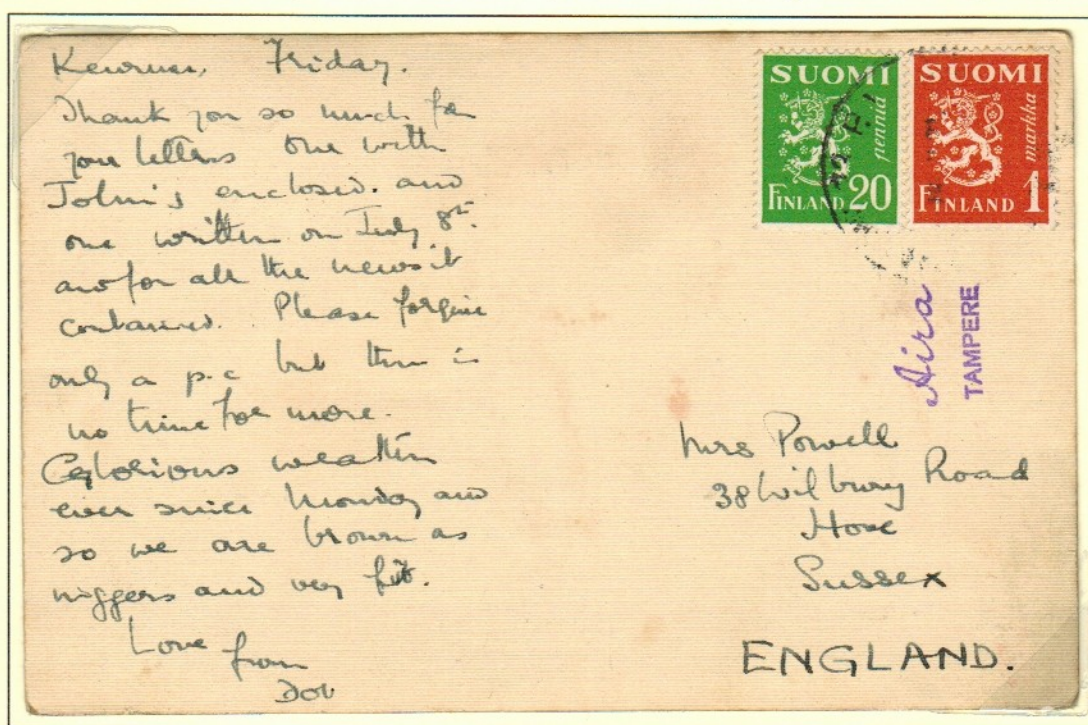
In 1928, a YMCA Scout camp was held at Iisalmi in central Finland.



Cover postmarked "IISALMI 17.VII.27" to Turku. The postmark shows incorrect year. Special camp cachet "N. M. K. Y:n Partio-ryhmän Leiri Iisalmella 14. VII. – 24. VII. 1928".

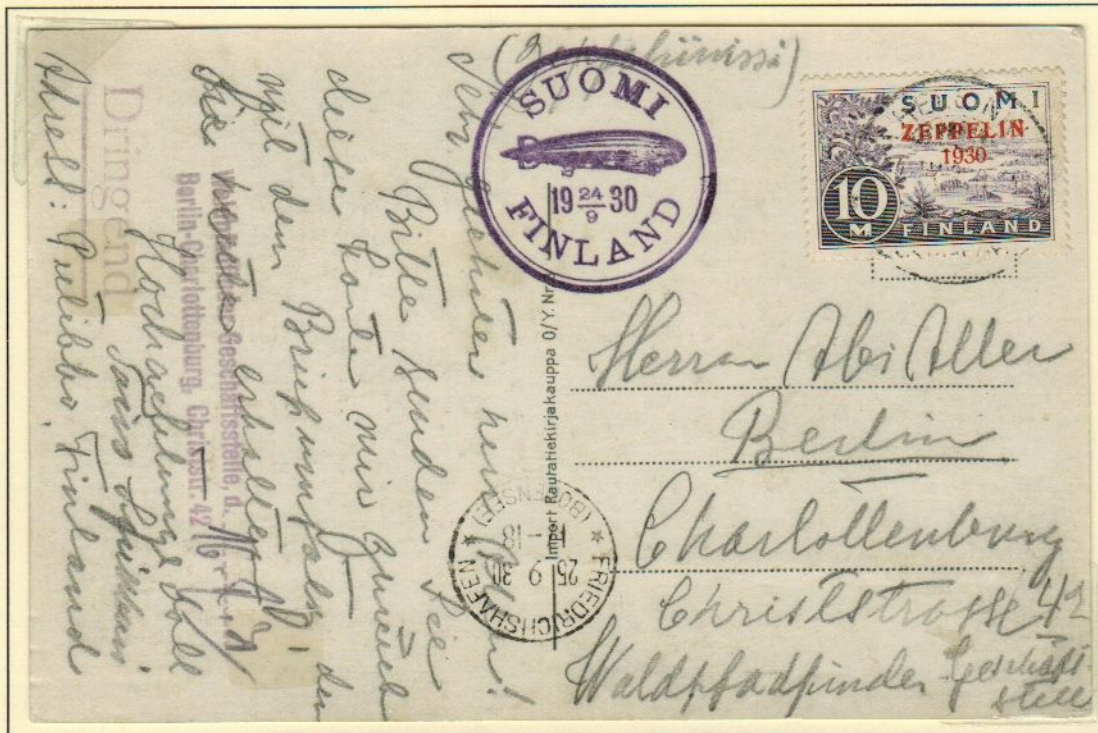
On reverse receiving postmark "TURKU ÅBO 18 VII 28".

Suomalainen Partiotyttöliitto – Finlands Flickscoutförbund – The Finnish Girl Guide Association was established 1921. In 1931, they held a national camp at Keuruu with large international participation.



Special camp postcard sent to England from the 1931 national camp of the Finnish Girl Guide Association. Dated Keuruu, and seems to be written by a camp participant. Illegible postmark.

Waldpfadfinder Jungenbund – Forest Boy Scouts, youth association, this was apparently a small Scout unit in Berlin. They used the Boy Scout badge and the Motto "Sei Bereit" – Be Prepared. No further information is available.



Postcard addressed to the Waldpfadfinder-Geschäftsstelle in Berlin, Germany. On reverse red cachet with the Waldpfadfinder Boy Scout badge. Mailed from "HELSINKI 24.IX.30" and flown by "Graf Zeppelin" on the Baltic Sea flight from Helsinki to Friedrichshafen. Special flight cachet in violet, transit postmark "FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 25.9.30".

The 1930 Baltic Sea flight of the airship Graf Zeppelin was from Friedrichshafen with landing in Berlin, and a long round trip with mail drops in Riga (Latvia), Tallin (Estonia), Helsinki (Finland) and Stockholm (Sweden). In Helsinki the mail was let down on a rope, and mail from Finland was taken on board. The Finnish Zeppelin postage stamp was valid for postage on one day only, 24 September 1930. The postage rates were 10 M for postcards and 20 M for letters.



Left:
Copy of reverse

Scouting was founded in Finland in 1910 as part of tsarist Russia, registered with the central organization of the tsarist Russian Scout movement Русский Скаут. Finnish Scouting was among the charter members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1922. Guiding started in 1910 and was among the founding members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. In 1972 the Girl Guide Association and the Boy Scout Association merged and formed Suomen Partiolaiset.



Helsinki viewcard, sent locally "HELSINKI 20.VII.31" from a Scout camp. Oval cachet "H:fors Scoutkåren Spanarna", which translates to "Helsinki Scout Group, the Scouts"; a Swedish-speaking Scout unit. Message written in Swedish.



Postcard sent from the 1935 national camp of the Finnish Free Scout Group. Cachet "VIERUMÄKI 13-22-7 1935" and postmark "VIERUMÄKI 20.VII.35".

Finlands Svenska Scout-förbund – The Swedish-speaking Scouts of Finland was formed 1919.

In 1932, they held a national jamboree at Sipoo in northwestern Finland.

Postcard dated Sipoo 11/7-32 to Turku, written by a camp participant and sent to Wiborg.

Special camp cachet "FÖRBUNDS - LÄGRET 8.-11.7.1932" and postmark "HELSINKI 11 VII.32".



The Suomen NMKY:n Partioliiitto – Finnish YMCA Boy Scout Association was formed 1931 after a breakout from the Finnish Boy Scout Association. In 1932, they held their first national camp as a separate organization at Savonlinna.

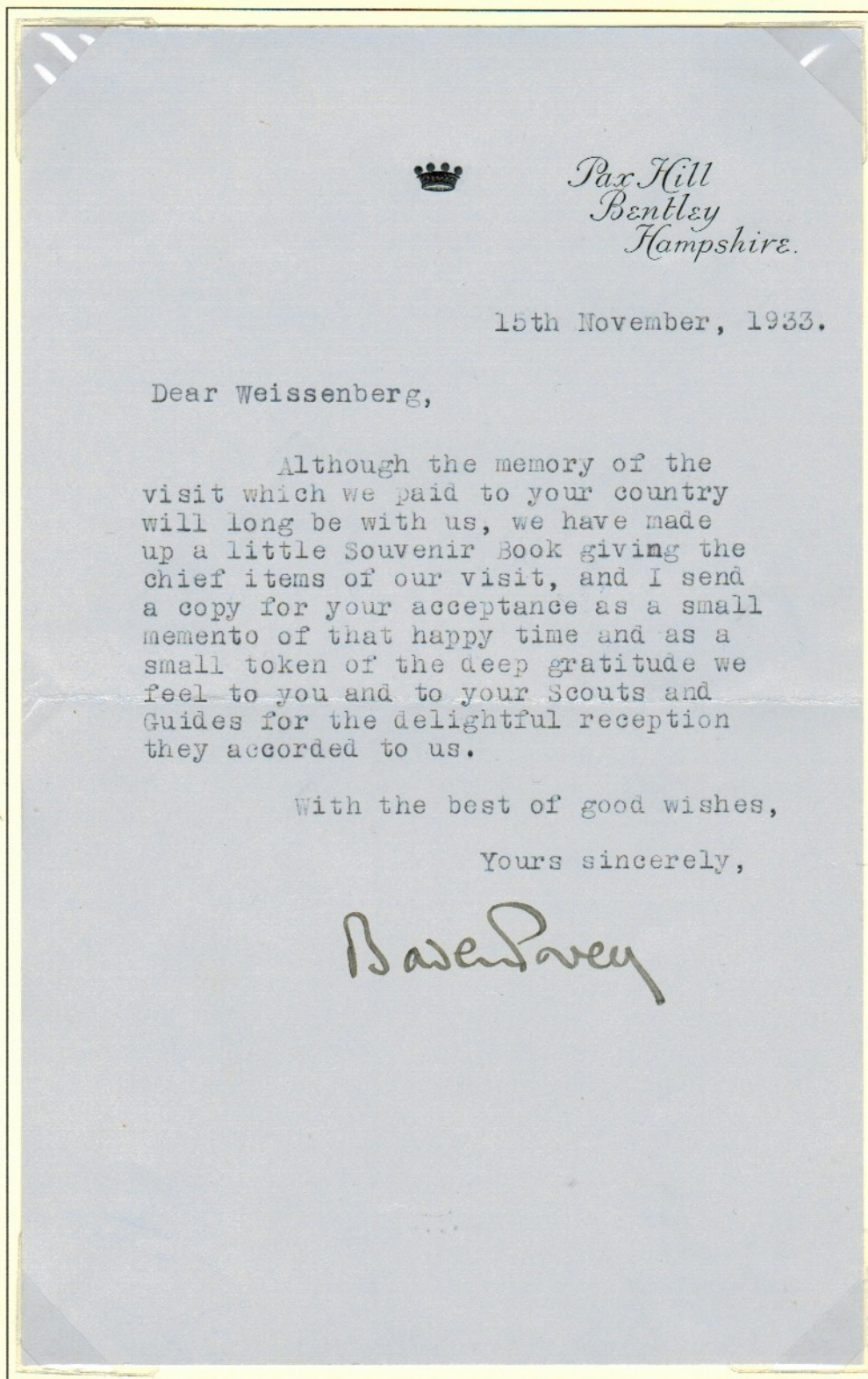


Special cover from the Finnish YMCA Boy Scout Association, sent from "TURKU 28 VI 32" to Tampere. A label for the Savonlinna camp 9-18 July 1932 is tied by the machine postmark.

The Cruise of the Calgaric, the so-called "Peace Cruise" of Scouters and Guiders that sailed on the SS Calgaric from Southampton on 12 August, 1933. They travelled to Rotterdam and the Hague, through the Kiel Canal to Gdynia and Danzig, thence to Klaipeda and Palanga, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo and Oban, and terminated at Liverpool on the 29th of August, 1933.

On board were the Founder of the Scout & Guide Movements, the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell (76), the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell (44) and their three children, Peter (20), Heather (18) and Betty (16). The party consisted (approximately) of 100 Scouters (including lady Cubmasters); 475 Guiders; and 80 non-Scouts or Guides.

The visit to Helsinki on August 20, 1933 lasted from 5.55 am to 7.22 pm. The Finnish Scout and Guide leaders Gay von Weissenberg and Martta Homi had been on board since Tallinn.



Following the cruise, Lord Baden-Powell sent a letter of appreciation from his home Pax Hill to his Finnish adjutant, Gay von Weissenberg. The letter was accompanied by a book of the tour: "The Cruise of the Calgaric".

Finlands Svenska Scoutförbund (Finlands's Swedish Scout Association, serving the Swedish minority in Finland and the Åland Islands) national camp at Drumsö. More than 600 Boy Scouts participated. A special postmark was used 20-30 July, 1934.



Registered cover to Espoo, postmarked (FIN-001) "LAUTTASAARI DRUMSÖ 20 VII 34". Ordinary Drumsö R-label, but obviously they started on a new roll of labels at the camp post office.
Four registered items are recorded.



Picture postcard of Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden visiting the Drumsö camp, postmarked (FIN-001) "LAUTTASAARI DRUMSÖ 28 VII 34".

Suomalainen Partiooikaliito, SPPL (Finland Scout Union) held 1935 their national camp at Lohja. The camp was named Kalevalaleiri – the Kalevala camp. The special postmark (FIN-002) was used 5-15 July. The postmark is with date period, and mail from the camp usually also received a datestamp from the Lohja post office.



Registered cover with postmark (FIN-002) "LOHJA KALEVALALEIRI 5/7-15/7 1935". The cover lacks the datestamp from the Lohja post office since it was sent internally in the camp.

Only three registered mail items are recorded from this camp.



Copy of reverse.



Registered cover with postmark (FIN-002) "LOHJA KALEVALALEIRI 5/7-15/7 1935", addressed internally in the camp to a participant belonging to the Helsingin Metsänkävijät which translates to Helsinki Forest Visitors (name of Scout group). It seems that this was misunderstood by the camp post office, and the letter was sent to Helsinki before being returned to the addressee at the camp. The cover was probably originally equipped with a Lohja registration label which was removed in Helsinki and a Helsinki registration label was affixed (tear marks are visible below the Helsinki label). On reverse postmark "LOHJA 11.VII.1935" and a nearly illegible Helsinki postmark.

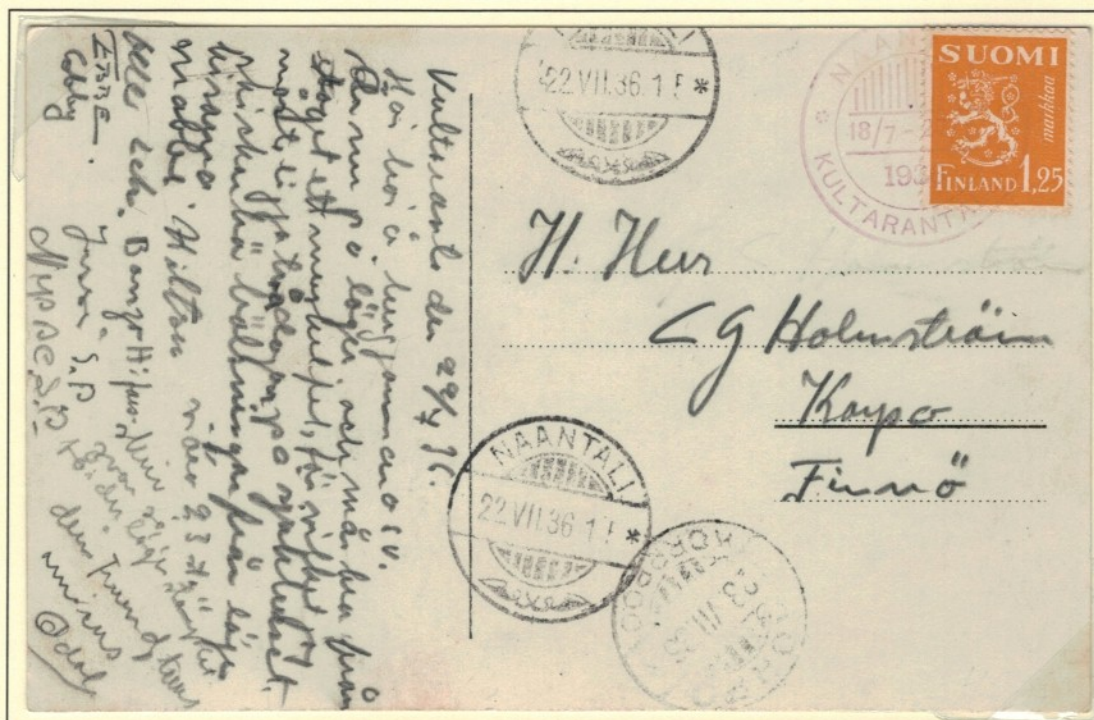


Postcard written by Scout in camp, postmark (FIN-002) "LOHJA KALEVALALEIRI 5/7-15/7 1935".



The Norwegian Boy Scouts Association marked their 25th Anniversary in 1936 by staging a Jubilee camp at the Jeløy island, south-east of Oslo. 6,600 Scouts attended, including a Finnish contingent.

Postal card from "ASKER 14 7 36", addressed to the Finnish Chief Scout at the Jeløy camp.



In 1936, the YMCA Boy Scouts held their national camp at Kultaranta near Naantali, just west of Turku (Åbo). The camp was named Kultaranta-leiri, which translates to the Golden Beach Camp. The post office that operated in the camp used a special postmark (FI-003) 18-27 July.

Postcard to Finnö written by Boy Scout in camp. Postmark "NAANTALI KULTARANTALEIRI 18/7-27/7 1936" (FI-003). Transit postmarks "NAANTALI 22.VII.36" and "KORPO 23.VII.36".

The Swedish-speaking Boy Scouts Association held their 1938 national camp at Fäboda near Pietarsaari (Jakobstad) on the beaches of the Gulf of Bothnia.



Inwards letter to the Fäboda camp, sent from "PARGAS 11. VII. 38". Contents: A father writes in German language to his Scout son in camp.



Cover to Åbo with special cachet "FSSF 1938 FÄBODA-LÄGRET", TPO postmark 14 July 1938.

The true international aspect of the Girl Guide movement was demonstrated at the first Pax Ting (which translates to Peace Parliament) in Hungary, 1939. In a world close to outbreak of war, but inspired by hope and confidence, 5,800 girls of 32 nationalities assembled at Gödöllő near Budapest, including Finnish Guides.

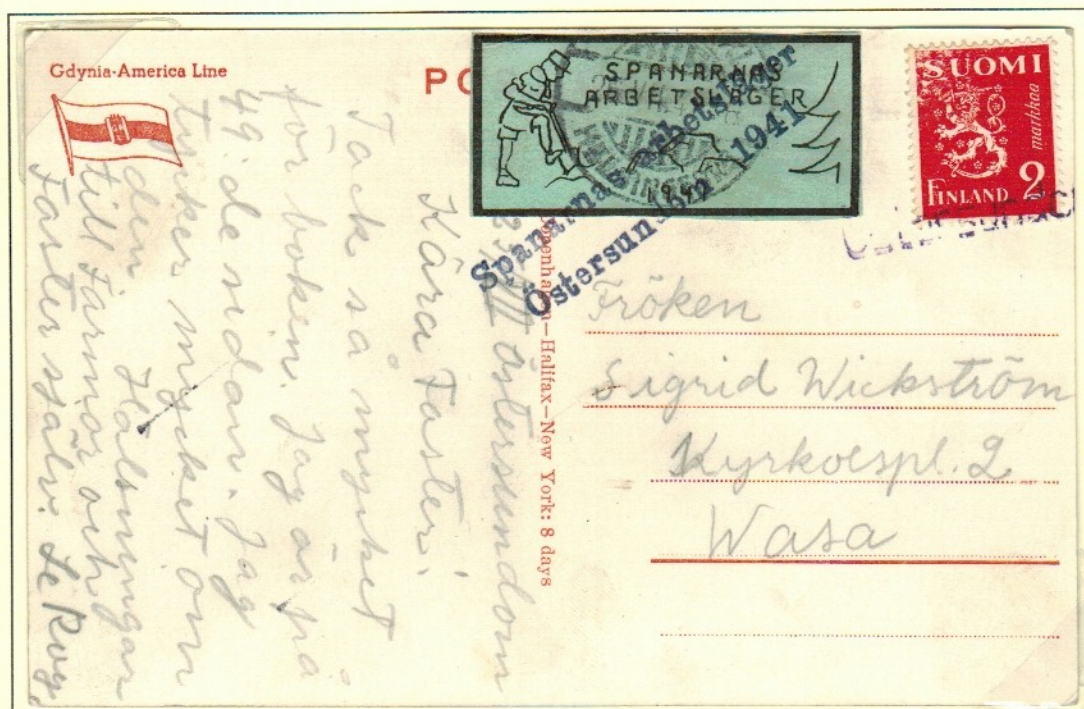


Special camp postcard, written by one of the Finnish Guides and sent to Finland.

Postmarked "I. PAX TING GÖDÖLLŐ 39 VII 30 C".

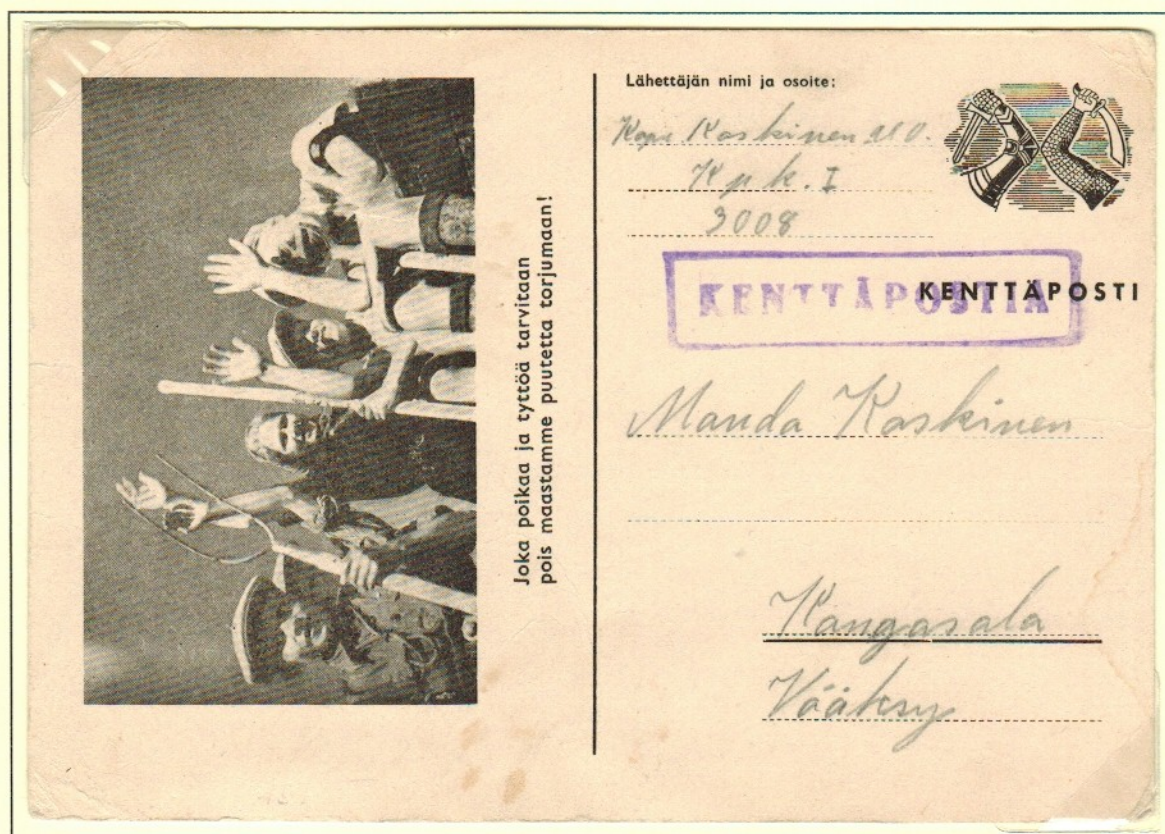
Blue postmark colour was used on 30 July only.

Spanarna is a Scout group in Helsinki, belonging to the Swedish-speaking Boy Scouts Association. In 1941, they held a working camp at Östersundom, a subdistrict of Helsinki.



Postcard written by Boy Scout in camp and sent to his aunt in Wasa. Special camp label with cachet "Spanarnas arbetsläger Östersundom 1941". Postmarked "HELSINKI 26.VII.41".

A 1941 field postcard depicting boys and girls; the boy with the hayfork is wearing a Scout uniform. Printed text on the card: **Every boy and girl is needed to help our country in this difficult time!**



Dated 1-10-41 and sent to Vääkky in southern Finland. "KENTTÄPOSTIA" means Field Post.



The 30th anniversary of Finlands Svenska Scoutförbund (Swedish speaking Scouts in Finland) was marked by a jubilee camp at Westend 18 to 28 July, 1947. Westend is a district of the city of Espoo, Finland, some ten kilometers from the center of Helsinki. Camp postcard written by Scout in camp and sent to Möja, Sweden. Postmarked (FIN-004) "SCOUTLÄGRET WESTEND 1947" and "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 18-7-47".



Registered letter sent to Mjölby, Sweden, postmarked (FIN-004) "SCOUTLÄGRET WESTEND 1947" and "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 19-7-47". Ordinary Helsinki registration label. **Only two registered letters are recorded.**

The 6th World Scout Jamboree was held at Moisson France in 1947. 24,152 Scouts from 40 countries were present. Following the devastation of World War II, this event was aptly named the Jamboree of Peace.



Special Jamboree postcard written by one of the Finnish participants and sent to Helsinki. Machine cancel "JAMBOREE DE LA PAIX 9 VIII 1947" (in use 2 and 9-25 August).

With its 12,000 participants the 1948 camp of the Norwegian Boy Scout Association was the largest Scout camp in Norway prior to Nordjamb 1975.

The camp was named "Speiderbyen" (The Scout City).

Up-rated postal stationery letter-card written by one of the Finnish Scouts and sent to Terrajoki, Finland.

Machine cancellation from the camp post office (N-013) "SPEIDERBYEN MANDAL -7 VII 48" (in use 3-12 July).





Suomen Partioaikajärjestön - SPJ - (Finland's Scout Union) was formed in 1941 by a merger of several Scout organisations. SPJ organised their first national camp 17-26 July 1948 at Vierumäki in southern Finland. The camp was named Suurleiri which means large camp. Camp postcard sent to Harjula, postmarked (FIN-005) "SUURLEIRI VIERUMÄKI 18-7-48".



Registered letter sent to Helsinki, postmarked (FIN-005) "SUURLEIRI VIERUMÄKI 25-7-48".
Blank registration label with typed "Suurleiri / Vierumäki".
Nine Eight registered letters are recorded (2009).

Suomen Partiotyttöjärjestön - SPTJ (Finnish Girl Guide Union) was formed in 1943 in a merger between four Girl Guide organisations. SPTJ held their first national Girl Guide camp at Loilanniemi (Kolho in Swedish) 4-14 July, 1949.



Special camp cover to Helsinki, postmarked (FIN-006) "LOILANNIEMI KOLHO -8-7-49".



Registered special camp cover to Mikkeli, postmarked (FIN-006) "LOILANNIEMI KOLHO -4-7-49".
Three registered items are recorded.

In 1949, the fourth World Scout Moot was held in Skjåk, Norway. 2,500 Rover Scouts from 40 countries participated. The field post office that operated in the camp used a special postmark (N-015) 2-12 July.



Gudbrandsdalen viewcard, written by one of the 37 Rover Scouts from Finland who attended the Moot. Postmarked (N-015) "4. WORLD ROVER MOOT SKJÅK NORGE 1949 -5-8-49", sent to Helsinki.



The Swedish-speaking Boy Scout Association held their 1951 national camp on the Lemlax island in the archipelago south of Turku / Åbo.

Camp aerial viewcard to Nådendal with special camp cachet "LEMLAX-LÄGRET 1951 FSSF" and postmark "TURKU ÅBO 23 VII 51".

National Boy Scout
camp of Finland's
Scout Union at
Tapiola 18-27 July,
1953.

The camp post
office had a special
postmark (FIN-007)
"TAPIOLAN
SUURLEIRI
SULKAVA".

Domestic special
delivery registered
cover, postmarked
(FIN-007) and blank
registration label
with manuscript
"Tapiolan
Suurleiri".

Two recorded.



Domestic registered cover, postmarked (FIN-007) and ordinary Sulkava registration label.

The only recorded.

“Skutvik 55”, national Boy Scout camp of the FSSF - Finlands Svenska Scoutförbund (Swedish speaking Scouts in Finland), held at Ekenäs 8-18 July, 1955. The camp post office used a special postmark (FIN-008) “EKENÄS TAMMISSARI 11.7.55”.



Special camp postcard sent to Helsingfors. Postmarked (FIN-008) “EKENÄS TAMMISSARI -8. 7. 55”.



Registered cover “EKENÄS TAMMISSARI -8. 7. 55” to Helsingfors. Only three registered items are recorded.

Finland issued a postage stamp on 22 February, 1957 to commemorate 50 years of Scouting.



Special FDC postmark (FIN-009) "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 22.2.1957" on postcard sent locally.



Registered First Day Cover, sent to U.S.A. Regular registration label from the philately branch of the Helsinki post office. Postmarked (FIN-009) "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 22.2.1957".



Registered First Day Covers with the special FDC postmark (FIN-009) "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 22.2.1957" were serviced at the Helsinki main post office. Regular Helsinki Helsingfors registration labels are recorded on such covers with R-number with five digits (above) or six digits (below).





First Day Cover from Jakobstads Filatelister r.f., sent to Bennäs.
Postmarked (FIN-009) "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 22.2.1957".



First Day Cover, postmarked (FIN-009) "HELSINKI HELSINGFORS 22.2.1957". Addressed to Wainoni Road, Christchurch, which is located on New Zealand. No country name is given for the address, and "Christchurch, Enclosed" was probably read as "Christchurch, England". The letter was sent to Christchurch in Hampshire, England and postmarked on reverse "CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS. 25 FE 57" and "BRISTOL R.L.B 27 FE 57". Manuscript "Not known at Hants" and cachets "Bournemouth & Poole R L Duty 26 FEB 57", "Inconnu", "Retour" and "Undelivered, return to sender".