

Spring stamps celebrate Finland's independence

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The most prominent theme in the stamps for spring 2017 is Finland's independence, which is celebrated in many of the publications. Many of the subjects on the stamps have been eagerly awaited, including Moomins and a reprint of the first Finnish stamps.

January's stamps come with a beating blue heart

The Valentine's Day stamps chosen through a competition will be published on **January 20**. The blue hearts by designer **Ari Kivi** are ideal for the jubilee year. The Valentine's Day stamps are domestic no-value indicator stamps, and they are sold in a booklet of five stamps.

The popular Finnish flag motif is depicted on stamps again, this time in illustrations by **Ossi Hiekkala**. The *Finnish national flag* sheet contains fifteen domestic no-value indicator stamps.

This year, the theme of the Europe-wide EUROPA stamp series is castles. As Posti recently released a booklet of stamps depicting old castles, **Anssi Kähärä's Snow castle** offers a new viewpoint to the subject. The sheet contains fifteen domestic no-value indicator stamps.

The Lions club organization celebrates its 100th anniversary. The organization's charity work is applauded with a miniature sheet of two domestic no-value indicator stamps designed by **Klaus Welp**. The illustrations contain the organisation's badges from around the world.

February introduces signs of spring

The Easter stamp, this year with a willow motif designed by **Maarit Ailio**, will be released on **February 24**. The sheet contains fifteen domestic no-value indicator stamps.

The *Merry-go-round* stamp was illustrated by **Minni Havas**. Domestic no-value indicator stamps are sold in sheets of fifteen stamps. Havas was also behind the popular Valentine's Day stamps with faerie motifs in 2010.

Popular postcard artist **Anna-Mari West** has illustrated the stamps with traditional summer flowers. Domestic no-value indicator stamps are sold in sheets of fifteen stamps. West's previous work includes the bunny-themed 2016 Easter stamp.

The *Calm and tranquil* stamps depict Finnish nature in different seasons and are suitable for international postcards and light letters. The sheet designed by **Stiina Hovi** contains fifteen international no-value indicator stamps.

May shows the face of Finland

The *Finland 100 - the Face of Finland* stamp sheet, containing facial photos collected from the public during the campaign in fall 2016, will be released on **May 9**. The thousands of photos come together like a mosaic to form a million different stamps, which are positioned on the sheet in the form of the map of Finland. The package designed by **Klaus Welp** contains ten domestic no-value indicator stamps. Their release is part of the official Finland 100 program by the Prime Minister's Office.

Migratory birds designed by legendary graphic designer **Erik Bruun** can be seen in flight on three different stamp publications. The *Migratory birds* miniature sheet contains two domestic no-value indicator stamps and two added value stamps worth €0.10 and €0.20. In addition, both added value stamps will be published in separate sheets of fifteen stamps.

A reprint of the first stamps of independent Finland

The idea of the *Model 1917 Saarinen* stamp publication, to be released on **May 24**, comes from the first Finnish stamp publication. The miniature sheet holds two stamps by architect **Eliel Saarinen** from 1917, but the original payment indication in Finnish marks has been replaced with the payment indication of a domestic no-value indicator stamp. The miniature sheet was designed by **Ari Lakaniemi** and **Susanna Rumpu**.

The motif on **Pekka Piippo's** one stamp miniature sheet is *Finland's coat of arms*. The Euro-value special stamp is embossed, and the design also makes use of foil and UV-lacquer coating.

In summer 2016, Posti and the tabloid paper *Ilta-Sanomat* collected sauna photos from their readers. A jury selected four of the photos to be included in the booklet of stamps, as well as one additional sauna-themed photo from the Åland Islands. The booklet of domestic no-value indicator stamps was designed by **Klaus Welp**. The *Sauna* stamps are a joint release with Åland Post.

The *Moomins' time travel* booklet of stamps celebrates the opening of the new Moomin museum in Tampere. **Tove Jansson's** original Moomins from various decades depict the development of the characters over the course of time. The booklet of five international no-value indicator stamps was designed by **Ari Lakaniemi** and **Susanna Rumpu**.

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