

Pori / Björnberg / Бьернеборгъ Censorship

Stamps and Resealing Tapes

14 November 1914 to 19 March 1917

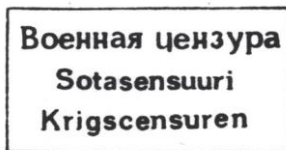


Type A-III red tape is used to reseal this cover from Helsinki, 19. I. 15, to Pori. Major part of the CTs are white paper tapes, but brown, blue and red are also found, all of them more elusive.

Revised 14 May 2026
 Russian Postal Censorship in Finland
<https://censor.jiv.dk>
 Jon Iversen

Pori Censor Stamps

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Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ

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Pori Censor Stamp No. 1

Военная цензура
Sotasensuuri
Krigscensuren

Type:	General	Comment:
Shape:	Rectangular box, single frame	A similar stamp had been used in Tampere (CS No. 2) and Rauma (CS No. 2). The mark is generally stamped on the upper right side and appears solo on the object.
Size:	19 x 35 mm	
Description:	Three lines of text: Russian, Finnish & Swedish	All words in sentence case.
Text:	War censor(ing)	
Ink:	Red	Rarity:
Subtypes:	None listed	Very common, level 1.
Dates of Use:	18 Nov. 1914 to 13 Nov. 1915 1	



CS No. 1 on postal card dated Loimaa 17 Nov. 1914 and cancelled on Helsinki – Turku railway line with K.P.XP. No 17 on the same day, also an arrival postmark from Pori dated 18.XI.14, which makes this the earliest reported of any Pori CS.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 2



Type: Personal
 Shape: Circular, two rings, two rosettes
 Size: 37 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Russian
 Text: War Censor
 Censor Passed ("D. Ts.")
 Censor's personal ID number
 City of Pori (Björneborg)
 Ink: Blue, violet, and red
 Subtypes: Mark Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	28 Apr. 1915 to 22 Jul. 1915	4, R
Mark No. 2	28 Apr. 1915 to 06 Jan. 1916	3
Mark No. 3	24 Apr. 1915 to 24 Apr. 1916	3
Mark No. 3a	Inverted No. 3: 25 Apr. 1915 to 07 Mar. 1916	1
Mark No. 4	26 May 1915 to 08 Mar. 1916	1
Mark No. 5	21 Apr. 1915 to 10 Feb. 1916	1

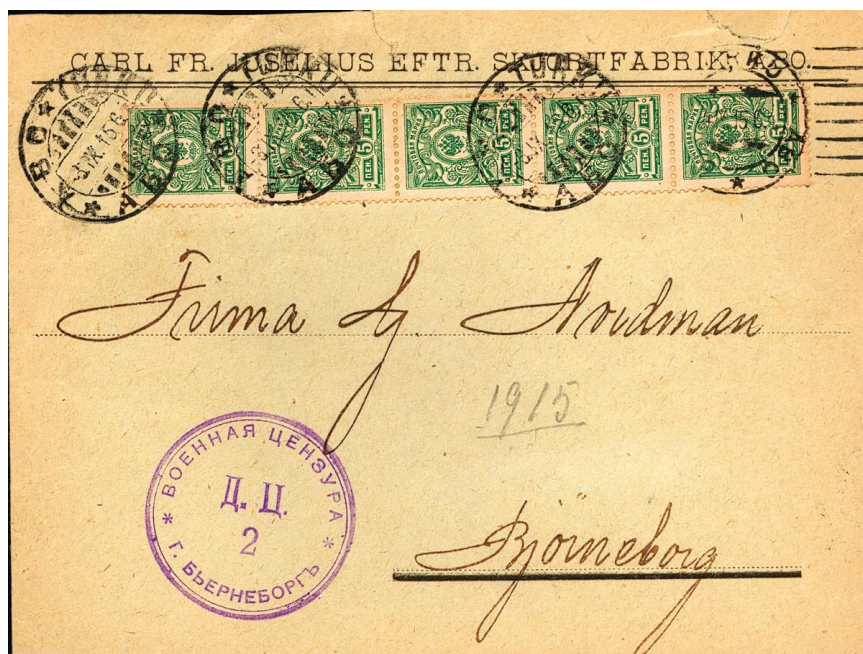
Comment:

Mark appears solo on objects, rarely with resealing tapes. The stamp impression is often thin. By November and December 1915, the stamps were worn. In February 1916 the number 3 came off and was reglued in an inverted position.

Rarity:

Mark No. 1 is rare, 4 or R. Mark Nos. 2 and 3 are fairly common, level 3. Mark Nos. 3a, 4 and 5 are very common, level 1.

Above: The Pori/Björneborg CS No. 2 is one of the larger circular censor stamps measuring 37 mm in diameter. From time to time, we see this and other larger censor marks struck on the stamp or value stamp on postal cards despite instructions to affix the mark on the left side of the object away from the franking. Helsinki, 8. XII. 15, to Björneborg, 10. XII. 15.



Above: The Pori/Björneborg CS No. 2 is a fairly common mark, except for CM 1, of which less than 15 examples on cover are known. This CS is known on a variety of postal objects. Five different marks are reported. They were used at various times from January 1915 until March 1916.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 3

Type: Personal
 Shape: Circular, double circles
 Size: 30 mm
 Description: Russian letters "Д. Ц." ("D. Ts.")
 Text: Censor(ing) Allowed
Censor's personal ID number
 Ink: Violet
 Subtypes: None

Comment:
 Mark is fairly common, seen solo on objects. To date, only personal ID number 6 has been reported.

Rarity:
 Fairly common, level 3.

Dates of Use: 24 Jun. 1915 to 18 Feb. 1916



Beautifully clear, clean strike of CS No. 3 on a commercial bank cover from Warkus, 23. VI. 15, to Björneborg, (Pori) backstamped, 24. VI. 15. This is the earliest reported use of this censor stamp.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 4

Просмотрно Военной цензурь гор Бьернеборгъ цензорь № 3.

Type: Personal
 Shape: Straight lines
 Size: 19 X 54 mm
 Description: Three lines of text in Cyrillic
 Text: War censor inspected
 City of Pori (Björneborg)
 War censor No. ____
 Ink: Violet, reddish-violet, blue, black
 Subtypes: Mark Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8

Comment:
 This censor stamp is unique; there are no similar type stamps found in any other censor location. Seen on general correspondence, post(al) cards, etc. Many variations in ink colors are present, especially in Mark 3.

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 2	22 Mar. 1916 to 15 Aug. 1916	3	Mark No. 5	06 May 1916 to 17 Aug. 1916	4, R
Mark No. 3	14 Mar. 1916 to 01 Oct. 1916	2	Mark No. 7	10 May 1916 to 31 Jul. 1916	4, R
Mark No. 4	13 Mar. 1916 to 27 Sep. 1916	3	Mark No. 8	25 Aug. 1916 to 24 Sep. 1916	3



Top: Mark 4 used on back of an insured cover, on top of CT together with Wax seals. This is an unusual use of this Stamp. Full cover illustrated under Private Wax seals (last section)



Below: The 5 penni rate applied to printed matter up to 50 grams. All such mail, which was unsealed, passed through the censor office and received an appropriate marking, usually a general censor stamp struck on the front.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 5

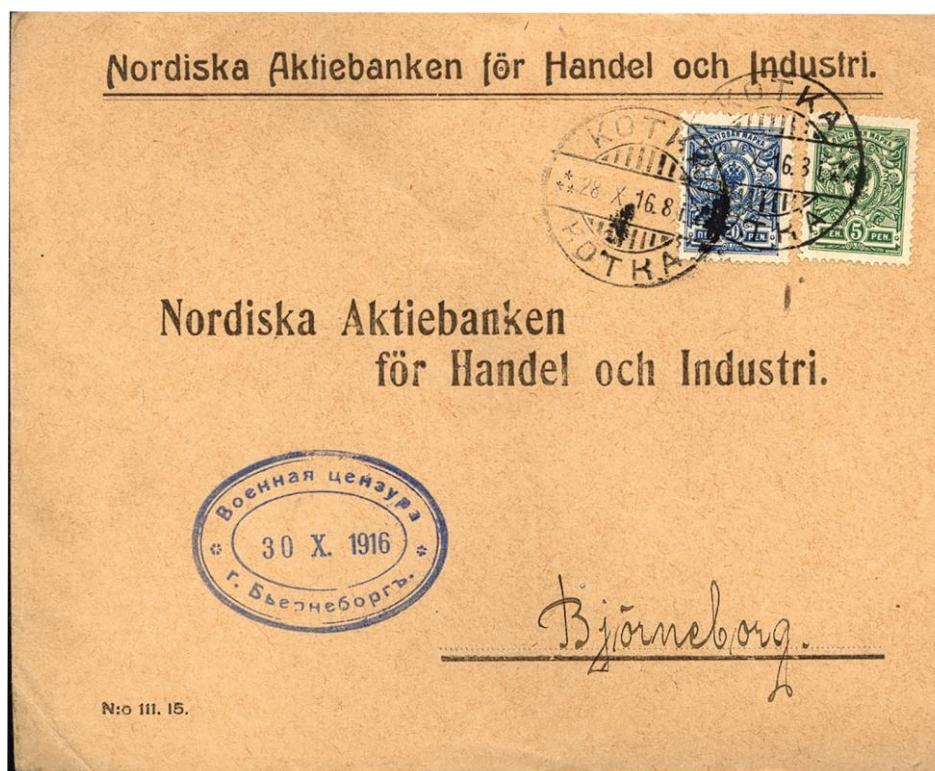


Type: General date stamp
 Shape: Oval, three rings, two rosettes
 Size: 29 x 41 mm
 Description: Two lines of text, date in center
 Text: War censor(ing)
 Date
 City of Pori (Björneborg)
 Ink: Violet-brown, blue, red, gray-black
 Subtypes: None

Comment:
 This is a common type of oval date mark with location identification. In Pori, the date often appears according to the Russian (Julian) calendar. Marks appear solo on objects, often indistinct.

Rarity:
 Very common, level 1.

Dates of Use: 23 Jun. 1916 to 16 Mar. 1917



According to Olamo, Pori CS No. 5, mark often appears indistinct, and the date is set according to the Julian calendar. On this cover from Kotka to Björneborg (Pori), the mark is both sharp and dated according to the Gregorian calendar.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 6

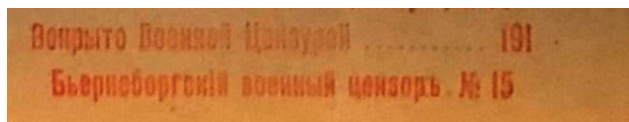
Вскрыто Военной Цензурой.....191
 Бьериборгский военный цензор №8

Type: Personal
 Shape: Two-tiered straight line
 Size: 8 x 52 mm
 Description: Two lines of text in Russian
 Text: War censor opened.....191
 Pori war censor w/censor's personal
 ID No.
 Ink: Blue, violet
 Subtypes: 10 CS reported

Comment:
 Similar types of stamps are found in all censor cities. The Pori stamps generally appear on mail with a resealing tape, often covering (tied to) the tape.

Rarity:
 Generally, this type of two-line personal date stamp is common as used in Helsinki or Wyborg. Here the stamp was introduced very late in postal censoring in Finland. In Pori, the stamps were first brought into use in January and February 1917. Nos. 7 and 10 - 12 are rare or very rare, less than five known.

Dates of Use:		
Mark No. 1	___ Mar. 1917	5, RR
Mark No. 2	02 Nov. 1916 to 14 Feb. 1917	3
Mark No. 3	11 Oct. 1916 to 13 Mar. 1917	3
Mark No. 4	19 Oct. 1916 to 02 Mar. 1917	3
Mark No. 7	27 Feb. 1917	4, R
Mark No. 8	06 Nov. 1916 to 16 Mar. 1917	3
Mark No. 9	02 Nov. 1916 to 11 Mar. 1917	3
Mark No. 10	02 Feb. 1917	4, R
Mark No. 11	21 Dec. 1916 to 02 Feb. 1917	4, R
Mark No. 12	25 Feb. 1917	5, RR



Imprints of Marks 1 to 15 from Pori have been found in a delivery journal at the National Archives in Helsinki. Use of Marks 1, 5, 6, 13, 14, and 15 has never been reported.



When the mark was used on a postal card or other passively censored mail, the date was frequently left off. Mark 8 is fairly common.

Pori Censor Stamp No. 7

**Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ**

Mark No. 1 (without personal identification)

Type: General
Shape: Straight lines
Size: 86.5 mm
Description: Two lines of text in Cyrillic
Text: War censor inspected
City of Pori (Björneborg)
Ink: Blue in various shades
Subtypes: Five marks, four with censor's signature affixed to the stamp

Dates of Use:

Mark No. 1	19 Nov. 1915 to 14 Jun. 1916	4, R
Mark No. 2	25 Jul. 1915 to 02 Sep. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 3	08 Aug. 1916	5, RR
Mark No. 4	25 May 1915 to 23 Sep. 1915	5, RR
Mark No. 5	13 Jun. 1915	5, RR

Comment:

This Mark was not included in the Olamo text. Illustrations for Pori Censor Stamp No. 7 and Subtypes are taken from Termonen & Keturi, *Postisensuuri Suomessa*, Vol. 1, page 23. Mark No. 1 is a general mark without the personal identification of the censor.

Rarity:

These marks are the most elusive Pori censor stamps. Despite Mark No. 1 being in use for seven months, including three months beyond the official closing of the Pori censor office, probably less than ten covers have been reported.

Mark Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5 are all very rare, level 5 or RR.

**Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ**
Тюсаненъ

Mark No. 2, Censor: Tiusanen

**Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ**
Далль

Mark No. 3, Censor: Dahl

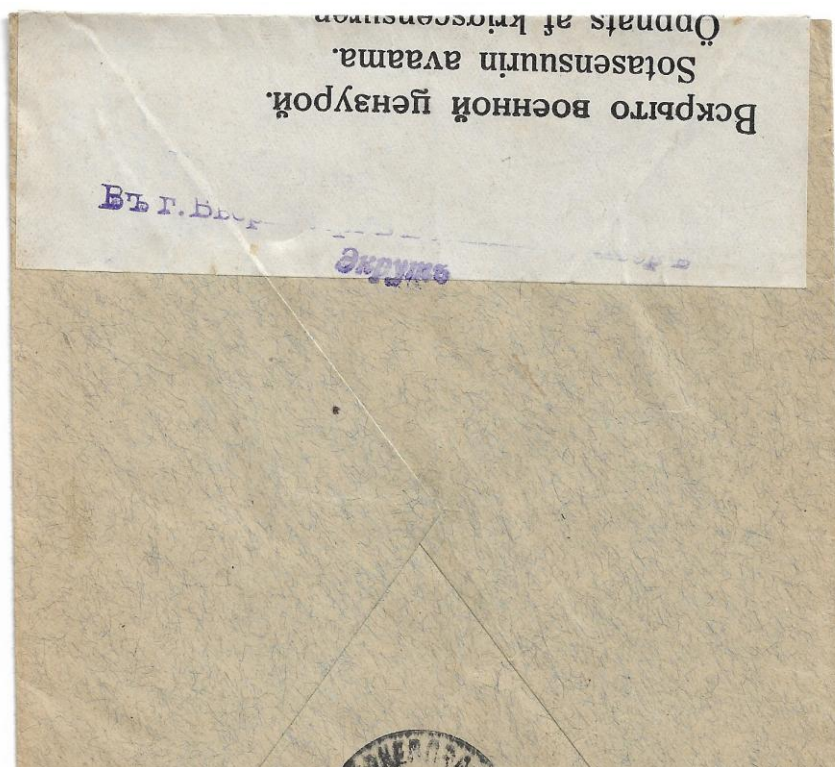
**Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ**
Экрутъ

Mark No. 4, Censor: Ekroth

**Вскрыто военной цензурой
Въ г. Бьернеборгъ Военный цензоръ**

Ким

Mark No. 5, Censor: Name uncertain



This Cs is very rare, here illustrated by the fact that the only mark found by editor is incomplete. This is mark No 4 found on top of CT A-III white paper on a cover sent from Helsinki 8.VII.15 to arrive Pori 9.VII.15

Pori Censor Stamp No. 8



Type: General
 Shape: Rectangular, double frame, two rosettes
 Size: 22 x 45 mm
 Description: In the center, two lines of text in Russian with the date in the center
 Text: War Censor(ing)
Date (Month in Cyrillic letters)
 Allowed
 Ink: Violet
 Subtypes: None reported
 Dates of Use: 09 May 1916 to 15 Jul 1916 5 or RR

All three examples are missing the middle part of the first line, and also the letters "He" first in line three, which changes the meaning of the mark from "Not Allowed" to "Allowed."

The dating of the CS is Russian.

The mark is in general found in two versions, text in the third line (HE) ПРОПУЩЕНЪ (grammatical male gender) or like the Pori CS (HE) ПРОПУЩЕНО (neutral gender).

All three reported copies of this CS are shown, one below and two on the next page.

Rarity: Very rare, level 5 or RR

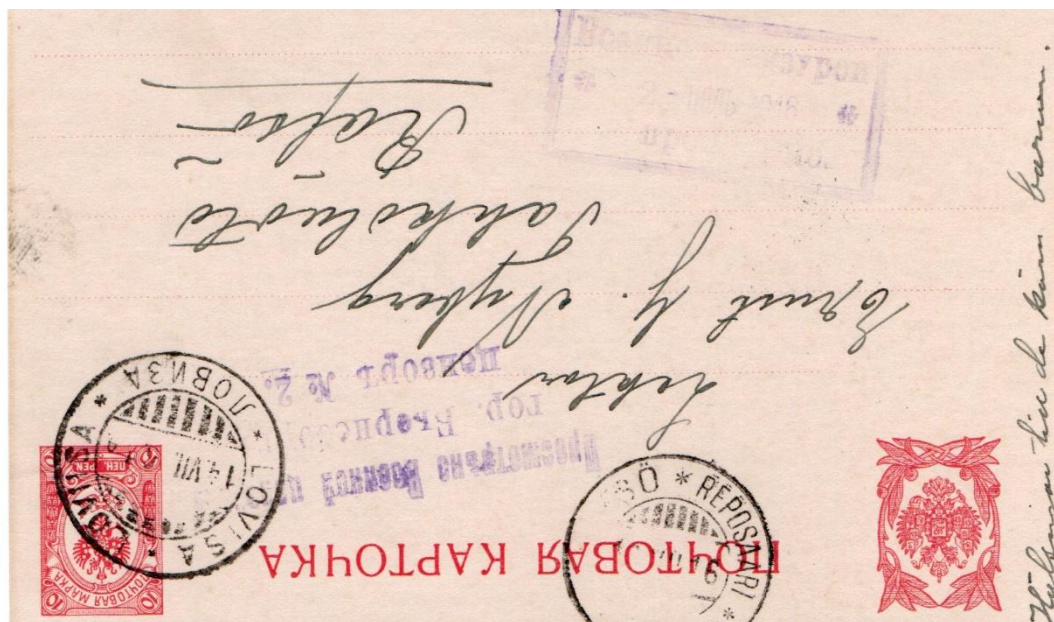


Cover sent from Hämeenlinna -9 V 1916 to Oulu, no arrival postmark, but CS dated 26 АПР 1916i in Russian (Julian) calendar is also 9 May 1916. This CS was first reported in T&K's 1999 version of their part one catalogue, also used on 26 Apr. 1916. This is most likely the very same item reported as the one shown here. The cover has been stamped with the personal mark, Pori CS No. 4 Mark No. 2. (collection Staffan Karlsson.)

Pori Censor Stamp No. 8 (continued)



This is a postcard sent from **Moscow 25 16** (Russian calendar) to Pori, arrival postmark dated 17 V 16, the card is stamped with Pori Cs. Nr. 4 Mark No. 3 and the Ban mark dated same day as the Pori postmark only according to Russian calendar **4 Май 1916** (4 May 1916 in Russian calendar is 17 May 1916 in the Finnish calendar). Text on card is in Swedish and the writer is living at the house of a captain, who in three days are leaving for the western war front, hereafter mostly about temperature in Russia and the need of worm cloths.



This card was sent from **Loviisa 14 VII 16** and passed Pori censor office on the way to Rafsö, or in Finnish Reposaari, arrival postmark not clear on day, but looks like **16 VII 1916**, which means delivered was made without any delay. At Pori censor office two CS were used. Pori CS No. 4 Mark No. 2, a personal censor stamp at top of card, and a weak upside-down impression of the framed CS No. 8 dated in Russian calendar **02 Июль 1916** (15 Jul. 1916 in Finnish/Gregorian calendar). Message on card is in Swedish and it seems harmless. The **date 15 Jul. 1916** is latest known use of Pori CS No. 4 Mark No. 2. Collection Reijo Tanner.

Pori 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

Description: Three lines of text: Russian, Finnish
& Swedish

Text: Opened by war censor

Paper color: See Subtypes

Subtypes: Only Types II & III tapes are known to be
used in Pori.

Dates of Use:
Type A- II
White paper __. Mar. 1915 (exact date is not listed)

Type A-III

Blue paper	10 Nov. 1914 to 09 Dec. 1914	4-R
White paper	14 Sep. 1916 to 08 Mar. 1917	1
Red paper	02 Dec. 1914 to 19 Jan. 1915	3
Brown paper	24 Sep. 1915 to 28 Nov. 1915	3

Comment:
Most of the resealing tapes used at Pori were type III,
white.

Rarity:
The A-III blue tape is reported to be used only for one
month. It is quite rare, but there is insufficient
information to assign a rarity level. The brown tape, used
for two months, is likely level 3 or 4. The white tape was
in use from September 1916 until the close of the Pori
censor office in March 1917. Although the data is
insufficient to firmly establish a rarity level, a tentative
level 2 or 3, is appropriate. Although the red tape was
earlier reported to have been used from December 1914
to December 1916, this is surely a mistake, the date is
1914. The tape is rare.

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



Type A-III white tape is used to reseal this cover from Helsinki, 19. XII. 16, to Björneborg. This cover is unusual in that the text of the resealing tape is on the front side of the cover. The cover is back stamped.

Pori Postal Wax Seals Used by Censor Office

Type: Postal wax seal w/ city identification
 Shape: Circular
 Size: Varies with impression
 Text; City name in three languages: Russian, Finnish, and Swedish

Dates of Use: 13 Mar. 1916 to 02 Dec. 1916 5 or RR

Comment: The Pori Postal wax seal used at the Censor Office is very scarce.

Rarity Very rare, level 5 or RR



Postal wax seal in three languages
 Björneborg * Pori * Бьёрнеборг
 (seal is enlarged)



Postal wax seal used to reseal insured cover sent from Taivassalo to Pori with arrival postmark dated 2.XII.16.

The CT is type A-III.

Private Wax Seal used for Censorship



Personal wax seal with letters E.W.K.

Type: Private wax seal
 Shape: Circular; leaf wreath w/ initials
 Size: Varies according to impression
 Text: Three letters, (E.W.K.)

Comment:
 The seal has three artistic letters (E.W.K.) in a squared frame. This is the personal seal of censor Erik Karlström. Only a single use has been reported.

Date(s) of use: 13 Mar. 1916

5 or RR

Rarity:
 Very rare, level 5, RR.



Pori postal wax seal used on back side of this cover but on the front side a private or personal seal has been used.

Collection Jorma Keturi.

