

Estonians outside Estonia 1944-1991

In 1944, almost 100 000 Estonians fled from Estonia when the Soviet Army, for the second time within 5 years, invaded the Baltic States and forced the German armies to withdraw. Initially, two main target areas for the refugees were identified - Sweden and Germany. Later on many of the Estonians, who were temporarily hosted in Germany or Sweden, proceeded to to US/Canada or to Australia.

Over the decades to come Estonians in exile strived to maintain their national identity, culture, language etc and this was achieved through a lot of different means. A lot of Anti Soviet political propaganda also was produced and published during this period, which also was named "The Cold War".

The purpose with this exhibit is to give one version, of many, of how Estonians outside Estonia tried to keep the Estonian identity alive between 1944 and 1991.

In 1991 Estonia, once again, became an independent nation.

It is impossible to cover the story of almost 100 000 Estonians in exile, from 1944-1991, in a philatelic exhibit within the space of 80 pages. It has to be a number of snapshots, hopefully sharing as much as possible of the story. Things might be wrong here due to shortage of available information. The responsibility for such faults is only mine.

Exhibit plan:

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Frame 4

Boy Scouts And Girl Guides
Estonian World Festivals

Frame 5

Cultural Events
Crossing Borders
Estonian Organizations and Business Activities

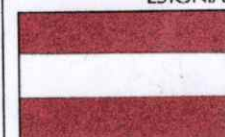


CELEBRATING
BALTIC
INDEPENDENCE

XIX BALTIC EVENING
OCTOBER 23, 1991
PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA



ESTONIA



LATVIA



LITHUANIA

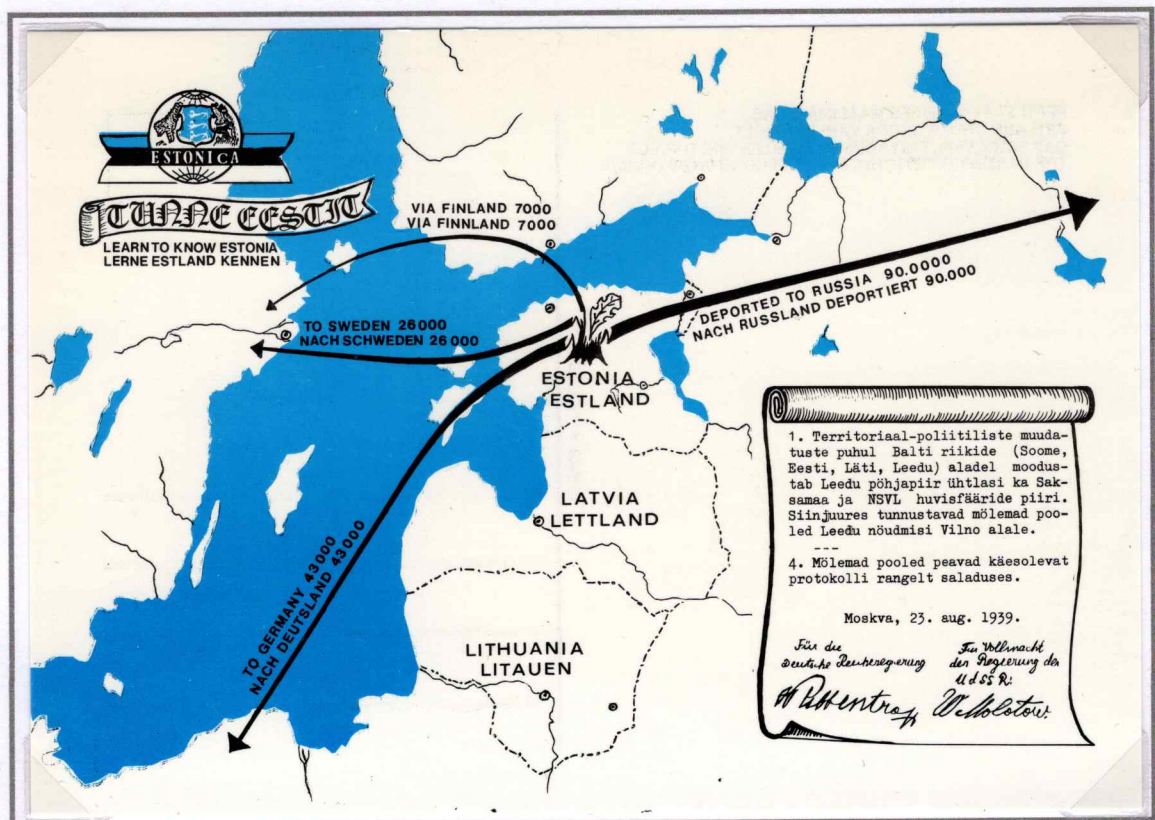
Sources/references:

Estonia—Philately and Postal History Handbook, incl appendices (Hurt-Ojaste)
Geschichte des Baltikums (Mäesalu et al), 1999, ISBN 9985-2-0604-5
Estland als Estnische Sowjetrepublik 1944-1991 (Kromm-Vogt), 2002, ISBN 3-933748-09-7
Exhibition Catalogue for the Stamp Exhibition "Gothex 2011"
Eesti—Illustrierter Spezial-Katalog Estland (V. Eichenthal, 1961)
Baltic Postage Stamps Catalog (Baltia Philatelist Association, Augsburg-Hochfeld, 1948)
Eesti Filatelist
Catalog of Displaced Persons, Prisoners of War, Concentration Camp and Ghetto Stamps during and after WW II
Special Lithuanian Postage Stamp Catalogue 1918-2012 (Jankauskas), ISBN 978-609-408-183-5
Estland i Sverige (B Kangro, Eesti Kirjanike Kooperativ, 1976)
Numerous websites on Internet

The border between Estonia and SSSR was crossed by the 3rd Baltic Front in August 1944 after three years of German occupation. This caused a massive flight by Estonians who wanted something different than the communist repression. Almost 80 000 persons left Estonia.

Additionally, close to 90 000 persons were deported to the Soviet Union, mostly to slave camps in Siberia, from which very few returned alive.

On the postcard below you can see the destinations for the majority of the refugees and the deported.



A Brief Historical Background

On February 24, 1918, a provisional Estonian government was created with Konstantin Päts as Prime Minister. It was important to create a lot of governmental institutions very quickly to get the State of Estonia to work in a basic way. One vital societal function is a postal organisation with a mail system. The first stamps, the "Flower series" were issued in November 1918, during the war of independence.



Registered letter sent from Reval (Tallinn) to Stockholm on April 8, 1919, franked with a complete set of "Flower stamps". Mail route from Reval through Helsinki to Stockholm. Due to the ongoing civil war subject to censor check in Reval (the triangular cachet) **and** in Finland. Transit cachets Helsinki April 10 and April 11.

A Brief Historical Background

The Secret Additional Protocol in the Treaty of Nonaggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, dated August 23, 1939, dramatically changed the political status for the Baltic States. Suddenly Estonia was to be subject to a presumable Soviet aggression.

Just a little more than one month later this became a reality.

August 23, 1939.

TREATY OF NONAGGRESSION BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

Secret Additional Protocol.

On the occasion of the signature of the Nonaggression Pact between the German Reich and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics the undersigned plenipotentiaries of each of the two parties discussed in strictly confidential conversations the question of the boundary of their respective spheres of influence in Eastern Europe. These conversations led to the following conclusions:

1. In the event of a territorial and political rearrangement in the areas belonging to the Baltic States (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the northern boundary of Lithuania shall represent the boundary of the spheres of influence of Germany and the U.S.S.R. In this connection the interest of Lithuania in the Vilna area is recognized by each party.
2. In the event of a territorial and political rearrangement of the areas belonging to



4) DIESES PROTOKOLL WIRD VON BEIDEN SEITEN
STRENG GEHEIM BEHANDELT WERDEN.

MOSKAU, DEN 23. AUGUST 1939.

Für die
Deutsche Regierung
W. Ribbentrop

In Vollmacht
der Regierung der
U.S.S.R.
V. Molotov



Kjondström
Eusnell 1

A Brief Historical Background

On June 17, 1940, Estland was occupied by the Red Army. Immediately a "Russification Period" was started, including all aspects of the society.

Below, a letter sent from Tallinn to Stockholm on December 24, 1940 with a mixed franking. This mixture was allowed only during the period Dec 6–30 1940.



Cert: K Kokk.

A Brief Historical Background

Immediately after the German invasion, German governed postal systems were organized, resulting in two series with printed stamps (issues Aug 7th - the swastika issue, Sept 22th — the Reconstruction of Estonia issue) and a number of local issues (Elwa, Hummuli, Moisakula, Noo, Otepää, Pernau, Puka and Rakvere). The most common way of creating the local issues was to reuse Russian stamps with locally adapted overprint.

Below you find 5 of the 10 denominations of the Pernau issue. It is worth notifying that, depending on primitive printing technology, most of the stamps have a number of printing errors in the overprint.



On this block of 10 stamps, not less than 25 printing errors have been identified. The only stamp without any errors is the copy in position 9 (second right in the lower row).



A Brief Historical Background

The red army crossed the Estonian-Russian border at Narva on August 26, 1944. From that time the great mass of Estonians left the country and travelled westbound. Almost one month later Tallinn was in Soviet hand (Sept 22).

20 years later this cover with a special cancellation was issued to celebrate the anniversary of the liberation of Tallinn from the fascists. The cover was issued by the Philatelic Collectors Association in Tallinn.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

DP Camps (Displaced Persons Camps) were established in Europe after WWII to host all persons who, for different reasons, could not return home. The first camps opened up late 1944 and the last one in Germany closed down in 1952. Initially they were, mostly, operated by the allied forces in Western Europe, but on Oct 1, 1945, UNRRA (The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) claimed responsibility for all camps. All available facilities as barracks, summer colonies, hotels, castles, hospitals etc were used as DP camps. The conditions in the camps were, indeed, poor with shortage of food, medical care, schools etc. Malnutrition was frequent. Nevertheless the DP Camps meant a start for a new life for a lot of the inhabitants.

A number of DP Camps in Central Europe hosted refugees from Estonia. A major part of the Estonians in those DP camps proceeded to the US/Canada or to Australia/New Zealand. Many came to Sweden. A minor part stayed in Germany for the rest of their lives. In order to keep the residents occupied a lot of different activities took place.

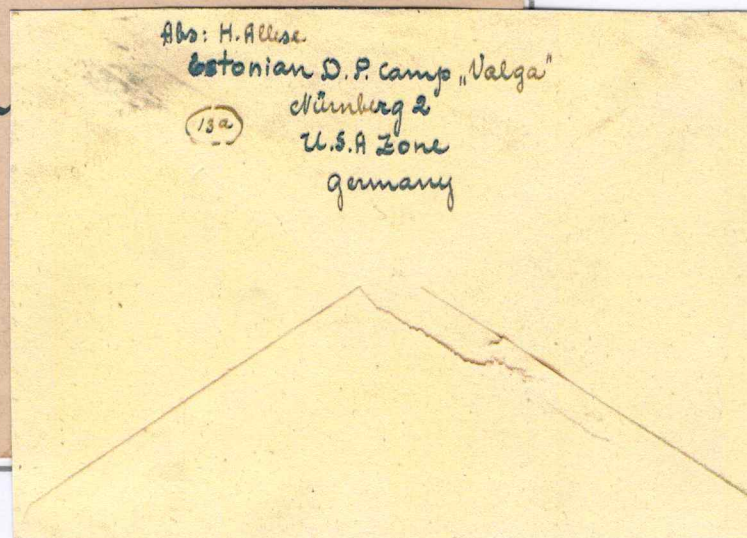
The items shown on this and a number of following pages intend to describe, in very brief terms, the life inside and outside the camps during this period.



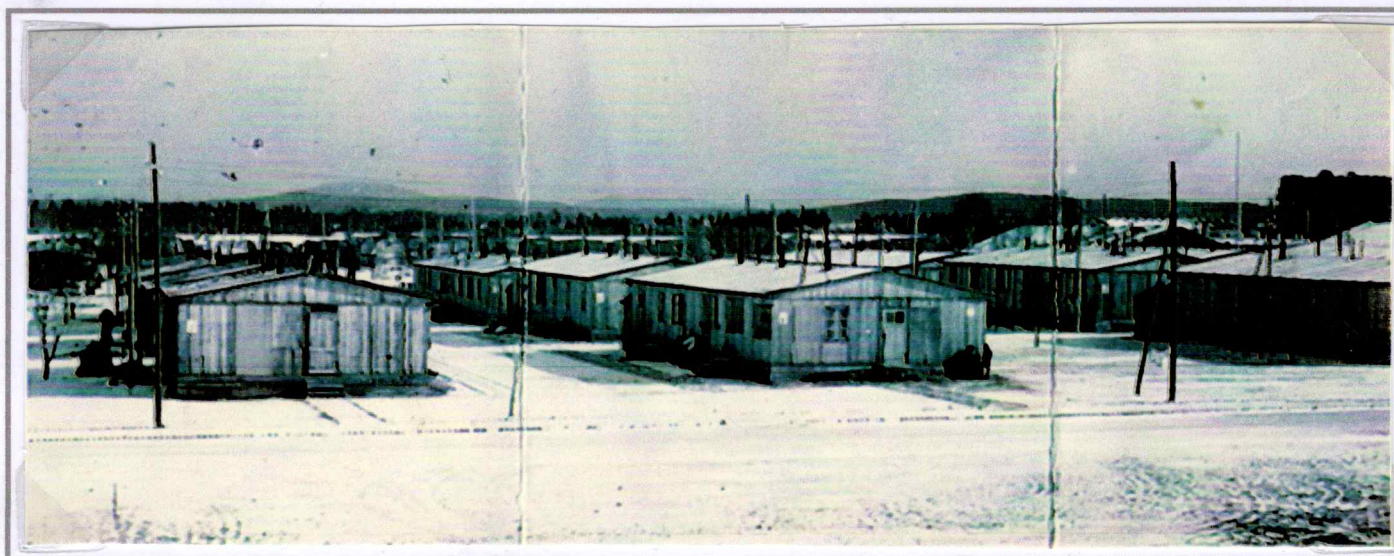
German postal stationery sent from DP Camp Ohmstede (Kreis Oldenburg, Br Zone) to Pärnu, returned to the sender as the text on the reverse side did not meet the language requirements from the censor. Estonian was not an allowed language at that time.

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

Letter from the Estonian DP Camp "Valga", named after a city on the Estonian-Latvian border, but located in Märzfeld, close to Nuernberg (Am Zone), sent to a relative in Sweden 1948. The camp was previously a training camp for soldiers.

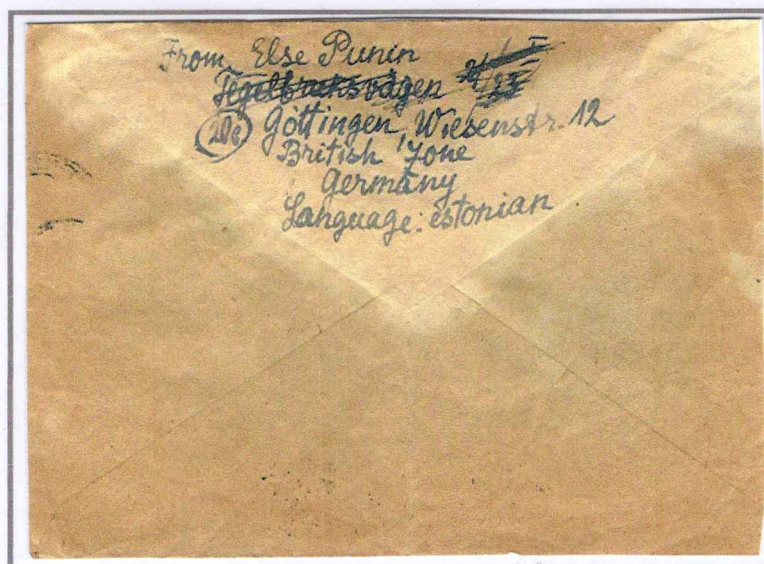


The person, from whom I obtained the cover above, also gave me the image below. This was the DP Camp "Valga". He told me that he and his parents lived in the front left building in the image for more than two years.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

A cover from DP Camp in Göttingen (British Zone) 1948 to Sweden, franked with occupation issues (Trizone). Note that the sender had to tell, on the envelope, in which language the contents was written to facilitate the censor's job.



Contacts between Estonians in the DP Camps and friends/relatives in other countries were, as far as I can see, rather frequent. Due to the general frequent shortage of all sorts of supplies temporary solutions had to be found for all types of issues. On this page you see a home made newspaper wrapper sent from the DP Camp Hochfeld to the wife of the well known philatelist Valdo Nemwalts in Stockholm 1948.

Th



Frau

M. Nemwalz

Försskäls gatan 115 Hammarby

Stockholm

Schveden



Abst: Riet, Augsburg

(136)

Fürnkaperstr. 45/3

Bayern USA zone Deutsche

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

Cover from the DP Camp Hanau in conjunction with the Estonian-Latvian philatelic exhibition in the camp. Hanau was located in the British Occupation Zone in West Germany.

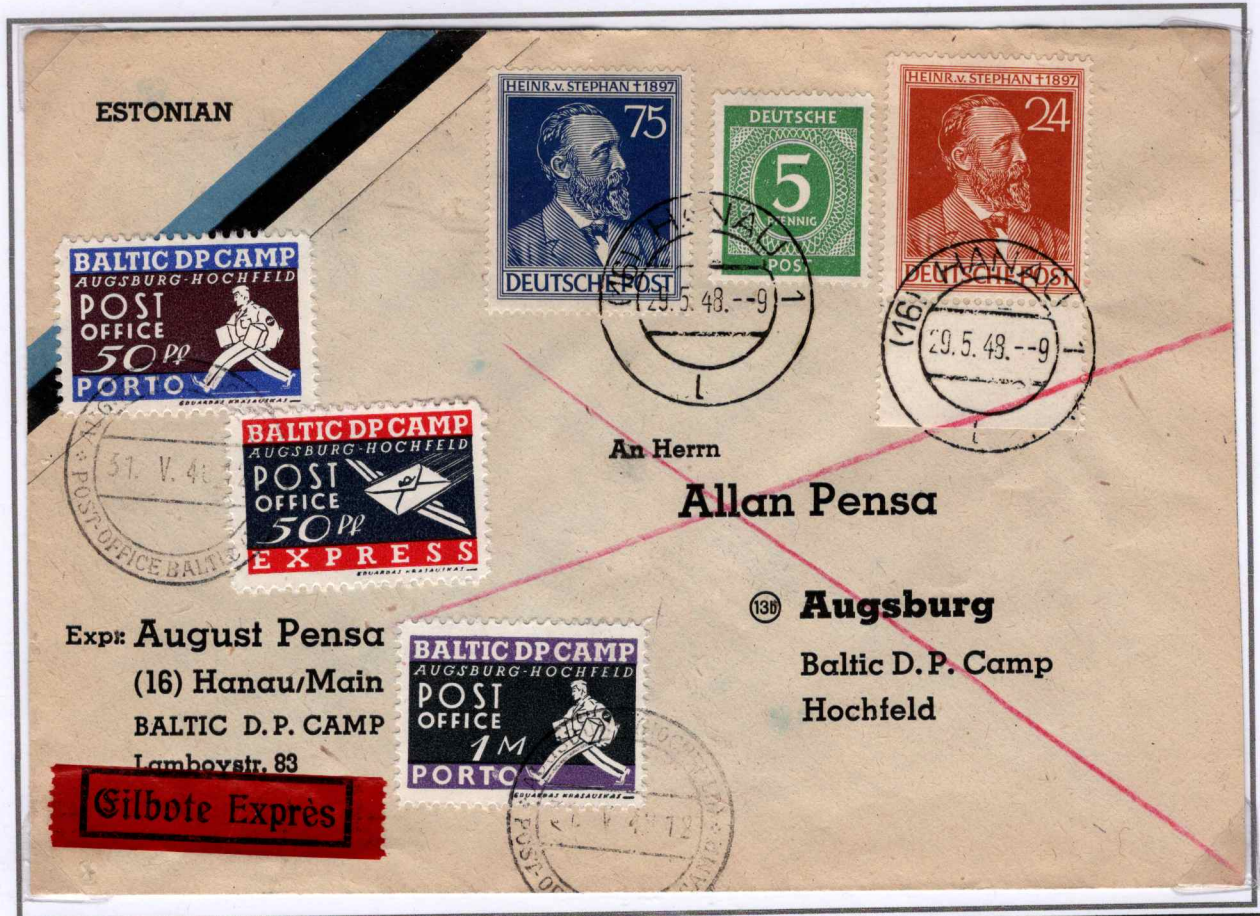
The stamps were issued in 6000 copies each (perforated). Additionally mini sheets with the two denominations were issued to a quantity of 2000 sheets. Below both types of the stamps.

Hanau hosted approximately 6000 refugees (>1000 Estonians) and included schools, shops, vocational training classes and much more. Polish refugees built a Roman Catholic Church in a previous stable for cavalry horses.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

In some of the DP Camps they had special stamps of their own, which were valid as postage for mail also outside the camp areas. Below you will find DP Camp mail from Schöngau and Augsburg (both camps in the American Zone). Issues of stamps: upper cover (Schöngau) 17500, lower cover (Hochfeld) 24000 of each for prepaid porto and for postage due purposes. In 1952 Allan Pensa (lower cover) emigrated to the US.

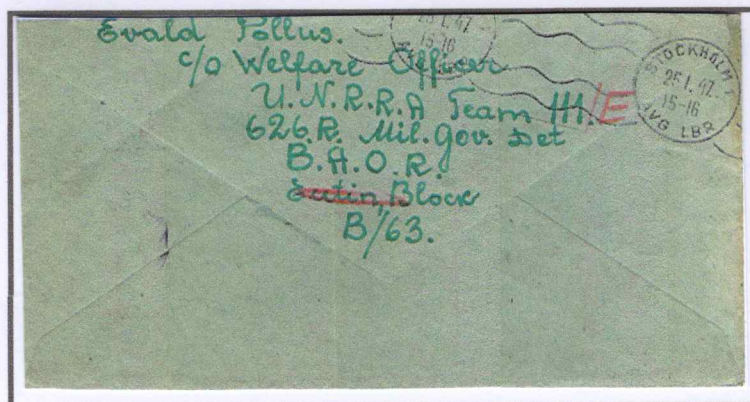
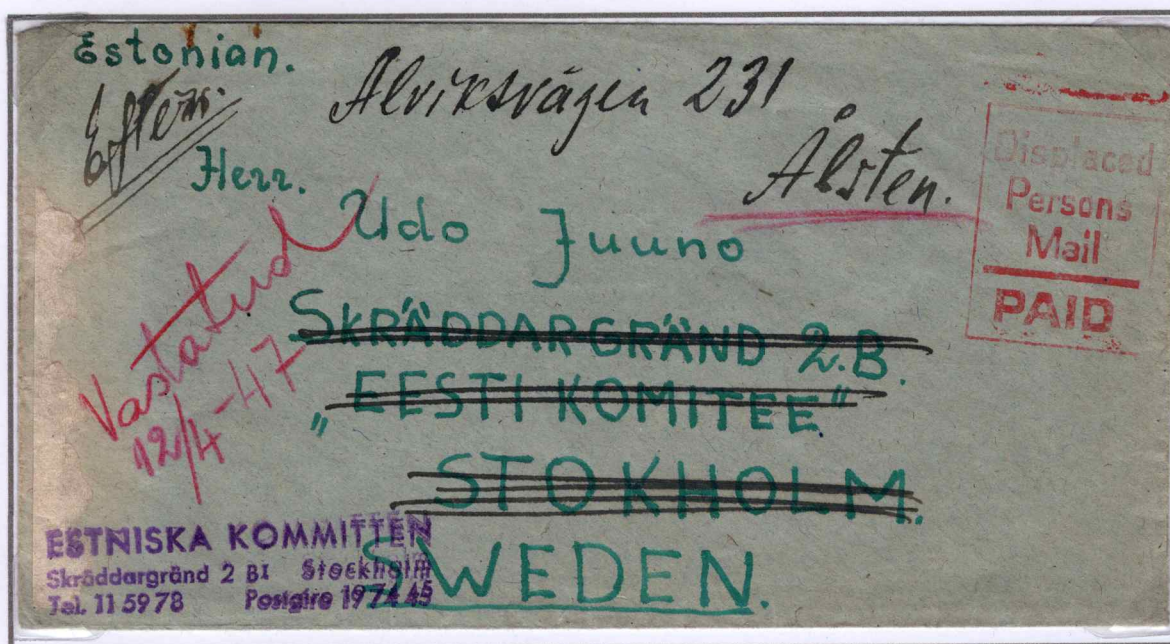


The DP Camps

Letter sent from the DP Camp Eutin in Schleswig-Holstein to Sweden, arrived at Apr 12, 1947, transferred to another address in Stockholm after the attachment of the cachet "Estonian Committee, Skräddaregränd 2B, Stockholm".

On the reverse side the sender information was changed from a certain geographical location to an address code "The UNRRA Team 111/E", which stands for Eutin.

Eutin is a medieval castle in Schleswig-Holstein, which was used as a DP Camp between 1943 and 1949, hosting only refugees from the Baltic states. Today Eutin is a popular target for sightseeing tours.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

In the DP Camp Hochfeld, near Augsburg, special stamps were issued mainly for charity purposes. They were used as additional internal franking for express delivery and as postage due stamps. The stamps were issued Feb 15, 1948 in quantities of 24 000 (Express) and 13 500 of each denomination (porto).

Below a registered letter sent from the industry and commercial fair in Munich to an addressee in the Hochfeld camp. Please observe the special registry cachet.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

Konstantin Mickfeldt (born 1886 in Reval/Tallinn) fled in September 1944 from Estonia, together with thousands of Estonians, to Germany. In October 1944 he got a Temporary Aliens Passport issued by the police authorities in Berlin, allowing him to stay only in Berlin.

Together with him and his wife Alexandra, his nephew Nikolai Suursööt came to Berlin and later were transferred to the DP Camp Wielandshag in Bavaria. In 1950 they moved to Sweden and became permanent residents there.

Below the Passport for Konstantin Mickfeldt

PERSONENBESCHREIBUNG

Staatsangehörigkeit: *ungest. r. Estland*

Beruf: *Verwaltungsbeamter*

Geburtsort: *Reval*

Geburtsdag: *13. II. 1886*

Wohnsitz oder Aufenthaltsort: *Berlin*

Gestalt: *mittel*

Gesicht: *oval*

Farbe der Augen: *grün-blau*

Farbe des Haares: *grünig-grau*

Besondere Kennzeichen: *keine*

Nr. 51664 U/44



Unterschrift des Inhabers

Konstantin Mickfeldt

Nr. 51664 U/44

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

To get recognition with a profession was extremely important in order to facilitate a new life in a new country far from friends, relatives and social network.

Konstantin Mickfeldt had worked as an administrative lawyer in Estonia. Thus it was natural for him to try to continue this career. In November 1948 he got his certificate, after due tests, as a lawyer in Bad Reichenhall, in Bavaria. This was important for him when resettling to Sweden in 1950.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION
(I. R. O.)
DISPLACED PERSONS PROFESSIONAL
TESTING BOARD

H. 13.

CERTIFICATE No. 4610

This is to certify that bearer of the certificate
Mr. Konstantin Mickfeldt
was given theoretical and practical tests by IRO Professional Testing
Board. The above named has been qualified as a
Lawyer
with 20 years of experience in this profession..

President of the
Testing Board IRO

Dipt. Sup. Alvein Pau Ed

Sub-Area Employment Officer

Leader of Testing Commission

for Bad Reichenhall

Dipt. Sup. Alvein

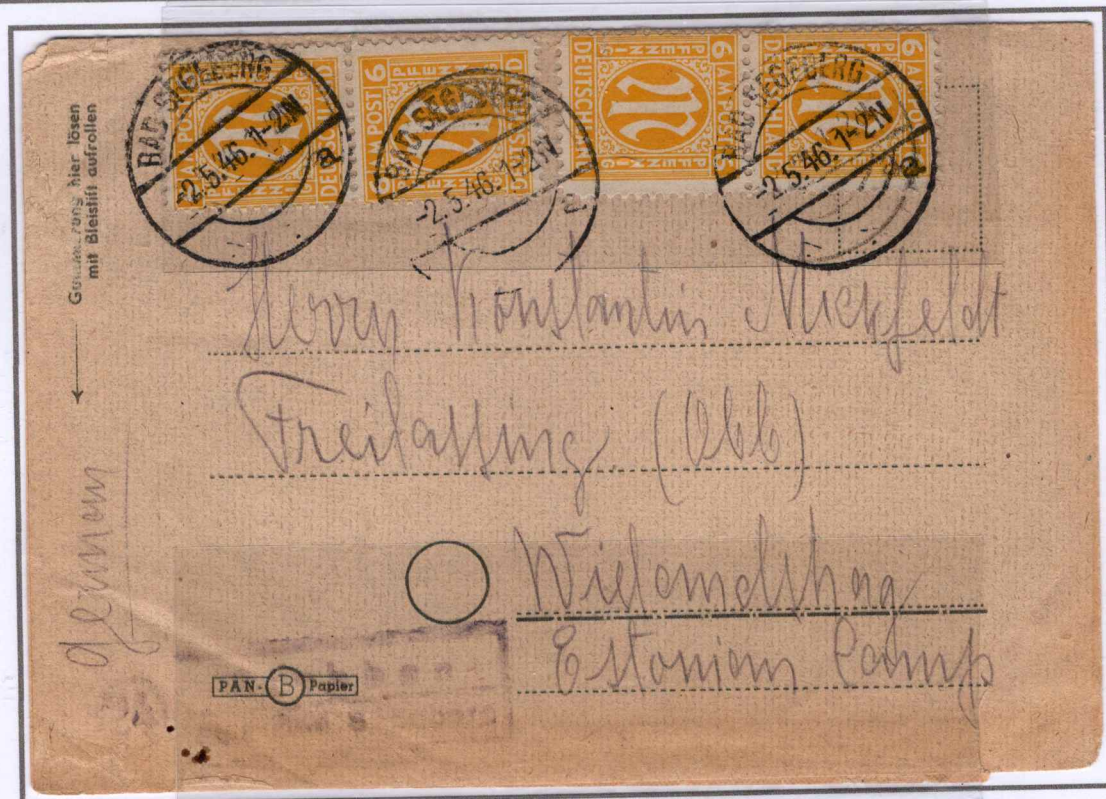
Bad Reichenhall 20. " 19 48

IRO Team 7

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

It is rather hard to find items sent to the DP Camps. Below (top) you will find one postcard sent from DP Camp Memmingen 22.2.1946 to Konstantin Mickfeldt in the DP Camp Wielandshag, with just a "postage paid" stamp.

The other item (bottom) was sent from Bad Segeberg (Bavaria) 2.5.1946 to the same person in Wielandshag. This item is franked with four copies of Bizone No 4 (American printing)



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

The bureaucracy in the DP camps in Germany was, in many respects, immense.

As just one example, you can find the certificate below allowing Mr Konstantin Mickfeldt to bring his stamp collection with him when resettling to Sweden. The collection was created already in Estonia before WW II, and was expanded substantially during the stay in Wielandshag to which he arrived late 1944.

Mr Mickfeldt is an uncle of a friend of mine. The camp Wielandshag was located in southern Bavaria close to Bad Reichenhall.

IRO
Area 7 Munich
Sub-Area Bad Reichenhall
DP CAMP WIELANDSHAG

Bescheinigung.

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, dass Herr Konstantin Mickfeldt, wie es einwandfrei festgestellt worden ist, seine Briefmarkensammlung schon in Estland zusammengestellt und sie im Herbst 1944 nach Deutschland gebracht hat. Es bestehen zu deren Mitnahme nach Schweden keine Bedenken.

Camp Wielandshag, den 17.4.1950

E. Piller
E. Piller
Lagerleiter

T. Kotomkins
T. Kotomkins
Admin. Officer

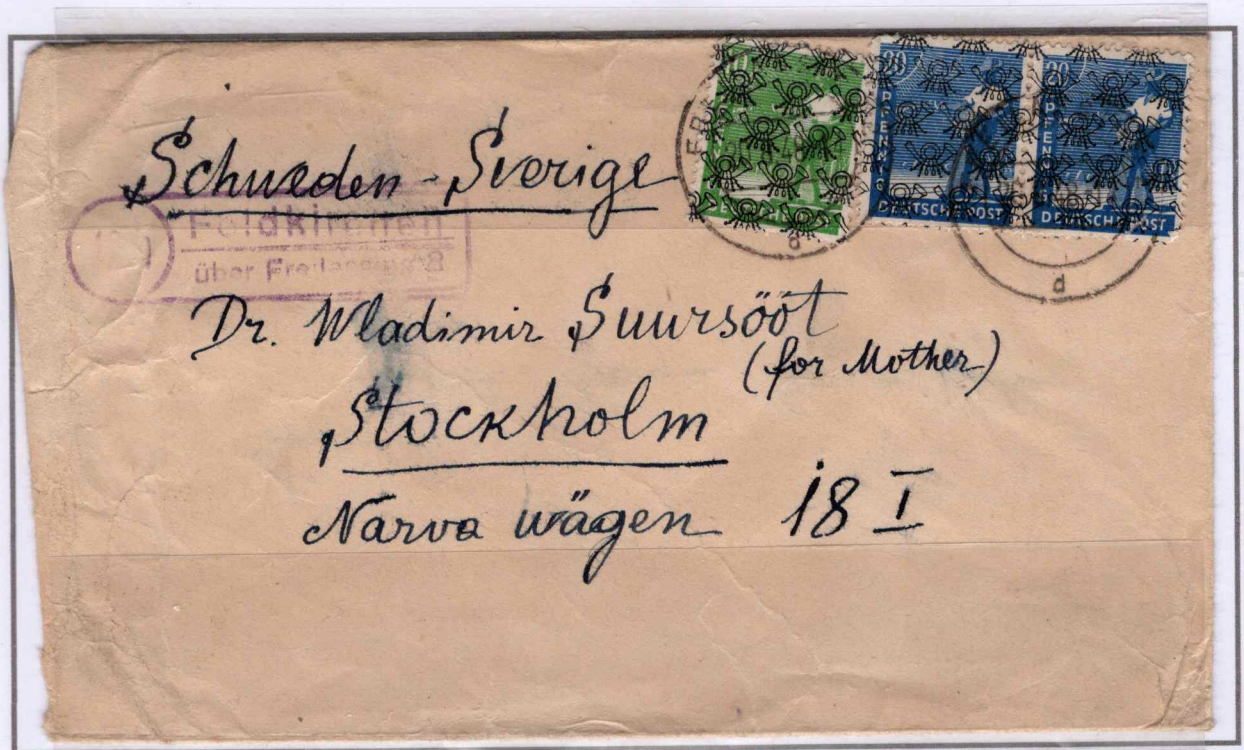
ESTONIAN DP CAMP
SUB AREA
IRO
BAD REICHENHALL
WIELANDSHAG

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

When fleeing from the Soviet invasion of Estonia in September 1944 families were split up and for a while members did not know whether their relatives had survived or not or where they were.

Wladimir Suursööt, his wife and his mother came to Sweden in September 1944 and, after a while, he had established himself as a medical doctor with own practice in Stockholm. At the same time Wladimir's sister, her husband and their son in law had come to the DP Camp Wielandshag in Bavaria. After some time the two parts of the family got in touch. Below a letter sent from Alexandra Mickfeldt (Wladimir's sister) in Wielandshag to Wladimir in Stockholm. Wielandshag was a small DP Camp located in the barracks of a previous Nazi air base

Wladimir and his family made it possible for the Mickfeldts to resettle to Sweden in 1950. Since then the family has been living there

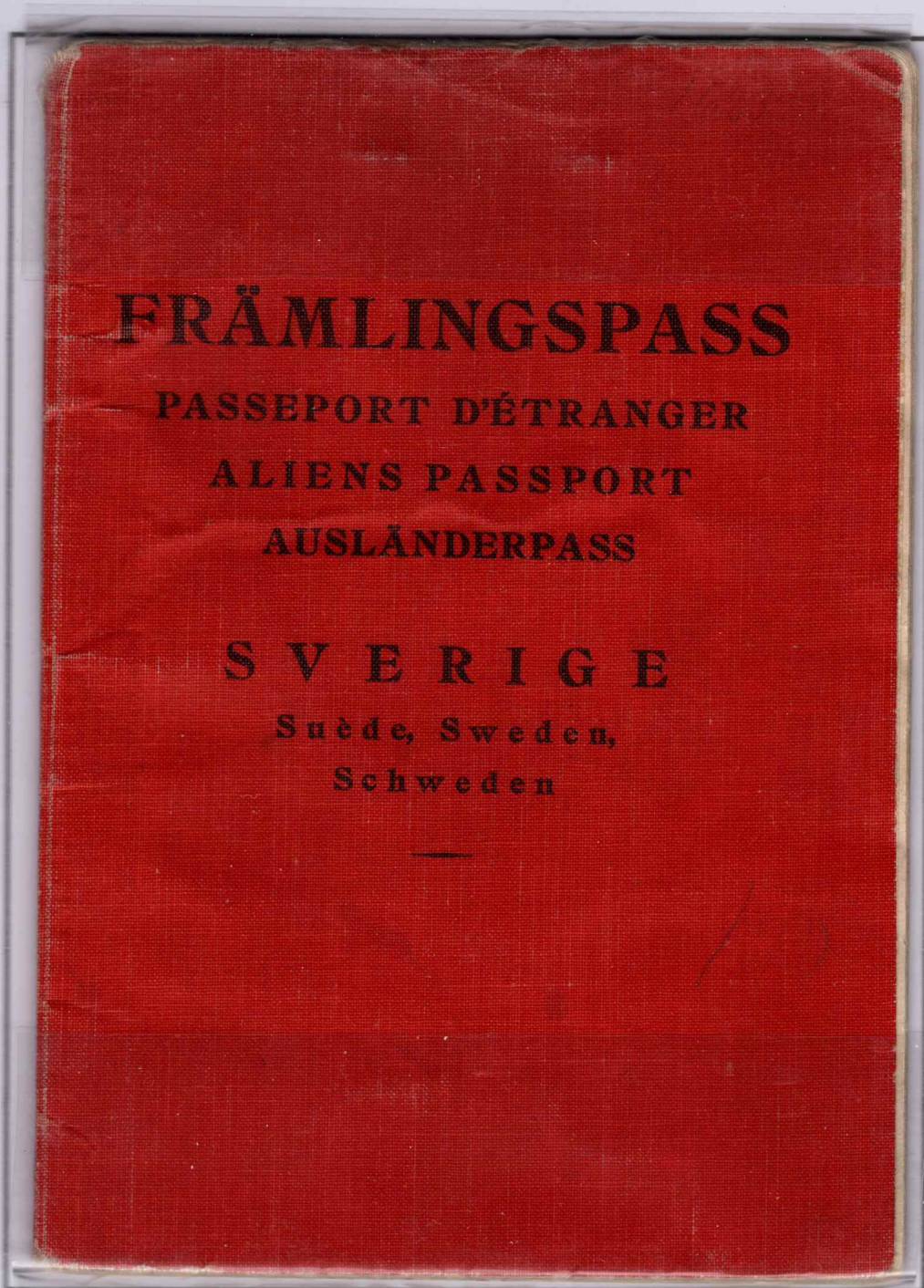


The letter was sent from Wielandshag (cancelled Freilassing 20.8.1948). Franked with two copies of Bizone 43 IIc and one copy Bizone 39 IIa (in total 50 Rpf). Correct postage for a letter 1st class to Sweden was 50 Rpf.

Also a special cancellation Feldkirchen ueber Freilassing applied to the cover

On the contrary to the situation in Germany and Austria, refugees coming to Sweden only stayed for a short time in the camps (weeks to a few months). Very quickly they got a destination in terms of a city or village for the continued life. They also got an "Aliens Passport" as an identity document.

Below an "Aliens Passport" issued for Juhan Beersman, an Estonian refugee on Oct 30, 1944. The permission to stay in Sweden had to become renewed every 6 months, initially. Juhan Beerman got a Swedish citizenship in 1959.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

Below you can see two pages (copies) from the "Aliens Passport" on the previous sheet. One page with the formal allowance to stay in Sweden and the other with stated restrictions.

If the passport holder left Sweden he/she was forbidden to return. There were a number of geographical areas where the passport holder was not allowed to be. You can also find notes about when the holder got coupons to purchase food and other living necessities.

N:o 45371

Med giltighetstid { fr. o. m. d.
(Valable du)
t. o. m. d.
(Valable jusqu')

Statens utlänningsko

N:o 42649

Giltighetstiden förlängd t. o. m.
(Valable ju

Statens utlänningsko

N:o 17561

Giltighetstiden förlängd t. o. m.
(Valable ju

s utlänningsko

N:o 18153

Giltighetstiden förlängd t. o. m.
(Valable ju

stens utlänningsko

Gäller icke för återresa till Sverige

Nr UT 42649 Avgitt u. a.

Uppehållstillstånd I SVERIGE

beviljat för tiden 30/10 1945 - 29/4 1946

Stockholm den 27 11 1945

STATENS UTLÄNNINGSKOMMISSION

Tjänsten:

Rterstas

Gäller icke för vistelse inom Stockholms stad, Solna stad, Sundbybergs stad, Lidingö stad, Danderyds, Nacka, ol. Spånga landfiskalsdistrikt i Stockholms län, ej heller inom Göteborgs stad eller Malmö stad.

DS.CE GSS.HK KFE

Boo Kristidsnämnd

22.1.45 Saltejö-Bo 2/3 af

Inköpskort: KFE 16/4 c. Käre

2/106 + 1/107 + 1/108 K - 46 Steung

44 25/7 - 46 Steung

K9E 2/946 2 Derrmark

106 2/111 1/112 2/115

I K10E, 29 7/1 - 77 K

3/125 + 4/124 + 2/127 3/1 - 42 Steung

K111 1/4 - 42 K

I 1319 16/112 17/112 - 47 K

The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

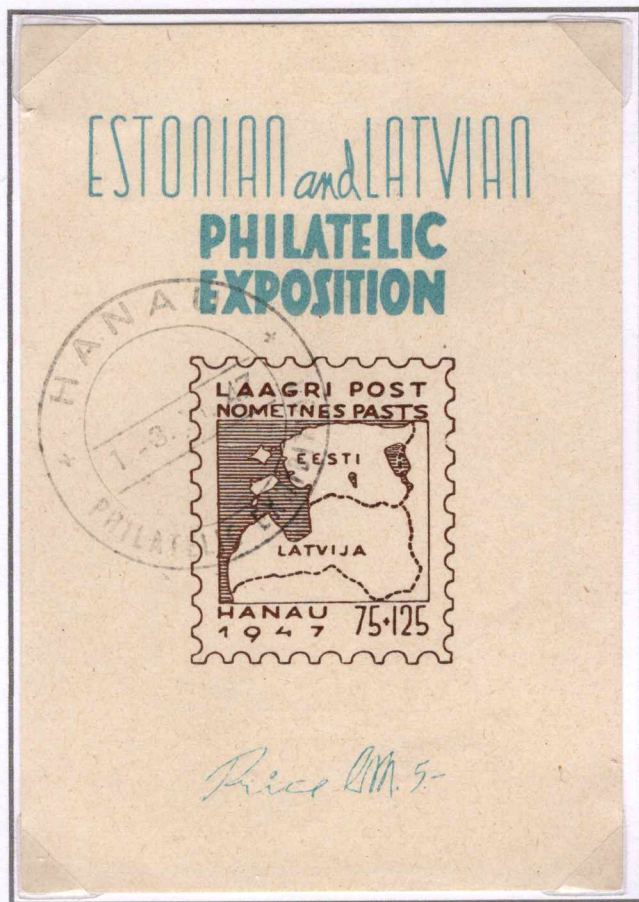
After WW II and the escape from the Soviet occupied Estonia many Estonians wanted to go as far away from the communists as possible. Thus a lot of Estonians left Germany and Sweden for a new future in the US or in Canada. For approximately 20 000 persons Toronto became their new home city. Sometimes it was hard to get in touch with those emigrants.

Below a letter sent by the famous Estonian philatelist Valdo Nemwaltz (1949) to a friend in Saltsjöbaden. However the letter was returned with a postal notification that the addressee had left for Canada. On the rear side of the envelope an arrival cachet "Saltsjöbaden 6.4.49"



The DP Camps

It was important to have a lot of activities going on in the camps for the residents. One such activity was philately. Many good philatelists had left Estonia in 1944 and they very quickly created new philatelic networks. It resulted both in philatelic exhibitions and in philatelic meetings which are shown on this and the next two pages.



To the left—a souvenir sheet from an exhibition in Hananu (Br Zone) in 1947.

Below—a postcard from the 1st Baltic Philatelist Day in Schongau/ Altenstadt (Am Zone) in 1946. The picture of the postcard is a woodcut showing a fisherman's village in Estonia



The DP Camps

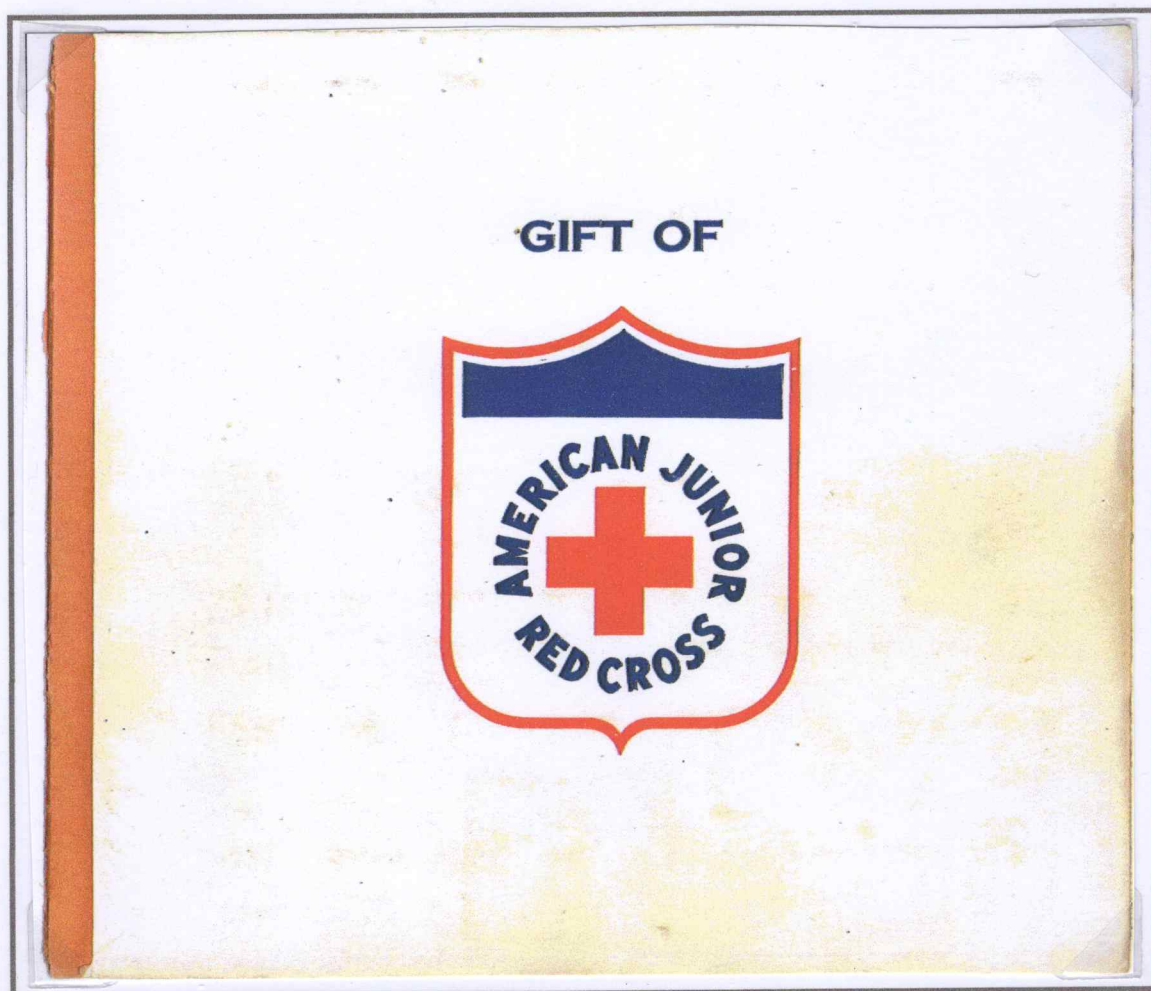
A complete souvenir sheet from the 1st Baltic Philatelist Day in Schongau/Altenstadt in Bavaria (Am Zone) on May 12-June 16, 1946. Total issue 2 200 sheets. The stamps were in regular use until August 4, 1946

There were a couple of items issued in conjunction with the event. Some of the items also have different types of printing errors as missing colours or parts printed upside down.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

One important activity, which was easy to get along with, was philately. However shortage of all sorts of accessories (as albums, hinges, perforation indicators, catalogs) made it tricky. Temporary solutions had to be found. Below the front page of a "stamp album" consisting of a notebook provided by the American Junior Red Cross in 1946 to Camp Wielandshag in Bavaria (close to Bad Reichenall).



This "album" was used by Konstantin Mickfeldt, an Estonian refugee who continued to collect stamps during his stay in Wielandshag 1945-1950, before resettling to Sweden. It was one part of the collection for which he got official export permission, which is shown in this exhibit. It contains a good accumulation Finland and a reasonable good accumulation Latvia.

The DP Camps

Cultural activities of different kinds are very important when you have been forced to leave your normal life and have to stay under provisional circumstances. Song and music festivals have a long tradition in Estonia and was an important way of carrying the cultural inheritance, as well as enforcing the feeling of national identity.

Below a leaflet from the "Estonian Refugee Song Festival in Germany" given in Hochfeld DP Camp (near Augsburg) in August 1947. More than 5000 Estonians attended.



The DP Camp Period (1944-1952)

Another important activity, especially for young boys, was boy scouting. Estonian scout groups were started in a number of the major DP Camps hosting Estonian refugees. In the DP Camp Kempton (Bavaria, Am zone) an Estonian Scouts Office was established in order to coordinate boy scouts activities in the camps.

Below the two DP Camp stamps which were issued Oct 16, 1948, for the benefit of the Boy Scouts Office in Kempton. The total issue was 2075 sheets (with 6 stamps) of each denomination.



The DP Camp Kempton was opened on Jan 24, 1946 and closed down on Sept 30, 1950. It hosted refugees from all the Baltic states and was located in two military barracks establishments. The total capacity was 2200 residents.

Celebrating Important Persons and Events

Konstantin Päts



Konstantin Päts, born in 1874, became the first Prime Minister in the independent Estonia in 1918. In total i served in that position, and in the position as president, until 1940 with a few breaks.

In 1939-1940 he was forced to abandon the independence of Estonia as a result of the German-Soviet non aggression treaty. He passed away in 1956 as a prisoner in the Soviet Union, in Kalinin (Tver).

On this page you see a commemorative cover and a mini sheet celebrating the 90th and 100th anniversary of his birth, both issued in Sweden.



KONSTANTIN PÄTS
1874 90 1964
23. VEEBRUAR



Rud. Voohe

Friskvaderstorg 4.
Göteborg H.

Johan Laidoner

Johan Laidoner, born in 1884 in Viiratsi, started his career as an officer in the Tsar army and served there during WW I. As Estonia declared its independence, in 1918, he was appointed colonel in the Estonian Armed Forces and served as CO of the Estonian infantry division during the war of independence in 1918. In the same year he was appointed CO of the Estonian Armed Forces and in 1919 he got the rank of Major General.

During the political crisis in 1934 he supported Konstantin Päts. In July 1940 he was arrested by the Soviets and he passed away in 1953 in Vladimir.

Below a commemorative cover issued in Sweden to celebrate the 100 years anniversary of his birth



Ilon Wikland (Pääbo)

Ilon Wikland (Pääbo), born in 1930 grew up in Haapsalu together with her grandparents. In September 1944, she fled together with a classmate and her family to Sweden in a small fishingboat. They came to Dalarö and what met them in the new country might be according to the postcard (from the mid 1940s) below.



Ilon Wikland became a famous artist in Sweden. She is most well-known for her pictures in the kids novels written by Astrid Lindgren and Edit Unnerstad. She has also worked together with Mark Levensgood and created paintings on the TallinkSilja vessel m/s Victoria.

Below a booklet from Sweden with a number of her pieces of art. Today all her original works are located in the Ilon Wikland center in Haapsalu.



Celebrating Important Persons and Events

On the previous sheet you could see a postcard describing what really met the 14 year old Ilon Pääbo when she, as a refugee, arrived to Dalarö in September 1944.

On the postcard below, you see her impression of that very day, but created 60 years later, in conjunction with the 60 years anniversary of the arrival of the boat refugees from Estonia. It was celebrated in Dalarö. A special postmark was used and a monument was arisen.



The postcard was issued by Haninge Kommun, the community of which Dalarö is a part, on Sept 25, 2004. The original is a colour lithography by Ilon Wikland which can be seen at the Ilon Wikland center in Haapsalu.

Political Propaganda

Immediately after WW II a number of propaganda activities against the Soviet Union started among Estonians in Exile. Together with refugees from the other Baltic countries they tried to convince the international community to put pressure on the Soviets to let the states free again. Poster stamps, media campaigns etc were tools used. They had to wait until 1990, and the break down of the Soviet Union, to achieve their objective.

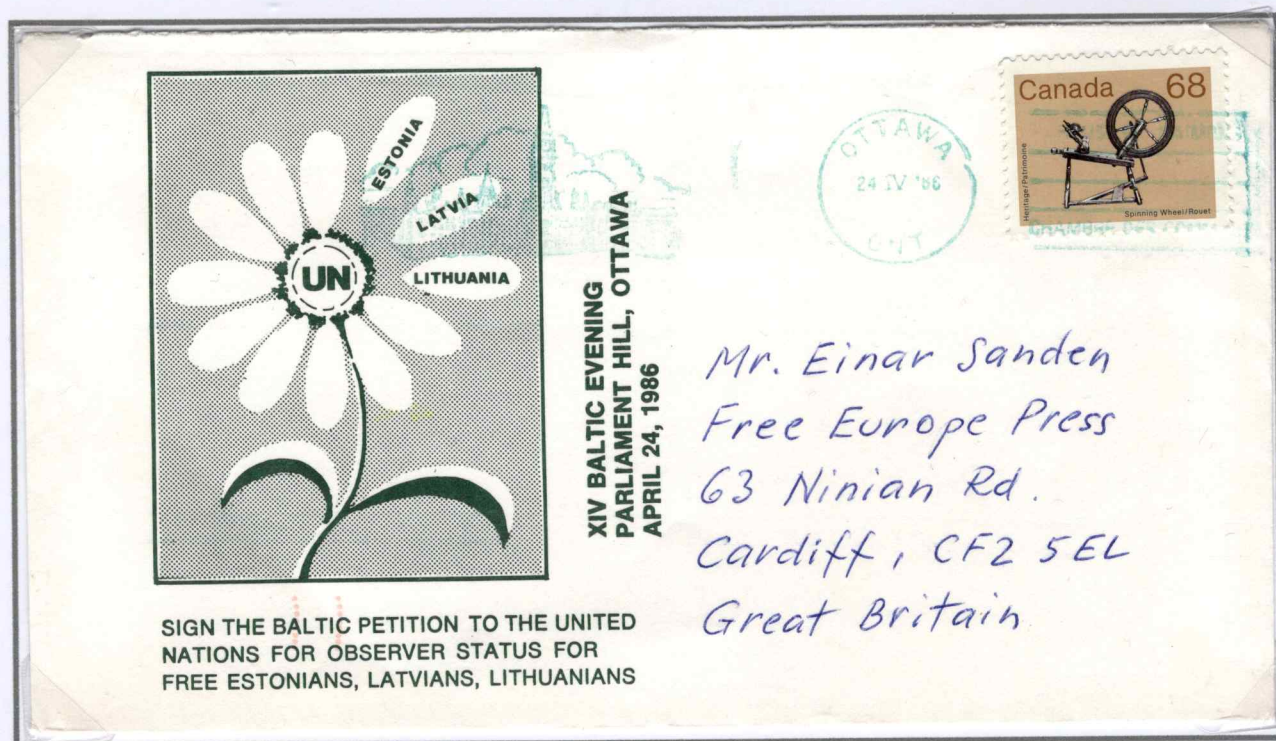
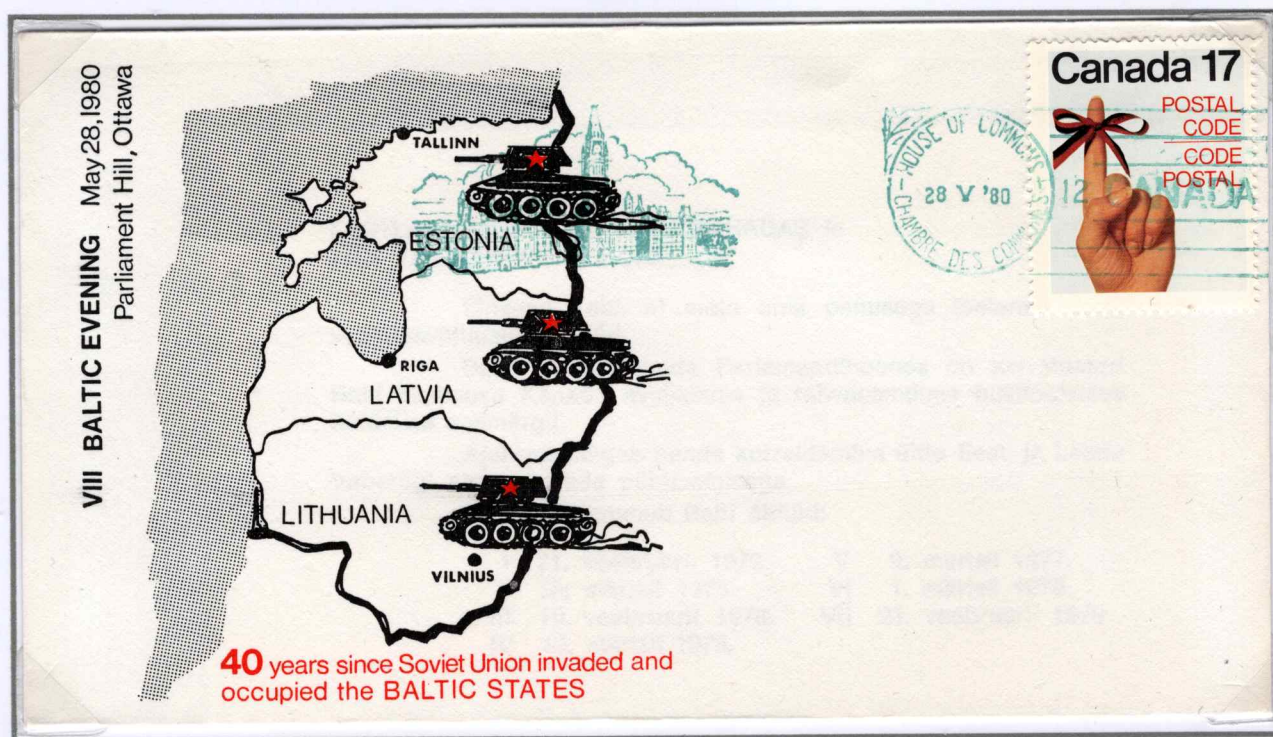


This cover was sent already in 1949 from the well known Estonian philatelist Vetele Org to a Swedish official in the DP Camp in Geislingen in the American Zone. The message on the poster stamp can not be misunderstood.

Political Propaganda

The annual Baltic Evening in Ottawa (Canada) became massive propaganda events against the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States together with all planned cultural activities. This was also visible on the commemorative covers which were issued in conjunction with the event.

Below covers from 1980 and 1986.



Political Propaganda

Also certain individuals were subject to activities in political propaganda campaigns. Below a complete sheet (folded) of poster stamps in favour of Mart Niklus (one of the authors of Baltic Appeal together with Andrej Sacharov, in 1989, and subsequently sent to jail) and Juri Kukkk (arrested in 1980 for anti communist propaganda, died in a Soviet slave camp in 1981).



Political Propaganda

Poster stamps (Cinderellas) are often efficient ways of distributing political propaganda. Sometimes cinderellas also can be used for franking purposes (See below, some of the items with denominations). Below you will find a sample of such items.



Anti communist provisional stamps used by underground organisations for contacts with Soviet officials (1950s). Existed in all all Baltic states and in Ukraine.



Anti communist cinderellas (1960s) showing a Soviet soldier looking carefully at you. "Be careful with what you are doing, saying and writing"



Three cinderellas from the 1980s with a very clear message - "Get out!"

Political Propaganda

A nasty propaganda poster issued by the Estonians in Toronto to the conference about safety and security in Europe in Belgrade in 1977. The freedom and independence of the Baltic States should be one important point of the agenda. However this failed as the Soviet Union, under the Brezhnev government, was totally unwilling to discuss any change of the political situation in Eastern Europe.

ESTONIANS AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE STARTING IN JUNE, 1977. IT WILL SHOW WHETHER THE EFFORTS OF THE FREE WORLD, INCLUDING CANADA AND THE USA, WILL ACHIEVE FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, OR WHETHER ONLY THOSE GOVERNMENTS AIDED BY THE ARMED MIGHT OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL GAIN ADVANTAGE.

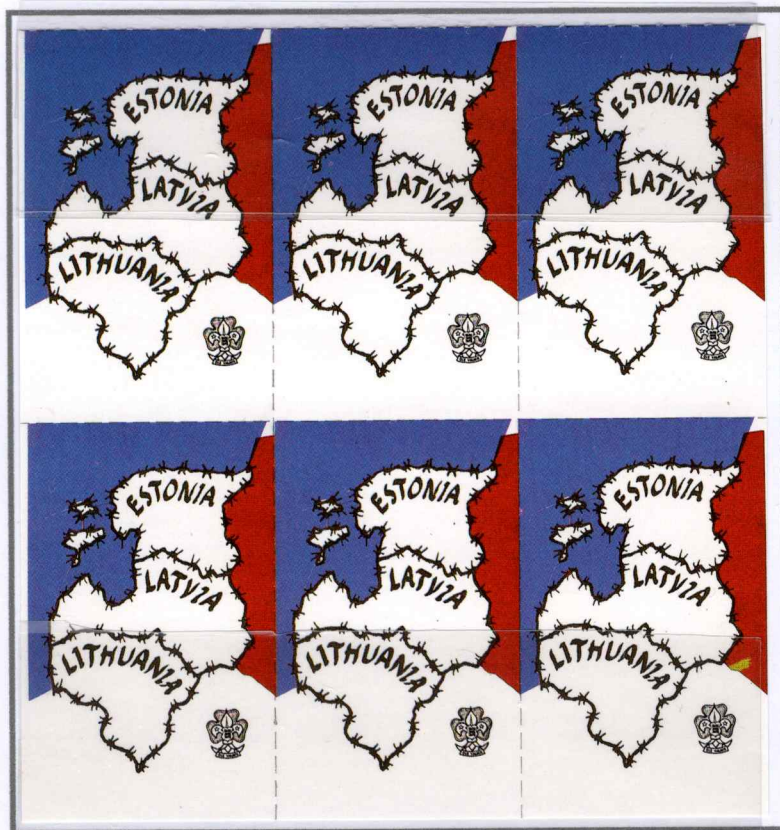


'YOU STILL DON'T APPRECIATE HOW WELL YOU ARE IN MY WARM EMBRACE'

Political Propaganda

Although scouting, per definition, is a non political and non confessional movement it was impossible to avoid political propaganda within the organization.

The message on the sheet of poster stamps below (probably from the 1960s) can not be misunderstood. The origin of the item is unknown. The boy scout and girl guide movement started in 1912 in Estonia and was forbidden between 1940 and 1991.



Philatelic Activities and Organizations

Preview

In 1931, a national organization for philatelists was established in Estonia. Already more than 10 years earlier the stamp club in Tallinn started its activities. Philately soon became a popular hobby.

After WWII stamp clubs were started in a number of the DP camps. In the mid 1950s you could find big and active philatelic clubs Sweden, the US, Canada, Australia, Germany and Finland. Additionally there were small clubs in Denmark, France, Norway and the Netherlands.



Letter sent from the 5th Philatelic Day in Tallinn on March 6th, 1938. Please note the specific philatelic cancellation

Until 1948 there was no stamp catalog covering the Baltic States (written in relevant languages) available on the market. Thus an extensive project started in the DP Camp Hochfeld, and resulted in the catalog below. This is probably the first, and only, catalog printed in five languages. Issue: 4 500 copies. One of the involved experts was Villem Eichental (Estonia).

1948
—
1949



BALTI POSTMARKIDE KATALOOG
—
BALTIJAS PASTMARKU KATALOGS
—
BALTIJOS PAŠTO ŽENKĻU KATALOGAS
—
BALTIC POSTAGE STAMPS CATALOGUE
—
BALTISCHER BRIEFMARKENKATALOG

Sweden (EFÜR)

In 1954 the Estonian Philatelic Club in Sweden (EFÜR) was established. Very soon it became an active club, due to the large number of Estonian philatelists in Sweden. EFÜR has participated in a lot of philatelic events both in Sweden and abroad over the years, which is shown on this and next 2 pages. In 2014 the club closed down due to shortage of members.



Covers from the celebration of the 20 years and 25 years anniversary of EFÜR. In both cases there were exhibitions in the Postal Museum in Stockholm.

Philatelic Activities and Organizations

In conjunction with the 20 years anniversary of EFÜR (and the 100 years anniversary of the birth of Konstantin Päts), a special exhibition was given in Lund. Below a cover with the special meter franking.

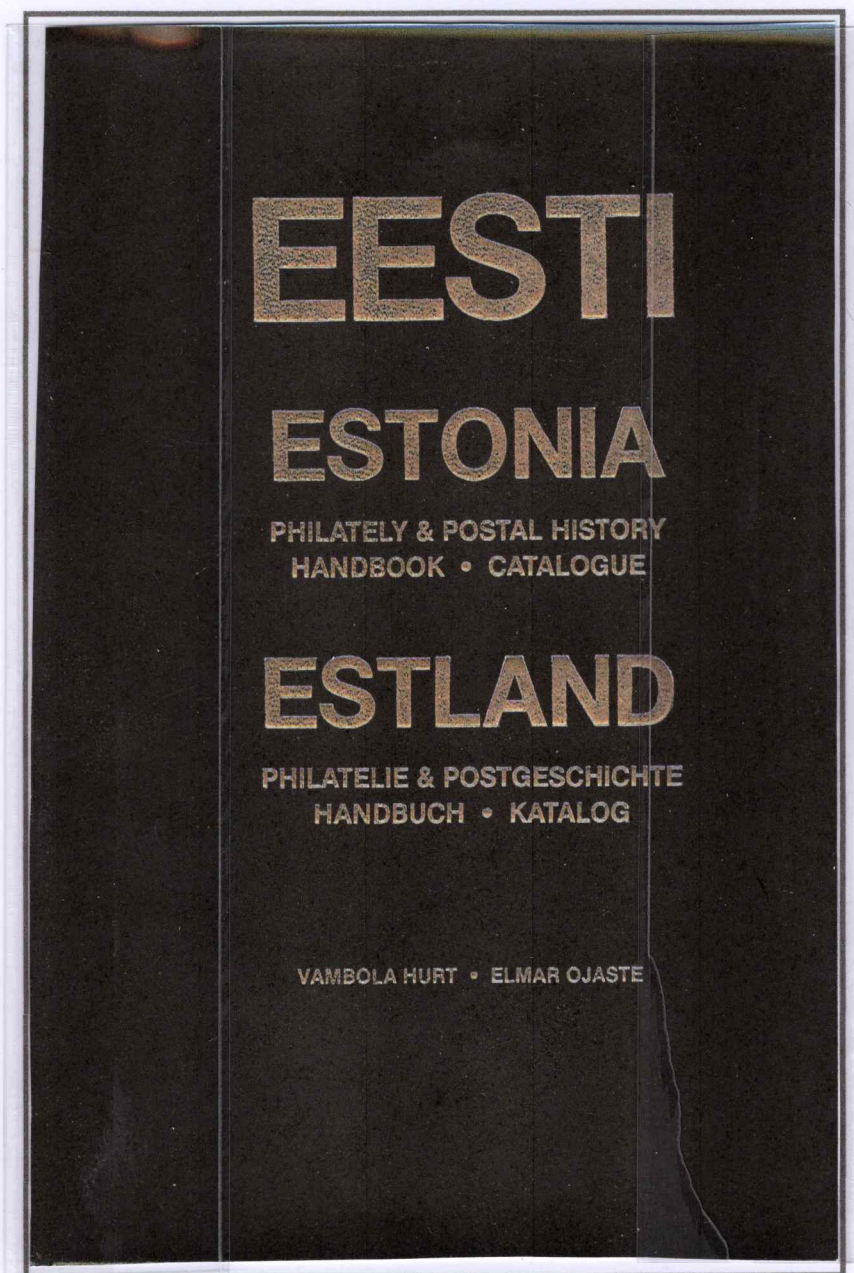
In 1983 a special exhibition "Estonian Air Mail" was given in Gothenburg. Below a postcard with the special exhibition cachet.



Philatelic Activities and Organizations

One of the most important contributions to Estonian philately during the period 1944-1991 was the issue of "Estonia, Philately and Postal History, Handbook—Catalogue" by Vambola Hurt (1926-2008) and Elmar Ojaste (1920-). Also Valdo Nemvalz made significant contributions to the publication, since then regarded as "the standard work about Estonian Philately". The authors were three of the most prominent members of EFÜR.

Below a copy of the front page of No 37 of a total numbered issue of 300 copies. The book is in my posession. Later an unnumbered issue also was published.



Philatelic Activities and Organizations

Another important contribution to Estonian philately, from 1955, was the issue of "Eesti Filatelist" a periodical with one number every second year. The purpose was to present new knowledge and new aspects on Estonian philately. The "Eesti Filatelist" was, mainly, funded from Sweden. The editorial work was also, mainly, carried out in Sweden by members of EFÜR, however with a lot of support from Estonian philatelists both abroad and in Estonia. From the beginning it was a simple printed production in size A4. Rather soon it became a nice book.

Until today No 43 has been released. The future is uncertain. Below the front pages of No 31 (1987) and 43 (2013). Both are in my possession



Sweden (Estonica)

The collectors club Estonica was established in Stockholm in 1973 and was open to members independently of age and nationality. The aim was to support all sorts of collecting, thus not only philately, but also cinderellas, books, numismatics, historical documents, however all related to Estonia.

Important undertakings were the issue of the periodical "Kollektionäär", providing specific commemorative cachets related to Estonian events outside Estonia, issue of souvenir sheets/covers in cooperation with Estonian organisations and much more.

Below "Kollektionäär" number 1/87 (400 copies). It is unknown when the club closed down.



Philatelic Activities and Organizations

Already 6 years prior to the start of EFÜR, the Latvian Philatelic Club in Stockholm organized a philatelic exhibition in Stockholm with participation by exile philatelists from all the Baltic States. The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Swedish Postal Museum and held in their venue. According to the exhibition file run by the Swedish Philatelic Federation this was classified as a propaganda exhibition.

Below a souvenir sheet and, at the same time, the entrance ticket to the exhibition.



The United States

Estonian societies grew up in a couple of places, among them in the state of New York and the state of New Jersey. Philatelic jubilee exhibitions were given celebrating the 20 years and 30 years anniversaries of the New York Estonian Philatelic Society (below)



Canada

Estonian philatelists in Canada participated, together with fellows from Latvia and Lithuania, in philatelic events. Below one cover from the 3rd Baltic Philatelic Exhibiton in Toronto 1968 celebrating the 50 years anniversary of the first stamps in the Baltic States and a cover from Capex 1978 (FIP exhibition)



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

Review

The first boy scout group started in 1912 in Pärnu and the first girl guide group started in Estonia in 1920. These important dates were celebrated in 1962 and 1970 (50 years anniversaries) with jubilee camps in Sweden (Metsakodu, near Mullsjö) and in Germany (Bundenbach).

Below and on the next page souvenir sheets, covers and poster stamps from these jubilee camps are shown.



Souvenir sheet issued to the jubilee camp in Sweden. The Swedish name for the camp venue is Sandhem and is located just 50 km from Jönköping.

Sweden

The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements became forbidden in conjunction with the Soviet invasion in 1940. However there was a big interest in reorganizing Estonian scouting after arrival in the Free World.

Thus, the first scout group in Sweden - Kalev - was organised in Stockholm in 1944 as one of the first Estonian scoutgroups outside Estonia. Soon afterwards, in 1945, the scout group Karhu was started, also in Stockholm. By the end of 1945, about 20 scout groups were active in Sweden.

Below and on the next page you will find commemorative postal items from some jubilees of Estonian scouting in Sweden



Souvenir cover from the boy scout group Kalev (Stockholm) when they celebrated their 25 years anniversary with a jubilee event.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

One of the three camp sites in Sweden is Koitjärve, just about 50 km south of Gothenburg. This site is still active for different Estonian events.

Below the cover from the Pohjala scout camp in 1964 and the official souvenir cover for Koitjärve, used in conjunction with a camp in 1966.

The other two camp sites are Metsakodu (approx 50 km from Jönköping) and Veskijärvi (approx 65 km from Stockholm)

SWEDEN : July 1964

Camp of Estonian Scouts
in Sweden at FJARAS,
called POHJALA-LAGRET.

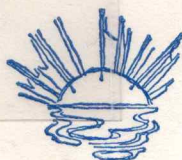
(Pohjala is an Estonian
word for "North").

Cancel shows the Pole star
and the scout and guide
emblem.

Attended by over 500
scouts, many from
U. S. & Canada.



Howard L. Fears
11 Salisbury Road
Seaford
Sussex
England



KOITJÄRVE

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR COVER

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

Below poster stamps from two Estonian boy scout events.

Top: The Estonian III National Scout Camp July 18-27 1956 close to Ängelholm (in Skåne).

Bottom: In 1965 Estonian scouting in Sweden celebrated its 20 years anniversary. A full pane of poster stamps. A jubilee camp was held at Koitjärve in June 1965 with a special cover and a cachet.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

Top: The official souvenir cover from Metsakodu 1962 with the special cancellation.

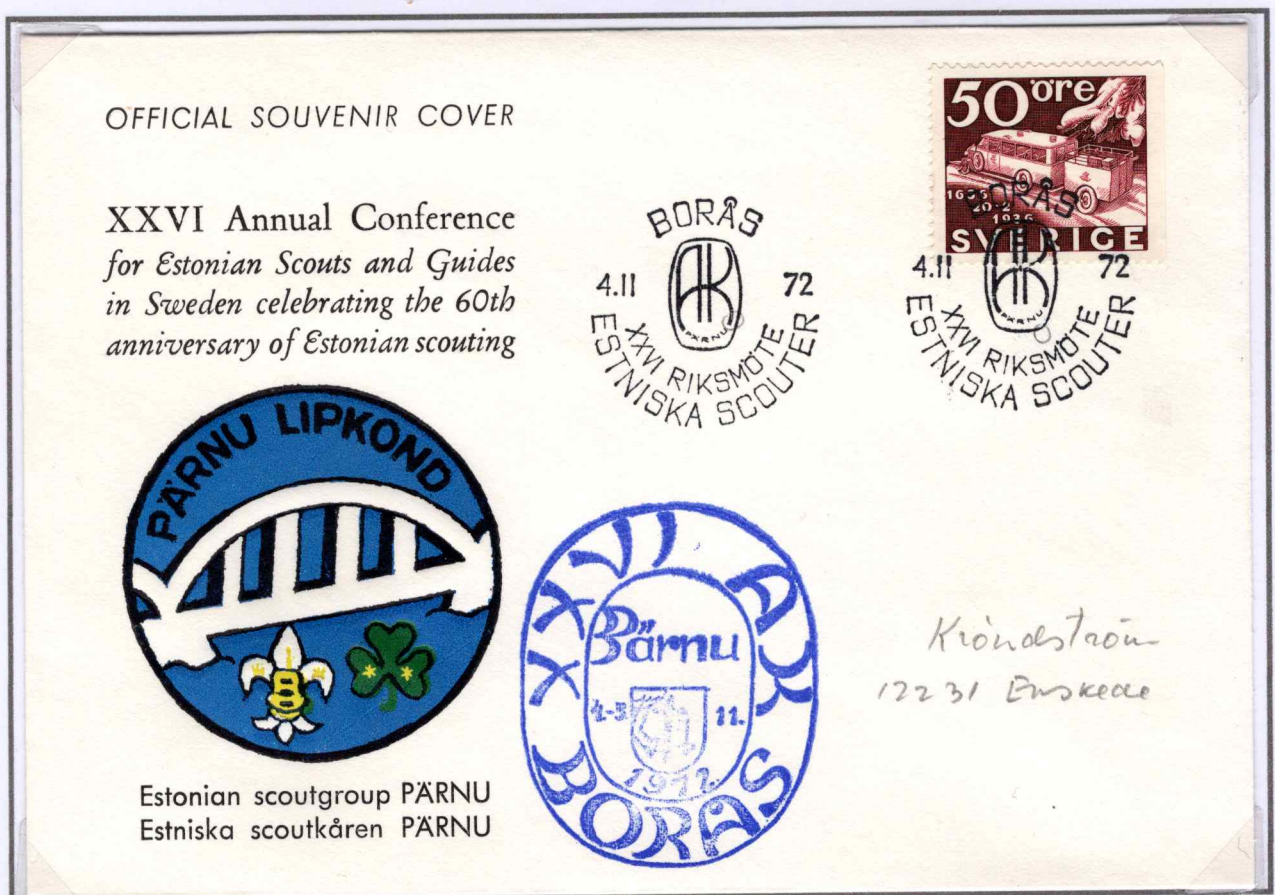
Bottom: The souvenir sheet from the Girl Guide World Jubilee Camp in Germany 1970



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

When celebrating the 60th anniversary of Estonian scouting the scout group "Pärnu" in Borås was responsible for the 26th annual conference for Estonian scouts and guides in Sweden. Below a souvenir cover from the conference. 10 years later the scout group "Pärnu" was responsible for the 36th annual conference, again in Borås

At that time (1972) there were Estonian scout groups working in Sweden, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States. All types of scouting (model Lord Baden-Powell) was forbidden in the entire Eastern Europe



Scouting in the US and Canada

In 1951, the Boy Scout and Wolf Pack group Viiking, was founded in New York by former Estonian scouts and scouters, as a result of more than 40000 Estonians arriving in the US during the late 1940s and early 1950s. They celebrated their 25 years and 35 years anniversaries and issued poster stamps. Below full panes from the 35 years anniversary.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

An Estonian boy scout club was founded in Lakewood, New Jersey (US), in 1947. A major scout camp was organized there 20 years later to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of the club. It became a camp for World Estonian Scouting. Today you will find a decent camp resort on the site for the scout event in 1967.

Below the souvenir sheet and souvenir cover from the camp. On the cover you will also find the official poster stamp for the 12th world jamboree, held in Faragut, Idaho, just one month after the Estonian camp. Boy scouts and girl guides from 105 countries participated in the jamboree.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

In 1978 and 1992 major Boy Scouts and Girl Guides camps were organized, again in Lakewood, NY. In 1992 the purpose was to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Estonian Scouting. Below a poster stamp pane from 1978 and the official souvenir sheet from 1992.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

A Canadian boy scouts and girl guides camp site in Canada, used multiple times is KOTKA-JÄRVE, Muskoka, Canada. Camps were organized there, among others, in 1962 and 1973 as global camps.

Below the camp logos from these two camps, among others, on the upper leaflets and a full pane of poster stamps with the 1973 camp in the bottom.

Eesti skautlike noorte maailmalaagrid on ühendavaks sillaks
üle maailma laiali paisatud eesti noortele.
Estniska scouternas världsläger — träffpunkter för all världens estnisk ungdom i exil.



KOGUJA 1967
Lakewood, USA

KOTKAJÄRVE 1973
Kotkajärve, Muskoka, Canada

ÜHENDAJA 1970
Bundenbach, DEUTSCHLAND
ESNMR emblem
Estniska Scouter och
Flickscouter i Sverige

E 1962
Muskoka, Canada
1964
Järås, Sverige

KOTKAJÄRVE 1962
Kotkajärve, Muskoka, Canada
ESNMR emblem
Estniska Scouter och
Flickscouter i Sverige



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides

One of the most prominent Estonian boy scout leaders was Nikolai Ann, born in 1873. To celebrate the 100 years anniversary of his birth the poster stamps below (a full pane), were issued in the American Boy Scouts central point, Lakewood. Two versions of the poster stamps have been found, one printed on yellow paper and one printed on white paper.

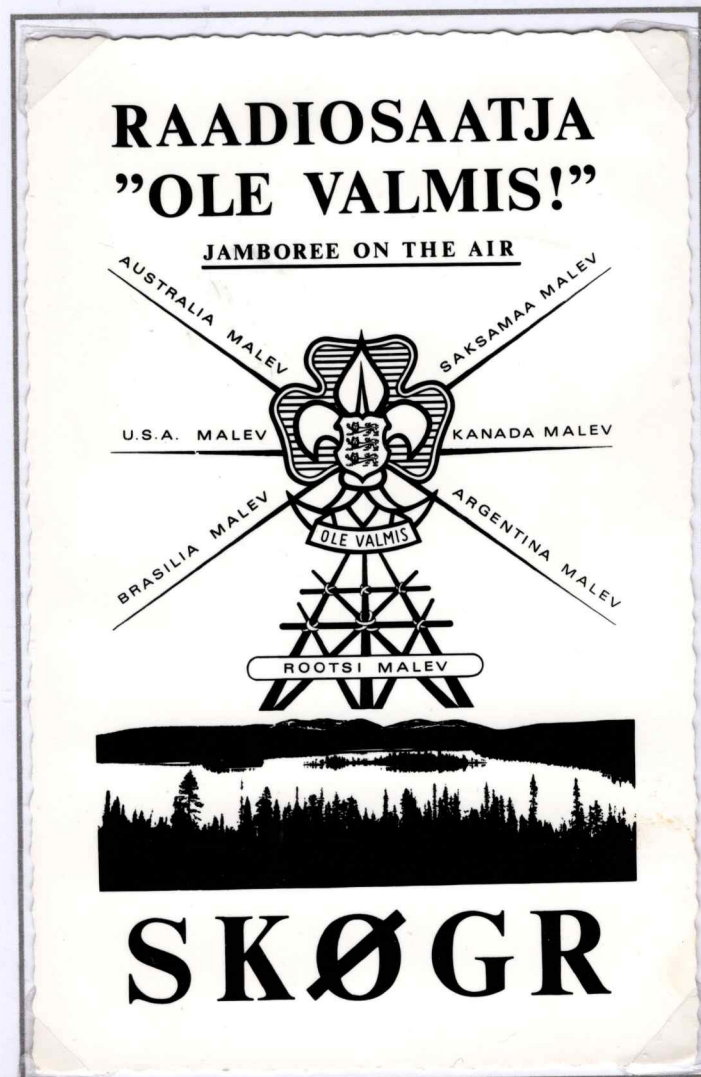


Jamboree on the Air

Jamboree on the air is a concept for gathering scouts, who at the same time are radio amateurs, to an international meeting. This was very popular during the 1970s and 1980s.

In February 1974, a specific Estonian "Jamboree on the air" was held under Swedish responsibility. Scouts from Sweden, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States participated.

Below the official postcard with the Swedish Call Sign for the radio



Estonian World Festivals

Toronto 1972

The biggest Estonian city, outside Estonia, after WW II was Toronto (Canada) with about 17 000 Estonian settlers in the middle of the 1950s. Many of the refugees wanted as far away from the Soviet Union as possible and as Canada had a very generous immigration politics a lot of Estonians decided to get there.

When, in the beginning of the 1970s, it became interesting to highlight the Estonian heritage Toronto was a natural center for a World Festival, which was held in July 1972. This was a late follower to the Estonian song festivals of which the first was given in Tartu in 1869 with close to 900 participants. One of the objectives with this song festival was to emphasize the awakening Estonian identity.

The same was the objective with the world festivals, to highlight Estonian identity. The 1972 festival gathered 10 000s of participants sharing singing, dancing, political discussions, seminars, theater performances, parties etc.



A commemorative cover issued by the Estonian Philatelic Club in Toronto in conjunction with the World Festival. The festival was a part of an Estonian Week.

Baltimore 1976 and New York 1992

In total close to 27 000 Estonians lived in the United States in the beginning of the 1950s. Additional to this the, by the United States, only recognized Estonian government resided in the US from the 1940s until 1991.

Subsequently the second Estonian World Festival was held in Baltimore (Maryland, US) in July 1976. Also this time more than 10 000 Estonians participated in the festival with a program very similar the that 4 years earlier. In 1992, the sixth Estonian World Festival was held in New York, also in July.

Below one commemorial cover from each of the festivals

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR COVER



II Ülemmailmsed
Eesti Päevad

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR COVER



SIXTH ESTONIAN
WORLD FESTIVAL
JULY 4-11 — 1992

Stockholm 1980

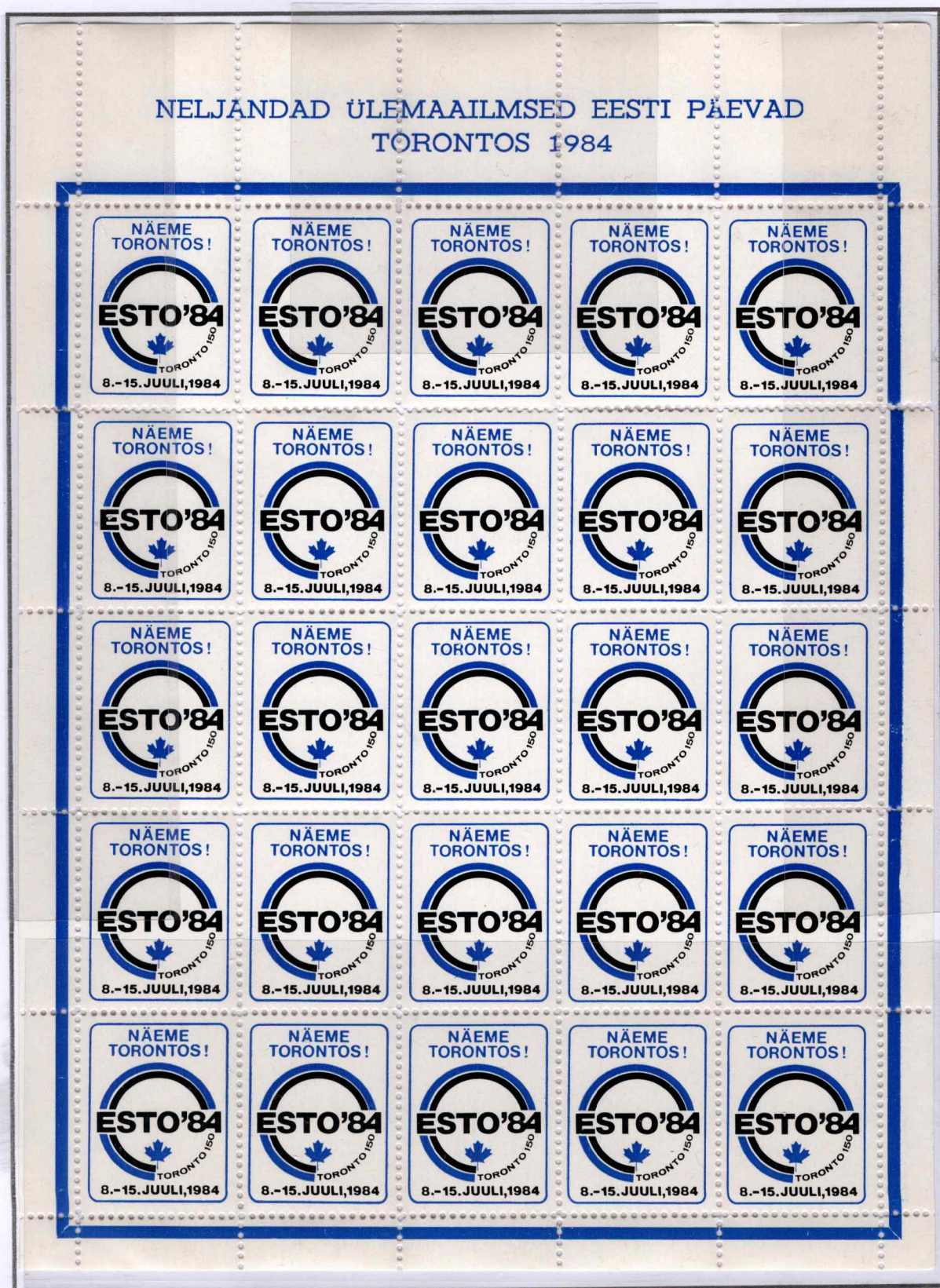
In 1980 the World Festival was held in Stockholm, Sweden. With more than 25 000 Estonians in Sweden in the 1960s and 1970s Stockholm was a suitable place for a World Festival. A philatelic exhibition (EstoeX) was one of the components in the festival.

Below a complete sheet with poster stamps and the official souvenir cover from the festival. Both the poster stamps and the covers were produced under governance by the collectors club "Estonica", mentioned earlier in this exhibit.



Toronto 1984

In 1984 it was up to Toronto again, with the fourth Estonian World Festival. Below a complete sheet of poster stamps from the festival.

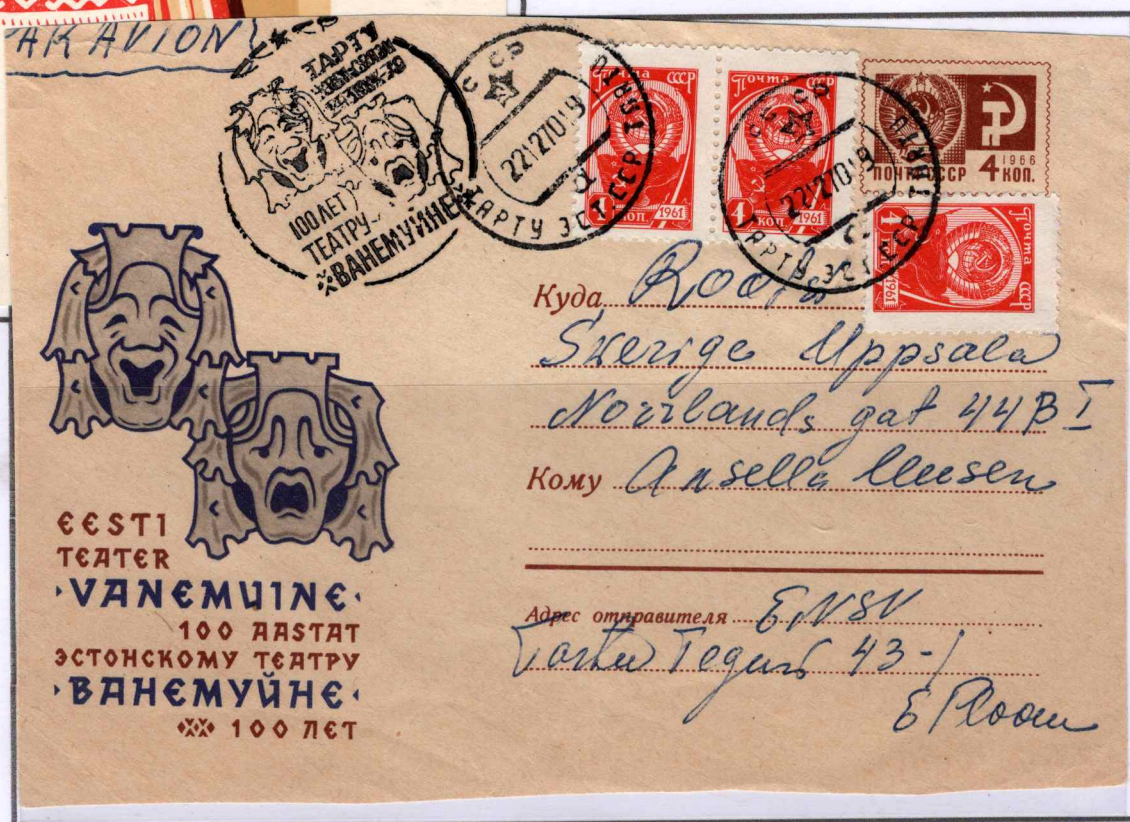


Cultural Events

Review

Music, choir singing, theater performances and other cultural activities, in Estonian, has a history back to the national awakening during the 1850s and 1860s, with emphasis, in the Tartu University and its students. It was all the same in all European countries with different types of ethnical groups or minorities.

To the left, and below, one cover and one front page of a cover celebrating the centenary of Estonian song festivals and the Estonian theater in Tartu (from 1969 and 1970).



Cultural Events

Sweden

In 1965 a special literature and exlibris exhibition was organized in Stockholm, in the Estonian House at Wallingatan, close to Norra Bantorget. The Estonian Culture Council was responsible for the exhibition. This can be regarded as a forerunner to the big culture festival in 1968 and the song festival in 1969.

Below a cover from the literature and exlibris exhibition and a cover with the exlibris belonging to Mr Elmar Ojaste, one of the most wellknown and renowned Estonian philatelists.

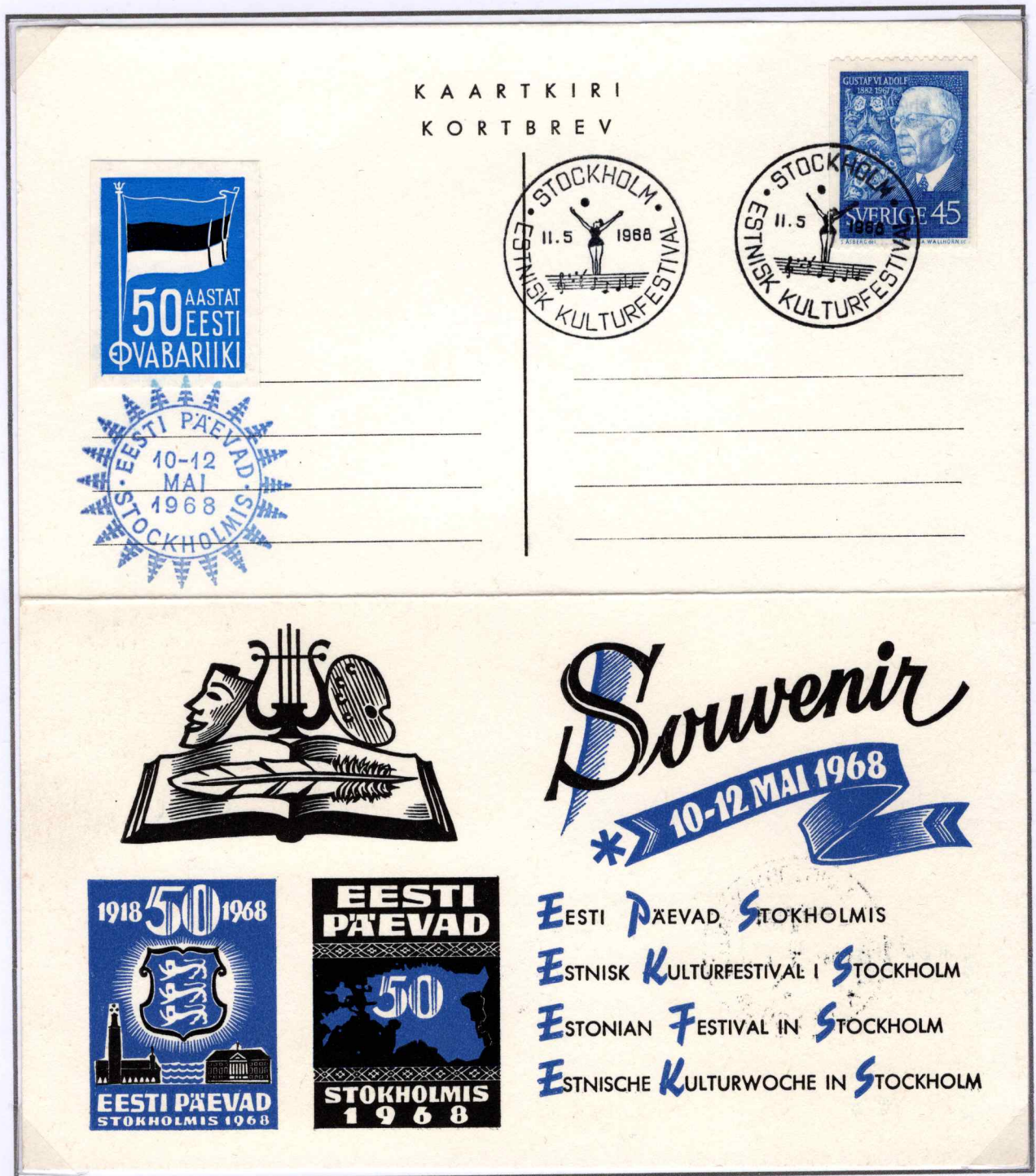


Cultural Events

Three years later, on the 50 year anniversary of establishment of the Republic of Estonia, it was time for a big culture festival in Stockholm, which covered all aspects on Estonian culture, language and identity.

To this festival Estonians from all over the world showed up and participated. Further festivals were held in Sweden, for example in Gothenburg (1983) and in Lund (1986).

Below the official souvenir card from the festival in 1968



Cultural Events

The first, known, printed Estonian book is a bilingual German-Estonian translation of the Lutheran catechism by S. Wandradt and J. Koen (1535). An Estonian grammar for clerical purposes was printed in Germany in 1637.

Below a postcard from the Estonian book year (1975-76) celebrating the history of Estonian books. The card was issued by the Estonian Culture Council, founded in Stockholm in 1962.

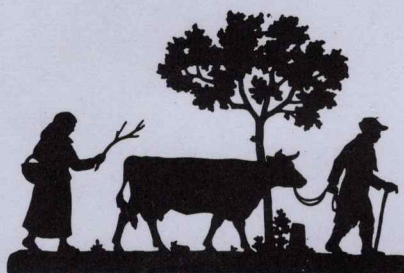


ESTNISKA KULTURSAMFUNDET, WALLINGATAN 32-I, 111 24 STOCKHOLM

P
BREV



TAXE PERCUE
SVERIGE



The President of The Society of Estonian Literati, Dr Jakob Hurt, considered "The King of Estonian Folklore" began collecting Estonian Folklore in the 1870s. In total more than 12400 pages of tales were collected. The first two volumes were published 1874-76, continued by further publishing 1884 and ending up 1941.

Above a postal Swedish stationery with a commemorative cancellation celebrating 100 years of Estonian Folklore.

Canada, Australia and the US

Specific Baltic Evenings were organized annually from 1973 as a specific joint cultural event for Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians in Canada. The purpose was to give glimpses of contemporary cultural trends from the Balts in exile and from the Baltic states, to inform the World about the situation for human rights in the states, to inform about the ongoing struggle for national independence and to put pressure on the politicians. These evenings always had high level honoured guests from Canada as foreign ministers, defence ministers and agricultural ministers.

Below souvenir covers from 1978, 1979 and 1987



Cultural Events

Estonian Festivals (Eesti Päevad) is the corresponding event in Australia to the Baltic Evenings in Canada. The program highlights the typical Estonian—with choir singing, theater performances, folk dancing, concerts, children's parties, literature events etc.
The 26th Estonian Festival was held in Adelaide in 1966.

Below poster stamps from the 6th, 11th and 13th Estonian Festival.



Crossing Borders

From the end of WW II until 1968 all mail to and from countries outside Estonia got a special cachet "МЕЖОЧНАРОДНОЕ" which stands for "International". This was just for the postal handling but, for sure, it facilitated customs and censor checks.

Below a postcard from Canada 1962 (additional cachet "Canada Port Payé" to show that it was enough franked for international mail) to Elva and a registered air mail cover from Tallinn to Toronto 1964. Toronto was the biggest Estonian city in Canada for a long time. To register a letter from Estonia was, at that time, probably the only safe way to get it distributed properly.



Both letters were subject to censor's interest, according to the addressee. Their son is a member of our stamp club.



Crossing Borders

The letter below was sent from Tallinn to Uppsala in 1968, after the abolishment of the use of the special cachet "International".

This letter is interesting from another point of view. Harald Roots was an artillery officer in the Estonian Army. He was sent to a training course in the vicinity of Gorkij in June 1941 (just one week before the German attack on the Soviet Union). He was arrested on June 28 and sent to a slave camp close to Norilsk (a central point in GULAG) sentenced to 8 years. Released in 1949 but he had to stay in Norilsk for at least three more years. He was allowed to return to Estonia in 1962. He was not allowed to send letters to his siblings prior to returning to Estonia. He passed away in 1986. He is one of the, probably, few Estonians who survived a long period in GULAG.

Harald's younger brother Leo fled to Sweden in September 1944 and his sister Aino fled to Canada at the same time.



Crossing Borders

Contacts between Estonians inside Estonia and outside Estonia could be very tricky sometimes. Not only the Soviet censors could interfere but also the Soviet customs authorities.

Below a letter sent from Kalev Kokk's father in Tallinn (1968) to Elmar Ojaste in Sweden. Due to the label to the right the cover was handed over to the customs authorities. According to the cachet on the reverse side of the cover the letter was returned to the sender due to "inappropriate contents", decided by the customs authorities in Tallinn.



Crossing Borders

Letter sent from Toronto (Canada) to Viljandi in 1968 after the abolishment of use of the cachet "International". However stopped by the Soviet customs authorities and returned to Canada due to forbidden contents. What the cover contained is unknown. Many letters of this category just disappeared en route.



Crossing Borders

Letter sent from a detainee in a slave camp in Norilsk 1954 to Estonia. As this is a domestic mail (within the Soviet Union despite the fact that we talk about two separate republics within the federation) no special arrangements had to be done.

Arrival cachet on the reverse side of the cover.



Crossing Borders

In the labour camps there was shortage of all sorts of supplies, at least for the detainees. If you wanted to send a letter to your relatives in Estonia it was necessary to find temporary solutions.

Below a letter sent from 'Serov community in Sverdlovsk oblast to Elfride Inn in Tallinn. Obviously the letter has not been interesting for the censors. The letter (inside) was written in Estonian.

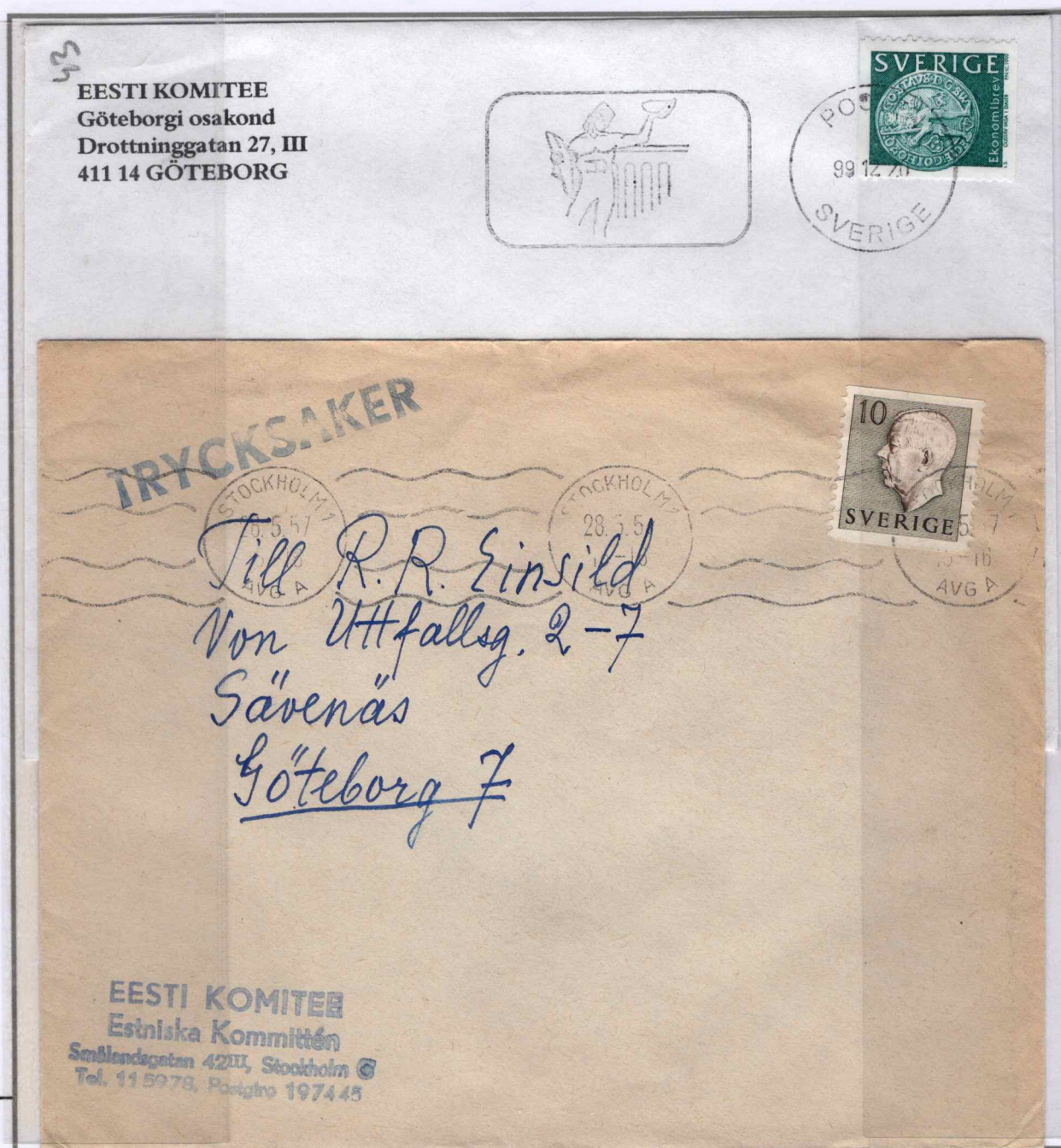


Estonian Organizations and Business Activities

Estonian Committee in Sweden

In 1948 Ernst Seim proposed the establishment of an Estonian House, a home for Estonians in exile in Sweden. Six years later, on May 30th 1954, the Estonian Committee adopted the objective to establish an Estonian Center in Sweden. Shortly afterwards the Eesti Maja Inc was registred. In 1958 a buliding on Regeringsgatan in Stockholm was acquired and Eesti Maja became located there as well as the Eesti Päevaleht. A new location, Wallingatan 32-34 was purchased in 1970 for a new Eesti Maja. This venue is still the center for Estonians in Sweden.

The Estonian Committee also had a department in Gothenburg. Below two covers from the Estonian Committee, one from Stockholm and one from Gothenburg.



Estonian National Trust (Eesti Rahvusfond)

Estonian National Trust was founded in 1946 with the objective to create funding for a lot of different Estonian activities in Sweden (cultural, political, charity, educational etc). It soon became an "organizational parachute" for groups and representatives in more than 100 cities in Sweden.

Important activities funded by the Estonian National Trust were concerts and other types of performances, training classes and Estonian schools, summer camps for young people. The trust also edited a "Newsletter" and the periodical "East and West".

The trust utilized a number of ways to create financial resources. Below a poster stamp, an entrance ticket from the 60 years anniversary celebration in Stockholm concert Hall and a ticket from a big lottery in 1961 (the prizes consisted of voyages tickets and pieces of art by Estonian artists).

STOCKHOLMS KONSERTHUS STORA SALEN			STOCKHOLMS KONSERTHUS STORA SALEN		
EESTI RAHVUSFOND, E. V. 60. AASTAPÄEV Estniska Nationalfonden					
Lördagen den 18 febr. 1978 kl. 13.00					
Parkett	Dörr	IX	Parkett	Dörr	IX
HÖGER	Bänk	7	HÖGER	Bänk	7
Garderob B	Plats	217	Garderob B	Plats	217
Kr 30: - inkl. 1:50 gard.avg.			Kr 30: - inkl. 1:50 gard.avg. Davidsons Växjö		

Köpt biljett återlöses ej

Kontramärke



EESTI VÄLISVÕITLUSE TOETUSTÄHT
EESTI RAHVUSFONDI 15.A. TEGEVUSE
TÄHISTAMISEKS

Nr 5751

RKR. 5: -

1 DOLLAR

15A

Käesoleva toetustähe omanik võtab osa preemiade loosimisest, mis toimub 1. novembril 1961. Preemiad antakse välja hiljemalt 30. aprillini 1962 ERFi büroost, Drottninggatan 85 I, Stockholm. Väljavalitud preemiad langevad ERFi kasuks. Toetustähtede numbrid, millele on langenud preemiad, avaldatakse eestikeelsetes ajalehtedes kohe pärast preemiade loosimist.

Esimees: *Heino Lard*

Laeur: *Martin Pullman*

Publishing Houses

From the very beginning it was important to publish newspapers, periodicals and books arguing for the Estonian identity and freedom for Estonia. Many publishing houses emerged from this ambition. Below and on the next page you will find a sample of such organizations active from mid 1940s and later.

Välis-Eesti started in 1944 and was active, at least, until 1995.

