

Weight of parcel in oval inscribed DE SJAELLANDSKE JERNBANER; above a crown; below value.

8 *skill.* 5 *lb.*, blue, 12 *skill.* 10 *lb.*, brown. Value (2 sk) in oval inscribed above HOLTE, below LANDPOST, post horns in each angle. Col. imp. rect. 2 *skill.*, light and dark brown.

Figure 2 in a circle contained in a seven rayed star; the point of each ray touches an outer circle; above HOLTE, below LANDPOST, Col. imp. rect. 2 *skill.*, green.

EGYPT.—In the year 1868 all the magazines had long articles describing some curious looking circular labels bearing the names of Egyptian towns, these have ever since been known as the Egyptian Official stamps. We have had a number of enquiries lately whether they are locals, and to settle this point we have mentioned them in this article. These labels are not locals, and can scarcely even be called postage stamps, they being merely used as seals on packets of letters by the various post offices; the handstamp, with which they are obliterated, is not a cancelling stamp, but is used only to show the date at which the packet was despatched by the post office. In the United States a large stamp is used in the same manner for registered letters, in Canada each of the post offices has its official seal, for sealing up packets, the mail bags, etc., and we presume the post offices in other countries have pretty much the same thing. As these Egyptian stamps have nothing whatever to do with franking letters, they have no more right to be collected than the Bavarian Instruction stamps, or the Austrian Complementary stamps.

The only Egyptian locals are the Suez Canal stamps, these were issued in 1868, for the use of the workmen employed in making the canal, and continued in use only two or three months, so that used specimens are extremely rare; unused ones however are common enough, in fact so common lately, that those now sold would suggest a reprint.

Steamer sailing to right in transverse oval frame, inscribed CANAL MARITIME DE SUEZ; below POSTES; value in circle at each angle. Col. imp. obl.

1 centime, black, 5c., green, 20c., blue, 40c., red.

FINLAND.—In the towns of Helsingfors and Tammerfors there exists a private city post; this post has issued, with the sanction of the Government, three stamps for Helsingfors, value 10 pennia, and one for Tammerfors, value 12 pennia. There is also a fourth type for Helsingfors, which we consider fictitious, as the company has denied having issued it; from the fact that it is but seldom met with, it has the appearance of being an essay, but then obliterated specimens have been seen. As the Tammerfors stamp is never to be seen cancelled, it is doubtful whether it ever was really used for postage, certainly it could not have continued in circulation very long. The stamps for both towns were issued about the same time in 1866, the colors of the Helsingfors were changed in 1868, and in 1871 the design was altered, but the old colors were re-adopted.

Broad diagonal bar, inscribed STADSPOST with figures of value on each side, in oval frame inscribed above KAUPUNGIN POSTI, below HELSINGFORS, value at sides. Col. imp. oval.

10 pennia, red and green, 10 pen., blue and brown.

Large sized numeral 10 in oval inscribed above 10 PENNI, below 10 PENNIA; groundwork of dots; outer frame inscribed at top STADSPOST, at bottom KAUPUNGIN POSTI, at left HELSINGFORS, at right HELSINGISSA; X in each angle. Col. imp. rect.

10 pen., green and red.

Note.—This stamp is so printed as to have the red upper half inscribed in Swedish, and the green portion in Finnish.

Shield of the town crossed diagonally by a bar bearing the value; above TAMMERFORS; below LOKAL POST. Col. imp. ovl. 12 *penni* blue and green.

Fiji Islands.—A set of stamps was issued in 1871 by the proprietors of the *Fiji Times* on their own responsibility, these therefore can be considered locals, although they were used on letters to Australia from the islands. For what precise purpose these stamps were issued we have been unable to find out, but would suppose