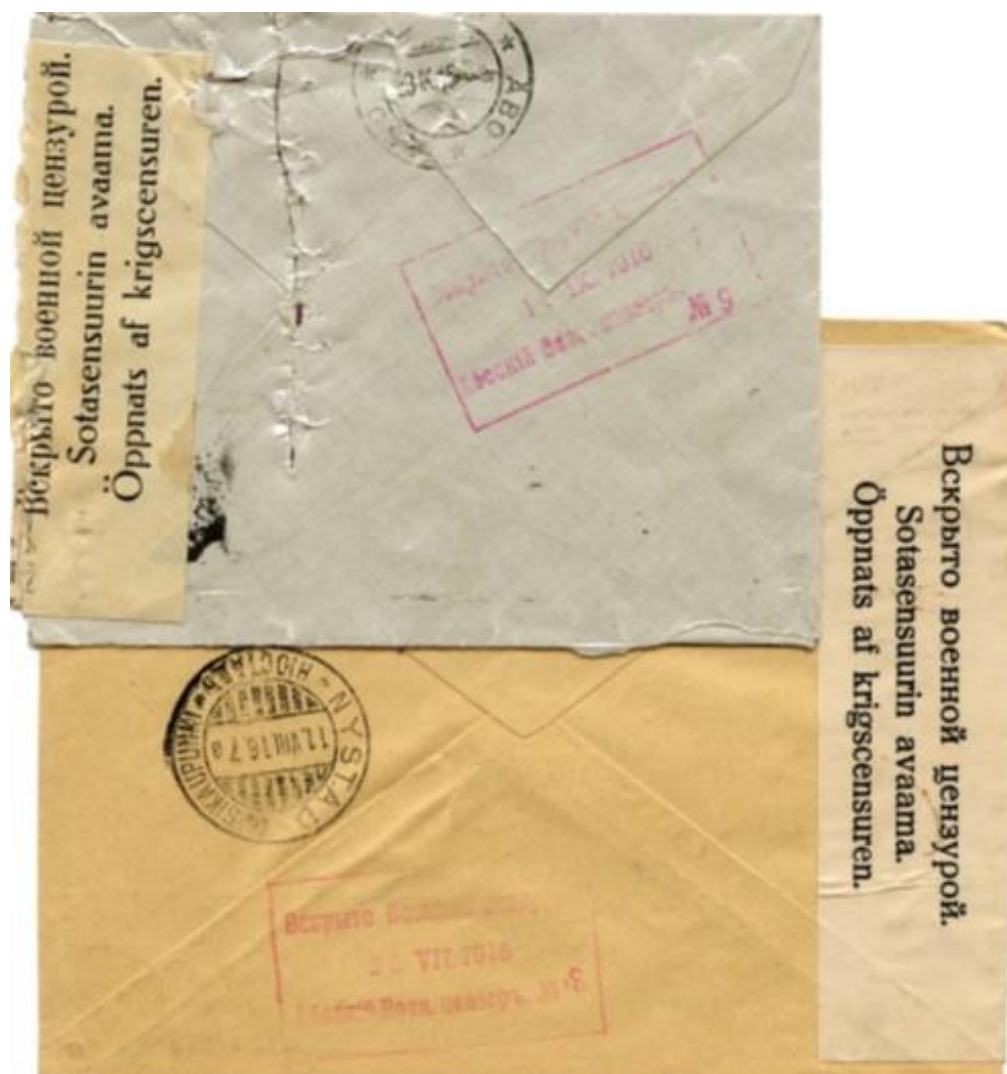


Turku / Åbo / Abo Censorship

Stamps and Resealing Tapes

13 October 1914 to 26 November 1917

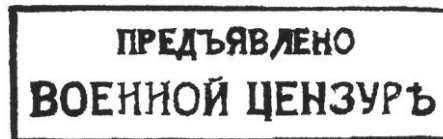


The top cover shows CS No. 11, Mark 9, one of two such marks which have been recently discovered. This cover was found in a "dollar" box because of the vertical tear and overall poor appearance. The bottom cover, CS No. 11, Mark 8a shows the numeral 8 elevated just slightly above the lower line of text. These marks are among the most elusive of all Turku censor stamps.

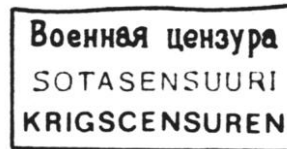
Revised 03 Apr. 2026
 Russian Postal Censorship in Finland
<https://censor.jiv.dk>
 Jon Iversen

Turku Censor Stamps

[CS. 1](#)



[CS. 2](#)



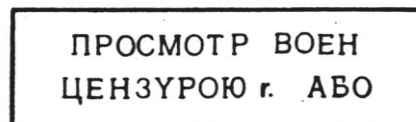
[CS. 3](#)



[CS. 4](#)

Военный цензоръ *М. Ушачев*

[CS. 5](#)



[CS. 6](#)



Turku Censor Stamps

[CS. 7](#)

г. Або

[CS. 8](#)

9. 12. 1916

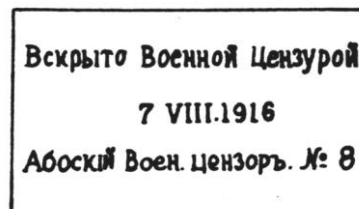
[CS. 9](#)

14. 7. 16.

[CS. 10](#)



[CS. 11](#)



[CS. 12](#)



Turku Censor Stamps

[CS. 13](#)

Вскрыто Военной Цензурой191
Абосский Военный цензор № 8

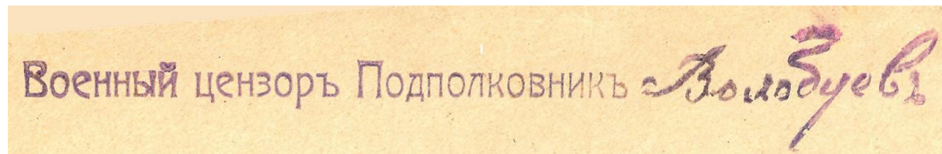
[CS. 14](#)



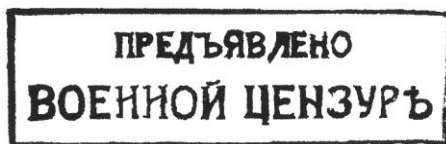
[CS. 15](#)



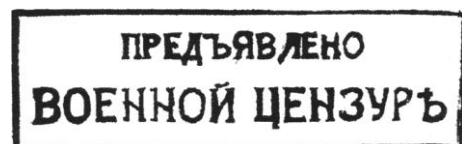
[CS. 16](#)



Turku Censor Stamp No. 1



Mark No. 1



Mark No. 2

Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, single frame
 Size: 19 x 58 mm
 Description: Two lines of text in Russian
 Text: ПРЕДЪЯВЛЕНО ВОЕННОЙ ЦЕНЗУРЪ
 Presented for war censor(ing)
 Ink: Red, violet-red
 Subtypes: Censor Mark Nos. 1-3. The three marks are distinguished one from the other by the shifting or tilting of various letters. In CM No. 1, the Cyrillic letter "H" = Latin letter "n" in the second line tilts onward to the left. In CM No. 2, it tilts downward to the right. 2x and 2y, look next page. In CM No.3, the letters in the first word, ПРЕДЪЯВЛЕНО are missing.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	21 Oct. 1914 to 10 Jun. 1915	1
Mark No. 2	21 Oct. 1914 to 05 Jun. 1915	1
Mark No. 2x	18 Oct. 1914	5 RR
Mark No. 2y	05 May 1915 to 21 May 1915	-
Mark No. 3	11 May 1915 to 01 Jun. 1915	-

Comment:

This stamp impression is usually found in the upper right section of an object, and because of its great size often partially covers the stamp.

The mark is found solo on an object, on post(al) cards, and on unopened letters.

Rarity:

Mark Nos.1 and 2 are very common, level 1

Mark No. 3 is unranked, with insufficient data.



Above: Turku CS No. 1, Mark 2, this is photos of the actual wooden handle and CS 1 from the Posti Museo.

Left: Cover, sent from Brändö, Åland (3)0.XI.14 to another island on the Åland, Lemland, but the cover travelled via Turku on the mainland to be censored. No postmarks on the back. The has a mixed franking, a Russian 2 k. (equal to 5 pen) and a Finnish 20 pen stamp. Letter rate was 25 pen or 10 k..

Turku Censor Stamp No. 1, continued



The upper right card was sent from Turku 21.X.14 to Pori and passing Turku censor office as Pori office only opened 14 Nov. 1914. The card was stamped with CS 1 Mark 2. EKU for this mark. Left: Printed matter postcard sent from Pargas 20.XII.14 to Turku 21.XII.14. Card was stamped with CS! Mark 1. Raising crossbar in letters "HH".



The word ПРЕДЪЯВЛЕНО (means presented) in first line is missing.

Bur is this mark 3? I cannot say and T&K do not show any illustration. Further this mark is about one month early to their known use.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 1, continued



Mark No. 2x

The cover below has the earliest known Turku Cs, It is from 18 Oct. 1914. Note the misspelling. The 5. Letter in first line is **Ч** it should have been **Ц**. This is the only reported use with this error, Probably the CS was taken out of use when the misspelling was noted and after a trip to the repair shop then again taken in use, now as Mark No. 2.

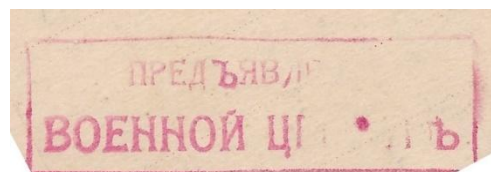
The card below is stamped with Mark 3, the tilted letter **ѳ**. This is the very same letter that gave problems earlier, the 5. letter in the top line. It must be assumed that the repair resulted in this letter not being as solid as the other letters in the stamp.

Both marks on this page are probably versions of Cs. No. 2 Mark No. 2.

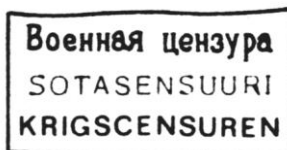
The overlap in time of use registered on previous page is probably a misreading that has been reported. This copy of Mark No. 2y has been used 21 May 1915.



Mark No. 2y



Turku Censor Stamp No. 2



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, single frame
 Size: 18 x 37.5 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish
 Text: War censor(ing)
 Ink: Violet-red
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 20 Oct. 1914 to 27 Jul. 1915 1

Comment:
 The upper frame line is always wavy and may therefore be distinguished from other similar marks. CS impression is usually found on the upper right side of the object. Post Museum call number E1 6859.

Rarity:
 CS is very common, level 1.



The wavy upper frame line on this mark is very clear and confirms censoring at Turku. According to FGPO Circular 10766, dated 24 October 1914, bank mail could be inspected at the censor office at the post office of origination.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 3

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Circular	Because of wear, by February 1916, this CS impression gave the appearance of a single-ring censor stamp. Three or four marks are known, but not otherwise distinguished; see Turku CS No. 6.
Size:	Diameter: 33 mm	
Description:	Triple rings, three lines of text in Russian, Cyrillic, "D. Ts." in center	
Text:	War censor(ing) Censor(ing) allowed City of Turku	This is possibly the most common Turku CS. It is known on various types of mail including general correspondence, money orders, packet cards, and postal cards. It is known solo on objects; rarely, if ever, in combination with another mark.
Ink:	Violet, violet-red, red, & violet-black	
Subtypes:	None specifically identified although three or four marks are known.	
Dates of Use:	8 Jun. 1915 to 08 Oct. 1916 1	Rarity: CS is very common, level 1.



CS No. 3 is a common three ring general mark that was in use from 8. June 1915 until September 1916. By March 1916, the two outer rings on this mark merged and the mark appears as a circular two ring mark. From Taivassalo, 17. III. 16, to Turku, 18. III. 16. The Turku town name appears on the bottom center of the CS. The Russian town name is derived from the Swedish name, Åbo.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 4

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 4 x 59 mm (length varies with name)
 Description: One line of text in Russian.
 Text: War censor/*Censor's name in script*
 Ink: Red, violet-red
 Subtypes: None

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	12 Jun. 1915 to 22 Jul. 1916	1
Mark No. 2	23 Jun. 1915 to 24 Nov. 1915	1
Mark No. 3	09 Jun. 1915 to 15 Jun. 1916	1
Mark No. 4	16 Feb. 1915 to 11 May 1916	4, R

Comment:

First personal censor stamp used in Turku. Four marks are known. Impression is often thin and frequently seen along with a resealing tape and date mark (CS No. 9); also known on postal forms such as money orders.

Rarity: All of the marks are very common, level 1, except for Mark No. 4, which is ranked 4, R.

Военный цензорь *М. Весе*

Mark No. 1

Военный цензорь *Д. Суурвентон*

Mark No. 2

Военный цензорь *Э. Сибиряков*

Mark No. 3

Военный цензорь *Т. Грантун*

Mark No. 4

№ 48 Ulosmaksu-kassakirjassa.
i Utbetalnings-kassaboken.

Postiosotus } 47 Mrk 30 p.
Postanvisning }

Kirjaimilla: — Med bokstäfver:

Keljäkymmeneitresmäin Mrk 30 p.

Till Maanvilijä
H. T. Naalonen

Osoteipaikka } Pernio
Adressort }

Asunto: katu ja N:o } Kkoila
Bostad: gata och Nr }

Sisäänjättopostitoimiston leima ja kassakirjan numero.
Inlemningspostanstaltens stämpel och kassaboks nummer.

№ 8

Kaav. No 134. Postivirkailija. Postfunktionär.

Tila postimerkelle.
Plats för frimärken.

Postiosotusmaksu on Postanvisningskupongin värde för: 20 p. 5 p.

Personal CS No. 4, CM 1 is more often found with a letter resealing tape and a date mark. This mark is struck across the postal money order and is complete whereas the censor marks on postal forms are often partially missing because they cross the coupon part (which is usually removed) and the main address part of the money order.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 5

ПРОСМОТР ВОЕН
ЦЕНЗУРОЮ г. АВО



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, single frame
 Size: 14 x 53 mm
 Description: Two lines of text, in Russian
 Text: Inspected by war censor
 City of Turku (Abo)
 Ink: Red, violet
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 8 Jan. 1916 to 7 Jan. 1917 2

Comment:
 Mark is generally rather indistinct. This CS is seen on postal forms such as address cards and money orders. It is also seen with the date stamp, CS No. 9. This CS is on display at the Post Museum under call number E1 6882.

Rarity:
 CS is common, level 2.



Top: This general censor stamp was in use for about one year and is seen on various postal forms including parcel cards from Russia to naval stations in Turku (pictured above) and Mariehamn.

Left: The CS is applied to a money order from Salo, which lies within the Turku censor office district, to Turku. The mark was applied in red and violet inks as shown on these cards.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 6



Mark No 2

Type: General
 Shape: Circular, triple ring, center void
 Size: Diameter: 33 mm
 Description: Text in Russian between the second and third inner rings
 Text: War censor(ing)
 City of Turku (Åbo)
 Ink: Red, violet, brown

Subtypes: Three marks were in use:
 CM No. 1: The circle above the word "Åbo" is slightly fractured, later it breaks off.
 CM No. 2: The Circle is whole.
 CM No. 3: Ink stain is found in the center which at first resembles a "V," then just a large spot.

Right: This cover from Helsinki was struck with Mark 3, distinguished by the spot in the middle. The outer rings have merged, and the impression is blurred. The spots in the center vary considerably.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	25 Mar. 1916 to 17 Mar. 1917	1
Mark No. 2	27 Mar. 1916 to 03 Mar. 1917	1
Mark No. 3	19 May 1916 to 16 Oct. 1917	1

Comment:

The stamp was converted from Turku CS No. 3 by removing the letters "D. Ts." from the center. By August 1916, the rings had worn and become blurred. A large and a small ink spot appears in the center of the CS.

Mostly solo strike on objects, ranging from general correspondence, postal forms, and postal cards.

Rarity: All these marks are very common, level 1.



Left: This blue postal form is a money order from Tornio. Mark 2 impression is clear and sharp; the Russian text is readable although the outer rings are also merged.



This money order was first sent to the Helsinki censor office where it was passed by censor no. 39 (either CS No. 7, Mark 39, or CS No. 10, mark 39) and then delivered to the destination post office at Turku. The Helsinki mark is seen at the top left. There are no transit postmarks from Helsinki. With the Tornio control stamp cleanly stuck on the lower left of the money order, there is no apparent reason for the detour to the Helsinki censor office.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 7

r. Åbo

Type: General
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: 3 x 10 mm
 Description: One line, city identification
 Text: City of Turku (Åbo)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Dates of Use: 17 Jan. 1916 to 12 Sep. 1916 1

Comment:
 CS is usually seen along with resealing tape. It may have been converted from Turku CS No. 3. This CS indicates the name of the censor location, which does not appear on the resealing tapes used in Turku. The impression is frequently blurred, appearing more like an ink blotch than a censor stamp.

Rarity:
 CS is fairly common, level 3.



CS. No 7 on top of a Ct. type A on the front of a cover mailed on the train from St.Petersburg to Helsinki 29 April 1916. This mark identified the censor. CS No. 7, struck in the center of the resealing tape says only, "City of Åbo," providing location identification. On backside further a Cs. No. 4 Mark I, and a Cs. No, 8.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 8

9. 12.1916

Type: General
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: Height: 5 mm, length varies
 Description: Date stamp, all in Arabic numerals
 Text: *Date*
 Ink: Brownish-red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:
 This date mark is one of two used at Turku as an exit mark. It is seen used with resealing tapes and general censor stamps. It is not seen solo on objects. The date is given according to the Julian calendar on some objects.

Rarity:
 Mark is common, level 2.

Dates of Use: 10 Mar. 1916 to 10 Mar. 1917 2



Combination censor markings on this inspected letter showing the date stamp, 10. 11. 1916, above the personal date stamp of Censor No. 8.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 9

14. 7. 16.

Type: General
 Shape: Straight line
 Size: Height: 5 mm, length varies
 Description: Date stamp, all in Arabic numerals with serifs
 Text: *Date*
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None

Comment:
 Date stamps CS Nos. 8 & 9 are never seen solo on objects; rather they were used with resealing tapes and on postal forms such as address cards and money orders with other censor stamps such as CS No 5 (see below) or CS No. 13.
 Rarity:
 Mark is common, level 2.

Dates of Use: 19 Apr. 1916 to 02 Feb. 1917 2

Blanketti N:o 1. N:o läht. registerissä. N:o tul. registerissä. Postimerkkejä varten.

Kuponki
 (johon sopii panna kirjallisia ilmoituksia ja jonka vastaanottaja saa pitää.)

Osoitekortti
 kotimaista pakettilähetystä varten.

Henna M. Cimo lle
Nyia ssa, osoite:

seuraa täten paketti, arvoltaan Smk. p:ää
 painava *1* kg. gr. ja sisältävä **Painotuotteita**

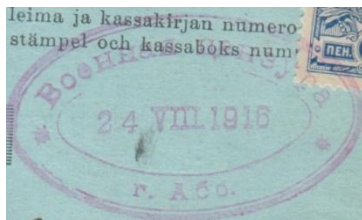
Lähtetäjä: **Vakuutusosakeyhtiö KALEVA asuva Helsingissä,**
 lähettäjän asunto: **Itä-Heikinkatu 11.**

Yllämainittu paketti kuitataan *23* p. *Elo* kuuta *19/16*
Kastan Cimo

Blanketin hinta 2 p:niä.

On this address card, the censor date stamp, CS No. 9, is seen with the general CS No. 5. The date stamp, 7. 8. 16, is according to the Russian Julian calendar. The address card was postmarked at Helsinki 19. VIII. 16 and backstamped at Turku, 20. VIII. 16, which shows the 13 day difference with the censor date stamp.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 10



Mark No. 1



Mark No. 2



Mark No. 2X

Type: General date stamp
 Shape: Oval, triple ring, two rosettes, date in center.
 Size: Diameter: 24 x 42 mm
 Description: Text in Russian between the second and third inner ring with the date in the center
 Text: War censor
 City of Turku (Åbo)
 Ink: Red, violet-red
 Subtypes: Two marks were in use:
 CM No. 1: The right rosette is situated below the center line.
 CM No. 2: The right rosette is on the center line.
 CM No. 2X: The dateline is upside-down.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	30 Jul. 1916 to 20 Oct. 1917	1
Mark No. 2	16 Aug. 1916 to 27 Oct. 1917	1
Mark No. 2X	11 Nov. 1916	

Comment:

Mark is quite distinct during the first months of use then they become rapidly indistinct. Seen as solo marks on passively censored letters, postal forms, postal cards, and unopened registered bank covers.

Rarity:

Both marks are very common, level 1.
 No 2X, only a single item reported with dateline upside-down.



Top: CS No. 10, Mark 1 on a registered bank cover to Björneborg, The right rosette is seen on the center line with the date.

Below: Here is a second registered bank cover also addressed to Björneborg, with Mark 1 on the lower left hand side. The right rosette is below the center line.

Although there are small differences in the position of the right rosette, both marks on these covers are correctly classified as Mark 1. In Mark 2, the right rosette is directly under the last Cyrillic letter "a."

Turku Censor Stamp No. 10, continued.

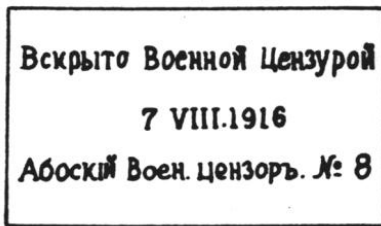


The center line- or dateline situated upside down. The CM is clearly a type 2. It can often be difficult to distinguish the two marks, due to blurred or weak impression. This is the only known example used 11 Nov. 1916

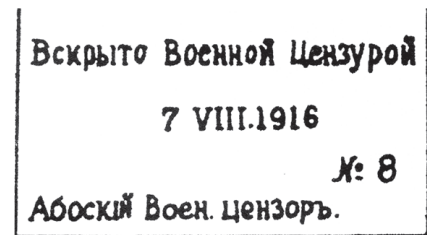


CS 10 Mark 2 in a very worn version used 27.X.1917 on a registered cover sent from Petrograd, another 40 kop franking on back. This is the latest reported item inspected at the Turku censor office.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 11



Mark No. 8 - Left
Mark No. 8a - Right



Type:	Personal	Dates of Use:		
Shape:	Rectangular, single frame	No mark 0	2? Aug. 1916	5, RR
Size:	27 x 47 mm	Mark No. 4	14 Aug. 1916	5, RR
Description:	Two lines of text, in Russian, date in center	Mark No. 6	15 Sep. 1916	5, RR
Text:	War censor opened	Mark No. 8	07 Aug. 1916 to 23 Sep. 1916	4, R
	<i>Date</i> (month in Roman numerals)	Mark No. 8a/b	07 Aug. 1916 to 23 Sep. 1916	5, RR
	Turku (Åbo) war censor No. 8	Mark No. 9	22 Aug. 1916 to 19 Sep. 1916	5, RR
Ink:	Red, violet-red	Mark No. 9a	22 Aug. 1916 to 23 Sep. 1916	5, RR
Subtypes:	There are two subtypes.	Comment:		
	The No. 8 is seen in three different positions; likely the number broke off or became loose and was re-glued in different positions. CS without a censor number has been reported.			Mark's impression is usually faint and rather indistinct. Mark the number in Nos. 8a and 8b are elevated above the third line of text. The "No.9" in CM 9 and 9a are different.



Top: Only very few impressions of Mark 9 on cover are known. On this cover from Helsinki, the letter was opened and resealed with a Type B-III tape. The censor stamp and resealing tape on this torn and tattered cover are both very scarce. The lesson is clear: wartime material is often compromised; nonetheless, it should be saved and carefully examined before discarding it or relegating it to the "junk" box.

Bottom: The strike here is rather weak, but it is possible to discern the No. 8 slightly elevated above the third line of text, but not as high as shown above as Mark 8a. Here the CS is seen with a common Type A-III white (actually off-white) resealing tape.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 12



Type: General
 Shape: Circular, triple ring, date in center
 Diameter: 34 mm
 Description: Text in Russian between the second and third inner rings
 Text: War censor
 City of Turku (Åbo)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 12 Aug. 1916 to 20 Dec. 1916 1

Comment:
 In September of 1916, the outer part of the CS became loose and began to turn until the date ultimately became inverted to the text. All manner of positions are known. This stamp is seen on passively censored general correspondence, postal forms, and post(al) cards. By October the vertical bars had merged into one large blot.
 Rarity:
 Very common, level 1.



Left: These cards show the different looks of this censor stamp during its four months of use. Here the upper vertical bars in the inner circle are faint but clearly visible. The date has been turned upside down. This card was date stamped at the censor office on 21. September 1916.

Right: On this impression the date is in the correct upright position but the upper vertical bars are totally blurred. The card was passed by the censor office on 20. November 1916. Regardless of the date of use, the impression is usually faint, blurred and indistinct.



Turku Censor Stamp No. 13

Вскрыто Военной Цензурой.....191
Абосский военный цензор № 8

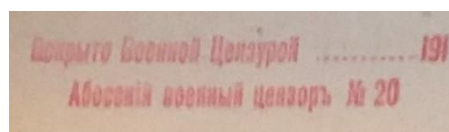
Type: Personal
Shape: Straight line
Size: 8 x 53 mm
Description: Two lines of text in Russian.
Text: War censor opened...191
Turku war censor No./Censor's
personal identification No.
Ink: Brownish-red
Subtypes: At least five

Comment:
A similar type of censor stamp is seen in all censor locations,
but as used in Turku, the marks are rare or very rare.
Information about CM Nos. 4, 6, 8, and 9 is provided by
Termonen & Keturi, *Postisensuuri Suomessa*, Vol. 1, page 42.

Imprints of marks 1 to 20 have been found in a delivery
journal at the National Archives in Helsinki.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 3	09 Dec. 1916	5, RR
Mark No. 4	02 Feb. 1917	5, RR
Mark No. 6	21 Nov. 1916 to 09 Feb. 1917	5, RR
Mark No. 8	12 Oct. 1916 to 12 Feb. 1917	4, R
Mark No. 9	22 Dec. 1916 to 10 Jan. 1917	5, RR
Mark No. 13	14 Jul. 1917	5, RR



Rarity:
Widely used in other censor offices, this type of two-line
personal date stamp is very rare in Turku. Probably more
marks are to be found, No. 3, 4, and 13 are known to be used
for one day only.



Left: Censor Stamp 13, Mark 8, is used as a personal date stamp applied on departure from the censor office; however, the date is never written-in, rather the date was applied by a date stamp. Here CS No. 8 with the date according to the Gregorian calendar. Forssa, 7. XI. 16, via Tampere to Turku, 10. XI. 16.

Right: Rubber handstamp with wooden handle. This is censor mark No. 13, Mark 10. Photo from Posti Museo. The use of Mark No10 has never been reported.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 14



Type: General
 Shape: Circular, triple ring, date in center
 Diameter: 27 mm
 Description: Text in Russian between the second and third inner rings
 Text: War censor(ing)
 City of Turku (Åbo)
 Ink: Red
 Subtypes: None
 Dates of Use: 31 Dec. 1916 to 03 Mar. 1917 1

Comment:
 Mark is seen mostly often on postal forms such as parcel address cards.

Rarity:
 Censor stamp is very common, level 1.



Here we have a rather untidy and smudged CS No. 14 on a 20. 11. 17 cover from Petrograd, Russia to Turku. This cover bypassed the Helsinki censor office, which at this time would have been the normal censor office for incoming mail from Russia and abroad.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 15



Mark 1

Shape: Straight line
 Size: 4 x 35 mm (without signature)
 Description: Two lines: one line of text in Russian, second line with the name of the censor written in Russian script.
 Text: War censor/
The censor's name in the script
 Ink: Red, violet-red
 Subtypes: Two

Date of Use:

Mark 1: 05 Jun. 1916 to 30 Jun. 1916 5, RR
 Mark 2: 13 May 1916 5, RR



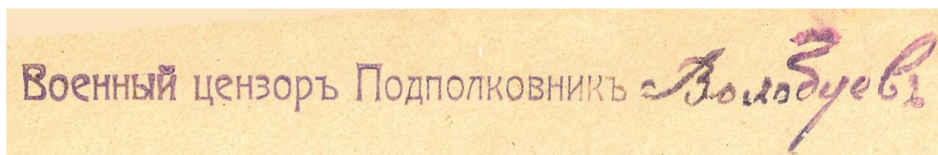
Mark 2 Censor Bogojavlenskij (Богоявленский)

Comment:
 Mark 1 was reported by Jorma Keturi in May 2010. Two examples are known. Mark 2 reported 2024. Only known
 The censor's name is possibly "Ivanov;" however, only the "anov" letters are certain. The rest is a best guess.
 Rarity:
 Only two known, level 5, RR



In a single line format there are four reported subtypes of CS No. 4; however, this is the only recorded example of the main CS No. 4 mark in a two line format shown here with a new signature. Both the Julian and Georgian calendar dates were used at Turku. The violet circular mark is free-frank unit cachet of the 200th Reserve Infantry Regiment's training element. Collection of Jorma Keturi.

Turku Censor Stamp No. 16



Type:	Personal	This subtype was reported by Jorma Keturi in May 2010. Only one example is known.
Shape:	Straight line	
Size:	15 x 101 mm	
Description:	One line of text in Russian	
Text:	War censor/ Lieutenant Colonel/ <i>The censor's name in the script</i>	The censor's name is Lt. Col. Volobuyev, a Russian military officer. It is rather unusual for the censor's military office/title to be included in the censor mark; only a few examples are known.
Ink:	Red, violet-red	
Subtypes:	None	
Date of Use:	16 Jun.. 1916	Rarity: Very rare, level 5, RR
Comment:	5, RR	



From Serpukhov, Moscow Province, Russia, 24. 5. 16 with arrival at Åbo/Turku about 6 June 1916. Only reported example of the main CS No. 4 with the added text. The addressee is a Mrs. A. Johanson. Collection of Jorma Keturi.

Turku Censor Tape Without City Identification - Type A

Вскрыто военной цензур 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 Colors White, red, blue, brown
Subtypes Types I, II & III

Dates of Use:

Type A-I:
Brown paper 15 Sep. 1915
Type A-II:
Red Paper 31 Dec. 1914 to 09 Jan. 1915
Type A-III:
Yellow paper 14 Oct. 1914 to 24 Oct. 1914
Blue paper 27 Oct. 1914 to 07 Dec. 1914
White paper 11 Feb. 1915 to 12 Feb. 1917 1
Brown paper 23 Oct. 1915 to 11 May 1916 2
Red paper 29 Dec. 1914 to 17 Jan. 1915

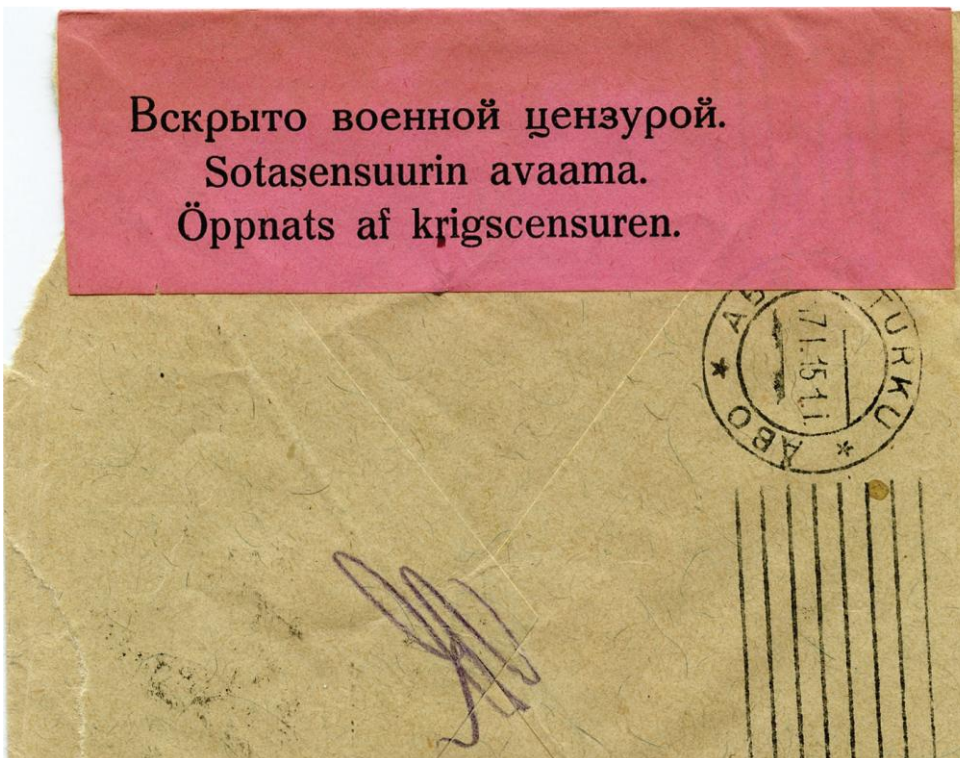
Comment:

Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types.

Rarity:

Yellow, blue, and red paper tapes are elusive. Census is inadequate for establishing firm rarity levels. Type I brown tape, is tentatively ranked at level 4 or R. Type II red tapes are tentatively ranked at level 4 or R. Type III yellow, red, and blue tapes are ranked tentatively at level 4 or R. The red tapes could be at level 5 or RR. The uncertainty of the level of rarity reflects the difficulty of polling all collectors with this material.

Type III white tapes are very common, level 1; brown tapes are common, level 2. It is more difficult to access the rarity level for the grayish-white tapes because distinguishing them from white tapes is not always apparent.



Type A-III red tape on a commercial letter from Wyborg on the its last day of use. Previously, this tape was known used only on 29 December 1914.

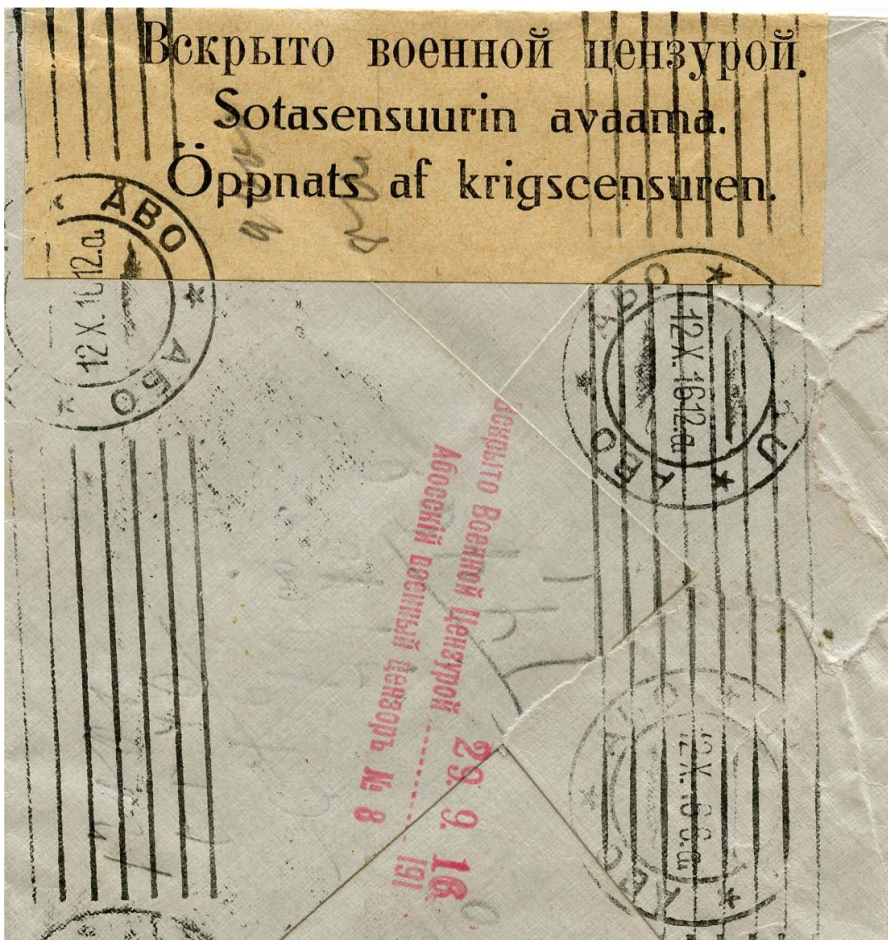
This cover was initialed by the censor and it has been catalogued as Initial No. 5. Censor initialed covers from Turku were not reported in the philatelic literature until 2008. See The Finnish Philatelist, Vol. 13, No. 1, February 2008, page 15.

To date only five covers are known with either Type II or Type III red resealing tapes.

Turku 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:	Refer to the main body of the text for information relating to different types. Termonen & Keturi, <i>Postisensuuri Suomessa</i> , Vol. 1, page 43 lists this use of the brown paper resealing tape as a Type I variety.
Shape:	Straight line, text in Russian, Finnish & Swedish	Rarity:	Although no rarity table was established by Termonen & Keturi for the censor resealing tapes, it is our empirical observation that the Type B censor tapes are relatively scarce. Tentative assignment at rare: level 4 or R.
Text:	Opened by war censor		
Paper Color:	Brown		
Subtypes:	Type II		
Dates of Use:			
Type II	Brown paper 05 Oct. 1916 to 09 Dec. 1916 4, R		



Censor Tape Type B-II was used at Turku for only two months. It is seen with Censor Stamp No. 13 and the date stamp CS No. 9. These tapes were printed only on thick brown paper.

This cover was postmarked at Helsinki, 9. X. 1916, and passed through the censor office on 12. X. 1916. The date on CS No. 9 is according to the Julian calendar.

It has not been positively established that the penciled vertical squiggles on the resealing tape were written by a censor.

Turku Postal Wax Seal

Type: Turku postal wax seal

Shape: Circular

Size: The outer ring measures about 30 mm but varies with the spread of wax on each impression.

Font: Sans serif

Text: City name Turku / Åbo in three languages, Russian, Finnish & Swedish. Without a number-letter combination.



Turku Postal Wax seal – in three languages
ÅBO * TURKU * АБО
without any letter/number combination.
enlarged 50%

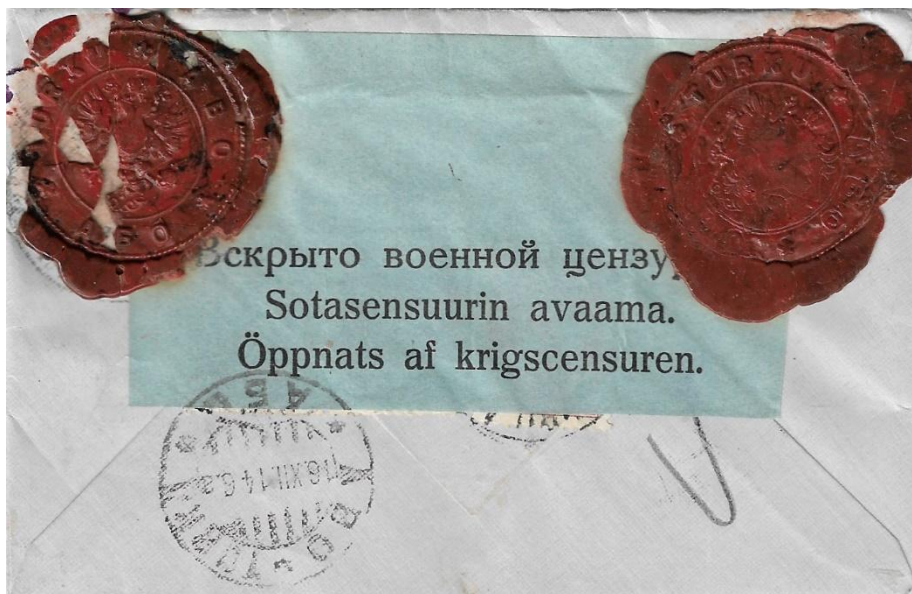
Dates of Use: 21 Oct. 1914 to 18 Dec. 1914 4, R

Comment:

Only two postal wax seals are known to be used at Turku to reseal registered and value letters.

Rarity:

Only a few examples are known from Turku; an assignment at level 4 rarity is reasonable based on the current census.



Two Turku postal wax seals are seen on the upper corners of this registered letter to Stockholm. The Nordiska Aktiebanken för Handel och Industri bank seal is seen at the center of the envelope. The blue paper resealing tapes were used for a six week period, from 27 October to 7 December 1914.

Turku Postal Wax Seal H:o I / F.I

Type: Turku postal wax seal

Shape: Circular

Size: The outer ring measures about 30 mm but varies with the spread of wax on each impression.

Font: Sans serif

Text: City name Turku H:o I / Åbo F.I. in three languages, Russian, Finnish & Swedish. Without a number-letter combination.

Dates of Use: 03 Nov. 1914 to 14 Nov. 1914 5, RR

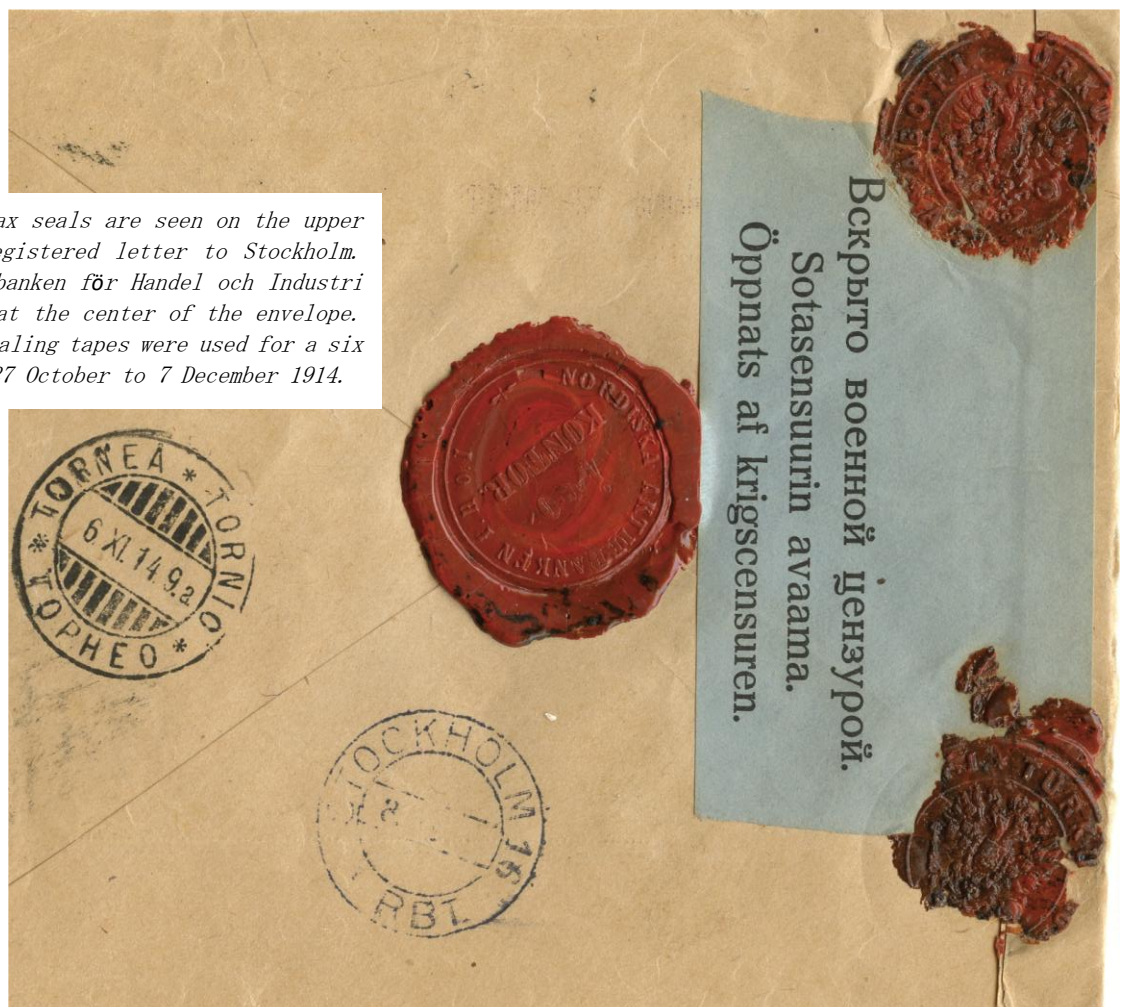
Comment

The postal wax seal is known to be used at Turku to reseal registered and insured letters.

Rarity: In 2023 it was discovered that there were two different P.O. wax seals used in the Turku censor office. Out of seven known covers only two were of the "H:o I"-type.



Turku Postal Wax seal – in three languages
ÅBO F. I. * TURKU H:o I. * АБО О.И.
without any letter/number combination.
enlarged 50%



Two Turku postal wax seals are seen on the upper corners of this registered letter to Stockholm. The Nordiska Aktiebanken för Handel och Industri bank seal is seen at the center of the envelope. The blue paper resealing tapes were used for a six week period, from 27 October to 7 December 1914.

Turku Censor Tapes with Censors' Signatures / Initials

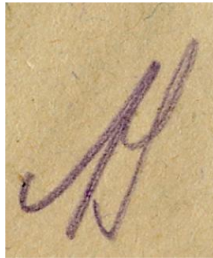
Since the publication of our recent censorship catalog published in the CD format in 2015 and in a very limited print edition in 2012 and earlier CD editions, (2007 and 2012), we have compiled new censor marks and signatures /initials on covers from Wyborg and Kuopio during the first year of postal censorship in Finland. These censor signatures/initials were not listed in any earlier catalogs. Here we are reporting for the first time ten (10) different signatures/initials found on opened and resealed covers from Turku. The earliest date appears to be 23 October 1914 and the latest date is 5 May 1915.

The initials are written on red, blue, white, and yellowish paper tapes. It is important to note that there are no other personal censor stamps or exit date stamps used in combination with any of the initialed covers.

The numbering of the Turku censor initials is new.

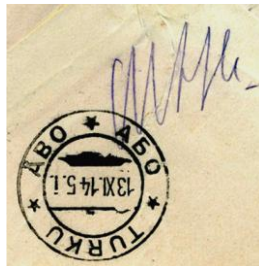
Signature / Initial No. 1

23 Oct. 1914 to 08 Jan. 1915
Two known examples: 5, RR



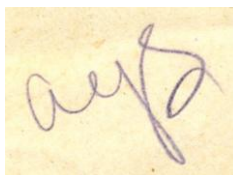
Signature / Initial No. 2

14 Oct. 1914 to 13 Nov. 1914
Two known examples: 5, RR



Signature / Initial No. 3

12 Nov. 1914 to 23 Nov. 1914
Two known examples: 5, RR



Signature / Initial No. 4

17 Jan. 1915
One known example: 5, RR



All of the covers were postmarked in Finland; none were registered or upfranked for other special services. The dates of use generally correspond with the practice of initialing actively inspected mail in the other censor locations, except that the practice appears to have ended earlier at Helsinki (January 1915) and lasted a while longer at Kuopio (September 1915).²

(References)

¹ See TFP Vol. 12, No. 2, May 2007, p. 16 "Wyborg Covers" and Vol. 12, No. 4, November 2007, p. 16 "Kuopio Initialed Covers."

² The initialed covers shown here have been cataloged in the CD, *Postal censoring in Finland 1914-1918*, 2007 edition, compiled and edited by Roger Quinby

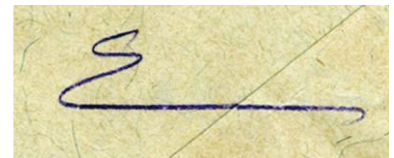
Signature / Initial No. 5

19 Jan. 1915
One known example: 5, RR
(No. 1 upside down?)



Signature / Initial No. 6

22 Jan. 1915
One known example: 5, RR



Signature / Initial No. 7

28 Mar. 1915 to 15 Apr. 1915
Two known examples: 5, RR



Signature / Initial No. 8

01 Feb.. 1915 to 15 May 1915
Two known examples: 5, RR



Signature / Initial No. 9

23 Oct. 1914 to 27 Oct. 1914

Two known examples: 5, RR

**Signature / Initial No. 10**

18 Jan. 1915

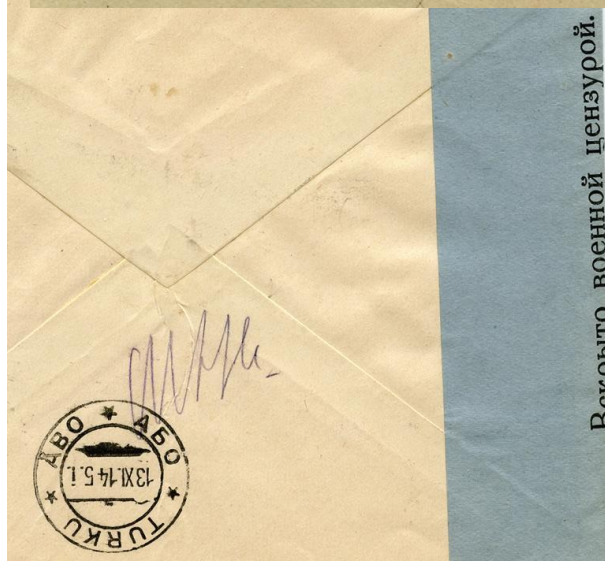
One known example: 5, RR

I am not certain that this mark is not a lazy CI No. 7.

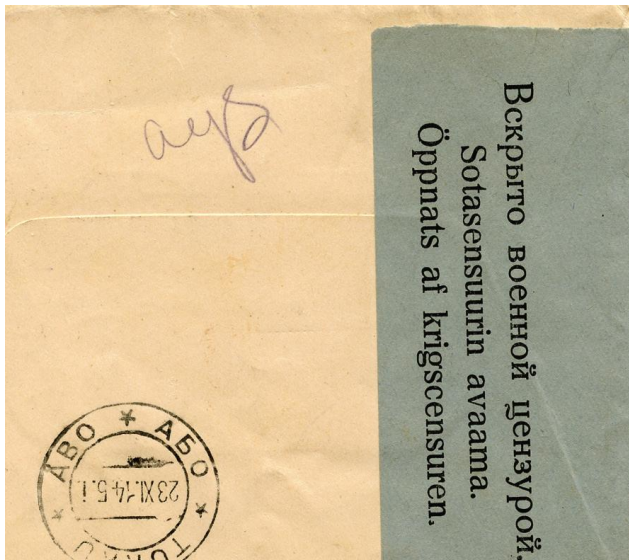
Additional examples will clarify the status of this initial.

**Signature / Initial No. 1**

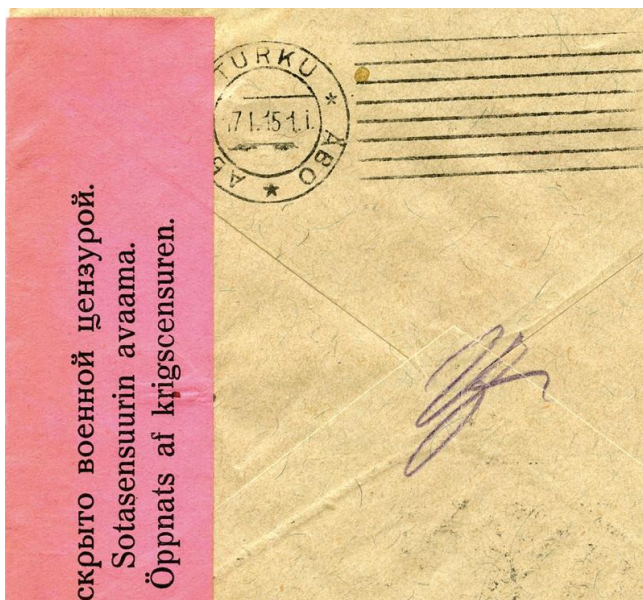
Helsinki, 10. XII. 14, to Turku. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III blue tape and initialed by censor. Turku cds, 11. XII. 14, notes departure from the censor office. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There are two recorded examples of this signature.

**Signature / Initial No. 2**

Nikolainkaupunki, 12. XI. 14, to Turku. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III blue tape and initialed by censor. Turku cds, 13. XI. 14, notes departure from the censor office. The full name of the censor has not been identified. This is the only recorded example of this initial.

**Signature / Initial No. 3**

Wyborg, 22. XI. 14, to Kuusjoki. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III blue tape and initialed by censor. Turku cds, 23. XI. 14, notes departure from the censor office. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There are only two recorded examples of this initial.

**Signature / Initial No. 4**

Wyborg, 16. I. 15, to Turku. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III red tape and initialed by censor. Turku cds, 17. I. 15, notes departure from the censor office. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There is one recorded example of this signature.

**Signature / Initial No. 5**

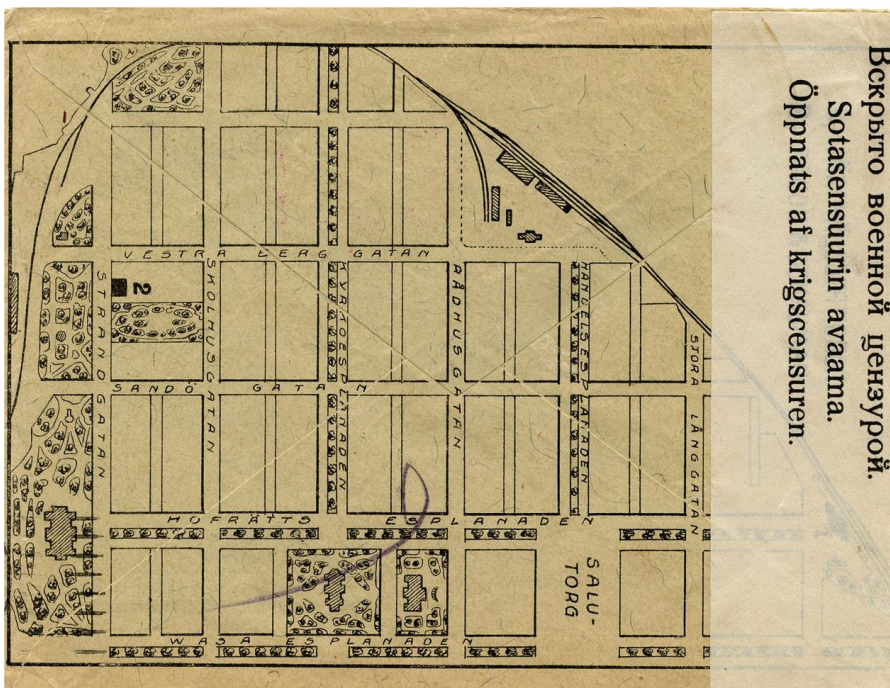
Helsinki, 12. I. 15, to Turku. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III red tape and initialed by censor. Turku cds, 19. I. 15, notes departure from the censor office. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There is one recorded example of this signature. It is the last known use of any red resealing tape at Turku.



Вскрыто военной цензурой.
Sotasensuurin avaama.
Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Signature / Initial No. 6

Wyborg As. (railway station), 21. I. 15, to Turku. Opened at Turku; resealed with Type A-III white tape and initialed by censor. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There is one recorded example of this signature.



Вскрыто военной цензурой.
Sotasensuurin avaama.
Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Signature / Initial No. 7

Nikolainkaupunki, 15. I. 15, to Turku. There is no Turku arrival cds, or exit cds or censor mark other than the censor's personal mark or signature. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There are two recorded examples of this signature.



крыто военной цензурой.
Sotasensuurin avaama.
Öppnats af krigscensuren.

Signature / Initial No. 8

Helsinki, 4. V. 15, to Turku. Opened, inspected and resealed with Type A-III white tape. The full name of the censor has not been identified. There is one recorded example of this signature.

Prior to resealing, a machine arrival stamp was applied to the cover. The sequence of marking covers passing through the censor office was not uniform. Here the machine date stamp, 5. V. 15, was applied as an arrival mark before the cover was opened by the censor. After inspecting the contents, the censor wrote the initial of his last name on the back and then gave it to a clerk who resealed the envelope. Where a date censor stamp has been applied; it always notes a departure date from the censor office. Where there are two date stamps on the reverse side, the mark with the later date is an exit date from the censor's office.



Signature / Initial No. 9

This is a newly identified censor initial on a commercial cover from Tampere, 26. X. 14, arriving at Turku the next day. There are two reported example of this distinctive initial. The arrival or exit date on the back is 27 October 1914, the earliest date of use for the generic Type A blue paper resealing tape.



Signature / Initial No. 10

This censor initial is tentatively identified as Turku CI No. 10, however, it could also be lazy or tired CI No. 7 or 8. This is the only reported example of this initial and its use is very close to the only reported use of CI No. 7 on 15 January just three days earlier.

On many of the early opened and inspected letters from Turku there is no second, clearly defined exit date stamp as seen on covers, for example, from Tornio and Helsinki.