



# The Finnish Philatelist

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## The Finnish Philatelist

The Finnish Philatelist is published quarterly by the Finnish Study Group (FSG) of the Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC).

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## Editor's Message:

This issue of the newsletter features an important article by Reijo Tanner of Hikiä Finland discussing censorship at Finland's ten censor offices from late summer 1914 until the summer of 1915. Numerous previously unreported censor signatures, initials and pencil scribbles are shown here for the first time. In addition, a personal numerical stamp from Wyborg and a new personal censor stamp from Kuopio is also illustrated. The chart on page 13 demonstrates that despite the oversight of a Censor Committee headed by a Russian general, the censor offices more or less acted autonomously with respect to the marking of inspected covers and the use of personal censor stamps with the censor's own signature, initial or identifying number embedded in the censor stamp die.

The summer issue of the newsletter will feature an article on the "4th Assignment" of station numbers on the Helsinki-St. Petersburg railway from March to November 1889. This article clears up the inconsistencies in the designated numbers outlined by Hellman and Itkonen and the actual station numbers found on cancelled items.

Looking down the road to the fall issue, we expect to feature a number of smaller articles exposing forgeries in the classic issues and on their misuse on covers and pieces.

At the time of this writing I am not planning to publish the newsletter after the November 2008 issue. The 1995 *Russia in Finland* monograph co-authored with Dirk Vorwerck will be updated and republished in full color. The *Postal Censorship in Finland 1914-1918* CD will be expanded in a new format with more illustrations and more powerful search tools.

## Jon Iversen Reveals a New Oulu Censor Stamp No. 1 Subtype



Oulu Censor Stamp No.1 was used from about October 15, 1914 until January 21, 1915. There are about 12 subtypes and another new subtype was recently submitted by Jon Iversen of Denmark. An analysis of this stamp suggests that a case can be made for three main type numbers based on the

Continued on page 6

## Finnish National Show - KESFILA 2008

The Finnish Philatelic Federation's annual national exhibition was held on 28 to 30 March 2008 in Jyväskylä where it shared the centrally located exhibition pavilion during the second and third days with a much larger and more diverse retail exhibition, to the mutual benefit of both events. The theme was early flight and the dominant exhibit was a full-scale replica of a Thulin D reconnaissance aircraft, the first aircraft of the Finnish Air Force. The platform at the opening ceremony included the Commander of the Finnish Air Force as well as the Mayor of Jyväskylä and the Chief Executive of Jyväskylän Messut, philatelists from the Federation and also from Keski-Suomen Filatelistiseura, the host society.

The exhibits filled no less than 550 frames from over 100 exhibitors. The invited exhibits included four on the subject of early aviation and airmails, as well as some of the finest items from the late Arnold Nyman's classic Finland. There were 108 competitive exhibits, with Finland predominant in traditional philately and postal history. The best represented topic of Finnish philately was the Saarinen-type of 1917-30 but there was a great variety of subjects on display, including South Georgia, Greece, Cook Islands and GB Wildings and Machins. Postal Stationery, Air Mail, Maxim philately, Revenues, Youth and Literature classes were lightly supported but there was a great range of one-frame displays, as well as open class exhibits and postcards. An excellent exhibition catalogue included articles on airmail, the Vaasa issue and foreign postmarks on the 1889 definitives. A programme of seminars included an excellent talk in English on exhibiting airmails by Egil Thomassen from Norway.

The trade was very well represented by ten dealers, plus the Finland and Åland post offices, as well as an auction on the second day organised jointly by Käpylän Merkki, Järvenpään Filateliapalvelu and Postimerkkipalvelu Vetola. The usual philatelic souvenirs of the event were on sale at the post office stands.

The Palmares dinner was held at the same venue on the Saturday evening and attended by some ninety people, when the results of the judges deliberations were announced. The Grand Prix was awarded to Wolf Hess of Germany for his "Grand Duchy Finland 1809-1884". Six gold medals were awarded in the traditional philately class, one in postal history and one in the postcard class.

Jeffrey Stone

*Figure 3, right. Nine distinguished philatelists received the Pro Filatelia award at KESFILA, including contributor Jeffrey Stone (at the far right), who also received a gold medal for his tradition exhibit of the m/75 issues.*





## Fun with Finnish First Day Covers – 21 1941 Red Cross Reconstruction Issues

By Alan Warren

August 30, 1941 was the issue date of a set of three stamps in memory of the reconquest of the Viipuri Castle (Swedish: Viborg) from the Russians. The fortification was built by the Swedes on the Karelia isthmus around 1293. Its primary purpose was to defend against attacks by the Russians from Novgorod.

Viipuri was a key strategic point for protecting the eastern front of what was then Sweden during the Middle Ages. Renovations and additions were made to the castle during the 16<sup>th</sup> century but in the following century it fell into decay. Russia captured the fort in 1710 but a century later in 1812, it fell back to the Finns with establishment of the Grand Duchy of Finland. Extensive reconstruction took place at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is a museum.

Between 1917 and 1940 Viipuri belonged to the Republic of Finland, and then again during 1941-1944. Russia annexed the castle once more in 1944 as a result of border changes.

The stamps were issued in three values: 1:75, 2:75, and 3:50 FM (Norma 258-260). **Figure 1** (upper right) shows the Helsinki first day cancel on a registered cover to the United States, bearing a generic 4-language boxed cachet. **Figure 2** (middle right) was cancelled first day at Lohja and bears a cachet specific to the recapture of Viipuri Castle. It was sent to Sweden.

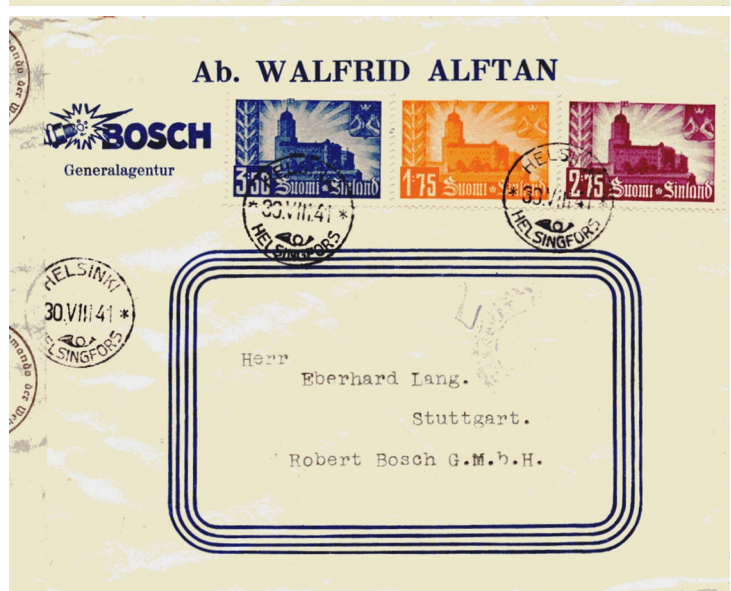
By using the complete set of new stamps, both letters are overpaid. The letter rate to Nordic countries was 2:50 FM and to other countries 3:50 FM. The registration fee in both cases was 2:50 FM. The cover to New Jersey is backstamped New York registry division 14 October and Dover 15 October. Both covers were unsealed with the envelope flap tucked in. Thus they received only the circular “Examined” censor handstamp (Moxter TG-S-71).

**Figure 3** (lower right) was sent in a commercial envelope to Germany and was sealed. Hence it was more closely examined by the German censors, although it received the token purple handstamp from the Finns. **Figure 4** (bottom right) shows the censor devices on the back of the cover. The cover was examined in Berlin where the envelope was opened and then resealed with a fairly common type of tape (Riemer B-55) used from July 1940 to February 1945.

After the tape was applied it was tied with the red handstamp (Riemer B-2-a) used from October 1940 to June 1942.

### Reference

Riemer, Karl-Heinz. *Die Überwachung des Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen*, Düsseldorf, 1979.





## 1906 Ring Reply Card from Mombasa, British East Africa

In the May 2006 issue of *The Finnish Philatelist* we published an article on Russian franked Finnish mail to abroad 1900-1918. In a supplementary note we reported that there were very few covers to unusual foreign destinations franked with the Finnish ring stamps during their period of validity, May 1891-May 1911. Since that time readers have reported several additional unusual destinations including The Danish West Indies, Burma and Columbia, but none franked with the ring stamps.

Although we do not have the original message card, the 4 kopek ring reply card pictured here is most certainly from Mombassa, British East Africa (now Kenya) as indicated by the transit mark on the front. Apparently, the card requests information on the issuance of 1905 coins. The message card was postmarked, Björnberg, 15. XII. 05 and arrived in Mombasa, some time before January 12 1906, the dateline in the reply card. The correspondent writes:

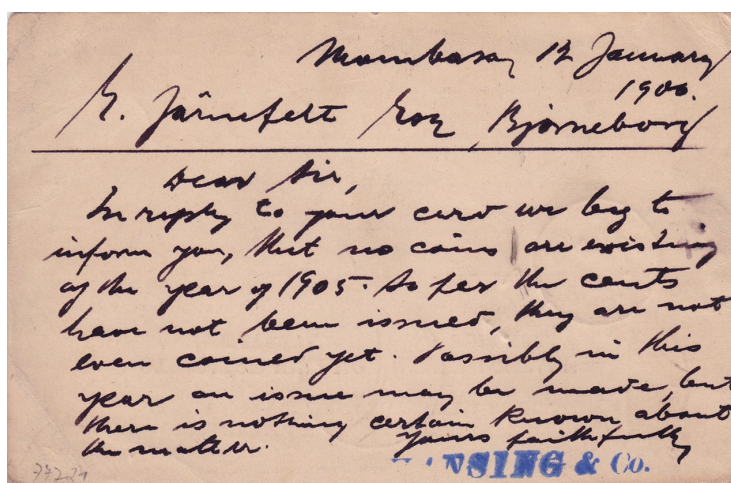
Dear Sir,

I reply to your card we beg to inform you, that no coins are existing for the year of 1905. So far the cent coins have not been issued, they are not even coined yet. Possibly in this year (1906) an issue may be made, but there is nothing certain known about the matter,

Yours faithfully  
\_NSING & Co.

The reply card was dispatched the next day as indicated by the Mombasa 13 JA (1906) postmark. The card arrived about three weeks later at Björnberg, 6. II. 06 with a T mark struck prominently on the front, but as this was the correct postage, there is no further indication by the Finnish Post of any additional amount charged the addressee.

This is the first reported correspondence between Finland and anywhere in British East Africa and the first new ring card "destination" since the May 2006 article. We thank Steve Kaplan of Ohio for sharing this highly unusual and important item with our readers.



Steve requests the cooperation of our readers to help him compile a census of ring reply cards from foreign destinations. Reply cards from Russia, Germany and Sweden are known. However, only two cards are reported from unusual destinations; namely, Mombasa, shown here, and British Guiana in South America. Please send us a scan of your reply card either to the editor or to Steve Kaplan at: [spk@skaplanassociates.com](mailto:spk@skaplanassociates.com)

Roger Quinby

## Rauma Censor Stamp No. 4, Mark 5

Pictured on the right is Rauma CS No. 4, the first personal stamp used at this censor office. It is seen both without the censor's signature and with the censor's signature in the open space on the right hand side of the second line, shown here on the right. Without a censor's signature the stamp is fairly common, but all of the known five reported signatures are very elusive, rated "4" in T & K rarity scale, less than five known.

On page 15 of this newsletter there is pictured an insured cover, inspected at Kuopio, and marked with a similar type mark signed without the splendid flourish as seen on the right. This stamp type is also known used at Nikolainkaupunki. Reijo Tanner collection.





## Type 1889 20 Penni Cliché Changes

By Heikki Reinikainen, translated by Carita Parker & Heikki Reinikainen

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in *Filatelisti* in 8/1999 and it has been partially rewritten for publication in *The Finnish Philatelist*.

The 20 penni yellow stamp is by far the biggest denomination of the issue; more than 50 million stamps were printed. The information on possible cliché changes is, as well as in the other type 1889 values, non-existing. The Handbook II (1971) mentions vaguely that perhaps two changes occurred during the following 11 years. However, one set of 100 clichés could stand the printing of about 7-9 million stamps which means, that there had to be 6 changes, at least.

Because of the absence of any statistical data the cliché changes of the 20 penni stamps had to be concluded by their appearance and printing quantities. Thus the emissions 1-2-3 became a group of their own, and the emissions 4 plus 10 differ also from the previous indicating that a change had taken place. The other cliché changes are partly concluded only through the printed quantities.

### I-clichés

The printing emissions 1 yellow, 2 orange and 3 light brownish yellow, a total of 7.1 million, is a group that differs from the others. The appearance is sharp and successful, the coat of arms contrasting in the oval. The stamps were printed from the clichés made by Thiele, Copenhagen. After this the picture will change.

### II-clichés

The emissions 4 brown orange, 5 dull brownish orange and 6 dull orange, a total of 9.2 million.

The emission 4 appears soft with abundant inking differing drastically from the previous.

Similar appearance continues somewhat with slight variations in the other emissions. The clichés were made by

the Mint. Due to the poor appearance of the lot an attempt was made in 1892 to transfer the cliché production to another manufacturer. A second and more successful attempt was in 1894.



Figures 1, top and 2, below. Besides cliché wear the printers had other problems, as pictured here. In the stamps of type 1889 the coat of arms was emphasized by pasting small pieces of paper onto the cylinder surface. Depending of the thickness of the filling etc. it resulted in more or less impressive relief. In the side-light these coats of arms are really striking. The illustration shows how the filling is occasionally placed a bit too high or too much left. A small piece of envelope paper on top of the other embossing does not belong in the stamp. This rather laborious work was repeated for the 100 cliché form every time when a new printing was under preparation. The pictured stamps are of yellow orange by color from the 9<sup>th</sup> printing, cancelled Helsingfors, September 1894 and Mäntsälä, November 1895.

### III-clichés

The emissions 7 dull greenish yellow (2.0 mi), 8 brownish yellow (1.4 mi) and 9 yellow orange (1.0mi), a total of 4.4 million. The clichés were made by the Mint. Various events taking place in the production of the emission 9 are difficult to conclude. At first glance, the 7 could belong to the previous emissions, but a slight difference in appearance and substantial printing quantity of the previous lot will address it to this group. The emission 7 is fairly pale and flat by appearance; the lot 8 weakens to very poor and smudgy. The lot 9 shows improvement having contrasting image, heavy embossing and runny ink, but only one million printed stamps? The printings were completed as follows: The 7 on 12.1893; the 8 on 2.1894 and the 9 on 10.94. Because the lot 8 was printed only two months after the 7 there had to be great difficulties in the stamp production. The changeover for another cliché maker was obviously

at hand.

Stamps from Tilgmann made clichés are found cancelled in the latter half of 1894 (earliest mark 31.7.94 so far) thus being part of the emission 9. An unknown quantity of clichés in the form was apparently replaced in July when the form was probably dismantled for cleaning. It is known that Mr F Tilgmann received the original 20 penni die for cliché production in June 1894. From now on he supplied 20 penni clichés for the printing office. Because of some continuing problems the emission 9 was officially recorded not before October 6, 1894.

It is also good to remember that in 1886 the 25 penni II-



clichés (Mint) of type 1885 were likewise a fiasco, lasting only the printing of 1.550.000 stamps until they had to be replaced.

#### IV- clichés

The emissions 10 orange, 11 brownish orange, 12 yellowish orange and 13 greenish yellow, a total of 13 million. The new precision printing press (from emission 11 onwards) did not stress the clichés as much as before thus allowing larger printings. Emission 10 differs from the previous in appearance. Printing ink is now dry; the picture is nice with a strong contrast and with less pressure giving a clear indication of the renewed clichés. In the emission 11 the appearance is more dense and even (as in the 5 and 10 penni stamps). The appearance of the emission 12 is similar, the cliché wear showing in the dense appearance. With the emission 13 it became necessary to change for a thicker cylinder blanket resulting in soft but rather attractive stamps.

#### V-clichés

The emissions 14 orange, 15 brownish reddish orange, 16 orange, a total of 10.2 million. When as many as 13 million had been printed previously, the new clichés at this point were a practical must. The appearance here is rather uniform. The differences show up mainly in the colours. The emission 14 is a good basic orange, the 15 is reddish turning occasionally to brownish red and the 16 is similar to the emission 14 but varies from darkish orange to a very pale yellow.

#### VI-clichés

The emissions 17 clear orange and 18 reddish orange, a total of 12.0 million. Because the printing of the emission 17 was up to 8 million and the previous lot reached 10.2 million there is a reason to believe that the clichés were now changed. In the printing appearance there are, however, no clear indications of that. The lot 17 has brighter colour and the emission 18 is reddish which, in the end, turns slightly brownish.

#### Printing emission 19

Total 4.7 million stamps printed. This was the last 20 penni emission, but it never left the printer's office. Whether printed from old or renewed clichés remains unknown.

Although there is scant archival information, the bases for the conclusions as presented in this article are the date cancellations of substantial quantity of stamp material available, printing appearance, printed quantities, cliché durability, acquisition of a new printing press, and a new perforator.

#### Continued from page 1

number of lines, letter type and inclusion or absence of a date. Nevertheless, until the main Oulu censor stamps are renumbered I am following Termonen & Keturi modified catalog numbering. Subtype mark numbers 6a, 7a and 7b were added to my CD listings on the recommendation of Cyril Schwenson, however I do not have any illustrations, only a description. I have never come across one of these subtypes.



Figure 3. 20 penni brown orange stamps (top and bottom on the left) from the emission 4, in the middle dull-brownish orange on top and olive-brownish orange below (3-5) of emission 5, on the right dull orange (3-4) stamps of emission 6. The figures in parentheses indicate a tone variation of a stamp as used in the current Norma, LaPe and Facit catalogues.



Figure 4. 20 penni yellow orange with a big lion from emission 9, is not so easy to find.

The newly found subtype submitted by Jon Iversen, illustrated on page 1, is a single line date stamp similar to Mark No. 1 (subtype 1) except that the month is an Arabic number (10) and not a Roman numeral as seen in Mark Nos. 1, 5 and 6. Accordingly, at least on a temporary basis, I suggest that we catalogue this new find as Mark No. 1b. Are there other examples of this subtype? Possibly you have one in your collection; it is worth a look.



# World War I Postal Censoring in the Grand Duchy of Finland

## Censoring in the Early Stages

By Reijo Tanner

Censoring activity in the various cities generally started on very short notice as workday procedures were decided independently in each office. Thus, there are clear differences in censoring work routines from one location to another. These differences increase the possibilities of new finds even in fields researched for years. Furthermore, war censoring as a subject is unusually vast, so hundreds of marks and possible cancellations exist. We estimate that about 1200 main censor stamps, subtypes, paper tapes and wax seals were used in Finland from August 1914 until the closing of the Helsinki office on January 28, 1918. Thus, even an ordinary looking item could prove to be quite unique. As the collecting of whole objects (covers) becomes more common and with that the increase in philatelic knowledge about the various postal item categories and rates used, the question then arises as to how censors handled the different items such as printed matter, wrappers, postcards, letters, including normal, registered and insured. A mark in itself does not suffice anymore. Knowledge must be attained about how the various objects were supposed to be censored pursuant to postal regulations, what the prevailing practice was, that is what particular mark was used, where struck, use of individual marks, the exact location for the tapes and seals, what exceptions existed, and what is considered a censor's misunderstanding or error. Why, for example, is an item opened in the "wrong" censor city, which usually happened at the censor office for the city/town of departure, rather than at the designated arrival censor office.

This article is not an in depth study of the subject, but rather food for thought, and actually the intention is to further awaken the interest of collectors in their censored objects and then to aid in the gathering of information and perhaps presenting it to the public in one of our philatelic journals.

### Printing And Delivery Of Sealing Tapes

War censor activity in Finland started so rapidly in the autumn of 1914 that postal officials did not have time to organize the censoring processes or acquire needed material, such as censor stamps. The activity was to begin at about the same time as the decree was issued at postal locations. The sealing tapes arrived at censor points in the span of a few days, but the making of the censor marks took at least a week from the official start of the activity.

The first censor office was opened at Tornio on August 15, 1914, but inasmuch as sealing tapes were not immediately available, the censors had to handwrite "Opened by war censor" on the reverse side of the covers. From the second day censor tapes were delivered on an almost daily basis from a nearby printing shop. Originally these tapes were printed in two languages, Swedish and Finnish, and they are characterized by many spelling errors in both languages (Censor Tapes Nos. 1-10).

Sota sensuurin avaama.

Öpnat av krigsensurn.

*Figure 1. Tornio Censor Tape (CT) No. 1 is characterized by misspelling of "Oppnat" and "Krigscsuren" In the first line there is a space between the "a" and "s" in "Sotasensuurin."*

Sotasensurin avaama.

Öppnat af krigscensuren.

*Figure 2. Tornio CT No. 7. Here the Finnish word "Sotasensuurin" is spelled with a single "u." No censor initials or signatures have been found on the early Tornio covers.*

A distinguishing feature of the Tornio tapes is the tens of minor variations in the typesetting. The Cyrillic on the Tornio tapes (besides Finnish and Swedish) appeared in late 1914.

The supplier of the tapes when the activity started in Helsinki on September 3, 1914 was the Senate Printing Office in Helsinki and possibly that office later supplied the other war censor offices with resealing tapes that were uniform in the entire country (the tri-lingual tapes, Mittel standard 14 and Antiqua fonts). In Helsinki as in all the other censor locations (except Tornio) Russian was of course the third language on the tapes. The rest of the censor locations received their sealing tapes within a few days of commencing censoring the mail. Censoring activity in Wyborg started on October 2, 1914 with first usage seen on October 6th. Noteworthy, all the initial tapes were yellow, for all the cities that started on October 13th: Turku, Tampere, Kuopio and Nikolainkaupunki (Wasa).

According to Termonen & Keturi (T & K), the first appearance of resealing tape use occurred in the span of 2-3 days from the official start of censoring. Initially the censor offices received only two type sets of tri-lingual tapes, even



*Figure 3. This registered cover from Petrograd, 4. 10. 14 (October 17) was addressed to Willmanstrand and inspected at Wyborg. The Wyborg postal circular date stamp is barely visible under the yellow resealing tape used at Wyborg October 7 - 19, 1914. Collection of Roger Quinby.*



these were divided somewhat casually into several sub-groups based on the length of these texts (“opened by war censor” in three languages). Later on the inspection tapes received the city name (such as “Opened by war censor in Kuopio”), which makes it easier to differentiate the censor tape origin just in cases of double or triple censoring and in cases when the inspection occurred at the departure city.

**Вскрыто военной цензурой в г. Торнео.**

**Avannut sotasensuuri Torniossa.**

**Öppnats af krigscensuren i Torneå.**

*Figure 4. Tornio CT 20. There are about 21 tri-lingual resealing tapes from Tornio with location identification. Several major varieties have been reported; numerous uncatalogued minor differences can be detected in length of text lines and letter spacing.*

### Censors Personal Markings

The Tornio censors indicated their inspections only with sealing tape and the Tornio date mark. The first use of a Tornio censor personal mark cancel is April 13, 1915 according to the Termonen & Keturi (T & K) catalogue. I have letters opened by Tornio censors later on in April 1914 without the personal censor marks struck next to the tape.

The Helsinki censors in the inspection of postal items started using their initials such as an abbreviated name, number, or some similar pencil scribble. My collection indicates that initials were used between October 3-30, 1914, but later usages have been reported by T & K and Quinby. The objects I have without initials consist only of printed material with sealing tapes and letters with censor seals from September 5, 1914 to October 30, 1914. The T & K and Quinby catalogues illustrate the Helsinki censors' initials.

I have seen only one Helsinki censor signature, a full name by longhand, used on October 25, 1914. The first personal

marks cancels were given to censors on November 3, and these were the so-called number marks, thus each censor got a number cancel of his own, CS No. 3, Marks 1-75.

At Wyborg the censors also initialed opened covers and several covers were illustrated in *The Finnish Philatelist*, Vol. 12, No. 2, May 2007. Apparently, considering the paucity of initialed covers from October 1914 to March 1915, when the first personal censor stamps appeared, it appears that the censors did not uniformly mark inspected covers.

The first personal marks in Wyborg were similar to those in Helsinki, that is plain numbers (same font but height 11 mm). Pictured, numbers 0 (date of use January 17, 1915), 3 (October 27, 1914) and 5 (date of use February 18, 1915), these have not been pictured in earlier research on postal censorship. In Wyborg the personal signature marks came into use on March 4, 1915, (K&T). The Kuopio censor office is the most interesting for personal signatures on resealing tapes. Markings with initials (mostly only numbers, 2-10) were used on letters right from the first day of business. In my collections there are 30 of these marked letters between October 15, 1914 and April 3, 1915. On 30 letters between March 2 and September 19, 1915 the signature (instead of initials) of censor is penciled on the sealing tape, whereas in other cities incidentally the initials are on the reverse side of the cover. From this period I have for certain 10 different signatures that I will introduce. (See Figures 8 and 9, pp 11 -12) Also from this period. I have in my collections only three items without censor handwritten markings, all sealed with censor seals; they are value, registered, and C.O.D. items. Generally it is said that censor signatures on the letter itself are rare, but not so for Kuopio. All of the Kuopio censors during this period wrote their full names on the tape of inspected letter mail. Kuopio received its personal censor marks starting on September 23, 1915. After this period I have in my collection a few items sealed with tape that have no handwritten marks.

The Turku censors did not write their initials on October 16, 1914, but after October 23. a censor mark with an initial is usually seen on or next to letter sealing tapes. See *The Finnish Philatelist*, Vol. 13, No. 1, February 2008 for pictures of initialed covers. Personal censor cancels with names were used beginning February 16, 1915.

Tampere did not use pencil markings to any great extent on letter sealing tapes or letters prior to March 20, 1915. According to T & K, the first Tampere number cancel is seen on March 20, 1915, and I have an object with the same date, minus the mark. Examples of initialed covers are shown on page 16 of the newsletter.

In Nikolainkaupunki (Wasa) marks with initials were not used, but the number marks were used beginning in December 1914 (Wärde = value letter,



*Figure 5. The first Wyborg personal censor marks are disclosed here for the first time. These censor numbers are similar to the very common Helsinki CS No. 3 with 73 sub-types or personal censor marks. The Wyborg numeral marks are uncatalogued and very scarce. A Wyborg mark with the number “3” is also known.*



26.12.1914, number 4).

See the commentary following the chart on page 13 for a review of practices at Oulu, Rauma, and Pori.

### Censor Personal Marks

I have discovered that at least the Tornio, Oulu, Tampere and Helsinki censors struck their mark on the cover and on the letter (contents) itself, although the practice of marking the contents appears infrequent. Of thirty or so letters with contents to a girl friend in Denmark, the censors marked the contents on just one letter (collection of R Quinby). Readers observations are welcome on marked contents.

### Special Observations

1. Censoring of arriving foreign mail in Helsinki. The so-called “Russian marks.”

Arriving foreign mail was being directed in its entirety via Helsinki and the censoring of it there began on September 26, 1914. At least two distinctly different marks were used for the censoring of foreign mail (nearly identical with the St. Petersburg (Petrograd) 12 and 13 marks – Postal censorship in Imperial Russia). Besides the normal abbreviation D.Ts (Allowed by war censor), in some of them there is also the letter U (actually Y). Earliest use is October 16, 1914. These marks have not been catalogued as Finnish marks even in Olamo’s work, *Postal Censoring in Finland 1914-1917*, because of the similarity to the St. Petersburg marks. Apparently the marks were acquired from St. Petersburg and normally used in Finland. In my opinion they are marks used by the Helsinki censors during the autumn 1914 and spring 1915. The censoring of the incoming foreign mail at St. Petersburg (Petrograd) was haphazard. I have only one letter – St. Petersburg to Stockholm – from the whole censoring period that was censored in St.

Petersburg, and only a few letters from Russia to Europe that were censored in Tornio. Thus, I believe the censors in Helsinki used the aforementioned so-called Russian marks.

Basically Finland followed the censoring practices of Russia or specially St. Petersburg. These marks come into use in St. Petersburg in September 1914; possible marks organized from there or similar marks manufactured in Finland (?)

Helsinki got its first row or straight line cancels on October 17, 1914, about the same time the marks were taken into use in other censor locations that started in October.

2. Differences in the practice of censoring depending on postal item classification, for example. post card, sample without value, parcel, telegram or letter (normal, registered or insured).

If a post card has a censor personal mark does it mean that the text on the card was really read? A general censor mark is merely an indication of the existence of censorship, so the marks probably were struck on objects in great numbers. I suppose that every censor has his own general mark to stamp nearly every letter during these years; by the way it is difficult to find letters without censor marks from 1915-1916.

The tapes on printed matter are at least some indication of content inspection. Initially the censor tape was often placed vertically on the cover back and not on the cover flap. In 1917 the tape was at the letter end, so that the flap was on top of the letter sealing tape (unused gum surface). These observations are noted on a number of Helsinki censored items.

A simple generalized chart is needed for censor free postal item classifications and special rules, so that deviations may be more easily studied. Censoring regulations and exemptions from censoring changed several times during the war, thus erroneous inspection procedures could have occurred, such as why postal orders in 1916 were sometimes censored in normal fashion and sometimes these items were censored in Helsinki (at least those from Tornio).

3. Use of censor stamps subordinate to other cities (cut out city texts, e.g. Tornio). Under what circumstances were censors on “loan” in other cities? Was it simply to provide extra help during hectic special occasions such as Christmas mail to abroad, Tampere jobs with Helsinki censors, or did some censor with rare language skills travel back and forth between Helsinki and Tornio, and if so what cancel did he use? Unfortunately, available archival documentation has not offered much assistance on the rotation of censors from one office to another.

4. Censoring in the wrong city. Why were letters often inspected at the departure censor office even prior to the double censoring period?

Banks were allowed to carry their letters



Figure 6. This card, sent from Switzerland on June 16, 1915 to Åbo via Petrograd, may well have been censored in Helsinki with a Russian type mark that is known to have been used there. Inasmuch as there is no Helsinki transit mark or other mark that the card was processed by the censors at Helsinki, we must await the opening of the archives for further information before a definitive conclusion can be reached. Several other Russia type marks are believed to have been used in Helsinki. Cards from France, Sweden and Switzerland have been recorded. Very little mail from Russia to Finland or via Finland to Stockholm or western Europe was censored in Russia.





Figure 7. The boxed I.f. mark, while not technically a censor mark, was required on all value or insured foreign bound mail after January 1, 1915. The mark means "proof presented" and indicates that assurances have been given that the contents (cash or other security interests) were not intended for enemy hands. Insured letters were also subject to normal censoring. Here the letter was sealed with a paper tape and the Helsinki wax seal.

directly to the censors in cities (to save 1-2 days), where censoring was organized. These bank letters have then only the censorship marking of departure city. Later there comes into use a special cancel with letters I.f. (intygarna forevisats) = "inhalt shown for the censors" or "proof presented" in departure city). This boxed I.f. mark was applied to money letters showing that the sender provided guaranties that money was not going to the enemy countries of Russia. Even the use of German language as text was reason to stop the letter totally (personal note of Jorma Keturi).

**5. Marks for special purposes.** During the period of double censoring, cancels for this purpose was made from old (partly broken) marks or new ones were ordered for double censoring, for example: Kuopio CS No. 12, Viipuri (Wyborg) CS No. 17, and Oulu CS No. 15 (T & K numbering). In the inspection of telegrams separate cancels were used and likewise with future foreign mail (both Russian types). See references.

**6. The use of wax seal.** (Helsinki, Tornio, Nikolainkaupunki, Tampere, Kuopio)

During the early months of operation letters were folded and sealed with one or two wax seals. Sealing tapes are vertical to the shape of cover itself. Sealing tapes are more for information than for closing the cover. Kuopio started to use vertical sealing tapes for closing the cover with wax seals after some months of censoring operation.

During the early months money orders, registered and insured covers were closed with wax seals. Later, only insured letters were resealed in this manner as supplies of sealing wax became scarce.

#### 7. The censoring of telegrams in Finland:

In Helsinki the censoring of telegrams was handled by the postal censors, but in other telegram offices censoring was carried out by the personnel of the telegram office. During the war time letters D.Ts. were added to the telegram paper as a marking of censoring.

#### Observations About WW I War Censor Marks and Censor Activity from Kuopio

**A. Kuopio war censors' markings on letter sealing tapes.**

Based on the information that Jorma Keturi has brought forth from the Russian Postal Archives, the following censors were operating at the Kuopio war censor's during February of 1915. The names are in number sequence and apparently also in the order of employment as a censor. Possibly the numbers used as initials can be connected to that list?

1 = Ugglä Petr Alexandrovits, head of the Kuopio war censors.

- 2 = Wikström Alvar Vasiljevits,
- 3 = Horttanainen Ivar Ivanovits,
- 4 = Hämäläinen Erkkö Erkkovits,
- 5 = Liikanen Olav Ottonovits
- 6 = Laksovirta Knut Ferninandovits,
- 7 = Hammarin Allan Oskarovits,
- 8 = Lumonen Ivan Aleksandrovits,
- 9 = Ryhänen Karl Ulanovits,
- 10 = Liukkonen Alvar Saratovits,
- 11 = Pulkkinen Hjalmar Kulovits,
- 12 = Liukkanen Karl Semenovits,
- 13 = E. Autonen (Signature 15. 04. 1915)
- 14 = ? . Siskin 21. 06. 15 (K&T) )

The Kuopio censors started operations on October 13, 1914 and at the onset all opened letters are seen with personal marks either on the sealing tape or on the cover back (the number 4 usually is very small in the center of the letter back). Only the censor-opened value items were resealed with the Kuopio wax seal initially and these did not have pencil markings. Figures 9 and 10 introduce the Kuopio censors personal marks that consist either of numbers or letters. Possibly the inspectors used the same diary number on letters by which they were filed in the archival documents. The procedure changed beginning on April 15, 1915 when the Kuopio censors wrote their entire name and always on the sealing tape. Figure 14 introduces the signatures discovered. Pictured side-by-side are the clearly differing signatures presumably by the same censor.



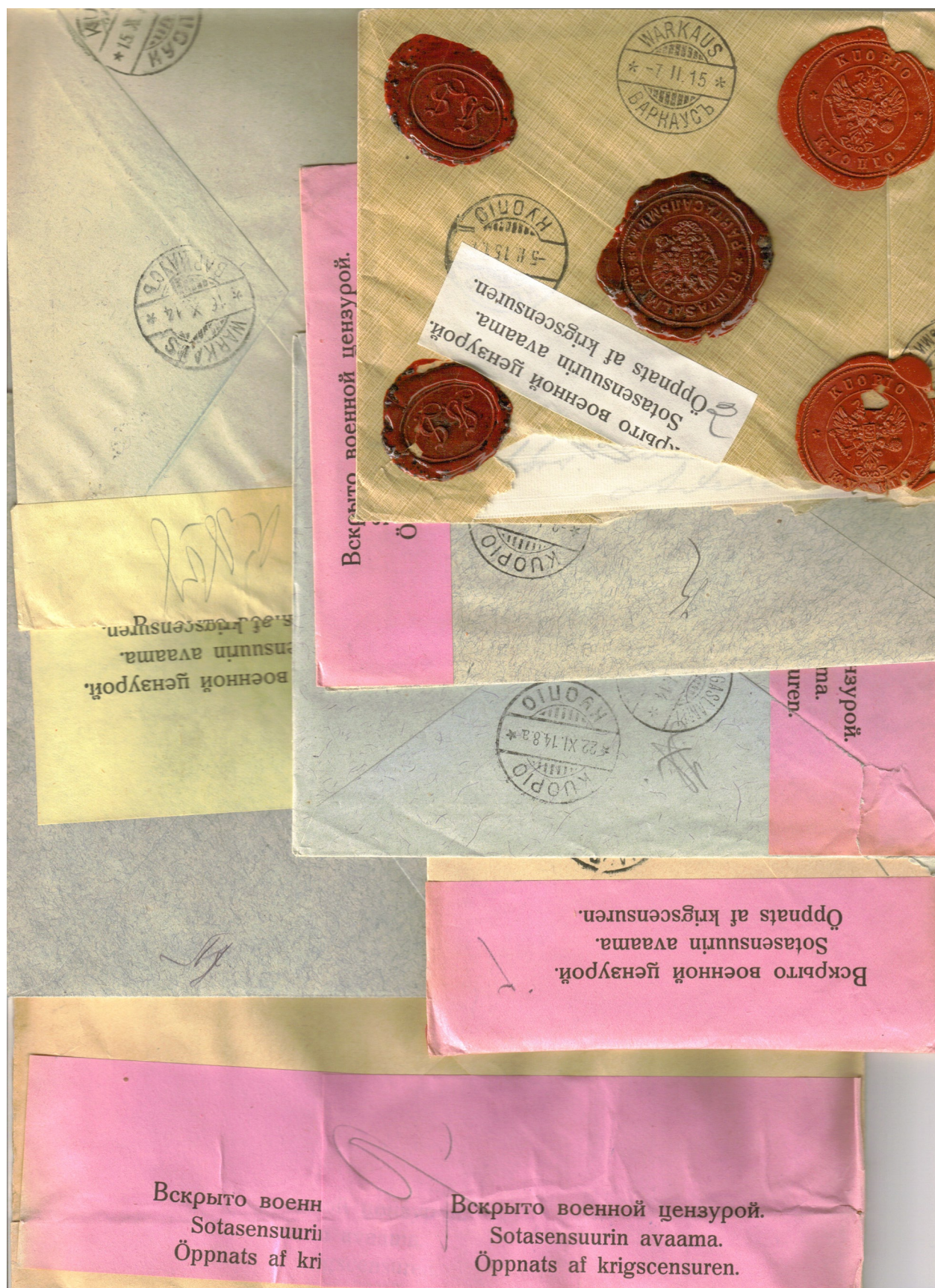


Figure 8. An assortment of marked cover backs from Kuopio. Shown here are censor initials and several handwritten numbers, although the number "2" is the only one clearly readable. Until very recently, personally marked covers from Kuopio were unknown. The covers shown in Figures 8, 9, and 12 represent extraordinary finds after more than nine decades tied up in a forgotten bundle.



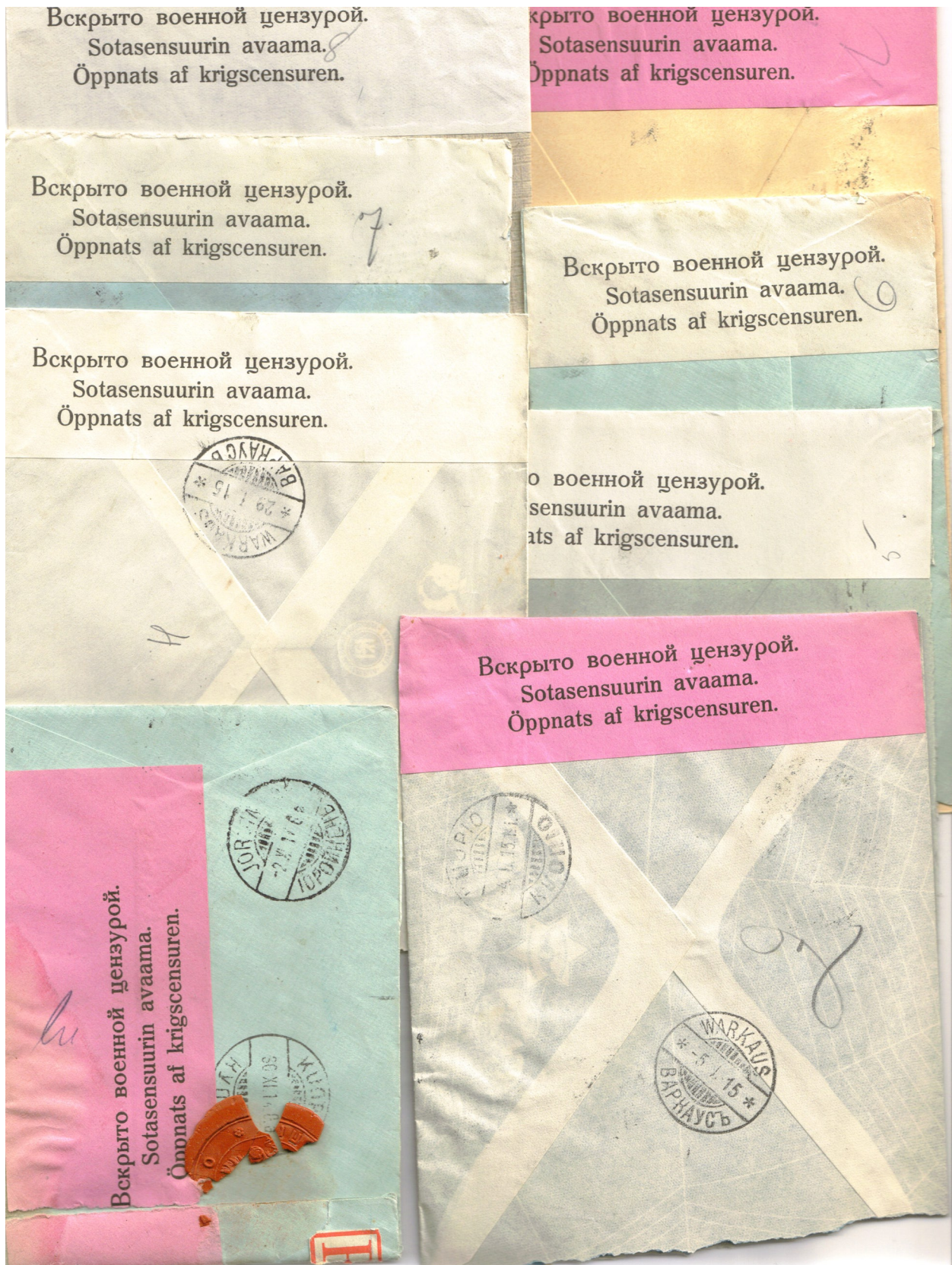


Figure 9. In this assortment of Kuopio censored covers several initials and six different handwritten numbers are shown. The numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 appear reasonably legible. Many of these covers would appear to be unique, that is, one-of-a-kind and in order to absolutely authenticate the censors' markings other similar covers are sought. If you have any examples, please send them to the editor.



## Beginning Month of Censors' Personal Identification

Censors' First Use of Handwritten Initials & Signatures

First Usages of Censors' Personal Identifying Marks with Numerals, Initials or Signatures

	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May - December	
		1	9	1	4			1	9	1	5
<b>Tornio</b>								P-Na			
<b>Helsinki</b>		P-I/S		P-Nu			P-Na				
<b>Wiborg</b>			P-I/S					P-Na			
<b>Niko/punki</b>					P-I/S P-Nu				P-Na & OS-S/I		P-Na / Nov.
<b>Turku</b>				P-I/S			P-Na				
<b>Tampere</b>					P-IS					P-Na / Aug.	
<b>Kuopio</b>			P-I/S						P-I/S OS/IS	P-Na / Sept.	
<b>Oulu</b>									P-Nu	P-Na / Nov.	
<b>Rauma</b>					P-I/S			OS-S/I			
<b>Pori</b>									P-Nu		

**Personal Initials or Signature** added to cover  
**Personal Censor Stamp w/Number** in manufactured stamp  
**Personal Censor Stamp w/Name** in manufactured stamp  
**Personal CS w/Handwritten Initial or Signature**  
**Personal CS w/Space for Handwritten Initial or Signature**

P-I/S  
 P-Nu  
 P-Na  
 PH-I/S  
 OS-S/I

### Summary by Censor Location

**Tornio** Censor Stamp (CS) No. 1 was introduced in March 1915. There are 22 stamps with name manufactured in the stamp. The EKU is March 10, 1915. Prior to that time all censored mail was opened, inspected and resealed; an arrival and departure circular datestamps (cds) are commonly found on the reverse side of the cover. In April 1916, CS No. 7 first came into use at Tornio. There are approximately 40 subtypes with open spaces for the censor to initial or write his signature and add the date of censorship. The date and/or signature are often missing. This common type of CS was used in all the censor offices.

**Helsinki:** From the outset of censoring at Helsinki, the censors opened, resealed and initialed the back of the covers. Termonen & Keturi have catalogued approximately 50 initials. In November 1914, the censors began to apply a personal number stamp to resealed covers. There are approximately 77 different numeral stamps (CS No. 3, marks 1-73). From February through May 1915, the numeral stamps were replaced with stamps (CS No. 7, marks 1-68) with the censor's name manufactured in the stamp.

**Wiborg:** Only recently have covers surfaced showing that the censors initialed resealed covers. Although this was a very large and busy office only three initials have been reported, all of which are dated October and November 1914. It was not until March 1915 that censor stamps (CS No. 6, marks 1-15) with the censors signature were first used.

**Nikolainkaupunki (Wasa):** Opened and resealed covers with censors initials or signatures are not known from this location. Several different personal censor stamps were introduced in early 1915. A stamp with a numeral above D.Ts in a circular stamp first appeared in December 1914. There are six numbered subtypes; all are common. In April 1915 a new stamp was introduced with an open space for the censor to write his name. Ten different signatures have been recorded by Termonen & Keturi.

**Turku:** Until very recently, there were very few reported resealed covers with the censor's initial. The dates of use correspond with this practice at Helsinki, Wyborg and Tampere. Termonen & Keturi report one cover with the censor's full signature, all of the other known covers from this location bear only a single initial or initials. A single line stamp was first introduced in 1915 with an embedded signature following the phrase, "War censor" in Russian.

**Tampere:** Within the past six months Jon Iversen of Denmark and John Salmi of Canada have submitted covers with the censors' abbreviated signatures or initials. The earliest cover is backstamped November 30, 1914. The others covers are from January and February 1915. Numbered personal censor stamps were introduced in March 1915, CS No. 4, marks 1-10, all of which are very common. The first of several personal censor stamps with the signature in the manufactured stamp arrived in the summer of 1915.

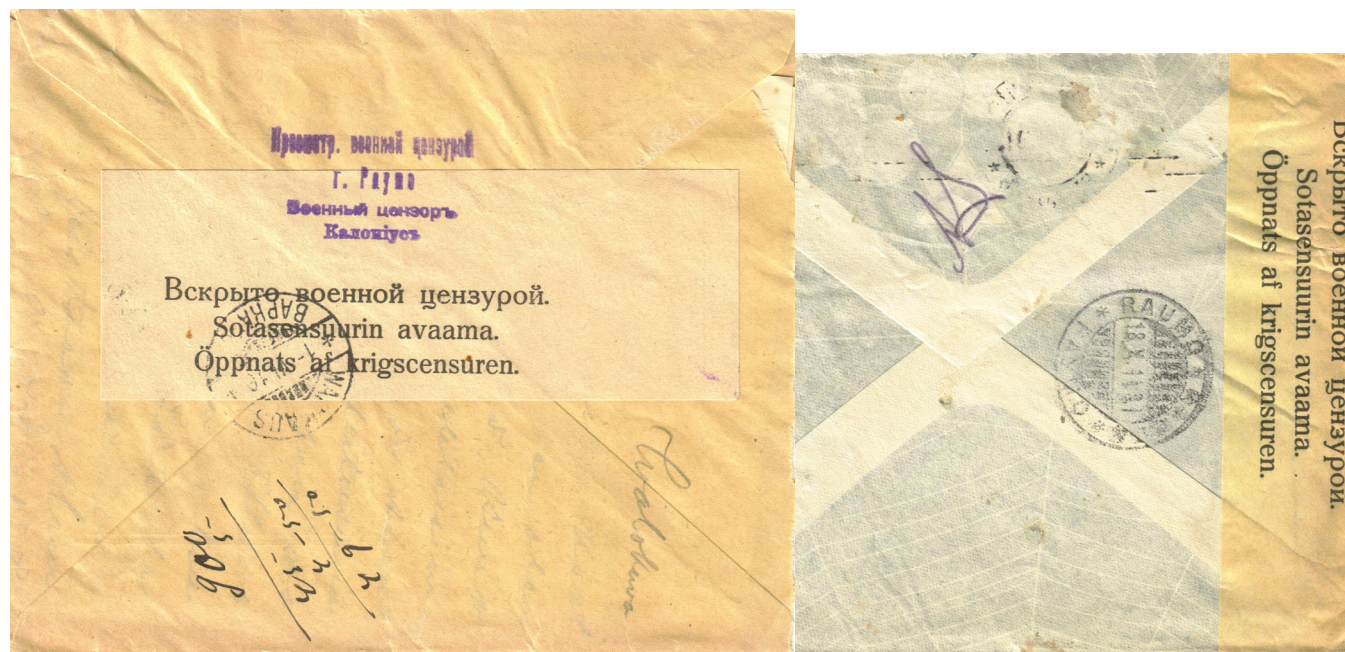
**Kuopio:** A great find of covers with the censors' initials and full signature was discovered by Reijo Tanner. See *The Finnish Philatelist*, Vol. 12, No. 4, November 2007, p 16. A further article on the Kuopio covers will appear in the next newsletter. In September 1915 the first censor stamp appeared with the typed last name of the censor embedded in the manufactured stamp. These stamps are found along side resealing tapes as well as on other items such as post cards and passively (unopened) inspected letters.

**Oulu and Pori:** No signed or initialed opened and resealed covers have been reported from either location. At Oulu, three different personal censor stamps CS Nos. 7, 8, and 9 were placed in service from April through November 1915 with the censors' signatures or initials in the manufactured stamp. These stamps and the subtypes are rare to very rare. It is not known why these stamps were so sparingly used. At Pori personal censor stamps with an identifying censor number were used throughout 1915 and 1916.

### Военный цензорь : 4

Figure 11. Oulu CS No. 7, mark 4. This is the first Oulu stamp which identified the censor; earliest known use is April 4, 1915. Three other marks, 2, 5 and 6 are very rare, less than five known. These marks are only known used along with resealing tapes.

**Rauma:** To date only four covers have been reported with a personal initial handwritten by the censor. On an earlier cover, (not pictured) December 9, 1914, the censor penciled his initial on a blue resealing tape. On an ordinary commercial cover backstamped May 6, 1915, the censor has written his



initial on the back. During 1915 only one personal censor stamp was in use, namely CS No. 4, similar to Nikolainkaupunki CS No. 10, with an open space for the censor's signature or initial. Termonen & Keturi report five signatures, all but one is rare or very rare.

### References & Notes

1) Juhani Olamo, *Postal Censoring in Finland*, Helsinki, 1972. Translated into English by Carita Parker and originally republished as a supplement in *The Finnish Philatelist (TFP)*, Vol. 3, No. 2, May 1998, now available in a CD, edited by Roger Quinby, *Postal Censoring in Finland, 1914-1918*, Alpharetta, GA, 2007.

2) Termonen & Keturi, *Postisensuuri Suomessa 1914-1918*, Vol. 1, 1997 and Vol. 2, 1999, Espoo. In Finnish. A complete well researched revision of the Olamo catalogue of Finnish censor markings, resealing tapes and seals.

3) Roger Quinby, *Postal Censoring in Finland, 1914-1918*, Alpharetta, GA, 2007. In CD format only, provides revised and up-to-date listings of censors' marks and extreme dates. It is based on the T & K catalogue. Also includes the Olamo overview and many cover illustrations.

4) Roger Quinby, "Wyborg Initials," TFP, Vol. 12, No. 2, May 2007, p 16.

5) Reijo Tanner, "Censor Initialed Kuopio Covers," TFP, Vol. 12, No. 4, November 2007, p 16.

6) Roger Quinby, "Turku Censor Initials," TFP, Vol. 13, No. 1, February 2008, pp 15-16.

7) Matti Sipari, "Insured 'I.f.' and 'T.e.' Marked Items," TFP, Vol. 7, No. 1, February 2002, p 7.

8) Jorma Keturi, personal discussions and e-mail exchanges, 2005-2007

### Editor's Notes

1) Tampere Censor Initials Covers Illustrated, TFP, this issue, p 15. Covers of Jon Iversen and John Salmi.

Figure 10, left. This cover back shows both a previously unreported Rauma personal censor stamp and the censor's signature written vertically on the right hand side. Figure 11, right. Here the censor wrote his initial on upper center of the cover back. This initial is unlike the other initials previously reported.



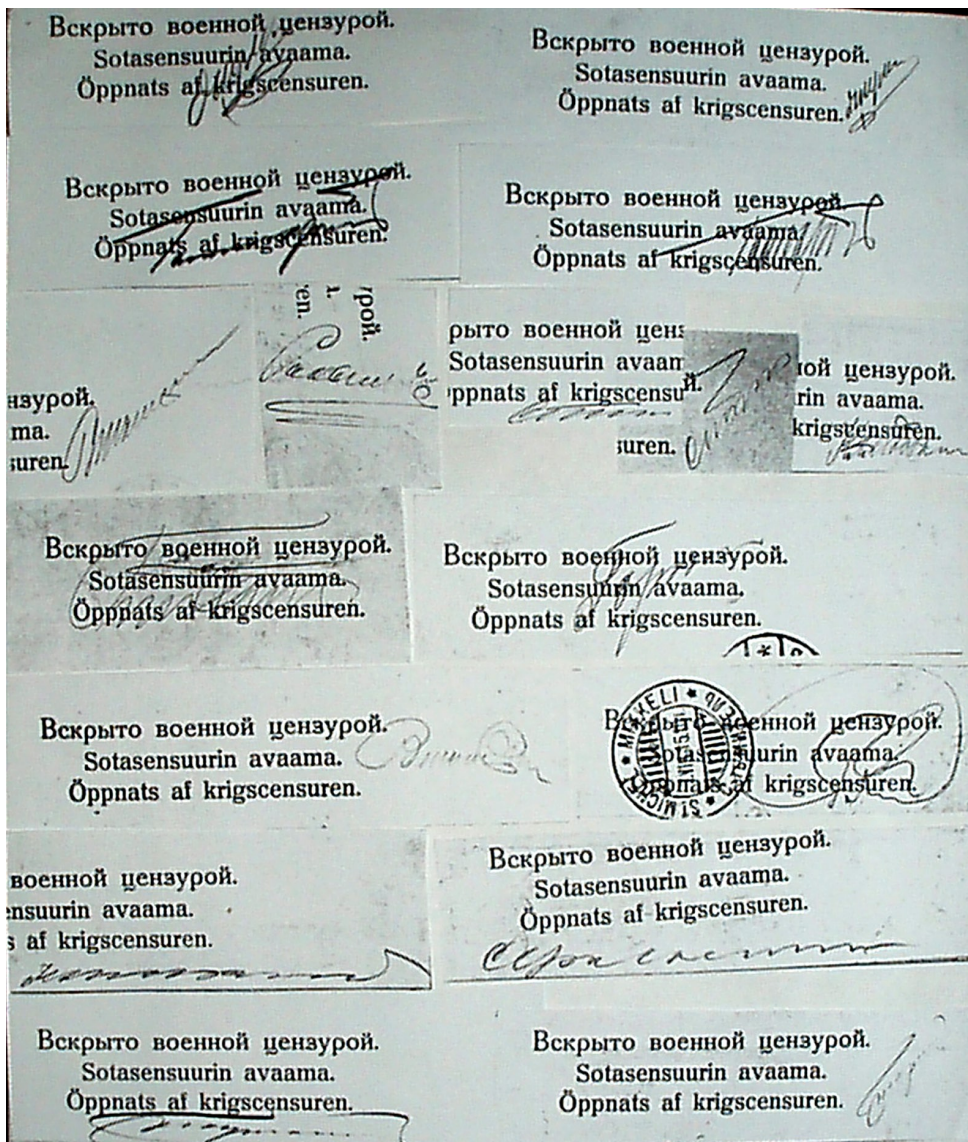


Figure 12, left. Here is another collage of Kuopio censor tapes with the censors' full signatures. These signatures have not yet been identified with any of the censors named in the document found by Jorma Keturi in the archives at St. Petersburg. A great deal of research remains before the numbers, initials and signatures are properly identified and catalogued. From the collection of Reijo Tanner.

Figure 13, below: The personal CS cancel is new for Kuopio. Previously, this censor stamp was known used only in Rauma and Nikolainkaupunki. The use in Kuopio is confirmed in two ways: the insured (warde) cover has been sealed with the Kuopio wax seal and the censor's signature has been recorded on three other covers censored at the Kuopio censor office. This insured cover is from Helsinki (28 April 1915) via Kuopio censor office (29 April 1915) to Warkaus (01 May 1915). A remarkable find.

**Notes, Continued**

2) Figures 1, 2, 3, 6 and 11 are from the collection of Roger Quinby.

3) Unless otherwise noted in the captions the illustrations are from the author's collection.

4) This article was written by Mr. Tanner in English, the newsletter editor has changed and modified some of the wording to fit TFP style format. We hope that the editing process did not change any facts or alter any significance to the information provided here.

Mr Tanner points out that every censor office more or less followed its own rules and after 94 years since the first censor offices were opened in Finland we are still learning about the practices during the first year of postal censorship.

The Finnish Philatelist is an interactive publication; your corrections, comments and additions are always welcome.





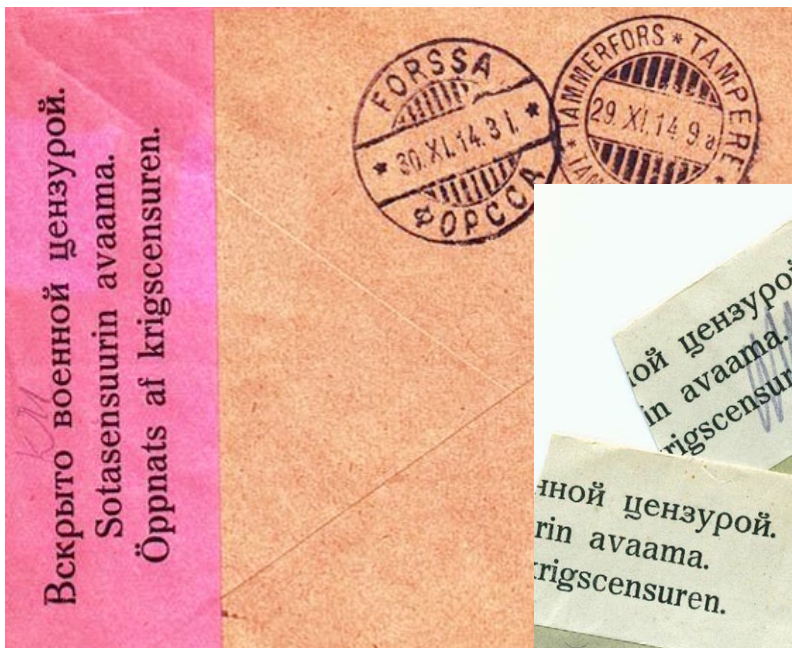


Figure 14, left. This letter addressed to Forssa was directed to Tampere for censoring. It was opened and resealed on November 29, 1914. The censor initialed the red paper tape over the first and second words of the Russian text (Opened by war censor). Collection of John Salmi.

Figure 15, right. Jon Iversen submitted these three covers censored at the Tampere office during January and February 1915. The top and bottom signatures are most likely from the same censor. The inventory from Tampere at the moment comprises four covers and three signatures. The first personal Tampere CS was introduced in March 1915, shown below. There are ten marks and all are rather common. Additional initialed covers from Tampere should be found.



Т:форсь  
В. Ц. № 9

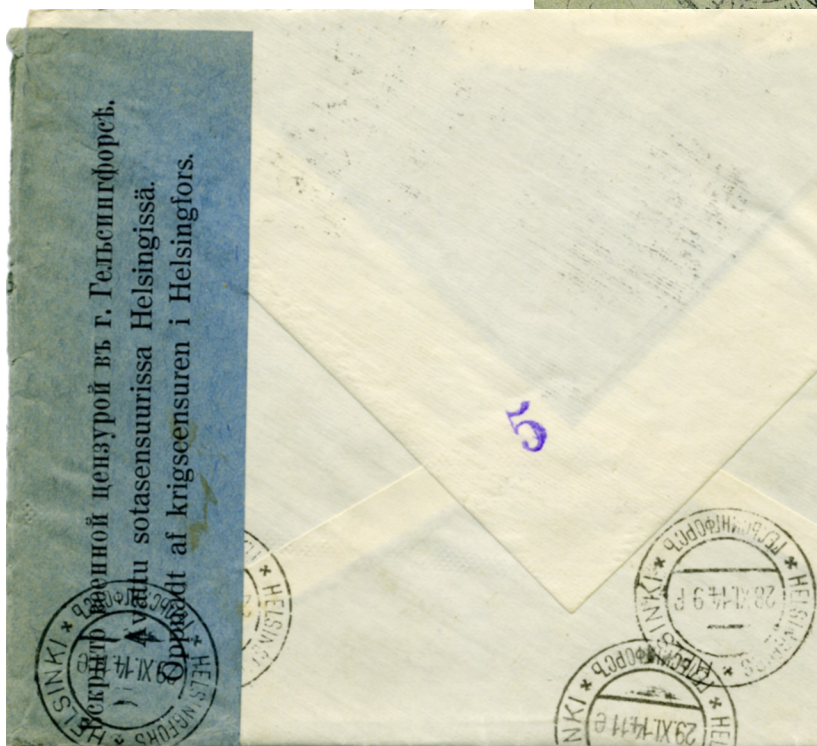


Figure 16, left. In November 1914, Helsinki introduced the personal censor stamps. They are very simple numbered marks ranging from 1-73. Only three marks are rare. These marks are never seen alone on an object and are always on the reverse side together with the resealing paper tape. A personal numbered censor stamp is never seen with a censor's handwritten initial.

This cover back also shows the arrival (28. XI. 14) and departure (29. XI. 14) dates from the censor office.