

Oulu/Uleåborg/Улеоборгъ Censorship

Stamps and Resealing Tapes

13 October 1914 to 20 March 1917



PPC showing the Oulu post office located on KAUPPURIENKATU 13. The censor office was operating from the same building.

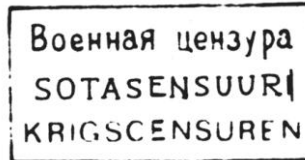
Revised 23 Feb. 2026
Russian Postal Censorship in Finland
<https://censor.jiv.dk>
Jon Iversen

Oulu Censor Stamp - Overview

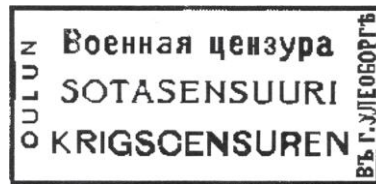
[CS. 01](#)

Sotasensuuri Oulu

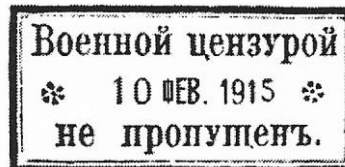
[CS. 02](#)



[CS. 03](#)



[CS. 04](#)



[CS. 05](#)



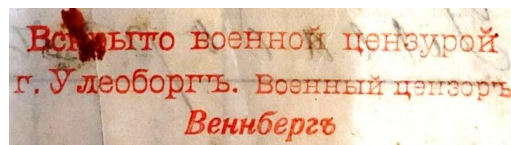
[CS. 06](#)



[CS. 07](#)

Военный цензоръ : 4

[CS. 08](#)



[CS. 09](#)



Oulu Censor Stamp

[CS. 10](#)

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
М

[CS. 11](#)



[CS. 12](#)

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
5

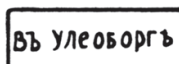
[CS. 13](#)

Tark. 2

[CS. 14](#)



[CS. 15](#)



[CS. 16](#)

19.12.16

[CS. 17](#)

Вскрыто Военной Цензурой191
Улеаборгскій военный цензоръ № 5

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1**Sotasensuuri Oulu**

Mark No. 1

Type: General
 Shape: Straight line: See comment
 Size: Varies
 Description: One or two lines in Finnish, several subtypes with date.
 Text: War censor(ing) in Oulu.
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: There are six main subtypes and altogether approximately twenty-five varieties.

These marks are in Finnish without any accompanying Russian or Swedish text; as such, these marks are unique among all Finnish censor stamps used during the time, Finland was a Grand Duchy of Russia.

Dates of Use:

The dates of use are given on the left-hand column identifying the subtype. The earliest date for any mark is 15. October 1914 and the last date of use for any mark is 21. January 1915.

Rarity:

Rarity levels are shown under the dates of use. Generally these censor marks are not rare, however, several of the uncatalogued subtype varieties may prove very elusive.

Comment:

The numbering for the numerous subtypes of this very common and unique Oulu censor stamp has been changed. This listing does not follow the Olamo or Termonen & Keturi catalogue listings; rather, it is now listed with six main subtypes according to overall appearance:

Mark No. 1: Single line with town name and no date
 Mark No. 2: Single line with town name and date
 Mark No. 3: Two lines, town name on top; bottom line, war censor declaration, no date
 Mark No. 4: Two lines, town name on top; bottom line, war censor declaration, with date
 Mark No. 5: Two lines, war censor declaration on top line; bottom line, town name, no date
 Mark No. 6: Two lines, war censor declaration on top; bottom line, town name followed by date
 There are approximately 25 varieties of these subtypes.

Some of these differences include the length of text, spacing of the letters, and the shifting of the second line of text relative to the top line of text. Also, some of the fonts are different or sit differently on the line. Cyril Schwenson has reported that a coma, dot, or period can be found after the text on some of the subtypes. See Professor Lauri Siivonen's articles in the Finnish journal, *Philatelia Fennica*, 1972, issues 6 and 7.

Editor's Comment: We have shown here four Mark 6 subtypes with the censor's declaration on the top line, town, and date on the second line. Termonen & Keturi illustrate three subtypes with these same characteristics, Marks 5, 6, and 7, page 50, *Postisensuuri Suomessa, 1914-1918*, Vol. 2, p 50. There are probably more subtypes of this genre and the defining difference would be the position of Oulu on the second line in reference to the starting position of Sotasensuuri on the first line.

We cannot be sure how many different stamps were actually manufactured and how many of these marks represent repaired or re-manufactured marks.

Needless to say, the number of small variations seen in the marks of all the major subtypes show that these rubber stamps were subject to a heavy workload; letters, numerals or entire words may have broken off or simply fell off, then reglued, but never in the exact same place. In some cases, different letters were substituted.

It is not possible here to provide a detailed analysis and illustrate every minute difference in all the subtypes of Oulu CS No. 1; nevertheless, the six major subtypes are arranged by 1) basic design, 2) word arrangement, and 3) date or no date are shown. Word spacing, backspace marks, town name on top or bottom line, all capitals or sentence case, alignment of first word in each line, Arabic or Roman numerals, day, month and/or year dates, full stop at end of line differentiate subtypes in each group.

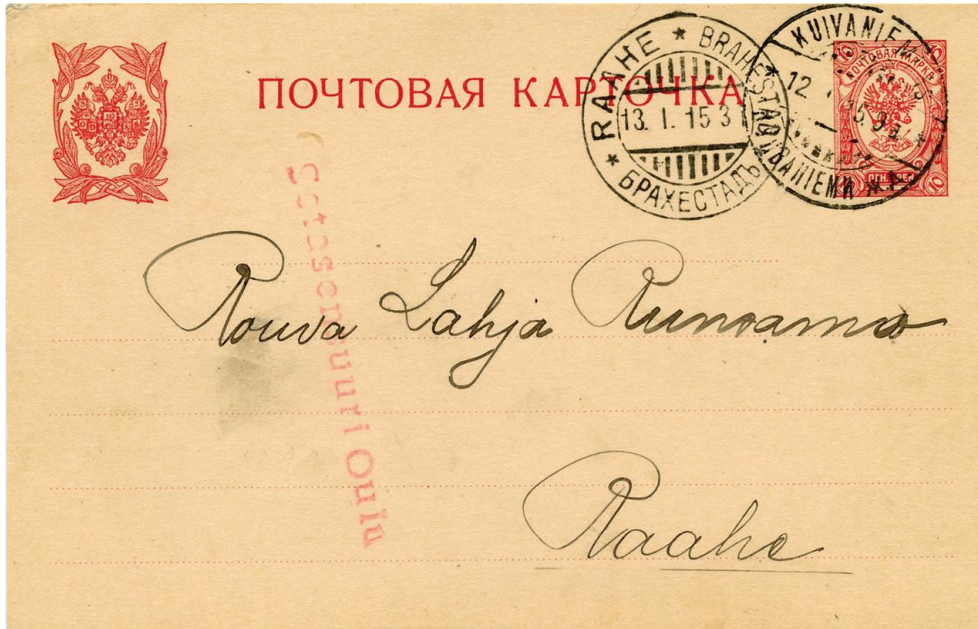
Sixteen marks are shown or described here. About 25 different marks have been reported or identified in various articles and catalogs. Only those which could be verified have been cataloged here.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued

Mark No. 1a 13 Nov. 1914 to 21 Jan. 1915
Common, level 2

Sotasensuuri Oulu

Single line with town name and no date.
Loops in "S" are different, wide separation
between words, Sotasensuuri and Oulu.

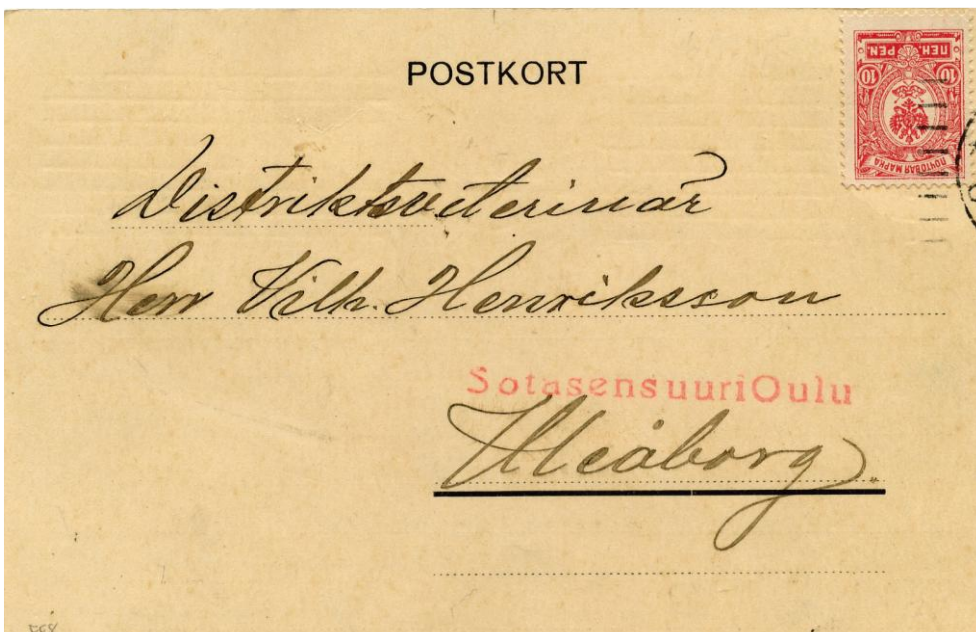


Mark 1: The upper loop in the first letter "S" is wider than the lower loop. There is a wide separation between the two words Sotasensuuri and Oulu. Here is an example of late use, 12. I. 15.

Mark No. 1b 25 Oct. 1914 to 05 Jan. 1915
Common, level 2

SotasensuuriOulu

Loop in "S" is reversed here; small top loop, large bottom loop and narrow separation between the two words, Sotasensuuri and Oulu.



This cards was struck with Mark 1b, distinguished with a different "S." Here the top loop of the "S" is small and the bottom loop is large. Also, there is only a very narrow separation between the two words, "Sotasensuuri" and "Oulu."

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued

Sotasensuuri Oulu 13/IX

Sotasensuuri Oulu 18/10

Mark No. 2 a 13 Nov. 1914 to 14 Nov. 1914
Common, level 2

Mark No. 2b 18 Oct. 1914
Common, level?

Description and Comment:
Single line with date after town name. The day is in Arabic numerals and the month in Roman numerals

Description and Comment:
Single line with date after town name. The day and month is both in Arabic numerals



Mark 2 is a single line mark with the censor declaration followed by the town name and a date. Above is mark 2a with month in Roman numerals and below with month in Arabic numerals

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued

Oulu Sotasensuuri

Mark No. 3 03 Nov. 1914 to 06 Jan, 1915
Very common, level 1

Description and Comment:
Two lines of text in sentence case; town name on top,
censor declaration on second line without date



Mark 3 is the only example of these marks with the town name on the top line and the censor declaration on the second line. It is entirely possible that several variations of Mark 3 will be reported with shifts in word positions similar to those seen with Marks 5a and 5b. This card is shown at full size.

OULU 2 /XIV.
SOTASENSUURI

Mark No. 4 Date of use cannot be established.
Rarity level uncertain, insufficient data.

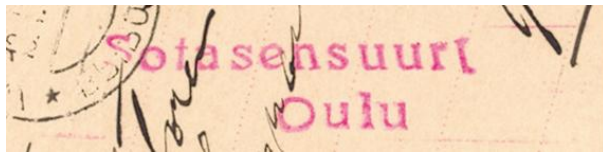
Description and Comment:
Two lines of text in upper case; town name with date and
year on top line; censor declaration on second line.

No Cover Illustration Available

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued**Sotasensuur[
Oulu**

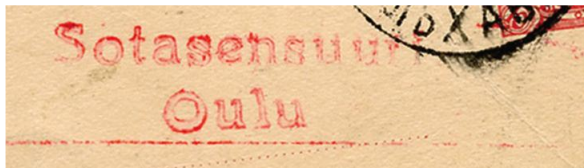
Mark No. 5a 22 Dec. 1914 to 01 Jan. 1915
Mark is very common, level 1

Description and Comment: All Mark 5 subtypes are two lines of text in sentence case with the censor declaration on top and the town name on bottom. In Mark 5a, the "O" in Oulu is directly under the second "s" in Sotasensuuri.



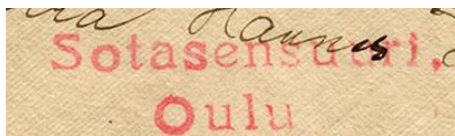
Mark No. 5b 07 Jan. 1915 to 16 Jan. 1915
This mark is not listed by T & K. All known marks date from January 1915.
Insufficient data to assign rarity

Description and Comment: Same design as Mark 5 except that the second line of text is shifted to the right. The "O" in Oulu is directly under the "en" in Sotasensuuri.



Mark No. 5c 10 Jan. 1915
This mark is not listed by T & K.
Insufficient date to assign rarity, although no reason to believe it is uncommon

Description and Comment: Same basic design as Mark 5a except that Oulu on the second line is shifted to the left, the "O" in Oulu is under the "as" in Sotasensuuri. There is a partial frame line remnant around the text.



Mark No. 5d 04 Jan. 1915
This mark is not listed by T & K.
Insufficient date to assign rarity, although no reason to believe it is uncommon

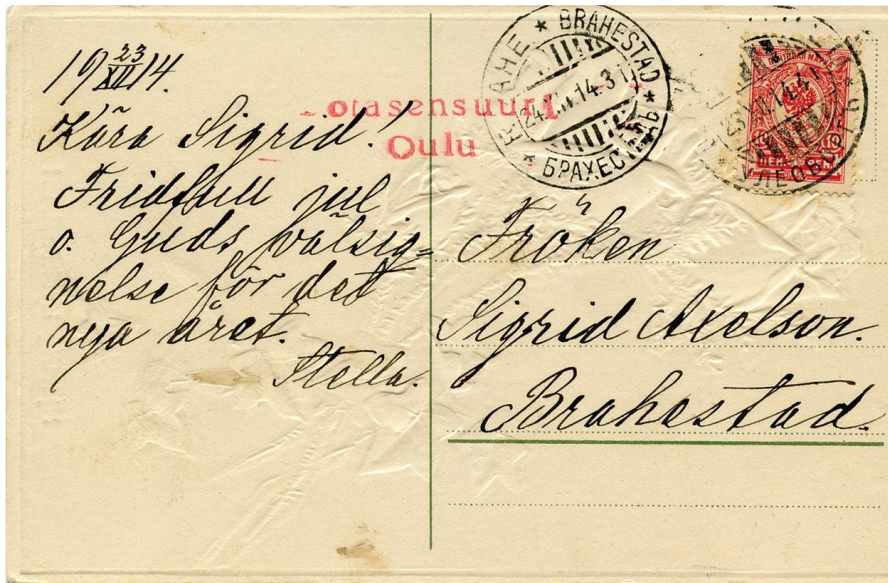
Description and Comment: Here the "O" in Oulu is further to the left under the letter "a" in Sotasensuuri. There is a very faint frame outline, which is visible on a computer screen on a high-resolution scan. It is clearly different from Mark 5c.

**SOTASENSUURI
OULU**

Mark No. 5e 22 Dec. 1914 to 01 Jan. 1915
Common, level 2

Description and Comment: Here, both lines of text are in upper case without date.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued



Mark 5a: on a Raahe Christmas greeting card, 23. XII. 14, sent to Oulu censor office, then back to addressee at Raahe the next day. Here the "S" in Sotasensuuri is partially missing, but surely not a mark variety, only a weak application of the strike.



Mark 5b: On this mark the town name on the second line is positioned slightly to the right with the "O" in Oulu directly under the "en" in Sotasensuuri. This card from Viipuri, censored 16. I. 1915 is a very late use of any CS No. 1 mark.



Mark 5c: This mark text, fonts, and format of this mark is identical with Mark 5d except there appears to be a definite rectangular frame around the text. This is the only example of this mark reported to date. The January 1915 usage is late and appears to be the only Mark 5 subtype with a strong frame or partial frame outline. This card is from Olhava, 10. I. 15.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued

SOTASENSUURI
OULU 6/XI

Mark No. 6a 03 Nov. 1914 to 06 Nov. 1914
Common, level 2

Description and Comment: All words in upper case, day in Arabic numerals, month in Roman numerals.

Sotasensuuri.
Oulull/XII

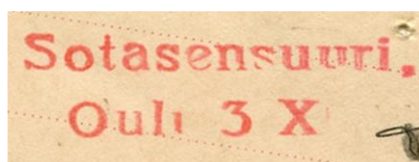
Mark No. 6b 15 Oct. 1914 to 11 Dec. 1914
Mark is common, level 2

Text in sentence case, day in Arabic numerals and month in Roman numerals. The "O" in Oulu is directly under the "o" in Sotasensuuri. Large full stop at end of first line.

Sotasensuuri
Oulu 19/10 14.

Mark No. 6c 15 Oct. 1914 to 19 Oct. 1914
Rare, level 4 or R

Text in sentence case, day, month and year in Arabic numerals. Period at end of second line.



Mark No. 6d 03 Nov. 1914 to 06 Nov. 1914
Not separately catalogued by T & K
Fairly common, level 3

Description and Comment: Large full stop at end of top line. "O" in Oulu is directly under the "o" in Sotasensuuri. The second "u" in Oulu is partially missing. Day in Arabic numeral, month in Roman numerals. There is no backslash and no year date.



Mark No. 6e 03 Nov. 1914 to 06 Nov. 1914
Fairly common, level 3

Description and Comment: Mark 6e is distinguished by the position of the "O" in Oulu under "ot" in Sotasensuuri and the month and year are both in Arabic numerals. The heavy Raahe cancellation obscures the Arabic numerals for the month. It is clear under high resolution scan.

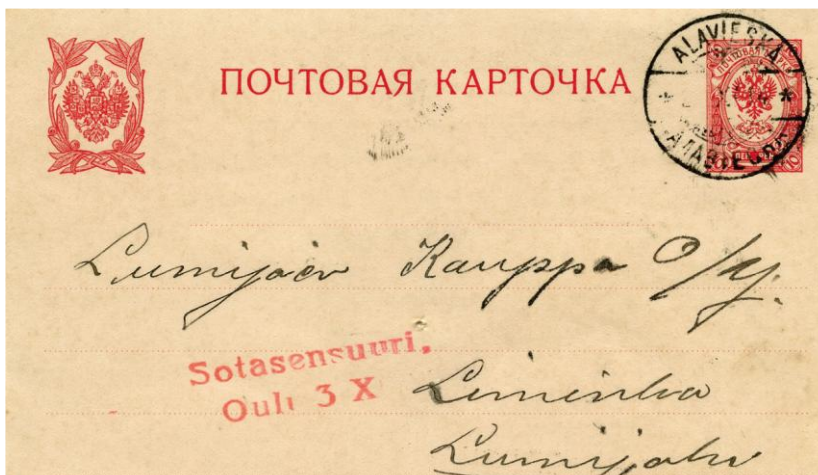
Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1, continued



Mark No. 6bv: This is an uncatalogued variety of Mark 6b. It appears to be identical with Mark 6b except that it is missing the full stop after Sotasensuuri.



Mark 6c: This is another uncatalogued variety of Mark 6b. The "i" is missing in Sotasensuuri, there is no full stop at the end of the top line and the "l" on Oulu tilts slightly forward. There is no rarity level for this mark.

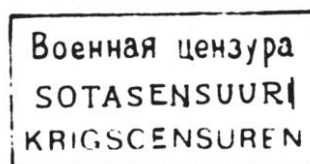


Mark 6d: This mark is very similar to Mark 6b but there is no backslash between the day and month.



Mark 6e: This mark is distinguished by the position of the "O" in Oulu under the "ot" in Sotasensuuri. Also, the month and year are both in Arabic numerals.

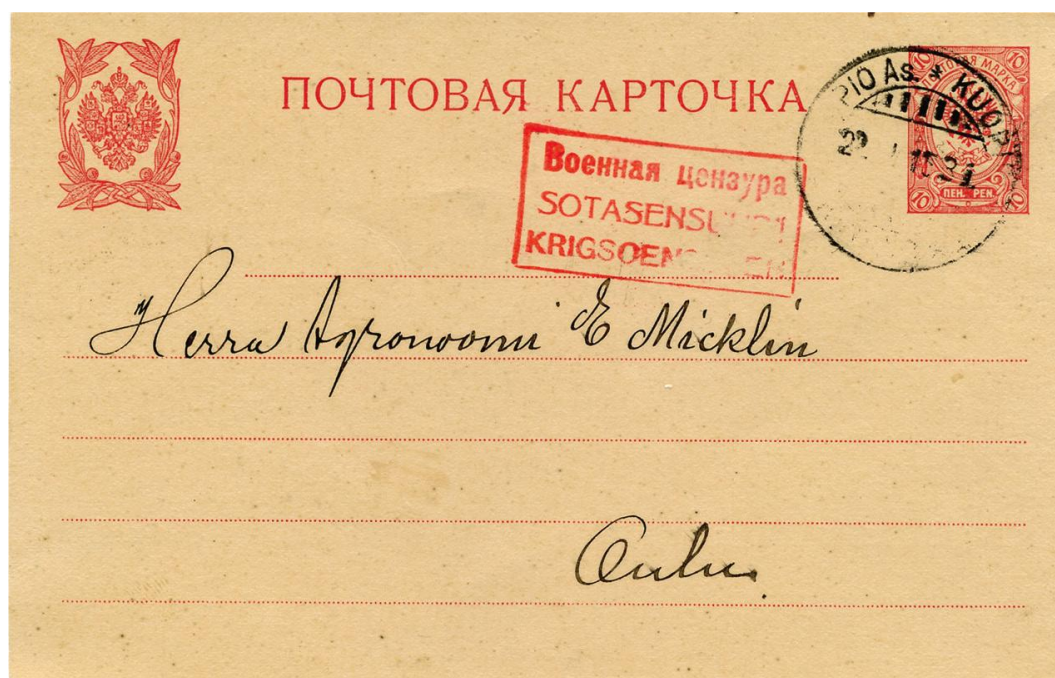
Oulu Censor Stamp No. 2



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular box, single frame
 Size: 18 x 37 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish
 Text: War censor(ing)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None reported
 Dates of Use: 21 Oct. 1914 to 05 Apr. 1915

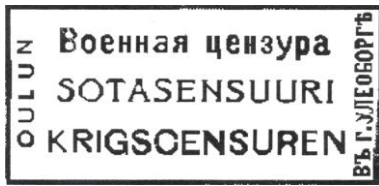
Comment:
 Mark contains the same irregularity as Rauma CS No. 1: here is a vertical line immediately after the letter "i" in the word "Sotasensuuri." The mark appears on unopened general correspondence, post(al) cards and printed matter envelopes. See caption below.

Rarity:
 Very common, level 1.

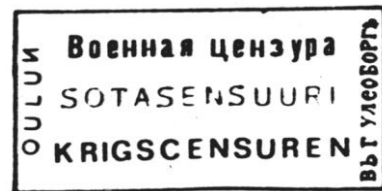


If there is a doubt identifying the censor location where this stamp was applied, the destination address will usually offer easy verification. The general rule is straight forward; all mail is censored at the destination location unless permission was granted to sender to submit letter to the departing censor office (certain banks pursuant to FGPO Bulletin No. 10766, dated 24. October 1914). Here the card was addressed to Oulu, so we are confident that the mark was applied at the censor office there.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 3



Mark No. 1



Mark No. 2

Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, single frame
 Size: 23 x 48 mm
 Description: In the center, three lines of text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish.
 Vertical text on left in Finnish, on the right, in Cyrillic
 Text: Horizontal text: War censor(ing)
 Vertical Text: city of Oulu
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: Two reported of which one has the letter "n" in the city name "Oulun" backwards.

Dates of Use:
 Mark No. 1 01 Feb. 1915 to 24 Mar. 1915 1
 Mark No. 2 20 Jan. 1915 to 24 Mar. 1915 1

Comment:
 The mark with the normal "n" is Mark No. 1. Mark No. 2 has a backwards "n" in "Oulun." Both marks appears on general mail, post(al) cards and printed matter envelopes It is seen solo on objects. The impression is often partially incomplete with the vertical Cyrillic text showing very faintly or not at all.

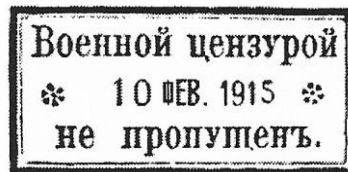
Rarity:
 Both marks are very common, level 1.



Left: The normal "N" in OULUN is clear on this clean strike on a letter to Kemi.

Below: The vertical text on the left hand side is partially missing, however, the diagonal crossbar can be seen starting from the outside leg of the "N" indicating that the typesetter placed the "N" upside down or inserted the Cyrillic "И" by mistake.



Oulu Censor Stamp No. 4

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Rectangular box, double frame, two rosettes, date in center.	Mark is very rare, used on mail returned or not allowed delivery by the post. To date this mark is known used just one day at Oulu, 10 February 1915. Only one item reported by Olamo.
Size:	22 x 44 mm	
Description:	Two lines of text in Russian, date in center	
Text:	War Censor <i>Date</i> не пропущенъ (passage not allowed)	Rarity: Mark is very rare, level 5, RR on the rarity scale.
Ink:	Red	
Subtypes:	None reported	
Date of Use:	10 Feb. 1915	5,RR

No Cover Illustration Available

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 5



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular box, single frame,
 Size: 52 x 19 mm
 Description: Three sections: left section in Finnish, right section in Cyrillic, and three lines of text in the center in Russian, Finnish and Swedish.
 Text: Center text: War censor(ing)
 Vertical text: City of Oulu
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: None known

Dates of Use:

Period I 25 Mar. 1915 to 05 Apr. 1915 1
 Period II 24 Mar. 1916 to 08 Jun. 1916 1

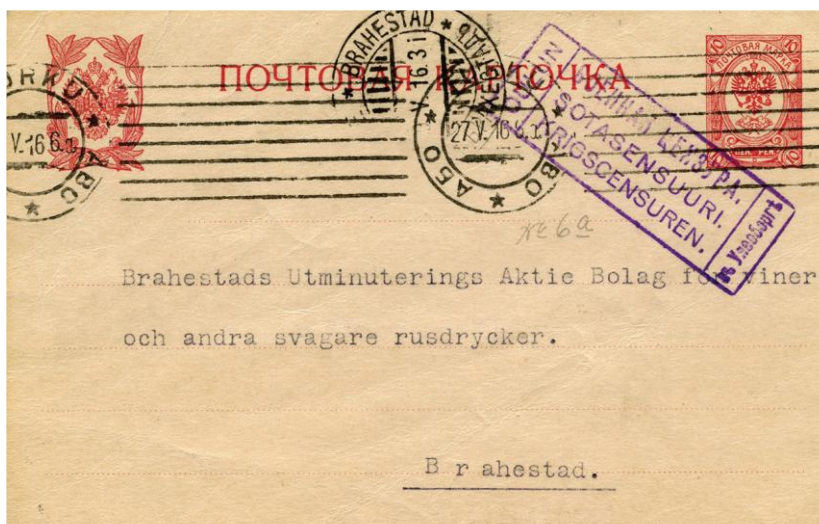
Comment:

Mark is on display at the Postal Museum, ID: E1 6893. Two distinct periods of use; not used between the two times. Mark is seen solo on post(al) card and general correspondence during first period of use.

Illustration of CS above is from Olamo's catalogue. This illustration does not show the periods after the three horizontal lines of text, however, on every example we have examined the mark shows the periods or dots clearly. See illustrations below; the periods/dots appear on both strikes, one from each period of use.

Rarity: Very common, level 1.

Right: First period of use, letter from Helsinki, 23. III. 15, to Kalajoki, back-stamped 26. II. 15. This may be the earliest use of this mark by several days; the previously first usage date was reported by T & K at 26 March 1915, the date this cover arrived at the destination address after censoring at Oulu.



Left: Here is a strike from the second period of use, in violet ink on a card from Turku to Brahestad, 29, V. 16. Both colored inks were used during the first and second periods of use. The strike here is strong and clear, but the vertical Cyrillic text on the right side is often blurred or partially missing.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 6



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Circular	Censor stamp usually appears by itself on an object. Rings are sometimes blurred. This rubber stamp with wooden handle is on display; Post Museum ID: E1 6950. It is also seen solo on general correspondence.
Diameter:	23 mm	
Description:	Double rings. Cyrillic letters "D. Ts." in center.	
Text:	Censor(ing) allowed	
Ink:	Red, violet	Rarity:
Subtypes:	None reported	Very common, level 1.
Dates of Use:	04 Apr. 1915 to 26 Mar. 1916 1	



Both of these items are addressed to Oulu with the Swedish spelling, Uleåborg. The postal card is postmarked February 5, 1916, ten months after the CS was first used, remarkable longevity for a continuously used rubber stamp. The different shades of red and violet red are seen throughout its service life.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 7

Военный цензорь : 4

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight Line
 Size: 3 x 37 mm
 Description: One line of text in Russian
 Text: War Censor No...
 Ink: Red
 Sub-types: Mark Nos. 1 to 6 known

Comment:

So far, the mark has appeared only along with a letter resealing tape. Mark No. 4 with a wooden handle is displayed at the Post Museum, ID No. E1 6875. This is one of the rarest personal censor stamps known from any of the ten censor offices. Are other dates known?

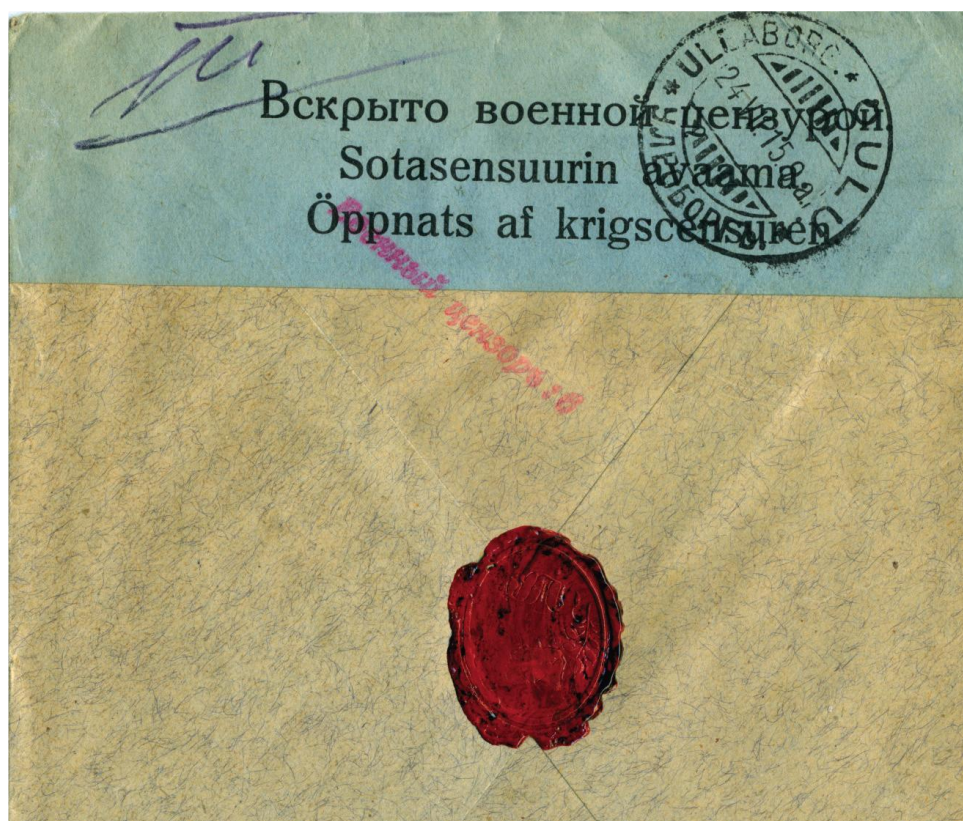
It is not known if this mark was used on certain types of mail only or mail from or addressed address to certain persons.

Date(s) of Use:

Mark No. 1	16 Jul. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 2	09 Jun. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 3	15 Apr. 1915 to 01 Sep. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 4	04 Apr. 1915 to 06 Aug. 1915	4, R
Mark No. 5	27 Apr. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 6	28 May 1915 to 24 Jul. 1915	5, RR

Rarity:

One of the most elusive censor stamps used in Finland. It is likely that fewer than five covers are known with any of these numbered marks. Marks rarity from T & K.



CS No. 4 is an unusual censor stamp. There are four subtypes and each one is ranked rare or very rare. Although Mark 6, shown here, was in use for almost two months, only two examples have been recorded. Here, a registered letter from Laurila to Muhos, via Oulu, 24 VII. 1915.

See censor tape type A for additional comments on this cover.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 8

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 71 x 15 mm
 Description: Two lines of text in Russian
 Text: Opened by war censor
 City of Oulu war censor
 Censor's name
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: Seven reported

Comment:

New information has been found in the National Archives in Helsinki, impression of seven signatures of this mark has been found in the files, of these seven only three have previously been reported used. The scans were provided by Reijo Tanner.

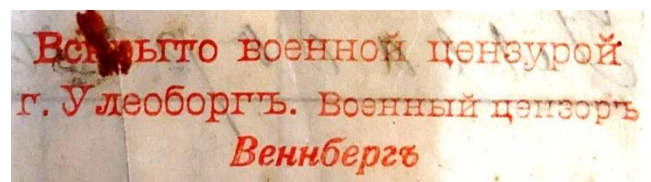
It has not been reported in the literature if this stamp was a reserve mark or was used on designated types of mail. Additional information is sought by the Editor as well as scans of the mark on a cover.

Rarity comment:

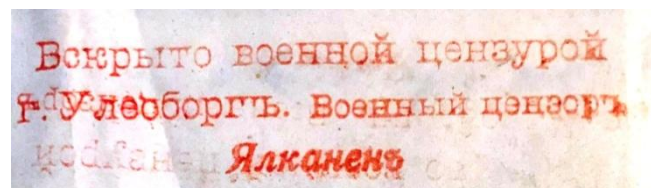
Each of the first three marks of this censor stamp is one date only known, and therefore probably should be ranked 5, RR, the fourth is added by this editor and therefore known as one item only known, and rated 5, RR



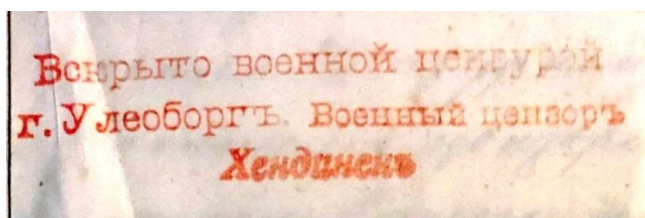
Mark No. 3 18 May 1915 4, R
 Censor Анстень - I.J. Ansten



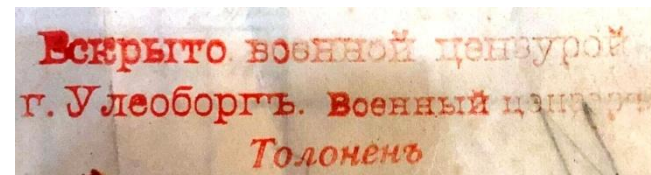
Mark No. 4 19 Nov. 1915 5,RR
 Censor Веннбергъ - Vennberg



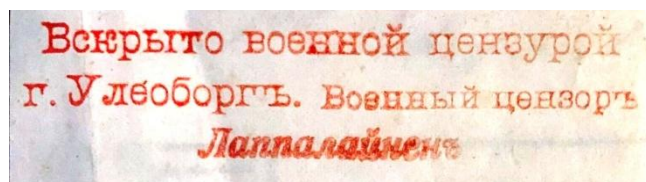
Mark No. 5 No use reported
 Censor Ялканень - Jalkanen



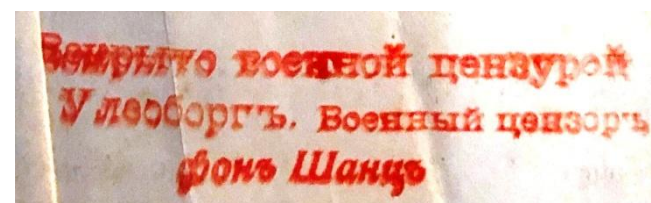
Mark No. 1 20 Nov. 1915, 4, R
 Censor Хенбинень
 Lieutenant colonel Hentunen,
 Head of the Oulu censor office



Mark No. 6 No use reported
 Censor Толонень - Tolonen

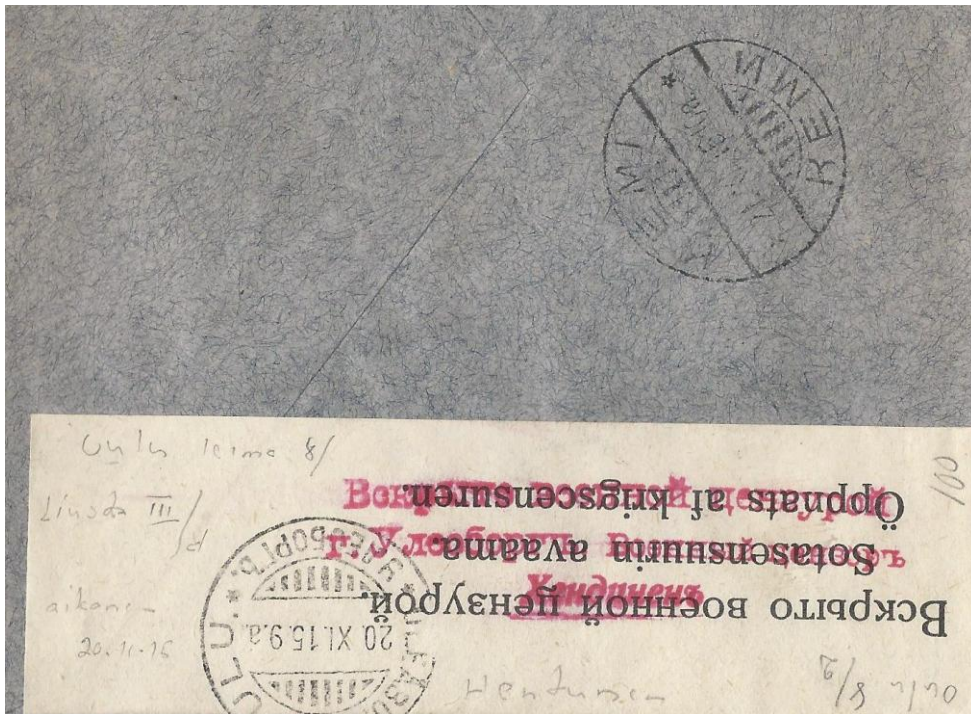


Mark No. 2 10 Nov. 1915 4, R
 Censor Лаппалайнень – Lappalainen

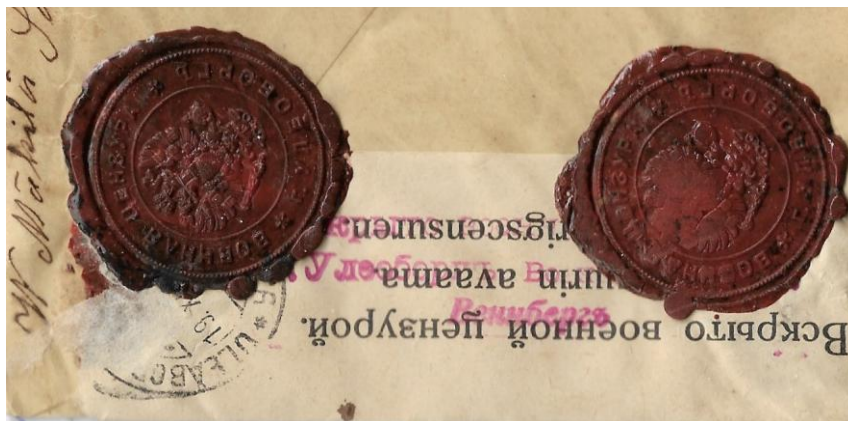


Mark No. 7 No use reported
 Censor Фонь Шанць - von Schantz

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 8 (continued)



Here one of only two available CS 8. This is mark 1 from the head of the Oulu censor office Mr. Hentunen, sadly on top of the text of the CT type A. The cover was censored on 20 Nov. 1916 at Oulu on the way to Kemi. Collection Jorma Keturi.



CS 8, Mark 4 used 19 Nov. 1915 has also been reported in combination with two wax seals – the Oulu censor office seal and a private wax seal which probably belonged to Censor Vennbergъ (Веннбергъ)



Oulu Censor Stamp No. 9

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
Л. Лаппалайненъ

Mark No. 1: Censor Лаппалайненъ – Lappalainen
 29 Nov. 1915 to 29 Jul. 1916 3

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
Я. Ялканенъ

Mark No. 2: Censor Ялканенъ - Jalkanen
 15 Apr. 1916 4, R

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
Т. Толоненъ

Mark No. 3: Censor Толоненъ - Tolonen
 15 Dec. 1915 4, R



Mark No. 4: Censor Сергеѣвъ - Sergeff
 07 Jun. 1916 to 18 Jul. 1916 4, R

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 19 x 49 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Russian and censor's name in the script.
 Text: War censor inspected
 City of Oulu
 War censor
 Censor's name
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: Four stamps issued with different signatures.

Comment:
 Four different signatures have been identified. Marks are found with resealing tape, postal forms, and general correspondence.

Rarity:
 Marks 2, 3, & 4 are ranked 4 or R while Mark 1 has been changed from 4 to 3 as a result of three new items coming to light recently.



18 July 1916 is the last known use of CS No. 9, Mark 4. On the back there are two Oulu cds showing arrival at the Oulu post office and a second cds showing the departure date and time from the censor office.

The CS is also struck on the back across the resealing tape.

The Type A-III brown resealing tape was used from 10 August to 13 September 1916; it is common.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 9, continued



Mark 1 was in service for little more than three months. It is seen here on an ordinary postal card expeditiously routed from Kuivaneimi, 28. XII. 15 (in the Oulu province) via Oulu censor office to Raahe, 29. XII. 15 on the Gulf of Bothenia, also Oulu province.



Mark 1 is the only common subtype of this censor stamp. It is seen on all types of mail. Illustrated above is a Finnish language parcel address card. On the reverse side, the form is printed in Swedish. The blue crayon marking "1/2" shows 50% premium paid for extra care similar to a FRAGILE label seen on parcels in the USA. The censor stamp is correctly struck on the vertical line dividing the coupon and address sections of the card.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 10

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 19 x 49 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Russian and censor's initials.
 Text: War censor inspected
 City of Oulu
 War censor
 Censor's initials
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: Six different Marks are known.

Comment:

Five different initials have been reported. All of these Marks are common except CM 5 and 6, which are rare (R). Oulu CS Nos. 9 and 10 are distinguished by the censor's personal initials. In CS No. 9, the censor's last name is written in script. In CS No. 10, only the censor's initial appears. These marks are seen on general mail and on the reverse side of inspected mail along with the resealing tape and occasionally a wax seal.

Rarity: Marks 1-4 are fairly common, level 3.
 Marks 5-6 are rare, level 4 or R.

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*at*

Mark No. 1 17 Dec. 1915 to 29 Jul. 1916 3

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*at*

Mark No. 1a

Note that the position of the initial is slightly to the right of its position on Mark No. 1. At some point the initial likely fell off and was repaired.

Mark 4 is seen on this inspected letter from Ikaalinen to the small town named Ii, which is the only two letter post office name in Finland, located in Oulu province. The resealing tape is Type A-1 brown. Both the CS and CT are fairly common.

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*SM*

M. No. 2 24 Dec. 1915 to 16 Apr. 1916 3

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*SM*

Mark No. 3 07 Jan. 1916 to 22 Jun. 1916 3

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*SB*

Mark No. 4 10 Jan. 1916 to 05 May 1916 3

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой

г. Улеаборгъ

Военный цензоръ*T*

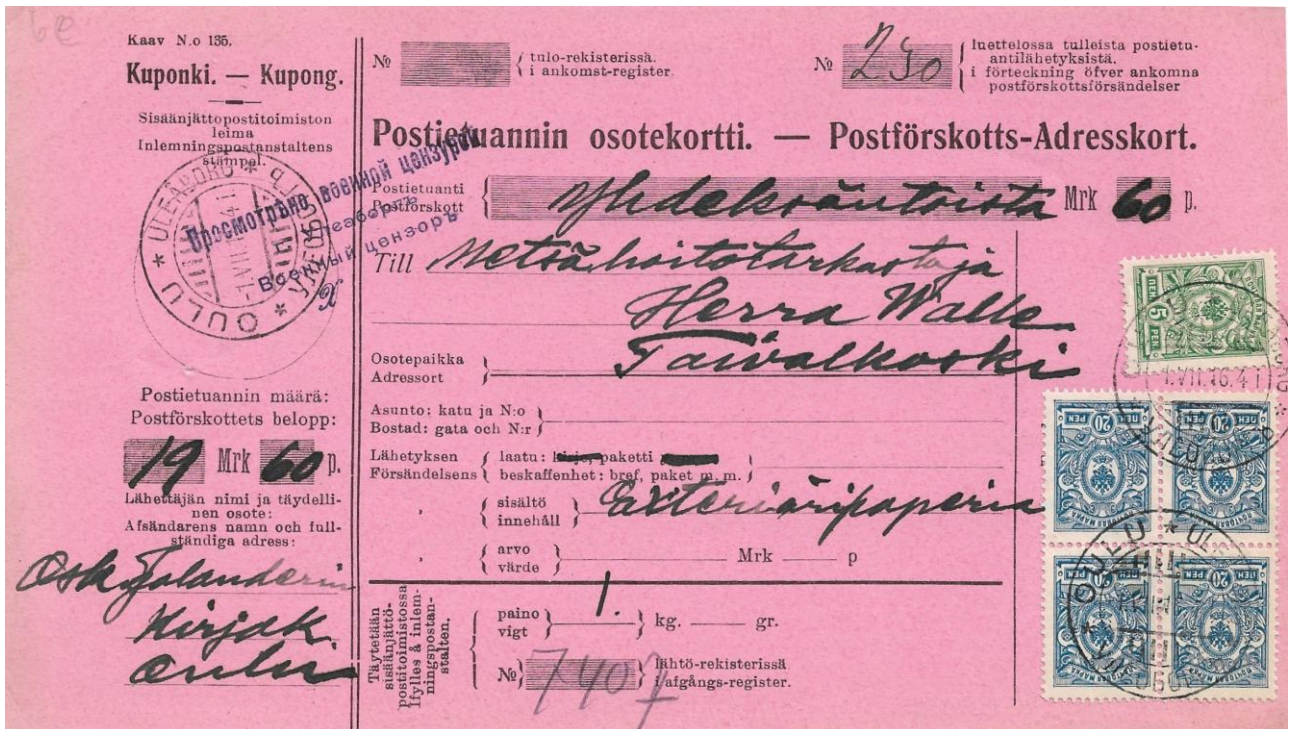
Mark No. 5 05 Oct. 1916 4, R



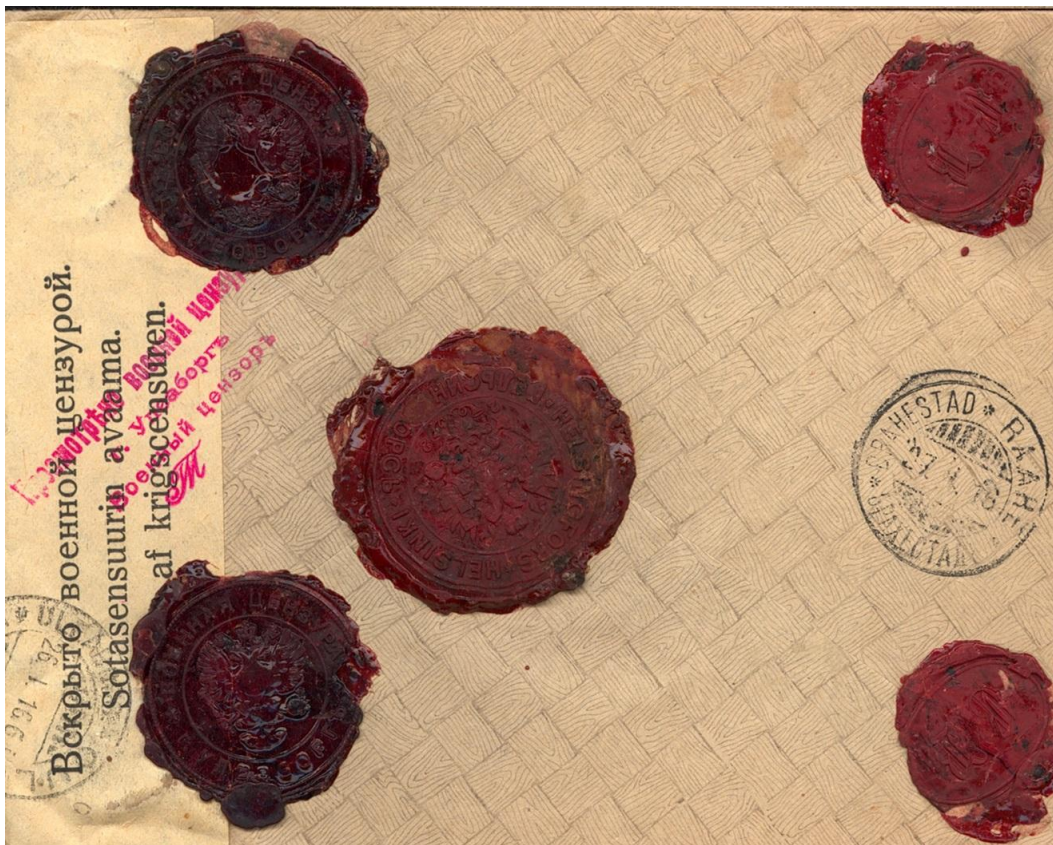
Mark No. 6 01 Jul. 1916 4, R



Oulu Censor Stamp No. 10, continued



CS No. 10, mark 6. A newly recorded mark (April 2018) on a COD parcel card sent from Oulu 1.VII.1916 to Taivalkoski, ca 150 km East-North-East of Oulu. Rate for 0,5-1kg package is 60p and COD is 25p for 0-25M.



Insured letter from Helsinki, 25. 1. 16, to Raahe via Oulu censor office. The censor struck his personal mark, CS No. 10, CM 3, over the resealing strip. More about this cover on the Oulu Censor Wax Seal page.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 11



Mark 1



Mark 1

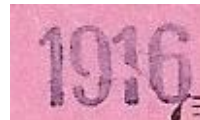
Mark worn, inner ring missing

Shape: Oval, triple ring, two rosettes
 Size: 48 x 26 mm
 Description: Two lines of text in Russian and a date in the center
 Text: War censor(ing)
 Date
 City of Oulu
 Ink: Red, violet, blue
 Subtypes: two



Mark 2

Dates of Use:
 Mark 1: 09 Jun. 1916 to 19 Mar. 1917 1
 Mark 2: 10 Jun. 1916 to 02 Aug. 1916 4, R



Mark 2 is distinguished by a broken numeral 1 in the year date. The shown break differs from the one reported by Olamo.

Comment:
 The inner ring is partially indistinct. Errors in the date have been reported, (i.e., 10. IV. 16 versus 10. VI. 1916). Other irregularities also occur in punctuations, periods, lines, and with or without a horizontal bar in date.

Rarity:
 Mark 1: very common, level 1.
 Mark 2: rare, level 4, R



Top: Mark 2 on a COD address card from Oulu 19.VI.1916 to Taivalkoski

Right: The blue ink is scarce, but the mark is very common. Here on cover sent from Wilppula 1.III.17 via Oulu censor office 3.III.1917 to Haapavesi.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 12

Просмотрѣно военной цензурой
г. Улеаборгъ
Военный цензоръ
5

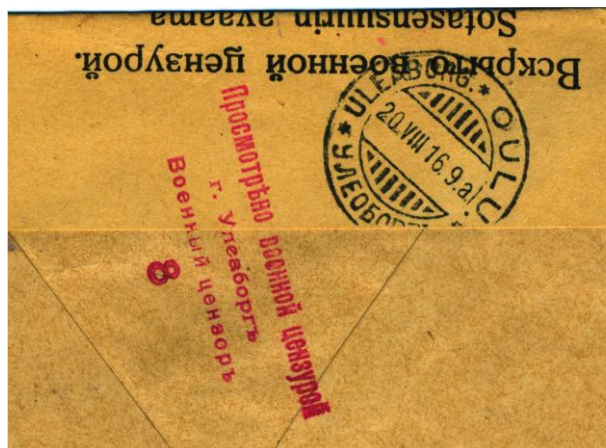
Type: Personal
Shape: Straight line
Size: 19 x 48 mm
Description: Three lines of text in Russian and the censor's personal identification number.
Text: War censor inspected
City of Oulu
War censor
Censor's personal ID number
Ink: Red, violet
Sub-types: Seven different numbers have been reported, Mark Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Comment:
Marks are fairly common and usually appear solo on objects, except for Mark 8 for which there is but a single known use which appears with a resealing tape. No usage for Mark 1 has been reported.

Rarity: All marks are fairly common, level 3 except for Mark 8, which is very rare, level 5 or RR.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	No use reported
Mark No. 2	29 Aug. 1916 to 22 Oct. 1916 3
Mark No. 3	13 Sep. 1916 to 29 Sep. 1916 3
Mark No. 4	06 Aug. 1916 to 12 Oct. 1916 3
Mark No. 5	04 Aug. 1916 to 23 Oct. 1916 3
Mark No. 6	20 Aug. 1916 to 16 Oct. 1916 3
Mark No. 7	11 Aug. 1916 to 24 Oct. 1916 3
Mark No. 8	20 Aug. 1916 and 10 Oct. 1916 5, RR



Top: Cut out from the cover back at full size showing the CS No. 12, Mark No. 8 struck cleanly over the resealing tape and tying the mark to the cover. The Oulu cds is used here as a departure mark from the censor office.

Left: For a period of time and at least during the summer of 1916, the censor applied the mark to the front and back of the cover. This was a practice not followed at other censor offices. The cover is reduced.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 13

Tark.2

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 5 x 20 mm
 Description: One line of text in Finnish
 Text: Insp. / *Censor's personal Identification number.*
 Ink: Red, violet, violet-red
 Subtypes: Two reported. Mark Nos. 2 and 7

Comment:
 Mark appears exclusively on double-censored objects. Oulu was one of only several censor offices that followed directives to begin censoring all mail at the originating post office in September 1916. At most censor offices this directive was ignored because the burden was too great for the staff to handle outgoing as well as all incoming mail. Double-censored objects are highly prized.

Dates of Use:
 Mark No. 2 13 Sep. 1916 to 20 Oct. 1916 3
 Mark No. 7 05 Sep. 1916 to 12 Nov. 1916 3

Rarity:
 Marks 2 and 7: Fairly common, level 3.



Right: Here, CS No. 13, Mark 7 was used to indicate passive censorship at Oulu, the departure location. On arrival at Tampere, the censor office for all mail addressed to Lahti, the letter was opened and inspected.



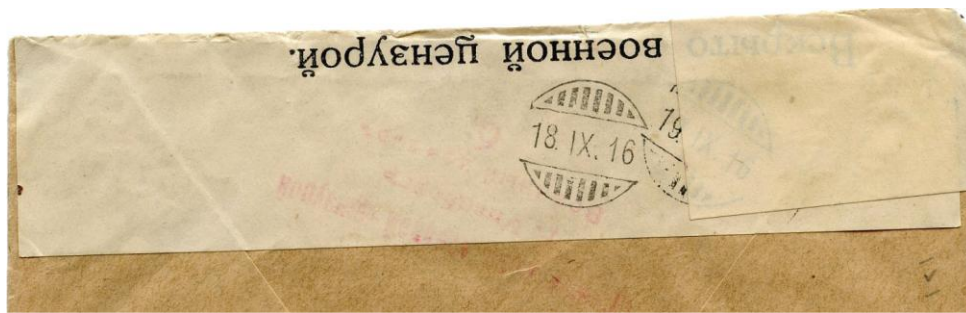
Left: This COD parcel card appears to have been first censored at Tampere and again at Oulu as seen by the CS No. 13, Mark 2 struck at top of the postal form.

The Tark 2 and 7 marks were used on both outgoing and incoming mail.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 14



Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Circular with two half discs and eight vertical lines in each.	Most likely a metal stamp. Sometimes traces of a circle are partially visible around the mark. Occasionally the Mark has been twice struck on an object. The vertical bars on this CS are thick as distinguished from the other censor offices where similar date stamps have thin vertical bars.
Diameter:	16 mm	
Description:	Circular date stamp	
Text:	Date with Roman numerals for the month.	
Ink:	Black	
Subtypes:	None	Rarity:
Dates of Use:	13 Sep. 1916 to 25 Oct. 1916 1	Very common, level 1.



CS No. 14 was struck twice on the resealing tape. On the right side of the tape, the cover was slightly torn and plain resealing paper glued over the corner.



This is an excellent example of a letter opened and inspected at the originating censor office according to an 24 October 1914 FGPO Bulletin 10766.

Postmarked at Oulu, 19. IX. 1916, to Björneborg (Pori), opened, stamped with CS No. 12, Mark 6. This mark is very faint and seen under the resealing tape to the left of the date stamp.

The resealing tape is Type A-III brown paper.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 15



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular box, single frame.
 Size: 7 x 19 mm
 Description: One line of text in Cyrillic
 Text: In Uleåborg (in Oulu)
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 02 Oct. 1916 to 27 Oct. 1916 1

Comment:
 This mark was converted from Oulu CS No. 5 by removing the center and left sections. Served as an Oulu censor departure mark and as a departure mark on double-censored objects

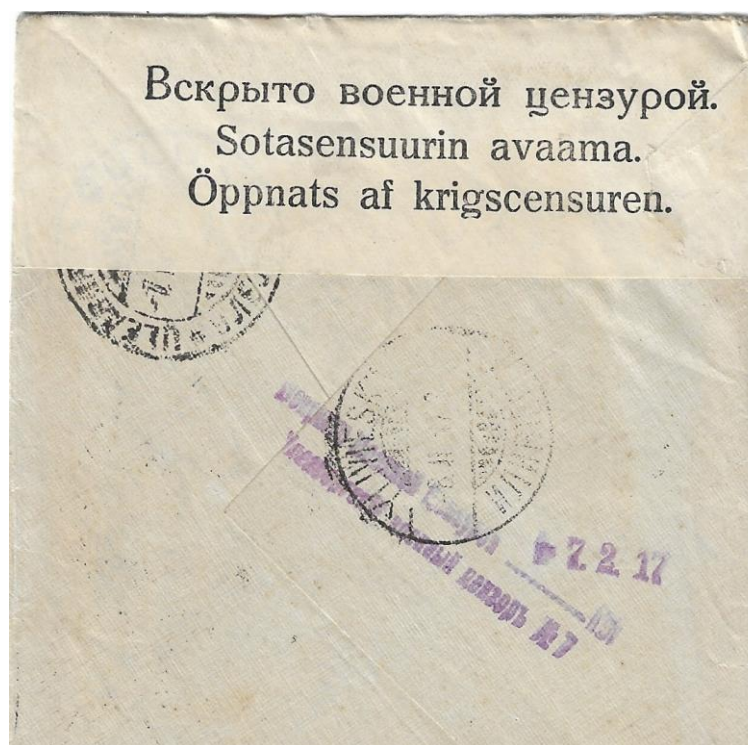
Rarity:
 Very common, level 1.



This card originated at Säresniemi, a town within the Oulu district, then to Oulu censor office and from there to Helsinki. Here CS No. 15 was used to show censoring at Oulu, the originating censor office for Säresniemi. The card was then censored according to general directions that all mail be censored at the destination censor office.

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 16**19.12.16**

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Straight line	CS No 16 is often used in combination with CS 17.
Size:	3 x 16 mm	
Description:	Date stamp in Arabic numerals	Rarity:
Text:	<i>Date</i>	Rarity level 3 or 4.
Ink:	Red, violet	
Subtypes:	None	
Dates of Use:	22 Oct. 1916 to 12 Mar. 1917	3, 4



Cover posted on Tornio-Oulu railway line, via Oulu for censoring 7 Feb. 1917 to Ylivieska. Mark 16 is here used for dating of censor stamp 17. Both CS 17 mark 7 and the white censor tape A-III is LKU

Oulu Censor Stamp No. 17

Вскрыто Военной Цензурой191
Улеборгский военный цензор № 5

Type:	Personal	Rarity:	Generally, marks are common or fairly common, level 2 or 3. None are rare.
Shape:	Straight line		
Size:	52 x 8 mm		
Description:	Two lines of text in Russian, date, and censor's personal identification number.	Dates of Use:	
Text:	Opened by war censor....191... City of Oulu/Censor's personal identification number	Mark No. 1	22 Oct. 1916 to 20 Dec. 1916 3
Ink:	Red, violet, blue	Mark No. 2	07 Nov. 1916 to 10 Jan. 1917 3
Subtypes:	Eleven different numbers have been reported, Mark Nos. 1 - 11.	Mark No. 3	10 Oct. 1916 to 24 Feb. 1917 2
		Mark No. 4	16 Oct. 1916 to 07 Jan. 1917 2
		Mark No. 5	01 Nov. 1916 to 03 Mar. 1917 3
		Mark No. 6	06 Oct. 1916 to 08 Mar. 1917 2
		Mark No. 7	03 Nov. 1916 to 07 Feb. 1917 2
		Mark No. 8	29 Dec. 1916 to 27 Feb.1917 3
Comment:	Similar marks were found in all censor cities. The space reserved for the date is often left blank. The year number "191_" was removed from Marks 2, 3, (later dates), and 8.	Mark No. 9	02 Dec. 1916 to 08 Feb.1917 2
	This mark is often seen on the reverse side of a cover with a resealing tape and used as a departure mark.	Mark No. 10	26 Jan. 1917 to. 08 Feb.1917 3
		Mark No. 11	16 Jan. 1917 to 12 Mar. 1917 3

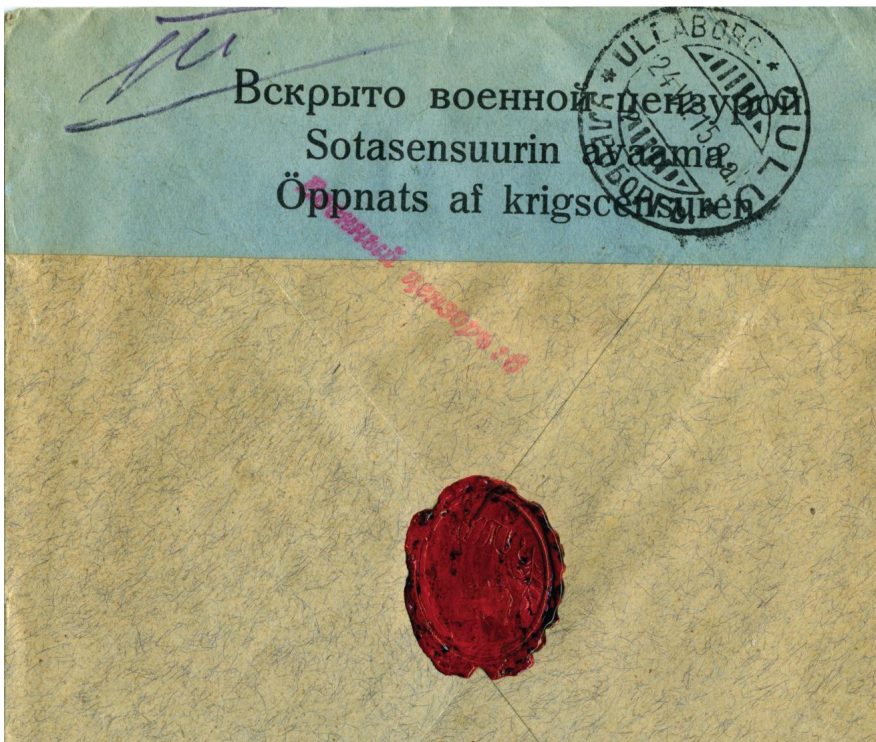


Cover sent per express from Kemijärvi via Oulu censor office to Hameenlinna). The censor mark, mark 2, is one of the three, mark 2, 3, and 8, where year number "191_" was removed. The date of censorship, 28 Nov. 1916, is marked by using censor stamp 16.

Oulu 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.	days until the censor office received personalized censor stamps
Shape:	Straight line, text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish	Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types. Some paper colors are not easily distinguished. Some shades of brown and grayish-brown cannot be classified with certainty. The paper tapes were made of poor quality paper and in the 90 or so years since manufacture, they can oxidize and darken.
Text:	War censor opened	
Paper	color(s) Yellow, blue, white, brown, gray, & grayish brown	
Subtypes	Only Type III is known to be used in Oulu.	
 Dates of Use:		
Type III		
	Yellow pap.: 14 Oct. 1914 to 19 Nov. 1914	An initial has been recorded on a blue resealing tape dated 24 July 1915 (24. VII. 15) with CS No. 7, CM 6. This is a very late example of the censor writing his initial on the back of a cover.
	Blue paper: 27 Oct. 1914 to 06 Aug. 1915	
	White pap.: 18 Sep. 1916 to 07 Feb. 1917	
	Brown paper: 08 Jan. 1916 to 13 Sep. 1916	
	Gray paper: 26 Feb. 1916 to 06 May 1916	
	Grayish-bn: 28 Nov. 1915 to 14 May 1916	
 Comment:		
Tapes with the censor's initials are very difficult and should be considered among the most elusive censored items. The period of initialed covers generally runs from the earliest.		Rarity: Although no rarity table has been established for the various paper resealing tapes used at Oulu, an empirical review of hundreds of covers suggests that the early colored tapes are more difficult, especially yellow and blue. Green and red tapes are not known to have been used at Oulu.



The blue paper tape was used at Oulu for a little more than nine months; nevertheless, there are few surviving examples.

This is the only reported Oulu cover with a censor's handwritten initial. It is also one of less than five covers known with CS No. 7, Mark No. 6.

The Oulu cds was used here as an exit mark from the censor's office.

Laurila, 22. VII. 1915, to Oulu, 24. VII to Muhos, 25. VII. 1915.

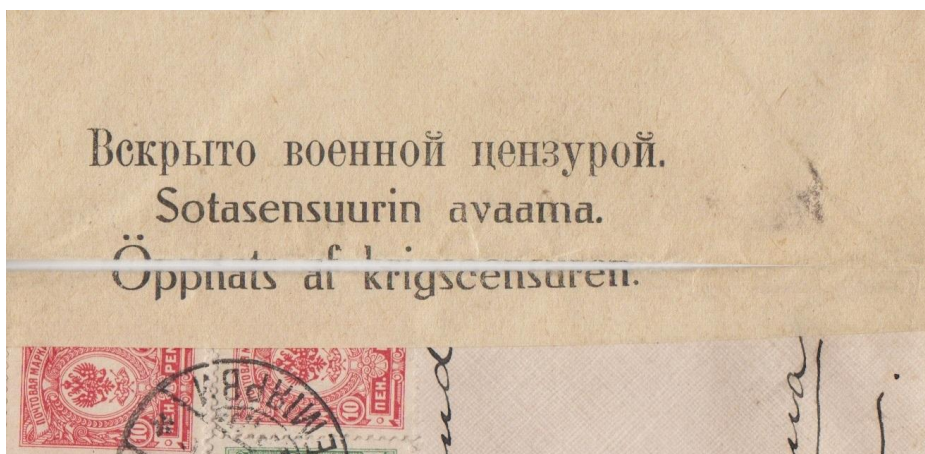
Oulu Censor Tape Without City Identification Type B

Вскрыто военной цензурой.
Sotasensuurin avaama.
Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Type B:	Antique serif point type without city identification.	Comment:	The first type B-III is recently recorded (May 2018).
Shape:	Straight line, text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish		Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types.
Text:	War censored opened		
Paper	color(s) Brown, light brown	Rarity:	
Sub-types	Type II and III are known to be used in Oulu.		The Type B tapes are generally scarce and very difficult; accurate census is unknown, should be more known, but very rarely found even in large accumulations of censor covers. For the present Type B Oulu resealing tapes are ranked level 4, R.
Dates of Use:			
Type II			
	Brown paper: 15 Nov. 1916 to 12 Mar. 1917		
	Light brown: 01 Dec. 1916		
Type III			
	Brown paper: 28 Nov 1916		

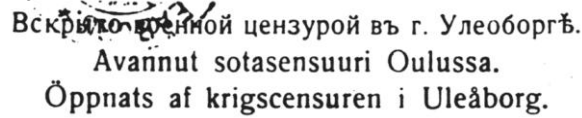


The Type B-II resealing tape was introduced very late to the Oulu censor office. This example is seen on a double censored cover with Oulu CS Nos. 16 and 17. This is the last known use of Type B resealing tape at Oulu.



The Type B-III is reported since the previous edition of the catalogue. This is an express cover sent from Kemijärvi via Oulu censor office on 28 Nov. 1916 to Hameenlinna. Full cover shown on CS. No, 17 page.

Oulu Censor Tape No. 1



 Вскрыто военной цензурой въ г. Улеоборгѣ.
 Avannut sotasensuuri Oulussa.
 Öppnats af krigscensuren i Uleåborg.

Type:	With Oulu ID;	Comment:
Shape:	Straight line, text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish	Printed on smooth white paper. This is the only resealing tape used in Oulu with location identification and it is known used one day, 6 August 1916.
Size:	Russian text: 72 mm Finnish text: 51,5 mm Swedish text: 64 mm	The Editor would appreciate a color scan of this resealing tape on the cover. The illustration of the tape above shows a partial cancellation giving rise to the belief that at least one tape was used on a cover that passed through the mail.
Text:	Opened by war censor in Oulu	
Paper Color	White	
Date of Use:	White paper: 06 Aug. 1916 5, RR	Rarity: This paper tape is among the most difficult of all resealing tapes. Very rare, 5, RR.

No Cover Illustration Available

Oulu Postal Wax Seal

Type: Postal wax seal with city identification
 Shape: Circular; letter and number combination next to post horns.
 Size: Varies according to impression
 Subtypes: Two reported, A-1 and A-3

Date of Use:

Letter and number combination A-1:
 19 Nov. 1914 to 01 Sep. 1915 4, R

Letter and number combination A-3:
 16 Jul. 1915 to 18 Oct. 1915 5, RR

Comment:

The postal wax seal was used by the censors to reseal certain covers. They were used almost exclusively for resealing tapes on insured or registered mail. On one of the known seals, a censor has stamped his initials, R. B., in the center of the wax seal

The markings on the wax seal do not show up on the scans. Surely other dates of use exist.

Rarity:

Except for Helsinki and Tornio, covers resealed with a wax seal are very difficult.

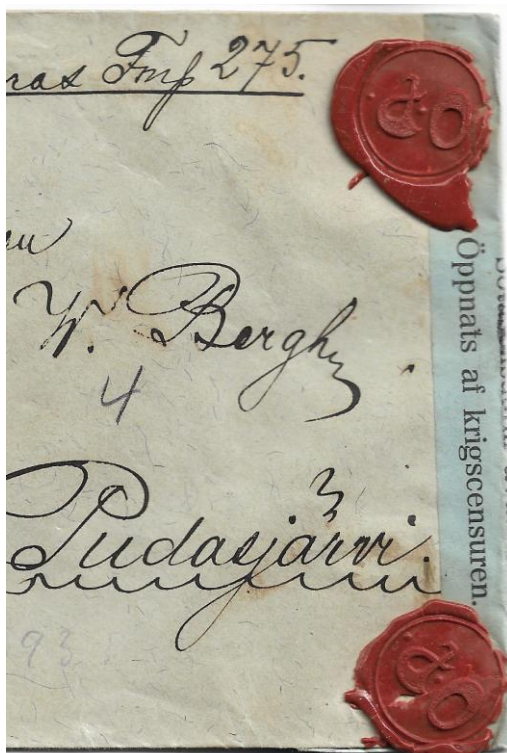
A-1: Rare, level 4, R
 A-3: Very rare, level 5, RR



Postal wax seal in three languages
 Oulu * Uleåborg * Улеоборгъ

Letter and number combination
 opposite the post horns

(seal is enlarged)



The postal wax seals used on backside are type A-3, resealing an insured letter sent from Helsinki via Oulu censor office 16 VII 15 to Pudasjärvi. The wax seals have been used in combination with a blue censor tape type A 3, and CS 7 Mark 1, which is only reported use of this mark. Finally two personal private wax seals with letters "O.P." have been placed on front side of the censor tape.

Oulu Censor Wax Seal

Type: Censor wax seal w/ city identification
 Shape: Circular; text in Cyrillic
 Size: Varies according to impression
 Text: Military Censor of Oulu

Date(s) of use: 19 Nov. 1915 to 10 Aug. 1916

Comment:

They were used almost exclusively for resealing tapes on insured or registered mail. All Oulu wax seals are very rare.

Rarity:

Very rare, level 5, R



Oulu Censor Wax seal - in Russian language
 ВОЕННАЯ ЦЕНЗУРА Г. УЛЕОБОРГЪ
 (MILITARY CENSOR OF OULU)
 (seal is enlarged)



Left: Insured letter from Helsinki, 25. I. 16, to Raabe. Double weight letter (22 grams) = 0.50 Fmk, registration = .25 Fmk and rate for 300 Fmk = .30. Apparently, another .05 Fmk was charged for the Helsinki postal seal at the center of the reverse side of the envelope. The letter was inspected by a war censor in Oulu. The resealing tape was glued and then tied with four wax seals, two on each side of the cover. The seals are with the text ВОЕННАЯ ЦЕНЗУРА Г. УЛЕОБОРГЪ

Right: The reverse side of the cover displays the resealing tape without locality identification. The censor struck his personal mark, CS No. 10, CM 3, over the resealing strip. The Oulu departure mark struck over the resealing tapes is dated 26. I. 16. The Raabe arrival mark is dated 27. I. 16. This insured letter was processed without delay.



Private Wax Seal used for censorship.

Type: Private wax seal
 Shape: Circular; w/ initials
 Size: 22 mm circle but size varies according to impression
 Text: Cyrillic "O.P." for censor O. Reinikka

Date(s) of use: 18 Jun. 1915 to 01 Sep. 1915 5, RR

Comment:
 Three covers resealed with this private wax seal have been reported, all insured letters.

Rarity:
 Very rare, level 5, RR



Private wax seal with letters "O.P."



Insured letter sent from Helsinki 17.VI.1915 to Pudasjärvi Oulu where the cover was censored 18.VI.1915. The cover has been closed with a blue CT type AIII and afterwards four wax seals, two on front and two on back, using a private seal with initials O.P. in the center.

The second of the three reported cover has two private "O.P." wax seals on front and two postal wax seals A-3 on the back. The back of this cover is illustrated on page O-32



Private Wax Seal used for censorship

Type: Private wax seal
 Shape: Circular; leaf wreath w/ initials
 Size: ca. 20mm, varies according to impression
 Text: two or three letters, Latin or Cyrillic?

Date(s) of use: 03 Dec. 1914 to 19 Nov. 1915

Comment:

This private wax seal has two or three artistic-formed letters in the center. Four value letters closed with this seal have been reported. The latest in combination with CS8, Mark 4, is the personal mark of censor Vennberg, to whom the seal must have belonged.

Rarity: Very rare. level 5, RR.



Private wax seal



Insured letter sent from Grankulla via Helsinki to Oulu where the cover was censored -9.1.1915. The cover is closed with a blue CT type AIII and afterwards three wax seals using a private seal with initials in the center. (Collection J. Nikkanen)

The letter passed Helsinki (Censor office?) but there are no Helsinki censorship marks. The Oulu postmark on top of the CT is stamped before the CT was fixed on the cover as the same postmark is seen on both back and front of the cover.

