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Computer aided translation of

[Postisensuurista 1914–18 laaja online-luettelo](#)

An extensive online catalogue of postal censorship 1914–18

Censorship of postal items was expanded in Finland when, in the summer of 1914, Russia joined the war, and Finland, as part of Russia, entered in a state of war. Finland declared its independence in late 1917, but Russian censorship regulations were applied to some extent even after that. There was similar delay, for example, in postage rates.

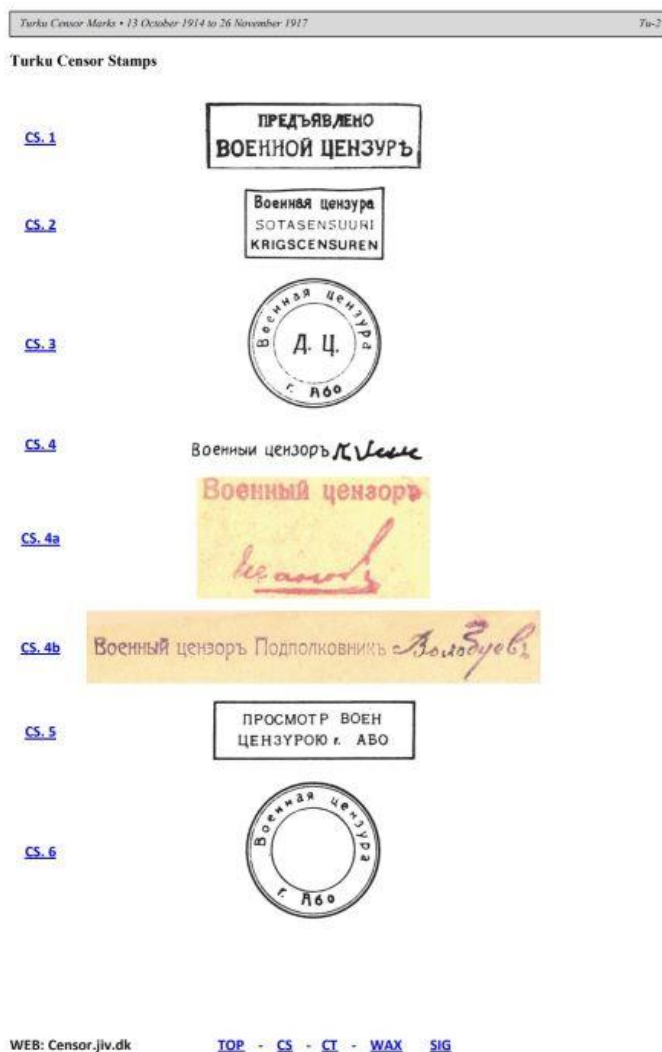
Among others, Juhani Olamo, Hans G. Moxter, Teuvo Termonen, Jorma Keturi and Roger P. Quinby have studied and published on postal censorship of the period 1914–18. Jon Iversen from Denmark has continued the research and recently published its results on the website [censor.jiv.dk](#). The basis is Quinby's CD from 2017. The news is announced in the latest issue of Filatelisti 2/2024. The magazine can be read on the member site of the Philatelic Federation of Finland.

Iversen has written about Finnish philately before. We can mention the [Postal History from Finland 1889–1918](#) section on his website as well as *Russia in Finland. The Story of Russian Stamps & Postal Stationery Used in Finland, 1899–1918*, co-authored with Morten Nørstad and Quinby, and published in 2019. The book is introduced on the [website of Turun Postimerkkikerho](#).

The postal censorship website published by Iversen is titled [Russian Postal Censorship in Finland 1914–18](#). The timeline presented in it helps to follow the events from the outbreak of World War until the Civil War of Finland. Postal censorship during the Civil War is beyond the scope of the website. Other forms of censorship occurred in the period as well.

There were a total of ten censorship offices in different locations. The website lists the censor stamps used in each, closing tapes, wax seals, and signatures or initials of the censors. In addition, there is information on dates of use and estimates of rarity on a five-point scale. The problem of stamp and other forgeries is excluded.

Wax seals were used in registered and insured items. There are a few covers on the site where the censor tape is sealed on the front side.



The first page of the Turku section in Jon Iversen's censorship catalogue. The links shown in blue make it easier to navigate the site.

There is a 30-page PDF file about Turku, including a lot of postal items with interpretation, such as conclusions about a plausible route. The numbering follows Juhani Olamo's book *Postisensuuri Suomessa 1914–17* (Postal Censorship in Finland 1914–17) from 1972. The catalogue adds new information to the book *Turun postin historiaa ja postileimoja* (Postal history and cancellations of Turku) published by Turun Postimerkkikerho and introduced [here](#).

Clear pictures of censor stamps are helpful even for one collecting them only, without going into details of censorship philately. Cross-linking speeds up the use of the site. The files can be downloaded to one's own computer.



A money order sent in April 1916 from Pertteli to Perniö and censored in Turku. Censor stamp No. 4, which is fully visible on the item, is a censor's personal one. Part of the stamp is usually on the separable coupon-part in money orders.

In addition to the roughly 500-page catalogue, the website gives the introductory chapter of Olamo's book and Jorma Keturi's article published in Suomen Postimerkkilehti 3/2018 translated into English. The magazine can be read on the website of [Suomen Filatelistiseura](https://suomenfilatelistiseura.fi).

The mail censorship website published by Jon Iversen is comprehensive, high-quality and easy to use. It involves a large amount of information, which is now available to everyone in one place free of charge.

The digital publication format makes it possible, not only to save on printing costs, but also to add new observations and continuously update other contents. Iversen is happy to receive new information and other feedback.

Comments: