

CANCELLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONAL ERA IN LATVIA: 1919-1921

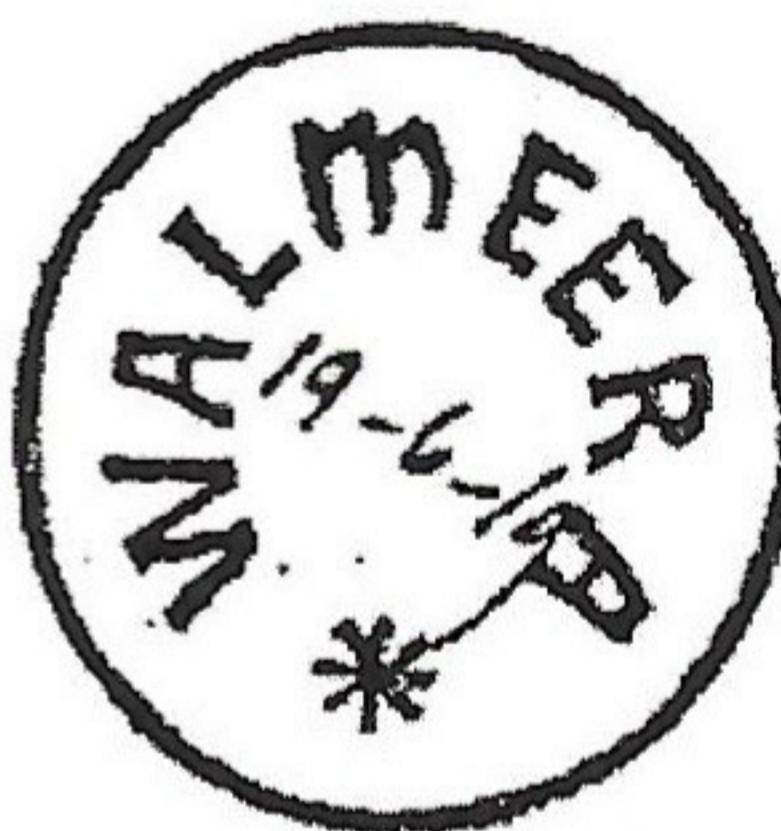
Purpose/Scope: This exhibit is a detailed study of the forms and types of provisional cancellations used in Latvia in the tumultuous period following the November 1918 declaration of independence and ending when standardized Latvian devices were introduced by the Latvia Post in early 1921.

Organization: The basic cancel types were used concurrently throughout the Latvian territory and had no geographic boundaries. This exhibit divides them into 6 main sections by cancel types. Within those sections, the items are shown by service types in the following order: postcards, ordinary letters, registered letters, parcel cards and other usages.

Starting on:

Hand Made Devices	Local Postmaster Contrived: Assorted Shapes & Designs	Frame 1, Page 2
Cyrillic Cancellations	Russian Imperial Post Types: Town Name & Province	Frame 3, Page 14
Cyrillic Cancellations	Russian Imperial Post Types: Town Name Only, No Province	Frame 5, Page 12
Dual Language Types	Cancels in Russian & Latvian Language	Frame 6, Page 7
German Occupation Types	Continued Use of WWI German Occupation Types	Frame 6, Page 10
Latvian Language Types	Newly Created Designs in Latvian Language Only	Frame 6, Page 16

Berstele.



Мариенбургская
Почта. 1919.



Straight Line
Marking Types



Town & Province
In Russian Types

Boxed Rectangular
Marking Types



Town & No Province
In Russian Types

Circular
Marking Types



Town & Country
In Latvian & Russian Types

Curved & Oval
Marking Types



German Type - Town &
Country In Latvian Types

Odd Shaped
Markin Types



Town & Country
In Latvian Types

Historical/Philatelic Background: For centuries, Latvia was part of Imperial Russia or the German Empire. It remained a battlefield until January 1920 when, the Soviets were defeated. The Government, which had moved to the far west, returned to Riga. The Latvian government was ineffective during this time of relocation, local postmasters were left to choose or create temporary cancelling devices as there was little guidance. Some continued to use old Tsarist era devices if available; others resorted to modifying or creating their own new devices. These provisional cancellations were short lived and varied greatly in appearance from town to town.

Rarity and Condition: Numerous shown cancellations are exceedingly rare as they originated from tiny villages during times of duress which had little postal activity even in normal times. Markings have been selected for their clarity and variation. Space has limited this showing to the most difficult to obtain cancellations.

Especially significant items are highlighted with a maroon mat.

Maroon rectangular boxes identify discovery and personal research items with:

Bibliography:

Jakimovs, N. and Marcilger, V., "THE POSTAL AND MONETARY HISTORY OF LATVIA: 1918 - 1945", Netherlands, 1991.
von Hoffmann, H., "LETTLAND: HANDBUCH PHILATELIE UND POSTGESCHICHTE", Hamburg, 1988.