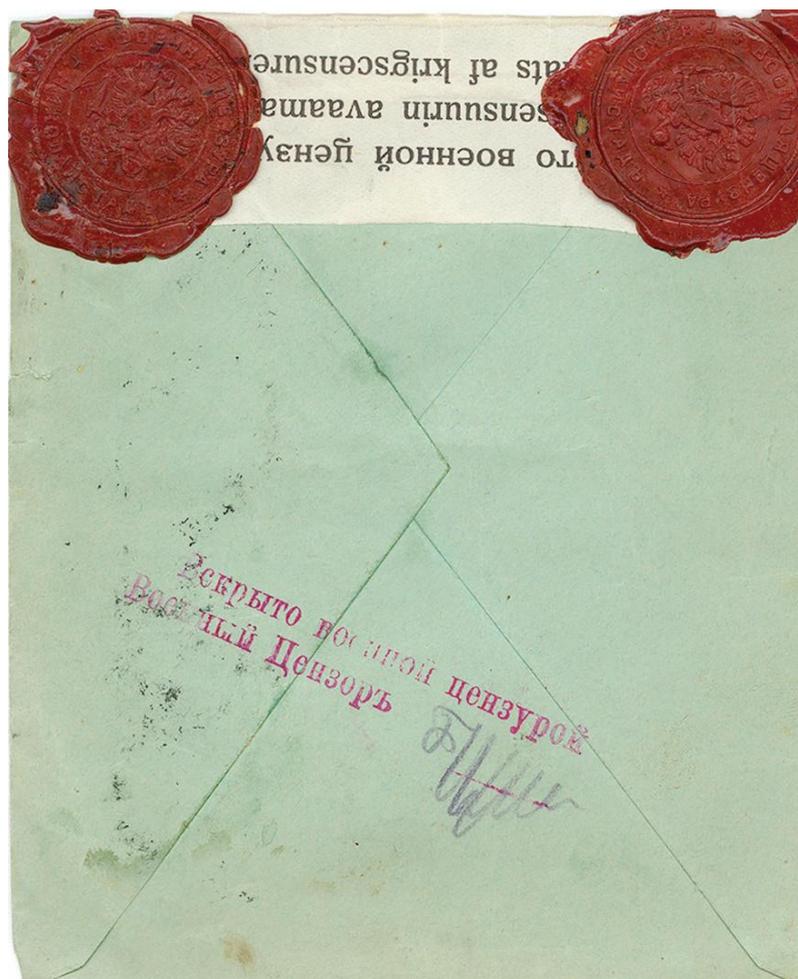


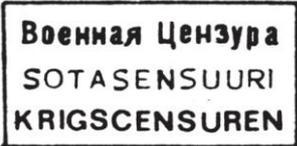
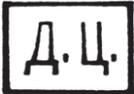
Nikolainkaupunki - Nikolaistad - Wasa - Николайстадъ Censorship Stamps & Resealing Tapes 13 October 1914 to 26 April 1917



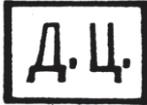
Registered cover from Nikolainkaupunki, 13 IX 15 to Laihia, a small town within the Nikolainkaupunki censor office district. The censor's personal mark, CS No. 10, CM 11 is fairly common although the dates of use are very short. The 13 IX 15 date is the EKU by one day. The wax seals read "War censoring, Nikolaistad" in Russian.

Revised 18 Sep. 2025
Russian Postal Censorship in Finland
<https://censor.jiv.dk>
Jon Iversen

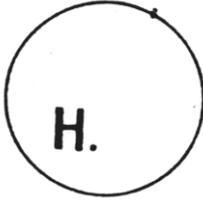
Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamps

<u>CS. 1</u>	
<u>CS. 2</u>	Военная цензура въ Николайстадъ. Sotasensuuri Nikolainkaupungissa. Krigscensuren i Nikolaistad.
<u>CS. 3</u>	<i>Renumbered CS No. 1 Mark No. 2</i>
<u>CS. 4</u>	Предъявлено военной Цензуръ въ гор. Николайстадтъ. Näytetty sotasensuurille Nikolainkaupungissa Företetts krigscensuren i Nikolaistad
<u>CS. 5</u>	
<u>CS. 6</u>	
<u>CS. 7</u>	
<u>CS. 8</u>	Вскрыто военной цензурой г. Николайстадъ Военный цензоръ

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamps

<u>CS. 9</u>	
<u>CS. 10</u>	Вскрыто военной цензурой Военный Цензоръ
<u>CS. 11</u>	
<u>CS. 12</u>	ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ Г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЪ Военный цензоръ Ауликъ.
<u>CS. 13</u>	Вскрыто военной цензурой г. Николаиштадъ Военный цензоръ № 2
<u>CS. 14</u>	ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ Г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЪ Военный цензоръ № 4
<u>CS. 15</u>	
<u>CS. 16</u>	

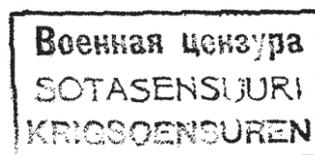
Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamps

CS. 17	
CS. 18	Вскрыто Военной Цензурой 191 Николаѣвтадскій военный цензоръ № 2
CS. 19	
CS. 20	
CS. 21	10 XI.1916
CS. 22	29.НОЯ 1916
CS. 23	
CS. 24	

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 1



Mark No. 1



Mark No. 2

Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular
 Size: 19 x 38 mm
 Description: Rectangular, single frame, text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish
 Text: War censor(ship)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: Two

Dates(s) of Use:
 Mark No. 1 26 Oct. 1914 to 30 Oct. 1914
 Mark No. 2 26 Oct. 1914 to 27 Mar. 1916 1

General Comment:
 This CS is similar to censor stamps used in most censor locations. Some of these stamps measure 19 x 38 mm,

others 18 x 38 mm. The Oulu CS has a vertical line after the word "SOTASENSUURI."

Rarity:
 CS No 1, Mark 2 is very common, rarity level 1. Mark 1 is a little uncertain because very few items have been reported, maybe due to not being recognized with so small differences between the two marks.

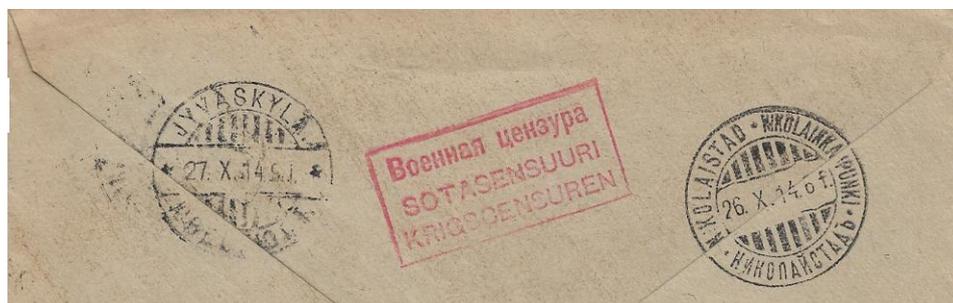
Supplementary Comment:
 CS No 3 has been renumbered to CS No 1 Mark No 2. Both marks measure 19 x 38 mm, and the fonts are the same or very similar, the major difference is the position of the middle horizontal line of the letter E in SOTASENSUURI. On both stamps, the top line is set in sentence case and the bottom two lines of text are all capital letters.



Mark 1



Mark 2



Two covers were both sent to Jyväskylä and via Nikolainkaupunki 26. X. 14 for inspection. **Top:** Cover sent from Suovanlahti 23. X. 14 and has been stamped on the back side with CS No. 1, Mark No. 1. **Below:** Cover sent from Kuusa, 24. X. 14 and stamped with CS No. 1, Mark No. 2, Both Marks are EKU



Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 2

Военная цензура въ Николайстадъ.
Sotasensuuri Nikolainkaupungissa.
Krigscensuren i Nikolaistad.

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Straight line	This mark is common. This mark was not included in the original Olamo catalog; it is taken from Termonen & Keturi's <i>Postisensuuri Suomessa 1914-1918</i> , Vol. 1, page 10. It is seen solo on passively censored mail, often on post(al) cards. The mark impression is usually blurred or muddy.
Size:	20 x 55 mm	
Description:	Three lines of text: Russian, Finnish & Swedish	
Text:	War censor(ship) in Nikolainkaupunki (Nikolaistad).	
Ink:	Violet, red and brownish-red	Rarity:
Subtypes:	None	Common, level 2.
Dates of Use:	02 Nov. 1914 to 20 Mar. 1915	2

Top: Here the stamp was struck in brownish-red ink in upper right corner. **Middle:** The stamp was struck in a reddish-violet ink, partially on the stamp, contrary to regulations. **Bottom:** Stamp struck in a strong red ink. All the marks are somewhat blurred.



Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 3

This item is delisted and the following CS is renumbered:

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 1, Mark 2

All following marks retain the original numbering sequence.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 4

Предъявлено военной Цензурь
въ гор. Николайстадтъ.
Näytetty sotasensuurille Nikolainkaupungissa
Företetts krigscensuren i Nikolaistad

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Straight line	This is the only four-tiered general censor stamp. Because of its large size, the mark impression is usually muddy and partially indistinct. Mark appears solo on objects.
Size:	20 x 74 mm	
Description:	Four lines of text: Russian, Finnish & Swedish	
Text:	Censor(ing) Nikolaistad Presented to war censor in the city of Nikolainkaupunki (Nikolaistad)	Rarity: Very common, level 1.
Ink:	Red, violet-red	
Subtypes:	None	
Dates of Use:	29 Nov. 1914 to 22 Mar. 1915 1	

Right: This letter was postmarked 1 January 1915 (no postman's' New Years holiday in Finland). There is no transit, arrival, or exit marks at Nikolainkaupunki. The stamp has been applied across the franking, a practice often seen at this censor office, but clearly contrary to published regulations.



Left: Reddish-violet ink was applied here. The two ink pads were used at the same time. This card is a New Year's greeting without any handwritten text except for the signature and technically exempt from censorship; however, all mail was first directed to the censor office and the stamp was applied automatically. In fact, it is very uncommon to find uncensored Christmas, New Year and Easter cards.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 5



Type: Personal
 Shape: Circular
 Diameter: 24 mm
 Description: Single ring, censor number in the center, plus letters "N. Ts." in Cyrillic.
 Text: Censor's personal ID No.
 Nikolainkaupunki censor
 Ink: Red, violet & blue.
 Subtypes: CM Nos. 1-6 are known.

Comment:

Mark is often thin and appears solo on objects and mail with resealing tapes and/or wax seals. Violet and blue ink impressions are less common.

Date(s) of use:

Mark No. 1	02 Feb. 1915 to 18 Mar. 1916	1
Mark No. 2	19 Jan. 1915 to 23 Feb. 1916	1
Mark No. 3	15 Jan. 1915 to 31 Dec. 1915	1
Mark No. 4	11 Jan. 1915 to 07 May 1916	1
Mark No. 5	03 Jan. 1915 to 11 Mar. 1916	1
Mark No. 6	27 Feb. 1915 to 17 Jan. 1916	1

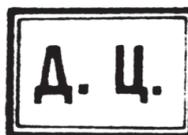
Rarity:

All marks are very common, level 1.

Below: Two examples of the CS No. 5 are shown here. The destination address on the post card, Wasa, is the name the local Swedish speakers have given for Nikolainkaupunki.



Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 6



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular box, double frame
 Size: 15 x 21 mm
 Description: Double frame, Cyrillic letters "D. Ts." in center
 Text: Censor(ship) allowed
 Ink: Red, reddish-violet
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 23 Mar. 1915 to 17 Mar. 1916 1

Comment:

Frames began to merge in July 1915. Thick letters distinguish this CS from CS Nos. 7 and 9. Also, see Rauma CS No. 3. A Similar censor stamp is on display at the Post Museum, ID E1 6945.

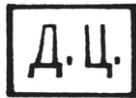
Rarity: Very common, level 1.

Below: The thick letters on these marks identify the censor stamp used at Nikolainkaupunki. Absent an exit mark or cds from the censor office, the general rule is that the object is sent to the destination censor office. The mail bound for both destination addresses, Uusikaarlepyy and Jyväskylä, would be first sent to Nikolainkaupunki. The two inks are shown. The upper card originated in the Nikolainkaupunki censorship district and was therefore censored locally.

Both cards are full-size, cropped at the bottom.



Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 7



Mark 1



Mark 2

Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular
 Size: 13 x 16 mm
 Description: Rectangular box, single frame, Cyrillic letters "D. Ts." in center
 Text: Censor(ing) allowed
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: two

Dates of Use:

Mark 1 08 Oct. 1915 to 24 Mar. 1916 1
 Mark 2 26 Dec. 1915 to 02 Feb. 1916 4 or R

Comment:

Mark seems to have worn out so quickly that in the end, the frames have begun to disappear entirely. Mark 2 with a small hook above the upper left-hand corner was first listed by Termonen & Keturi. See *Postisensuuri Suomessa 1914-1918*, Vol. 1, page 11. There are overlaps in the time of use.

Rarity:

Mark 1: Very common, level 1.

Mark 2: Rare, level 4 or R

Only a few of Mark 2 are known; the rarity level is based on the current census. Other examples may have been overlooked because this mark is derived from CS No. 7, which is very common.

Right: This very common mark is seen on all types of general correspondence that was simply stamped and returned to the mail stream. The name *Wasa* is the alternative or patriotic name for the city named after the Russian Czar, Nicholas I. After Independence, the name was officially changed to *Waasa*, also spelled, *Vasa* or *Wasa*.



Left: The hook on this mark is clearly seen on the upper left-hand side of the censor stamp. It was applied to passively censored mail and is known on all types of general correspondence. Size reduced.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 8

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ

Mark No. 1, without signature
05 Feb. 1916 to 04 Jul. 1916 3

Type: Personal
Shape: Straight line
Size: 20 x 37 mm
Description: Four lines of text in Russian
Text: Opened by war censor
City of Nikolainkaupunki
War censor
Censor's name
Ink: Red, violet
Subtypes: Six different signatures have been identified.

Comment:

Names in Cyrillic are very small and difficult to distinguish one from the other. CM 1 without the censor's personal ID.

Rarity:

Mark No. 1 Fairly common, level 3
Mark No. 2 Very common, level 1
Mark No. 3 Very common, level 1
Mark No. 4 Very common, level 1
Mark No. 5 Very common, level 1
Mark No. 6 Fairly common, level 3
Mark No. 7 Common, level 2

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Асслундъ

Mark No. 2, Censor: Асслундъ – Asplund
09 Mar. 1916 to 22 Jun. 1916 1

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Бахманъ

Mark No. 3, Censor: Бахманъ – Beckman
04 Oct. 1915 to 10 Jun. 1916 1

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Блюмквистъ

Mark No. 4, Censor: Блюмквистъ – Blomqvist
06 Dec. 1915 to 13 Apr. 1916 1

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Блофьельдъ

Mark No. 5, Censor: Блофьельдъ – Blåfield
06 Nov. 1915 to 23 Mar. 1916 1

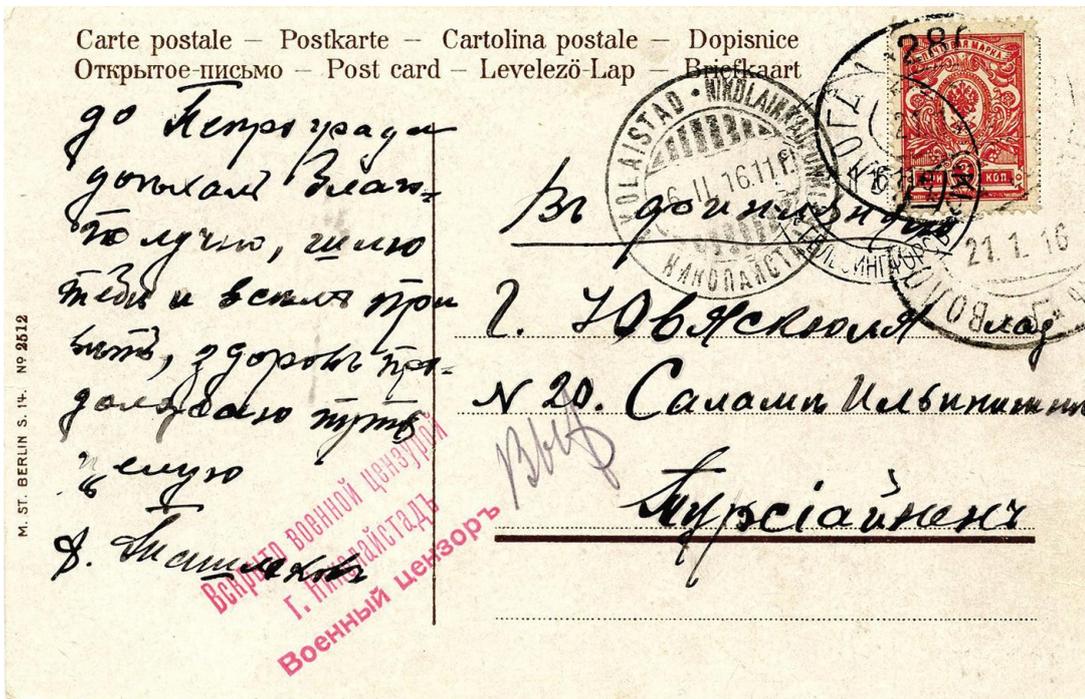
Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Дальстрёмъ

Mark No. 6, Censor: Дальстрёмъ - Daltström
29 Nov. 1916 to 06 Dec. 1916 3

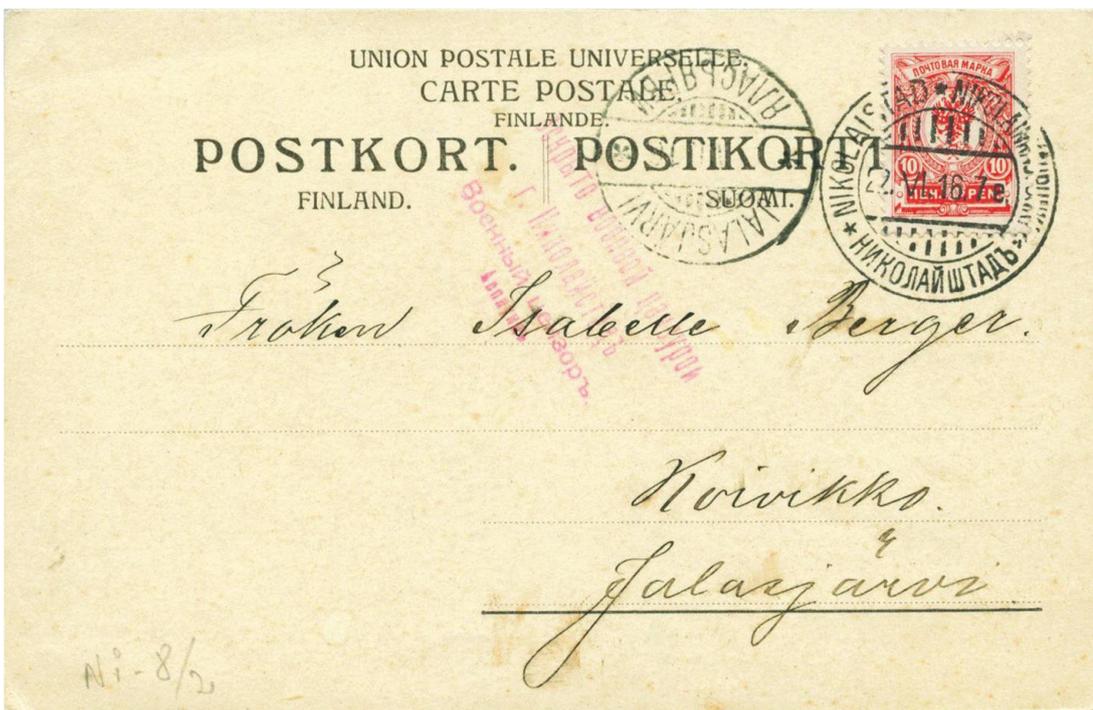
Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николайстадъ
Военный цензоръ
Кронлиндъ

Mark No. 7, Censor: Кронлиндъ – Kronlund
03 Nov. 1915 to 23 Jun. 1916 2

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 8, continued

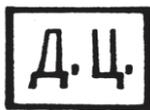


From Russia via Railway Mail van No. 280, Bologoe – Toropets in Tver Obl. to Helsinki, then to Nikolainkaupunki where CS 6 (1) was applied, transit stamped 6. II. 1916, then to addressee at Jyväskylä. This is the EKU for the general CS 8, Mark 1. All other CS 8 censor stamps have a fourth line with the name of the censor in Cyrillic block letters.



Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 8, Mark 2, dated 22. VI. 16, on last day of reported use.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 9



Mark No. 1



Mark No. 2

Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, single frame
 Size: 13 x 18 mm
 Description: Letter stamp, Cyrillic letters "D. Ts." in center
 Text: Censor(ing) allowed
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: Two reported

Dates of Use:
 Mark No. 1 15 Dec. 1915 to 27 Apr. 1916 1
 Mark No. 2 03 Mar. 1916 to 05 Mar. 1916 -

Comment:
 Two marks in use are distinguished by a short vertical line in the upper right corner of one mark (presumably CM 2). On CM 1, the frame has disappeared entirely by March 1916. CM 2 was used for just three days and is known only on postal forms.

Rarity:
 Mark No. 1 is very common, level 1.
 Mark No. 2 -



CS No. 9, Mark 1 (size 13x18mm) applied to this cover, from Maaninka, 19. I. 1916, via Nikolainkaupunki censor office, 21. I. 1916, to Jyväskylä, 22. I. 1916

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 10

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 11 x 70 mm
 Description: Two lines of text in Russian
 Text: Opened by war censor
 War censor/Censor's name
 Ink: Various shades of red and violet
 Subtypes: 11 with different censor signatures
 Dates of Use: For all 11 subtypes
 06 Apr. 1915 to 06 Jun. 1916

Comment:

Although a blank space has been reserved for the censor's name on the second line, this space occasionally remains blank. Ten different signatures have been identified. The censor's signature is handwritten and not part of the manufactured handstamp. Generally, CMs with signatures are known with a single date of use although none are rare. This mark can be distinguished from the Rauma CS No. 4 by carefully measuring the height of each CS. The Rauma CS No. 4 measures 10 x 70 mm.

Rarity:

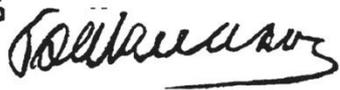
All CMs are fairly common, level 3, except for CM Nos. 1 and 2, which are ranked common, level 2.

The Rarity for individual marks is noted under dates of use.

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь

Mark No. 1: 14 Apr. 1916 to 30 Jun. 1916
 without censor name
 Rarity level, 2

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь



Mark No. 2: 14 May 1915 to 28 Jun. 1915
 Censor's name: Unknown
 Rarity: Common, level, 2

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь

Mark No. 3: 25 May 1915 to 12 Jun. 1915
 Censor's name: Unknown
 Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь



Mark No. 4: 24 May 1915
 Censor's name: Unknown
 Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь



Mark No. 5: 08 Apr. 1915 to 25. Apr. 1915
 Censor's name: Unknown
 Rarity: fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь



Mark No. 6: 20 Apr. 1915 to 28 Aug. 1915
 Censor's name: Kronlund
 Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензорь



Mark No. 7: 06 Apr. 1916 to 05 Jul. 1916
 Censor's name: Unknown
 Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 10, continued

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензоръ *Левин*

Mark No. 8: 02 Mar. 1915 to 02 Jul. 1916
Censor's name: Unknown
Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензоръ *Серов*

Mark No. 9: 14 May 1915 to 08 Jun. 1915
Censor's name: Unknown
Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

Вскрыто военной цензурой
Военный Цензоръ *[Signature]*

Mark No. 10: 06 Jun. 1915 to 03 Dec. 1915
Censor's name: Unknown
Rarity: Fairly common, level 3

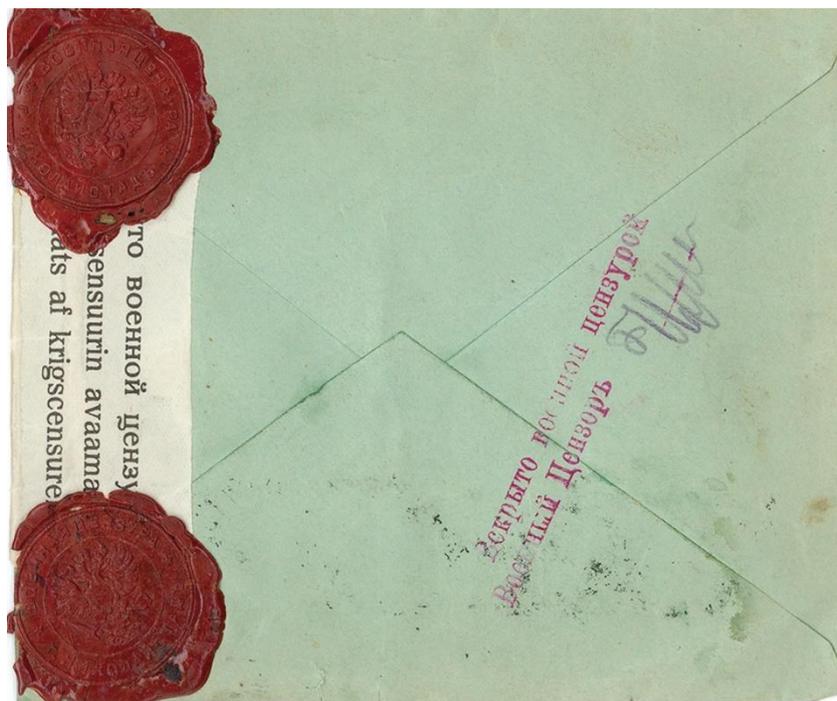


Mark No. 11: 04 Dec. 1915
Censor's name: Unknown
Rarity: Fairly common, level 3



Here is Mark 1 on a postal card addressed to a town within the Nikolainkaupunki censor office district. This date extends usage by nearly two months.

Nicolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 10, continued



Left: Registered cover from Nicolainkaupunki, 13. IX. 15 to Laihia, a small town within the Nicolainkaupunki censor office district. The censor's personal mark, CS No. 10, CM 11 is fairly common although the dates of use are very short. The 13. IX. 15 date is the EKU by one day.



Right: The signature on this cover does not match any previously recorded signatures in the Olamo or Termonen & Keturi catalogues. It is classified here as CM 12. On the back are two Nicolainkaupunki cds showing arrival and departure from the censor office, 3 XII 1915.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 11



Mark 1

18 Mar. 1916 to 13 Sep. 1916

There is an ink spot above the letters "N, Ts



Mark 2

30 Apr. 1916 to 10 Aug. 1916

There is no ink spot.



Mark 3

27 Mar. 1916 to 26 Jul. 1916

The period after the first letter is missing.



Mark 4

02 May. 1916

The period after the first letter is missing.

Type: General
 Shape: Circular
 Diameter: 24 mm
 Description: Single ring with letters "N. Ts." In center
 Text: Nikolainkaupunki censor
 Ink: Red, violet, various shades
 Subtypes: Four reported

CM Nos. 3 & 4 were first identified by T & K, *Postisensuuri Suomessa 1914-1918*, Vol. 1, page 15.

Rarity: All of these marks are common or very common. The rarity level is listed after the date(s) of use.

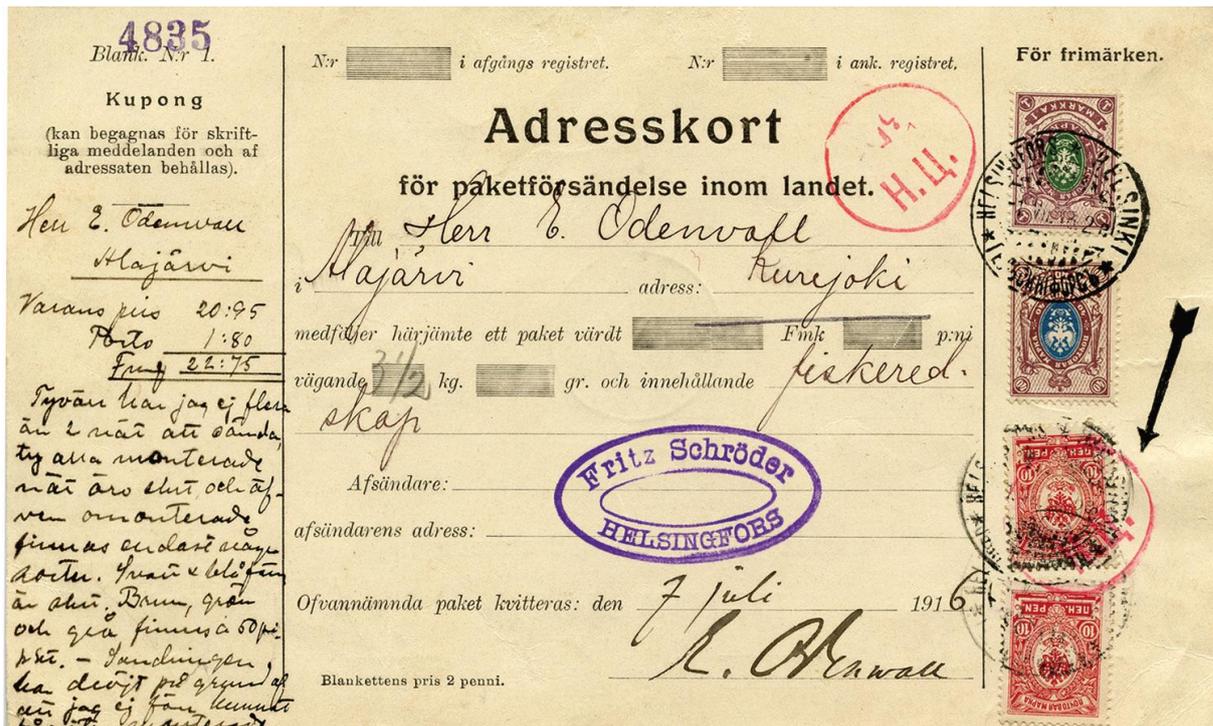
Comment:

The stamp was converted from Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 5 by removing the censor number. Because of this, the CS has been cataloged as a general censor stamp. The impression is very faint; often the ring has almost entirely disappeared. Frequently seen on postal forms.

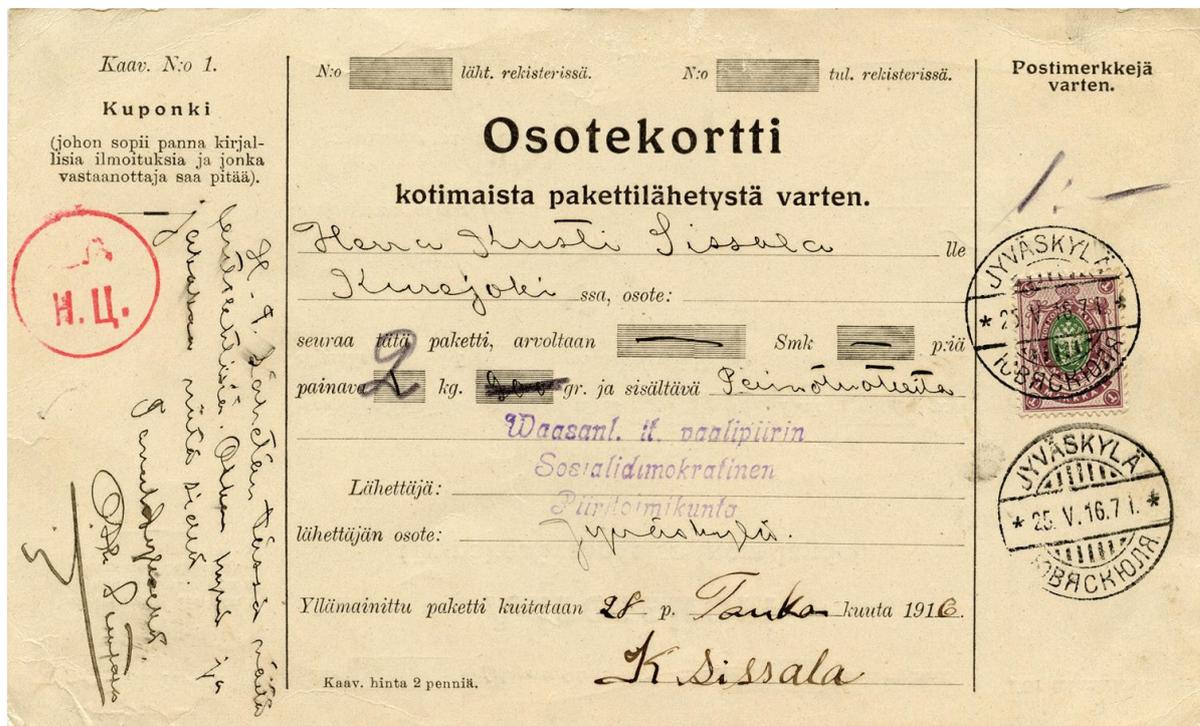


A weak, but clean strike of Mark 2 on card from Turku, 3. VIII. 16 via Nikolainkaupunki, arriving at 8 AM and departing at 1 PM, on 4. VIII. 16 then to Oravainen, 5. VIII. 16.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 11, continued



On this address card, the censor stamp was struck twice, once on the address section and the other reserved for the stamps. Neither position is correct; the stamp should have been applied over the vertical line dividing the coupon and address sections.



Here the censor stamp was struck on the coupon side, which may have been technically incorrect, but explains why the rule that exempted these cards from censorship was repealed, namely merchants were using the coupon section of the address card to write a message without having to send a separate card which might be delayed at a censor office. See FGPO Bulletin 8872, 01 June 1915. Inasmuch as the coupon section is reserved for correspondence, which is kept by the recipient, it is not clear why these postal forms were originally exempt from censorship.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 11, continued



Two postal money orders were examined and passed at the Nikolainkaupunki censor office with CS No. 11, Mark 1. Ink spots above the Cyrillic letters "N. Ts." identify the mark. Both ink colors are shown. More interesting is the placement of the marks on the right-hand side of the postal forms rather than straddling the vertical line separating the coupon and address sections as required by the Censorship Committee.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 12

ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ
Г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЪ
Военный цензоръ
Ауликъ.

Mark No. 1, Censor: Ауликъ - Aulik

ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ
Г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЪ
Военный цензоръ
Зоммеръ.

Mark No. 2, Censor: Эоммень - Sommer

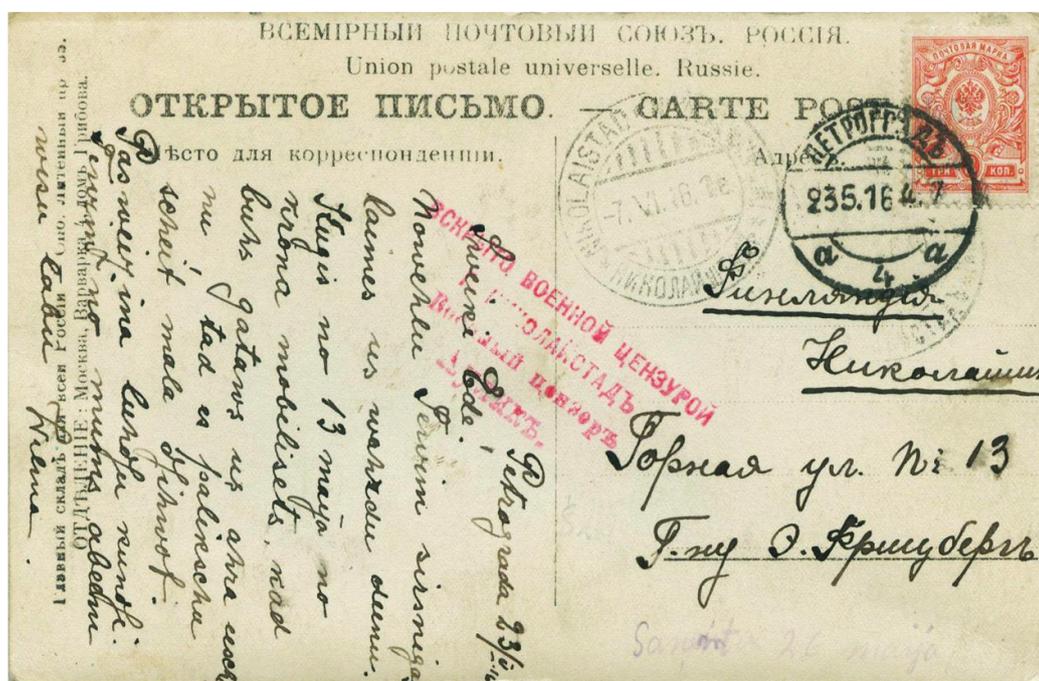
Type: Personal
Shape: Straight line
Diameter: 20 x 47 mm
Description: Four lines of text in Russian
Text: Opened by war censor
City of Nikolainkaupunki
War censor
Censor's name
Ink: Red
Subtypes: Four different signatures have been identified.

Comment:
Illustrations for Marks 3 and 4 are not available.
Mark No. 3, censor: Блофилдъ - Blåfield
Mark No. 4, censor: Дальстрэмъ - Dahlström
See CS No. 8, Marks 5 and 6

Rarity:
Mark No. 1 Common, level 3
Mark No. 2 Common, level 3
Mark No. 3 Rare, level 4, R
Mark No. 4 Rare, level 4, R

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1 01 Mar. 1916 to 16 Nov. 1916 3
Mark No. 2 10 Apr. 1916 to 29 Jun. 1916 3
Mark No. 3 23 Feb. 1916 4, R
Mark No. 4 03 Dec. 1915 4, R



This post card from Petrograd, Russia was sent directly to Nikolainkaupunki for censoring, 7 June 1916. Mark 1, censor АУЛИКЪ, was applied here.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 13

Вскрыто военной цензурой
г. Николаиштадъ
Военный цензоръ
№ 2

Type:	Personal	Dates of Use:	
Shape:	Straight line	Mark No. 1	__ Aug. 1916 to 13 Sep. 1916 3
Size:	21 x 36 mm	Mark No. 2	09 Jul. 1916 to 11 Aug. 1916 2
Description:	Three lines of text in Russian and the censor's personal identification number	Mark No. 3	No use reported.
Text:	Opened by war censor Nikolainkaupunki War censor Censor's personal identification number	Mark No. 4	No use reported.
Ink:	Red, violet-brownish	Mark No. 5	26 Sep. 1916 to 15 Mar. 1917 3
Subtypes:	Seven different numbers have been Reported.	Mark No. 6	10 Jun. 1916 to 19 Sep. 1916 4, R
		Mark No. 7	No use reported.
		Mark No. 8	14 Jul. 1916 to 26 Sep. 1916 3
		Mark No. 9	09 Jul. 1916 to 15 Sep. 1916 3
		Mark No. 10	06 Aug. 1916 to 10 Aug. 1916 4, R

Comment:

Mark usually appears with resealing tape. Impression was often weak. In Mark No. 9, the Russian letter "r" is missing in the word "censor" on the first line.



On this cover from Raahе, via Nikolainkaupunki, to Jakobstad, the cover was opened and resealed with Type A-I generic tape without location identification. Usually, with opened mail, the censor's personal mark is applied on the back with a departure date.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 14

ВСКРЫТО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРОЙ
Г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЬ
Военный цензоръ
№ 4

Type:	Personal	Date(s) of use:	
Shape:	Straight line	Mark No. 1	No use reported.
Size:	20 x 47 mm	Mark No. 2	No use reported.
Description:	Three lines of text in Russian and the censor's personal identification number on the fourth line	Mark No. 3	16 Jul. 1916 to 03 Sep. 1916 3
		Mark No. 4	23 Jul. 1916 to 25 Sep. 1916 3
		Mark No. 5	19 Jul. 1916 to 26 Sep. 1916 3
		Mark No. 6	No use reported.
		Mark No. 7	12 Jul. 1916 to 08 Sep. 1916 4, R
Text:	Opened by war censor City Nikolainkaupunki War censor <i>Censor's personal identification number</i>	Comment:	
Ink:	Red, violet	Mark usually appears along with the resealing tape. Only	
Subtypes:	Four different numbers have been reported.	Mark No. 5 is reported as a subtype of both CS Nos. 13 and 14, which are very similar in format, type of font, and text, except that in CS No. 14, the letters are more widely spaced.	



Although in use for only ten weeks, this censor mark is ranked fairly common, level 3 rarity. Seen here on a registered post card from Tampere to Wasa with a transit mark at Brändö.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 15



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Oval	Similar oval-shaped general censor stamps were introduced at all censor offices in 1916. Seen solo on general correspondence and postal forms, such as address cards.
Size:	25 x 43 mm	Impressions are distinct until the beginning of October 1916, after which text becomes blurred. After the middle of November, text is illegible and by February 1917, only visible spots remain. The date is observed according to both the Russian Julian calendar and the Western Gregorian calendar.
Description:	Oval, three rings, two rosettes, date in center, Cyrillic text War censor(ing) date Nikolainkaupunki	
Ink:	Red	
Subtypes:	None	
Dates of Use:	15 Aug. 1916 to 18 Feb. 1917 1	Rarity: Very common, level 1.

Blankett No 1.

Kupong
(kan begagnas för skriftliga meddelanden och af adressaten behållas).

1/6 i afgångs registret. i ank. registret. För frimärken.

Adresskort
för pakettförsändelse inom landet.

Till *Yttermark Andelshandel*
i *Yttermark* adress: *Närpes*
medföljer härjämte ett-paket, värdt *Penkraft* p.i. vägande
kg. gr. och innehållande

Afsändare: *Frams Byså* bosatt i *Vasa*
adress: *Handelsesp. 21*
Ofvannämnda paket kvitteras: den *4 nov.* 1916.

Blankettens pris 2 pni.

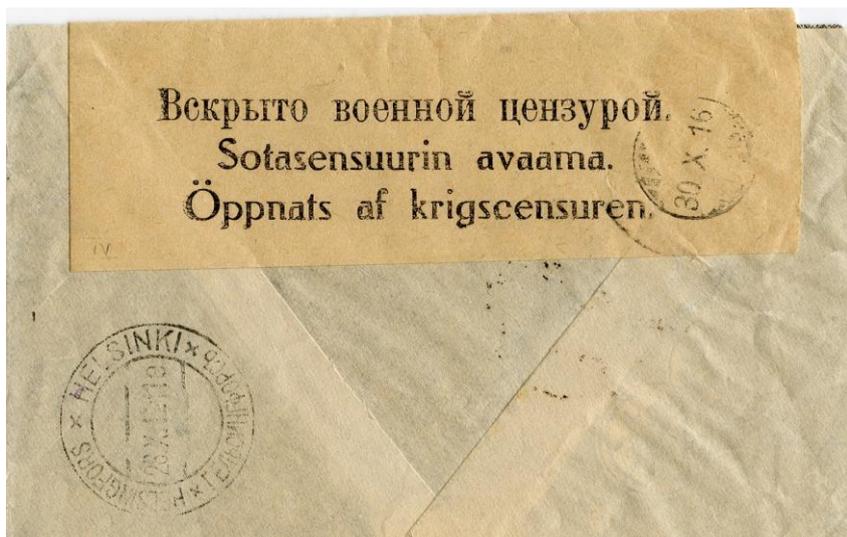
Yttermark Andelshandel
J. G. Sjö

Because of its very large size, the address sheet is often neglected by collectors. CS No. 15 was applied on the front of the address section, a seemingly unique practice in Nikolainkaupunki, on this address sheet from Nikolainkaupunki to Yttermark. Both locations are located within the Nikolainkaupunki censor district.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 16



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Circular w/two half discs with eight vertical lines in each	Indentations of an even larger frame (diameter is approximately 28 mm) are often seen around the mark. It is usually seen with a resealing tape or another mark.
Diameter:	17 mm	
Description:	Circular date stamp	
Text:	Date w/Roman numerals for the month	Rarity:
Ink:	Black, red	Very common, level 1.
Subtypes:	None	
Dates of Use:	31 Jul. 1916 to 15 Mar. 1917	1

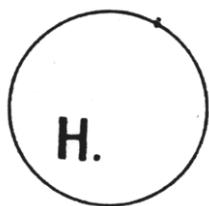


Here CS No. 16 is seen with the large 28 mm frame around the date, on a cover from Russia via Helsinki and Wasa to Yxpila.



On this cover from Moscow, -4. 10. 16, (Julian Calendar) CS No. 16 is seen without the outer ring. The cover was also struck with the personal censor stamp, CS No. 18, CM 7. This is the earliest known use by three weeks for this subtype. This mark is rare, level 4 or R on the rarity scale. Collection of Reijo Tanner.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 17



Type: General
 Shape: Circular
 Diameter: 24 mm
 Description: Single ring, Cyrillic letter "H." in center
 Text: N.(ikolainkaupunki)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:

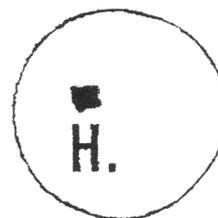
This censor stamp was converted from CS No. 5, then CS No. 11, from which the letter "Ts" has been removed.

Dates of Use: 12 Sep. 1916 to 25 Sep. 1916 1

Rarity:

Very common, level 1.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 17a



Type: General
 Shape: Circular
 Diameter: 24 mm
 Description: Single ring, Cyrillic letter "H." in center
 Text: N.(ikolainkaupunki)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:

Apparently, towards the end of the service life of CS No. 17, a piece of paper or some other foreign matter became stuck on the mark producing the blotch above the Cyrillic letter "H." This mark was added by Termonen & Keturi to their catalog.

Dates of Use: 23 Sep. 1916

Rarity:

Not known.

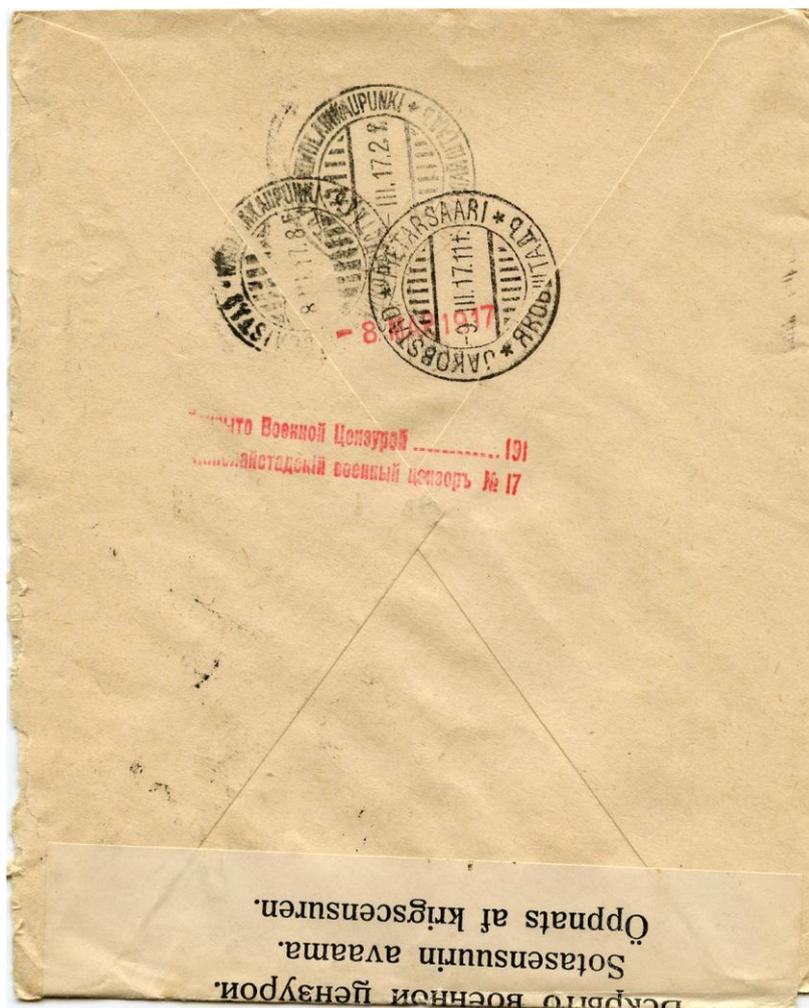


The CS No. 17 strike, just to the right of the arrow, is very faint but identifiable under a strong light and medium magnification. Many censor marks at Nikolainkaupunki were lightly struck. The censor stamp was struck at Nikolainkaupunki, the originating post office in accordance with the double censoring scheme promulgated in September 1916. This cover was mailed to Eric Åkesson, a prominent stamp dealer who had a counter at Stockman's department store in Helsinki. Mr. Åkesson is responsible for a number of covers franked with the Russian war charity stamps.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 18

Вскрыто Военной Цензурой191
 Николаястадский военный цензорь № 2

Type:	Personal	Date(s) of use:	
Shape:	Straight line	Mark No. 1	21 Jun. 1916 to 08 Apr. 1917 4, R
Size:	53 x 9 mm	Mark No. 2	01 Nov. 1916 to 19 Mar. 1917 3
Description:	Two lines of text in Russian and the censor's personal identification number	Mark No. 3	14 Sep. 1916 to 15 Mar. 1917 3
Text:	War censored opened...191 Nikolainkaupunki war censor/ <i>personal identification No.</i>	Mark No. 4	07 Oct. 1916 to 03 Mar. 1917 2
Ink:	Red, violet	Mark No. 5	29 Sep. 1916 to 15 Mar. 1917 3
Subtypes:	Fourteen different numbers have been reported: Mark Nos. 1-17 minus No. 14	Mark No. 6	12 Oct. 1916 to 24 Nov. 1916 3
Comment:		Mark No. 7	30 Nov. 1916 to 18 Apr. 1917 4, R
Similar censor stamps were common to all censor locations. Seen on all types of mail and as an exit mark with resealing tape. Often seen with CS No. 22.		Mark No. 8	27 Nov. 1916 to 21 Feb. 1917 3
		Mark No. 9	__ Sep. 1916 to 12 Feb. 1917 2
		Mark No. 10	03 Oct. 1916 to 18 Dec. 1916 4, R
		Mark No. 11	21 Nov. 1916 to 08 Feb. 1917 2
		Mark No. 12	20 Oct. 1916 to 03 Jan. 1917 3
		Mark No. 13	04 Feb. 1917 5, RR
		Mark No. 14	No use reported
		Mark No. 15	27 Feb. 1916 to 15 Mar. 1917 3
		Mark No. 16	21 Feb. 1917 5, RR
		Mark No. 17	08 Mar. 1917 to 15 Mar. 1917 5, RR



Here CS No. 18, Mark 17 is seen on an opened letter from the Singer Company in Gamlakarleby to Jakobstad, via Nikolainkaupunki censor office with date stamp, CS No. 22, and arrival and departure postal cds.

On many covers stamped with CS No. 18, the censor did not write in the date, rather a clerk in the office who resealed the envelope also applied a date stamp, CS No. 22, as seen on this cover.

Only two items with Mark 17 have been reported.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 19



Type: General
 Shape: Multi-sided
 Size: 20 x 21 approximately
 Description: Cyrillic letter "H." in center
 Text: (Nikolainkaupunki)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:

This mark has been altered. This mark was converted from Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 17 from which the circle around it has been partially removed. Considering that at least six copies of CS No. 5 were manufactured, originally it was a personal mark, it is logical to catalog Nos. 7, 17, 19, and 20 as separate stamps. Also, dates of use overlap.

Rarity:

Very common, level 1.

Dates of Use: 26 Sep. 1916 to 22 Oct. 1916 1

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 20



Type: General
 Shape: Multi-sided
 Size: 11 x 11 approximately
 Description: Cyrillic letter "H." in center
 Text: (Nikolainkaupunki)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:

This mark has been altered. This mark was converted from Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 19, the frame/border of which has been altered. This is the fifth time the original stamp was converted into a new censor stamp. Seen solo on objects. Earlier usage is possible.

Rarity:

Very common, level 1.

Dates of Use: 24 Sep. 1916 to 21 Oct. 1916 1



Both CS Nos. 19 and 20 have been altered or modified from earlier used marks. The frames and the Russian letters have been damaged or partially removed making it very difficult to accurately identify these marks. Neither impression on the post card or cover exactly fits the catalogue descriptions for any catalogued Nikolainkaupunki CS.

The thick letters and frame remnants suggest that both of these impressions are from altered or damaged CS No. 6 rather than CS Nos. 19 or 20.

These items are shown here as examples of how censor stamps may change in character from overuse, accidental damage or alteration, which is characteristic of CS Nos. 19 and 20.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 21

10 XI.1916

Type: General
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: Height: 2.5 mm (length varies)
 Description: Date stamp, month in Roman numerals
 Text: *Date*
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

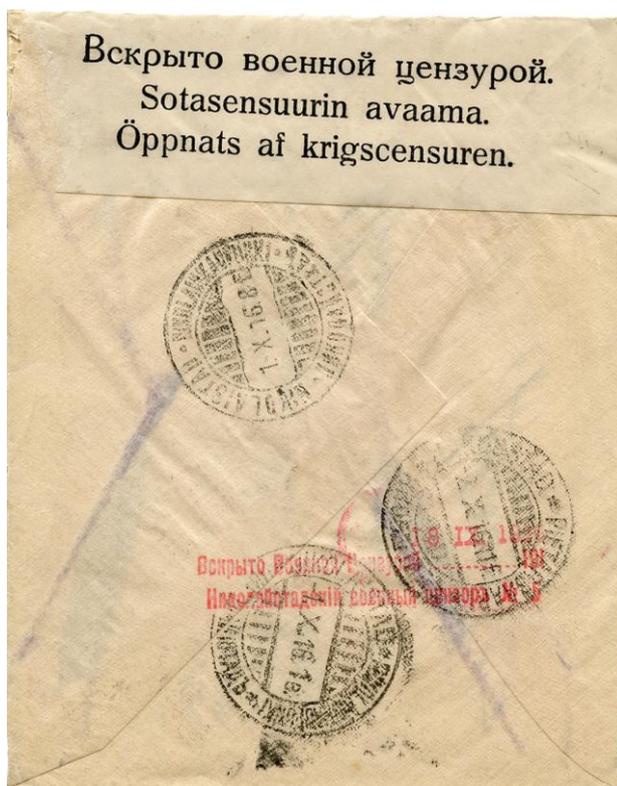
Dates of Use: 05 Sep. 1916 to 19 Jan. 1917 1

Comment:

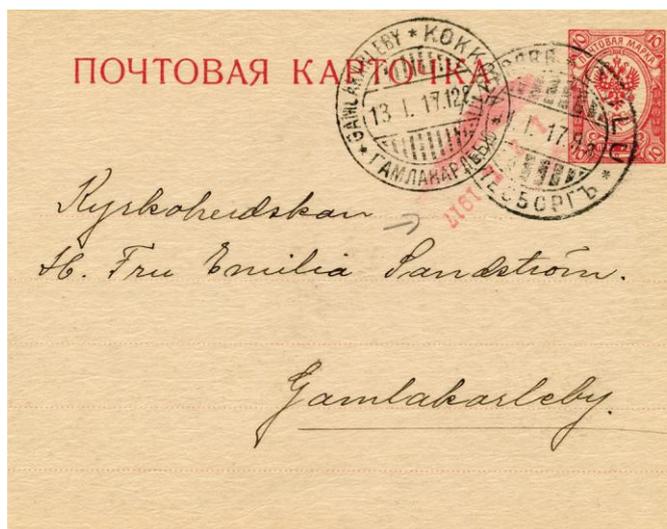
This date stamp is seen on all types of mail. This stamp was converted from Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 15. Traces of an oval frame are visible around the mark. CS No. 15 dates of use overlap dates of use reported for this mark. See commentary in the caption under the illustration.

Rarity:

Very common, level 1.



The date stamp impression is seen above the common two-line personal date stamp, CS No. 18, No. 5.



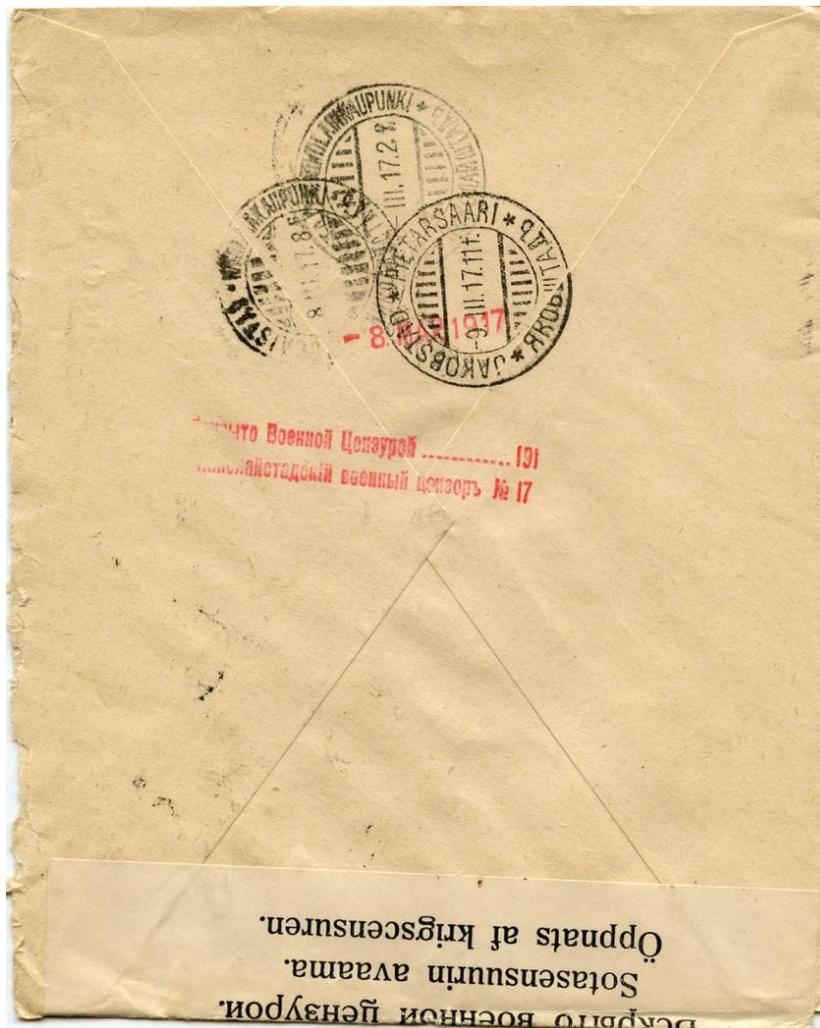
Here the date, 12. I. 1917 was taken from the oval date CS No.15 stamp from which ink smudges from the oval frame can be seen. Yet, there is a question if this is possible considering the dates of use reported in earlier catalogues. There are so many examples of weak, partial impressions of censor marks that separately cataloguing marks derived from other marks leaves us with uncertainties on the classification and usage of some marks. The card has been cropped on the left-hand side.

It is unclear how the date line would be removed from CS No.15 for a period of two months then reinserted in the oval stamp and placed back into service for another three months. Pending analysis of additional items, it may be that CS No. 18 would be more accurately classified as a subtype of CS No. 15.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 22

29. НОЯ 1916

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Straight line	This stamp is often seen along with the Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 18. It was used as an exit mark from the censor office.
Size:	Height: 2,5 mm (length varies)	
Description:	Date stamp, month in Russian	
Text:	<i>Date</i>	Rarity:
Ink:	Red	Common, level 2.
Subtypes:	None	
Dates of Use:	10 Nov. 1916 to 19 Mar. 1917	2



See write-up for CS No. 18. The date stamp is shown in red ink across the Nikolainkaupunki and Pietarsaari postmarks.

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 23



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Oval	This CS is identical to CS No. 24 except that the letters and numerals in the date are larger. Both stamps were placed in service about two months before censoring was discontinued in Nikolainkaupunki. The height of the letters and numerals in the date measures approximately 4 mm. Compared with CS No. 24 and CS No. 15.
Size:	25 x 38 mm	
Description:	Oval, triple rings, two rosettes, date in center, text in Russian	
Text:	War censor(ing) <i>date</i> (City of) Nikolainkaupunki	
Ink:	Red	Rarity:
Subtypes:	None	Rare, level 4, R.
Dates of Use:	23 Feb. 1917 to 26 Apr. 1917	4, R.

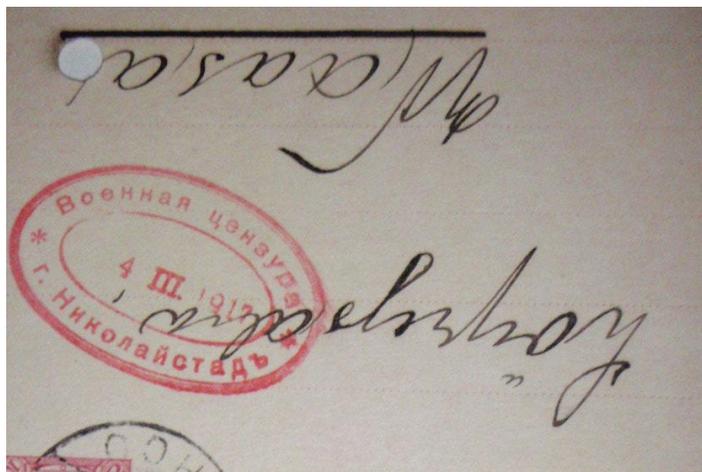


CS No.23 with the characteristic 4mm high dateline used 4 III 1917 on post card sent from Rauma 2. III. 1917 to Vaasa (Nikolainkaupunki/Nikolaistad)

Nikolainkaupunki Censor Stamp No. 24



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Oval	Smaller letters and numerals in the date line, otherwise identical to CS No. 23. The letters and numerals in the date
Size:	25 x 38 mm	measure approximately 2.5 mm. Compare with CS No. 23
Description:	Oval, triple rings, two rosettes, date in center, text in Russian	and CS No. 15. CS Nos. 23 and 24, introduced in February
Text:	War censor(ing) <i>date</i> (City of) Nikolainkaupunki	1917, were the last marks introduced and used in
Ink:	Red	Nikolainkaupunki.
Subtypes:	None	Rarity:
		CS is very common, level 1.
Dates of Use	25 Feb. 1917 to 19 Mar. 1917	1



This mark is seen on a cutout from a post card, censored at Nikolainkaupunki, known as Waasa by the local Swedish speaking population. The small letters distinguish this censor stamp from CS No. 23. Reijo Tanner collection.

Censor Tape Without City Identification - Type A

Вскрыто военной цензурой. Sotasensuurin avaama. Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Type A: Mittel standard 14-point type without city identification
Shape: Three lines of text: Russian, Finnish & Swedish
Text: Opened by war censor
Paper Color(s): Yellow, blue, white, brown, gray & grayish-brown
Subtypes: Types I, II & III

Comment:

Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types. Before the introduction of personal censor stamps, the censor's initials may be found on the resealing tape or the back of the cover. This practice varied from one censor office to another. To date, no censor's initials have been found on a cover censored at Nikolainkaupunki.

Type A	Russian	Finnish	Swedish
I	71-71.5 mm	53.5 mm	61
II	73 mm	54 mm	61
III	72-72.5 mm	53-53.5 mm	61

Dates of Use

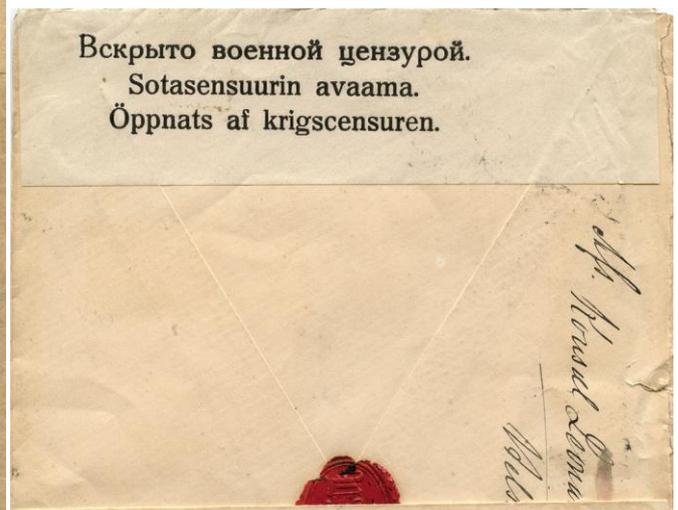
Type I		
Brown paper	11 Sep. 1915 to 06 Dec. 1915	3
White paper	26 May. 1915 to 01 May 1915	2
Type II		
Yellow paper	08 Nov. 1914	-
Type III		
Yellow paper	17 Oct. 1914 to 14 Nov. 1914	-
Blue paper	16 Nov. 1914 to 11 Dec. 1914	-
Green paper	__ May 1915	-
White paper	19 Jan. 1915 to 16 Mar. 1917	2
Red paper	05 Dec. 1914 to 09 Jan. 1915	-
Brown paper	02 Oct. 1915 to 09 Jun. 1916	3

Rarity:

Certainly, the yellow, blue, green, and red paper tapes are scarce, but there is insufficient data to establish a rarity level for these tapes. Yellow tapes may have toned and look like light brown or off-white tapes.

White tapes are common, level 2.

Brown tapes are fairly common, level 3.



Both of these registered covers, addressed to Jakobstad, were resealed with Type A-III paper tapes. The cover on the right does not have any transit marks at the Nikolainkaupunki censor office, which is highly unusual and contrary to postal regulations for registered mail. On the cover at left, resealed with the brown paper tape, an exit cds from the Nikolainkaupunki censor office is shown. The wax seals are sender's private seals.

Censor Tape Without City Identification - Type A, continued



Type A-III Red Resealing Tape: Insured cover from Jalasjärvi, 11. I. 15, to Wasa (Nikolainkaupunki). Opened, inspected and resealed with Type A-III red resealing tape and the Nikolainkaupunki censor wax seal. Also struck with CS No. 5, CM 6. Although there is no arrival postmark in Nikolainkaupunki, the use of the red resealing tape is later than the 9. 01. 15 date reported by Termonen & Keturi.

Sender's private seals on top of cover and Jalasjärvi postal seal is affixed in the center.

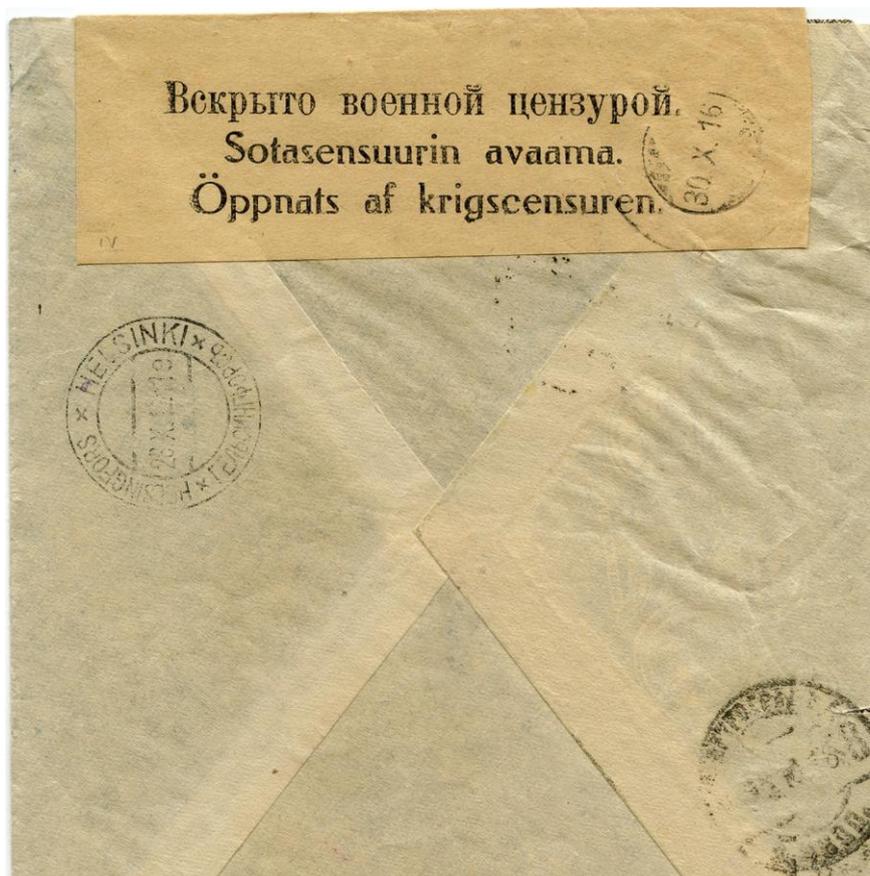
Censor Tape Without City Identification - Type B

Вскрыто военной цензурой. Sotasensuurin avaama. Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Type B:	Antique serif point type without city identification.	Dates of Use:	
Shape:	Three lines of text: Russian, Finnish & Swedish	Type I	
Text:	Opened by war censor	Brown paper	01 Nov. 1916
Paper Colors:	Brown, white	White paper	24 Nov. 1916
Subtypes:	All four types are used in Nikolainkaupunki.	Type II	
Comment:	Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types.	Brown paper	28 Oct. 1916 to 02 Dec. 1916
		White paper	11 Nov. 1916 to 06 Dec. 1916
		Type III	
		Brown paper	23 Nov. 1916
		White paper	13 Nov. 1916 to 30 Nov. 1916
		Type IV	
		Brown paper	30 Oct. 1916 to 27 Nov. 1916
		White paper	15 Nov. 1916 to 21 Nov. 1916

Rarity:

All Type B resealing tapes are uncommon. However, data is insufficient to establish rarity levels for any Type B resealing tapes used at Nikolainkaupunki.



The brown paper resealing tapes, Type B-II and Type IV were used at Nikolainkaupunki from late October 1916 to late November or early December 1916.

This cover, from Russia, was backstamped at Helsinki but not inspected at the censor office, rather it was sent to Nikolainkaupunki where it was opened and resealed. CS No. 16 date stamp was struck on the resealing tape as an exit mark, 30. X. 16

On the front Nikolainkaupunki CS No.18, CM 7 was applied.

Nikolainkaupunki War Censor Wax Seal

Type: Postal wax seal w/city identification
 Shape: Circular
 Size: Varies with each impression.
 The outer ring is approximately 31 mm.
 Text: Military Censor in Nikolaistad

Dates of Use: 21 Aug. 1915 to 01 Mar. 1917 3

Comment:

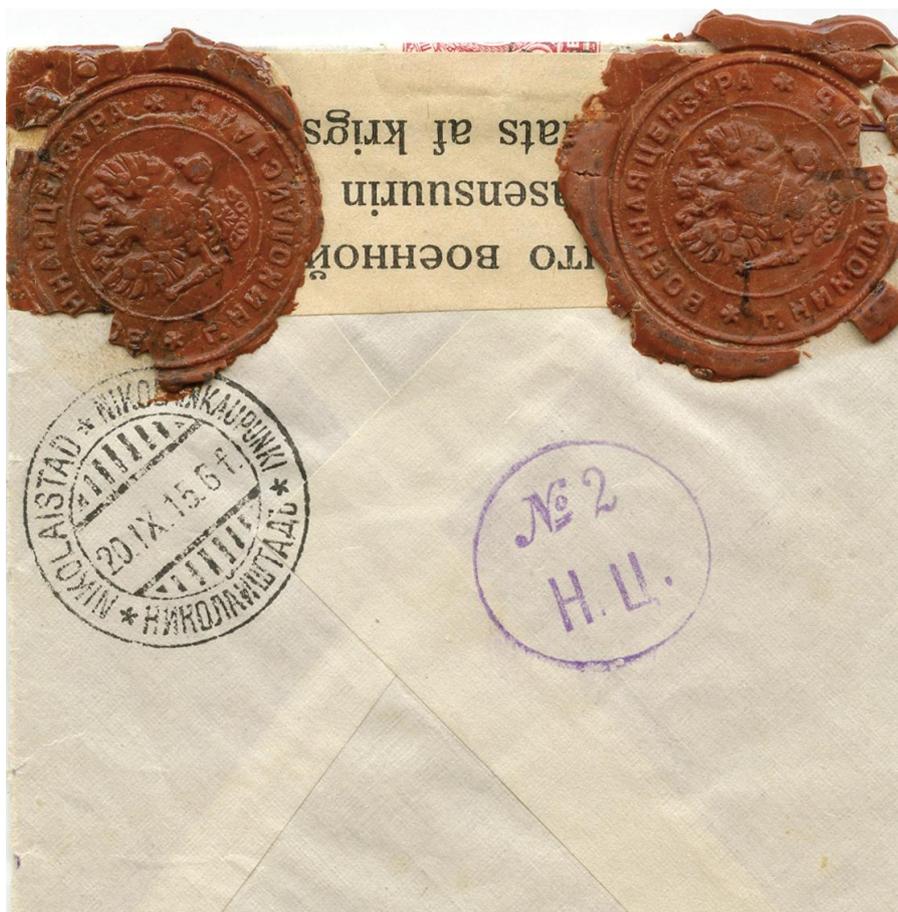
Used almost exclusively with resealing tapes on insured or registered mail and seen with personal CS No. 5, Marks 1-6.

The wax censor seal was used for one year and seven months; it is not scarce, but here, the wax has dried out and cracked. It is difficult to find wax seals complete and intact.

Rarity: Fairly common, level 3.



Nikolainkaupunki Censor Wax seal
 - in Russian language
 ВОЕННАЯ ЦЕНЗУРА г. НИКОЛАЙСТАДЪ
 (seal is enlarged)



Combination of censor markings showing the white Type A-III resealing tape, CS No. 5, Mark 2 and the censor wax seal on a registered cover from Ekenäs to Wasa (Nikolainkaupunki), 20. IX. 1915. Subsequently, the FGPO ordered the censor offices not to reseal envelopes with wax seals because of a shortage of wax.

Nikolainkaupunki Postal Wax Seals Used By Censor Office

Type: Postal seal with city identification
 Shape: Circular; text in Swedish/Finnish/Russian
 Size: Varies with each impression
 Text: Nikolaistad/Nikolainkaupunki/
 Николайстадъ
 Subtypes: Two known: A-1 and A-2

Dates of Use:

A-1	16 Oct. 1914 to 26 Nov. 1914	4 or R
A-2	17 Oct. 1914 to 23 Jul. 1915	3

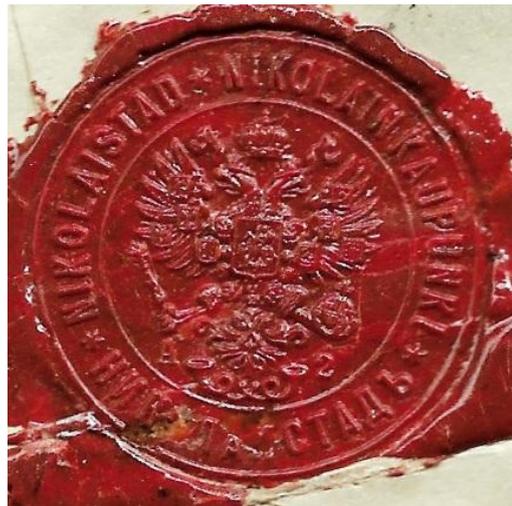
Rarity:

Both the postal wax seals used by the censor office are elusive and difficult:

A-1 Rare, level 4 or R

A-2 Fairly common, level 3.

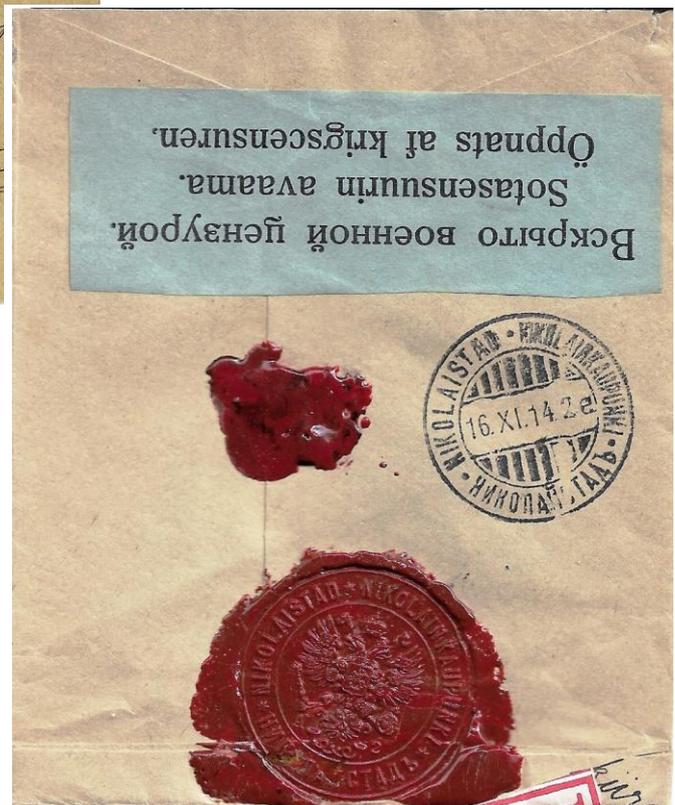
These ranking levels may not fully acknowledge the rarity.



Postal wax seal in three languages
 Nikolaistad * Nikolainkaupunki * Николайстадъ
 (seal is enlarged)



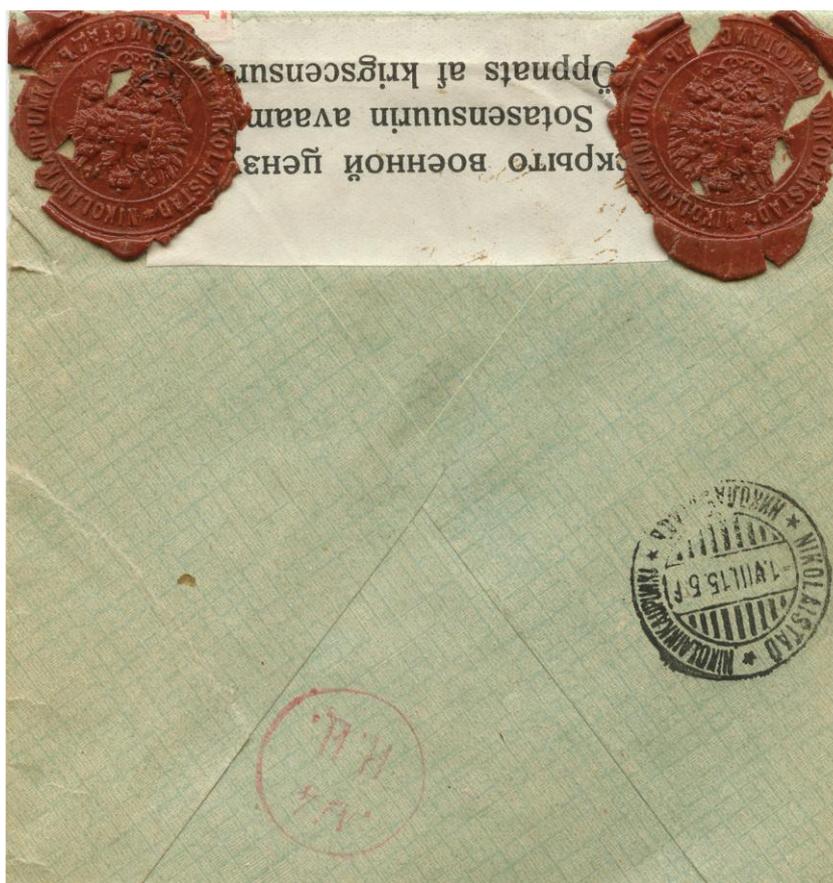
Front and back of a registered letter sent from Pori 15.XI.14 to Nikolainkaupunki arriving next day 16.XI.15. After inspection the cover was resealed with a blue type A-III paper tape (EKU) and a hard-to-find intact copy of the postal wax seal type A-2.



Nikolainkaupunki Postal Wax Seals Used by Censor Office (continued)

Each of these covers display exceptional combinations of censor markings. Type A-III resealing paper tape, censor's personal mark, CS No. 5, Mark 4 (top) / 6 (bottom) and the censor wax seal, A-2.

Right: Registered cover from Seinäjoki to Nikolainkaupunki,



This registered cover also shows three types of censor markings: Type A-III resealing paper tape, censor's personal mark, CS No. 5, Mark 6, and censor wax seal, A-2 from Illmajoki, 10. IV. 1915, to Nikolainkaupunki.