

# Estonia Stamp Centenary Commemorative 1940

## Introduction

This single frame traditional exhibit of the Estonia Stamp Centenary Commemorative 1940 focuses on printings, plate varieties, and postal history. The stamps were issued in a period of great political upheaval, when Estonia was brutally annexed by the Soviets. Stamps were issued July 30, 1940 and used to July 1941, the end of the First Soviet Occupation.

## Stamps

The stamps (four values in senti: 3s, 10s, 15s, 30s) were printed by typography in sheets of 200 by the Government Printing Works in Tallinn. The upper pane (UP) and lower pane (LP) each contained 10 rows and 10 columns. There are four printings of each value. The following information is given for each printing: date of printing, printing order number when known, ink color, paper color and texture, and quantities printed. Plate variety positions are noted by row/column and UP or LP.

## Sale and Validity

The stamps were initially planned to be sold from July 30 to November 30, 1940 and remain valid until January 31, 1941. In July 1940, the Soviet authorities destroyed millions of definitive stamps depicting deposed President Konstantin Pats. Due to the shortage of definitive stamps, the issue remained on sale in early 1941 and were validly used to July 1941. Remainders were sold during the German Occupation in 1941 and 1942.



Map of Estonia (Hurt and Ojaste, page 8)

Postal Rates	Estonia 7/30/40 - 12/5/40	Soviet 12/6/40 - 7/31/41
Printed Matter: Domestic	3s	20k
Postcard: Domestic	10s	20k
Postcard: Baltic	10s	30k
Postcard: Foreign	18s	30k
Letter: Domestic	15s	30k
Letter: Finland, Sweden	15s	50k
Letter: Foreign	30s	50k
Registration: Domestic	15s	30k
Registration: Foreign	20s	80k

Mixed frankings of Estonia and Soviet stamps were valid beginning 12/6/40. Official exchange rate was Estonia 1 senti = Soviet 1.25 kopeck, but in practice Estonia 1 senti = Soviet 1 kopeck.

## Exhibit Organization

Page	Value	Content
2	3s	Printings, Plate Varieties
3-4	3s	Usages Estonia Rates
5	10s	Printings, Plate Varieties
6-7	10s	Usages Estonia Rates
8	10s	Usages Soviet Rates
9-10	15s	Printings, Plate Varieties
11-12	15s	Usages Estonia Rates
13-14	15s	Usages Soviet Rates
15	30s	Printings, Plate Varieties
16	30s	Usages Estonia Rates

## Highlights

- 3s solo frankings (page 3)
- 10s on letter July 23, 1941 (page 8)
- 15s printed on English paper (page 10)
- 15s on postcard to Japan (page 11)
- 30s imprint blocks (page 15)
- 30s solo frankings (page 16)

## Research on Plate Varieties by Exhibitor

Through examining a number of complete sheets, the exhibitor determined the positions of plate varieties listed in Hurt and Ojaste.

## Bibliography

Hurt, Vambola, and Elmar Ojaste, *Estonia Philately and Postal History Handbook Catalogue*. 1986. (stamps pages 185-187, postal rate pages 407-411).