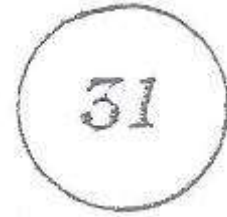


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Please let me have your articles if you want them in the next issue which will be August. If you need help with translations let me know.

The editor will help with the English if necessary.

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News/Comment

From Vilhjálmur Sigurðsson, news that on 3rd May two Colop rubber date stamps no. R40d (see illustration) were sent to the post office at 400 Ísafjörður.



A New International Reply Coupon (previously published in Frímerkjablaðið 35 1/2017)



A new international reply coupon will be issued on July 1st 2017.

The new IRC is called "The Istanbul model" because it was in the city of Istanbul in Turkey that the 26th General Assembly of the International Postal Union (UPU) took place in October 2016, and a competition was held for the design of the IRC among members of the UPU; out of 192 countries, 10 submitted proposals for the design of the new IRC.

This time, Vietnam's post office won, with the proposal of the graphic designer Nguyen Du. The theme of the new IRC is "Mail and Sustainable Development". The design shows hands and a dove with the Arctic as background, and accords with UPU's requirement to represent sustainable development in postal services. The image of the dove within the yellow stamp on a blue background represents the future of the mail.

The new reply coupon can be used in all UPU member countries and applies to the lowest mail letter tariff for 50gm by 'A' post outside Europe, equivalent to 285 kr. The existing reply coupon remains valid until 31 December 2017 in all member countries.

The new reply coupon will be available at Frímerkjasalan and at post offices around the country on 1 July 2017 at a cost of ISK. 350.

What price Jólamerki tied on cover (Issue 18. p.16)

From Andrew Riddell,

In response to the Jólamerki query on p.16, there are two newer listings that I'm aware of (and there may be others). The first is *Íslensk Jólamerki 1904-1996* by Valdimarsson & Þorsteins, but it isn't priced. The other is the AFA *Julemærker Norden 2012*, which is, apparently, likely to be the last 'complete' listing. At c.850 pages, I'm not surprised!

The 1939 seal is listed mint at DKK.30, with a cancelled copy worth ½ to ¼ of that. 'On cover' prices are not given, but I suspect that the price realized for the cover (unless there's a rate quirk) is simply down to the eBay 'bunnies'!

Best wishes, Andrew

Proof/Essay or what? (Issue 18)

From Ellis Glatt

Just a quick response to John's queries regarding his overprinted 1879 postal card 3-strip.

Firstly, the overprinted strip of three cards definitely is NOT a proof or essay. Each of the cards exhibits the second state of the Type II Í Gildi overprint (as opposed to the initial Type IIA variation). The overprints would have been applied one at a time to each card in the strip. Only the 1879 5-aur card, with its three corner-ornament varieties, is known to have been produced in these strips of three. The uncut strips can be found both with and without the overprints.

At least small quantities of these 5-aur uncut 3-strips were in the hands of collectors/dealers at the time the Í Gildi overprinting was initiated in late 1902. More than likely, some of those strips were included with the material submitted for overprinting by Reykjavik merchant/dealer Thomsen in December 1902, when the second state of the Type II overprint plate came into use. The Thomsen material included large quantities of 5-aur postal cards.

Hope this helps, Ellis

The US Marine Mail cover (Issue 18 p. 26)

From David Loe - Just got the latest edition of the IPM and saw the note on the US Marine Mail cover. Here is my version of the history - not sure where you got yours from!

My source is "Outpost in the North Atlantic: Marines in the Defence of Iceland by Colonel James A Donovan US Marine Corps (Retired)"

As to the postmark, sorry, I pay little attention to the order of the date, time, am/pm etc.

For the record I have examples of:

M-D-Y (USS Eagle) : M-D-T-Y (5th Defence Battalion) : M-D-Y (US Navy all in straight line)

M-D-T-Y (Marines) - I have found no variance apart from the same but date mirrored.

M-D-Y (US Navy) x3: M-D-Y-T (US Navy) x4: M-D-Y (US Navy in CDS): M-D-Y NOBI:

M-D-T-Y (US Navy): M-D-T-Y (US Navy) with stars.

Collecting office opening and closure dates (Issue 18)

From Eivind Kolstad:

Hi, Brian,

Re your question about closing dates for collecting offices: attached is a Hlíðarðalskóli from November 25th, 1992. The date is correct; it is a CTO-cover to myself.

In general, I would say that it is hard to say when a bréfhirðing has closed. An official closing-date is one thing, but the real shut-down is something else. As we noticed at Finnbogastaðir/Bær Árneshreppi, several bréfhirðingar didn't return the cancelling devices, but put them in a drawer and infrequently used them for a long time after the closure.

Maybe we should go for period of usage instead of opening/closing?

Eivind

(Editor): Opinions anyone?



Another Postal Rate Puzzle – answer



Answers there were none! Maybe it was too easy to work out, or too difficult, or nobody cared! In the opinion of the editor the franking of 409kr was correct and is made up as follows:-

Heavy letter 101-250gm	17kr
Registration	12kr
C.O.D fee	5kr
unstated amount for C.O.D. (assumed to be 73,000kr) – first 1000kr	15kr
C.O.D for 72,000kr @ 5 per 1000 (72 x 5)	360kr
Total	409kr

From the auctions

Sold on Ebay for \$305 with 17 bids. - A.V.2 was described as an extremely rare airmail marking. Maybe someone can explain the significance of A.V.2, which transformed a decent Express cover into a very expensive item?



DEFICIENT ADDRESS

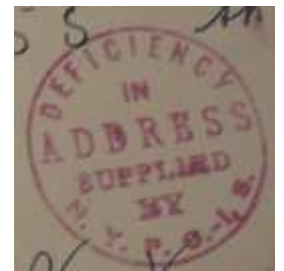
(This article was originally published in IslandsKontakt)



Unusual markings can be found, if you go through the huge amount of items at Ebay. On this letter the sender used Kbh for København, and the district "NV". "NV" is short for Nord Vest. The Icelandic postman must have read "NV" as being New York. The US postman took this fine red cancel from his drawer and wrote 'København Denmark'.

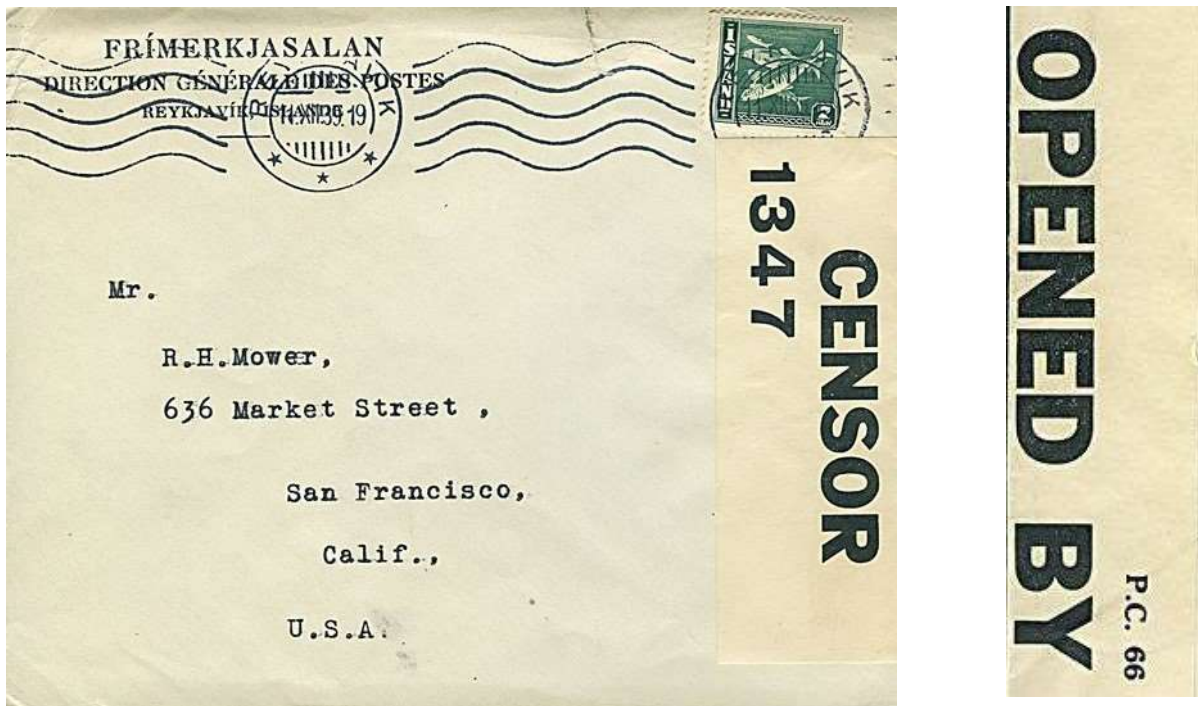
It was not an easy task to solve the problem, but it reached the addressee in the end.

The cachet is not dated.



Observations on a censored cover *Arthur Jennion*

The following censored cover was sold on the recent Bjarne Heck Spring sale for £176. There were 5 bidders.



Described as 1939 - Iceland cover, 7 aur Herring single on printed matter from Reykjavik on 11.12.1939 to San Francisco, USA. Opened by early British censorship PC66 / 1347.

I thought at first it was a Bermuda censored cover, but the dates don't fit. Is it simply the early P.C. 66 label that has pushed up the price?

Censor 1347 was in Bermuda but was using Examiner Labels of which the following have been recorded:-

Type CL5-1A 5 covers; Type CL5-1F 4 covers; Type CL7A 10 covers.

Earliest recorded date 17th Feb 1941 - Latest recorded date 13th Jan 1943

My thoughts are that it was carried to England, and then censored for onward transmission to U.S.A. It could have arrived by trawler or a Danish mail ship, or even carried on a warship.

5th December 1939:- UK begins Censorship of mail to and from U.S.A.

15th December 1939:- Arrival in Bermuda of the first two imperial Censors - total station strength now 22.

29th January 1940:- earliest recorded use of PC 102 & C12 Labels

27th February 1940:- 12 Imperial Examiners arrive - first use of PC 90 labels.

The above information was extracted from Peter A. Flynn's excellent book (INTERCEPTED IN BERMUDA)- (The Censorship of Transatlantic Mail during the Second World War).

The author has two covers in his collection bearing P.C. 66 labels; on page 116 he writes about this, and is quite clearly not convinced and suggests further research. (They are not illustrated in his book)

Personally I am also not convinced.

AN ICELANDIC LATVIAN INTERLUDE

Occasionally it is possible to find covers both to and from Russia showing the use of both the Gregorian and Julian calendars. Here is an example on an Iceland postcard cancelled Reykjavík 11.VII.12 and sent to Riga in Latvia, which at that time was a province of Czarist Russia. The Riga arrival cancel shows the date as 6.VII.12, apparently arriving five days before it was sent! The Russian Julian calendar was 14 days behind the Gregorian used in Iceland. Russia did not change to the Gregorian until after 31st January 1918. Apparently, they achieved the switch over by decreeing that the following day, February 1st would be regarded as February 14th 1918! I am not sure how modern computer systems and the world-wide web would have coped if such a thing occurred today.



Three Jón Sigurðsson stamps paid the 10 aurar postcard rate. The message thanks the Latvian recipient for recent meetings in Iceland and wishes him and his fellow workers well. I wondered what sort of Latvian/Icelandic cooperation was going on in 1912. Rolf Dörnbach provided the answers. He said: -

The text of the card ("Dear Friend & Brother" and the invocation of "God's rich blessings" on the recipient, his family and his fellow workers) seem to make it obvious that both the sender and the recipient shared a common Christian background underlying the meeting in Reykjavík referred to. The title used in the address, "Eld", (presumably for "Elder"), furthermore, seems to suggest that this common background was Presbyterian. I am, therefore, inclined to speculate that the sender was referring to a conference of Presbyterian representatives at least from the two countries mentioned, if not from more. (As you will be aware, Latvia and Estonia, like Iceland, are essentially Protestant countries). The recipient's name, Böttcher, incidentally, is a common German name, suggesting that the addressee belonged to the sizeable Baltic-German minority in the then Russian Baltic provinces of Courland, Livonia and Estonia. These people used to be loyal subjects of the Czar and constituted the landed gentry and (in the towns) the upper middle class of the provinces mentioned, but lost much of their political (if not cultural and economic) influence when Latvia and Estonia gained independence after WW I. When Hitler and Stalin made their infamous pact over the Baltic countries in 1940, they were evacuated to Germany where they have since been assimilated. Kind regards, Rolf Dörnbach

The next cover from Iceland was sent during the period of the free Latvian Republic which lasted from 1.November 1918 until it was absorbed by force into the Soviet Union in 1940.



The foreign letter rate was 35aur but only the Geysir stamps were cancelled at Reykjavík with a type B1d dated? IV.38. Presumably the cover arrived by sea at Copenhagen, where the post office observed that not all the stamps had been cancelled at Reykjavík, and the København date stamp for Omk 15 was applied on 23.4.38, along with a FRA ISLAND stamp. The Ventspils destination is a small port in North West Latvia.

The final cover from Iceland came from the period of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Latvia. This ended in 1991.



A philatelic cover cancelled with a Reykjavík 4 B8e dated 5.V.1967. On reverse is a Russian language receiving cancel of Riga dated 12.5.57. The airmail rate was 8kr from 1.1.66 to 31.12.67 plus 6kr registration. The cover is 1kr overpaid.



Unusual destinations ~ C

CHAD



Ísafjörður B7b dated 3.11.2003. to Chad in West Africa. 85kr foreign rate from 3.7.2002 to 30.6.2004. Jean-Marc Beaud is recorded as being at this address on a list of postal chess players. Perhaps the cover might have contained a chess move? Cachets present are “PLIS EN RETOURS” and “Not known at this address”. Reverse shows a faint transit strike of the capital city N’DJAMENA, also KELO, and a MOUNDOU arrival. Despite the Ísafjörður postmark, the sender’s address is in Kópavogur.



COSTA RICA



Reykjavík B1d (R-16) dated 3.IV.19 to San Jose, Costa Rica. Receiving cancel May 12 -19
20aur UPU letter rate up to 31.3.1921

CHILE



Reykjavík B1c dated 25.II.57. 5aur overpaid for the 320aur UPU all-in rate from 1.10.53 to 30.6.58.
Valparaiso receiving cancel of 4 MAR.57

My stamps - personal stamps *Jarle Reiersen*

(This article was originally published in *Frímerkjablaðið* 2nd ed. 2015).

Iceland Post started their issue of private stamps on May 8, 2008. A stamp with a value of 50g for domestic mail was issued. At that time, this was not the lowest postage for domestic mail; postage for a 20g letter was still valid. On May 6, 2010, private stamps were issued for letters up to 50g to Europe and outside Europe. Iceland Post states that around 368,314 private stamps have been issued from 2008 to September 2015. Most of the postage is to Europe (43%), then inland post (32%) and finally outside Europe (24%). It is not known how many different types of private stamps have been published. The Norwegians were rather earlier in releasing a private stamp, and they came first on 22 August 2006. It is also known that other countries have issued private stamps, such as for example, Finland, France, and the United States.



First private stamp issued by Norway

From the post office a private stamp on an official stamp issue (508a) and sent to all subscribers. Since the beginning of the issue of private stamps, the author has kept up to date with those that have been received from the Icelandic Lutheran Mission (SÍK). Since 2008, three hundred private stamps have been received. In this article I will try to examine the stamps that exist and come up with some opinions about the subject matter. All of these stamps have been used for mailing.

You can group the private stamps into seven main categories by selecting the pictures used on the stamps. Of course, it is possible to categorize them depending on the area of interest. One of the most common subjects is of people. Children and elderly people are more common than middle-aged people. In many cases the people seem to be dressed gracefully in festive dress. One can speculate as to whether the occasion was for a Christmas greeting or birthday celebration, or some other celebration ceremony, because many kids seem to be at that age. Couples in the prime of life are also common. Is it a party for a birthday party or a golden wedding? The second most common group seems to be pets. Most of the animals more often seen are dogs and cats, but also there are stamps with horses, lambs and ornamental fish.

Landscapes are also quite common subjects on private stamps. Typically, one sees a picture of someone; a favourite place framed on the stamps to make the place or the moment immortal. Sunlight in red colours is always beautiful. Sometimes there is also a small harbour or woodland. The summer residence is also a common subject; sometimes people are also included in the picture. Whether the photo of the holiday home is to be classified under landscape or under status symbol, either of them can be chosen!



Various landscape types



Christmas stamps



Various types of private stamps

Other status symbols show pictures of cars or jeeps; old, repaired or modified. Perhaps you could think of a horse, or a dog could also be a status symbol, when taking a picture and putting on a stamp - at least it's an indication of a certain proud owner!

Many companies have discovered that when a private logo is created by a logo designer, it makes a very good advertisement. It is obvious to see that designers have become involved with postage stamps. The space available for the subject on the stamp is limited to 24.5 mm x 30.5 mm. Iceland Post was among the first companies to issue such stamps. Other companies that have used these stamps are, e.g. Blue Lagoon, Geysir, Cocktail.is, and others. Sports clubs, Oddfellow IOOF and the cancer association have also discovered the commercial value of issuing a private stamp. In many releases from "leisure clubs", it can be seen that the design is often compared with the corporate brand. It is not said that these stamps are inelegant, but another and maybe simpler look is better than the corporate stamps, in the opinion of the author.

In the last category, the Christmas stamps are seen. Here in particular, the board of Oddfellow IOOF has been very prolific in issuing stamps. One year there were six different Oddfellow boards, each with their own stamps; but for the last Christmas (2014), there was only one stamp. Christmas stamps from individuals have also been seen, but do not seem as common, and are in much smaller quantities than company stamps.

Classification of private stamps

People: Kids- infants and older children, older people - married couples

Pets: Dogs, cats, horses, lambs, ornamental fish

Landscape: mountains, sunset, forest

Status symbols: Cars / SUVs, Holiday Homes

Organizations: Sports Associations, Cancer Society, IOOF

Company: Geysir, Blue Lagoon, Cocktail.is

Christmas stamps: IOOF, Individuals



Status icons



Why are the private stamps exciting? These stamps are exciting, first and foremost because you do not know how many types there are. Iceland Post requires a minimum of 24 stamps (1 sheet) in each order, but all stamps may contain different images. There is no limit to the number of stamps that may be published. In fact, you can create a unique stamp that contains only one copy of it! Are not such issues scarce? The answer should be yes if we compare with other types, with only one copy known!

Gerðuberg made a private stamp that was used to advertise a free stamp show by Þröstur Magnússon

Stamps are as irregular as they are many. What many people find exciting is the constant search for new stamps. Others, on the other hand, find it impossible not knowing how many types are to be found. In my opinion, the search for something new is more exciting than having something special. One wonders “where did I see this particular stamp?” “Are there multiple copies of this?” “How can I access this?” And in search of the unique stamp, good stories can be made!

The issuing of private stamps is an excellent thing. With this, it is possible that anyone can find their subject matter and issue a stamp - this stamp is called "my stamp". Many stamps are very cool and many can enjoy creating them. With modern computer technology and image processing they can actually do anything in their designs. In my opinion, there is sometimes a tendency for putting too much in the picture, especially in landscape photos. The image on the stamp is not big and it should be clear what is seen on it. Many corporate stamps make them with simplicity, so much better designed than the landscape image where the mountain or the cottage is seen in the distance.

The future of private stamps is unclear. At best, this type of collecting is slowly evolving, as the opportunity arises. In the worst case, greed will take over, to issue stamps sold solely to collectors. Many examples have been shown in Iceland; for example, Fischer private stamps which were created and sold to collectors. These stamps were never used on ordinary letters. We can also imagine that service companies within the travel sector give out private stamps and sell them to their customers. From the point of view of the collector, it would be good if the stamps were used as postage, but not sold as souvenirs.



Unusual Destinations

From Mike Schumacher.

I also like finding unusual destinations for mail sent from Iceland. Just picked up a new one at Westpex. A 1927 PPC depicting Reykjavík which was sent from Iceland to Algeria. Björnsson's logo is also interesting. Maybe someone can shed some light on what it means?



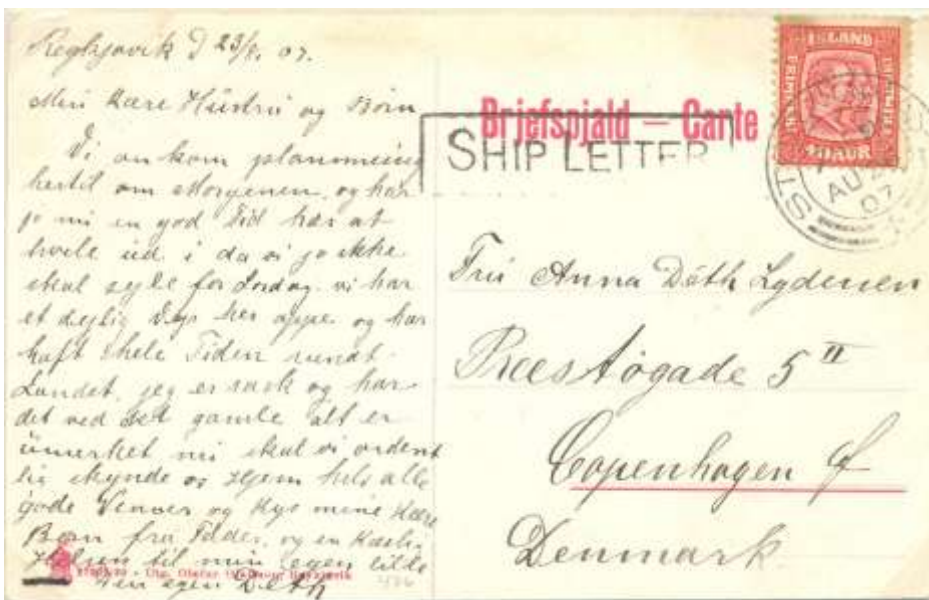
The Hebrides

In 55 BC, the Greek historian [Diodorus Siculus](#) wrote that there was an island called [Hyperborea](#) (which means "beyond the North Wind"), where a round temple stood from which the moon appeared only a little distance above the earth every 19 years. This may have been a reference to the stone circle at Callanish.



“Stonehenge” of Hebrides

The Hebrides comprise a widespread and diverse [archipelago](#) off the west coast of mainland [Scotland](#). There are two main groups: the [Inner](#) and [Outer](#) Hebrides. These islands have a long history of occupation dating back to the [Mesolithic](#), and the culture of the residents has been affected by the successive influences of [Celtic](#), [Norse](#), and English-speaking peoples. This diversity is reflected in the names given to the islands, which are derived from the languages that have been spoken there in historic and perhaps [prehistoric](#) times.



Postcard to Denmark cancelled Stornoway 26 8 07. Boxed SHIP LETTER Hosk. 196. Postage foreign rate was 10 aur. Postcard rate to Denmark was 8 aur. Card delivered directly to ship. Foreign rate (10 aur) had to be used when card was heading to Denmark via British port.



The map shows the great number of islands. Green is the Scottish mainland, red the Inner Hebrides and orange the Outer Hebrides. Stornoway marked with arrow.

Stornoway is a [town](#) on the [Isle of Lewis](#), in the [Outer Hebrides](#) of [Scotland](#). The town's population is around 8,000, making it the largest town in the Hebrides, with a third of the population of the civil parish of Stornoway, which includes various nearby villages and has a population of approximately 12,000. Stornoway is an important port and the major town and administrative center of the Outer Hebrides. It is home to [Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) (the Western Isles Council).

PART 11 – STRANDASÝSLA

In many respects, Strandasýsla is similar to the last county we studied, Norður-Ísafjarðarsýsla. It is for the most part inaccessible and mountainous with many fjords and has a population that is gradually moving away from the inhospitable north. The total population of the county at the turn of the century was some 1800, which remained constant until 1930 and then rose to 1900 by 1950 only to drop to 1170 by 1974 and 841 at present- which is reflected in the closing of offices and scarcity of material from some of the northern parishes.



11.1 ÁRNESHREPPUR

The parish is a very large one, and is the most northerly in the county. Although a bridle path extends all the way to Horn, the road ends at Ingólfsfjörður. Five kilometres up the track from the road was situated the farm of Ófeigsfjörður where a collecting office was opened 1.1.1929 and used number 226 and later Swiss type B2a until its closure 30.9.1965. A collecting office was opened at Ingólfsfjörður 1.1.1937 and used one of the rarest numeral cancels, number 283, later Swiss types B5a and B8e, inscribed EYRI STRAND and EYRI-STRAND

respectively. Eyri (2) is the name of the farm in Ingólfsfjörður where the office was located. The office was promoted to post office status in 1.6.1946 but was closed 30.9.1971.



Close to the extinct volcano of Krossnesfjall is Norðurfjörður where a collecting office operated from 1.1.1911 to 30.11.2009. Its cancels have been two types of number 32 (round '3' and flat '3'), from 1923 number 208 and recently Swiss types B2a, B8e and B8b1. On 1.12.2009 it was upgraded to a post office, renamed Árneshreppur and moved to an agency at Kaupfélag Steingrímsfjarðar. It briefly used B8b1 Norðurfjörður and lately B8b1 Árneshreppur. Situated in the next bay to the south is the parish church of Árnes, where on 1.1.1904 a collecting

office was opened at the rectory. Using number 93 and then Swiss type B1a, the office remained open until 31.12.1946 when it was moved to Finnbogastaðir, one of the other two farms in the hamlet and the situation of the school. The office closed 30.9.1995 (moved to Bær (3)) and used Swiss type B1a (inscribed Árnes) and B2b (inscribed Finnbogastaðir).

BÆR (3) was open 1.10.1995 to 1.9.2009. It used Swiss type B8b inscribed BÆR ÁRNESHREPPI. Bær, Finnbogastaðir and Árnes are all adjacent to one another.

On the end of the Reykjarnes peninsula is an airfield next to the hamlet of GJÖGUR, opened 1.1.1934 as a collecting office. This place used number 273 and since then Swiss type B3e and B7b. It was closed 14.10.1990 and moved to [Kjörvogur](#). Here the office remained till 1.9.2009 using the old Gjögur B7b cancel and then B8b.

Gjögur guards the entrance to Reykjarfjörður. A collecting office was opened at the farm of Reykjarfjörður (otherwise known as [Kúvíkur](#)) 1.1.1879, closed 31.12.1949. In the 71 years it was open it used a single ring crown cancel, number 101 and finally Swiss type B2a. On the southern shores of the fjord is the village of [Djúpavík](#) that has 7 houses and boasts a hotel. The little port is irregularly used by the State Shipping Dept. but the village used to contain the largest privately owned herring oil and meal factory in Iceland, and had a large migrant workforce which was housed in two bunkhouses. The factory was closed in 1954. The office was a post office from first opening on 26.6.1936 but was demoted in 1967 to collecting office status. The postmarks used were number 280 and Swiss type B2a. It was closed on 9.10.1982.



11.2 KALDRANANESHREPPUR



Continuing our journey south down the west coast of Húnaflói, the next place we come to is the parish church of [Kaldrananes](#), where the rectory was the collecting office opened between 8.12.1927 and 30.9.1970 when it was moved to ODDI (2). Kaldrananes used number 221 and Swiss type B1a. Oddi used the old Kaldrananes cancel and then its own B8b till closure 31.3.1993. Oddi (2) is at the inland end of Bjarnarfjörður next to the farm of Svanshóll.

[Drangsnes](#), population 106 is a small village on the northern shores of Steingrímsfjörður and has

regular visits by ships of the State Shipping Dept. It first had a collecting office 1.1.1937 but this was bettered to post office status 1.12.1949. The office was closed 2.12.2003 and moved into a postal agency at Kaupfélag Steingrímsfjarðar. Cancellations are number 284 and Swiss types B5a, B6e, B7b and B8b1.

The remaining office in the parish moved about quite a lot between opening 1.1.1896 and closing in 1958. [Skarð \(3\)](#) was the first location, in Sunndalur not very far from Kaldrananes. No crown cancel is known used here, only numeral 102. 1.1.1909 the office was moved to [Bassastaðir](#), a farm in Steingrímsfjörður, but it only stayed there until 29.2.1920 when it was moved to [Sandnes](#), further east along the coast, and it remained there until 30.6.1957. Number 102 was used until 1930 and was then superseded by Swiss type B1a.

11.3 HRÓFBERGSHREPPUR

The parish lies at the head of Steingrímsfjörður with [Staður \(1\)](#) as the parish church. A collecting office was opened here 1.1.1873 as part of the Western Post (Strandasýsla Branch Route).

However, it was moved in 1879 to [Kirkjuból \(1\)](#). No cancels are known from either of these places. It remained here till 31.12.1885 when it was moved to [Kálfanes](#). A single ring crown cancel was used here till it was moved again 31.12.1895, this time to [Hrófberg](#), once the seat of the regional court or Þingstaður. 1.1.1889 the move was to [Hólmavík \(11.4\)](#), all the while using the Kálfanes crown cancel. Kálfanes is now deserted but was once a farm just outside Hólmavík, although the two are in separate parishes.

11.4 HÓLMAVÍKURHREPPUR



There is only one office in this parish, and has been mentioned above. [Hólmavík](#) was opened 1.1.1898, made into a post-office 1.1.1914 and since 1.1.2001 has been a postal agency at Sparisjóð Strandamanna. The Kálfanes crown cancel was used first, then number 96 was used from 1903 to 1913 and then number 246 was used 1947-1954 because the old (type B2c1) Swiss cancel was lost. Swiss types B8e, and two types of B8b1 have been used.

The town is the administrative centre for Strandir and its population has stabilised in recent decades, (161 in 1930, 419 in 1950, 343 in 1974 and 375 in 2012). It used to be the centre for the shark fishing industry peculiar to this part of Iceland, until the decline of the trade in the First World War.

11.5 KIRKJUBÓLSHREPPUR

Do not confuse the Kirkjuból of this parish with the one mentioned above (11.3). The first collecting office was opened at the parish rectory at [Kollafjarðarnes](#) 1.4.1892 - had its own crown cancel, single ring, and then closed 31.12.1895 and moved to [Stóra-Fjarðarhorn](#) at the head of Kollafjörður. Sometimes also known as Fjarðarhorn the office used the Kollafjarðarnes crown cancel then number 104 and Swiss type B2a. The office closed 31.7.1988. The office at the farm of [Kirkjuból \(2\)](#) was opened 1.1. 1896 and remained open till 31.7.1994. It has used number 98 and Swiss types B1a and B8b inscribed KIRKJUBÓL - STRAND. No crown cancel is known but there is a probability that one was issued.



11.6 FELLSHREPPUR

No offices

11.7 ÓSPAKEYRIHREPPUR

Óspakseyri, according to Post Office records was not served by land post until after 1900, the sea being the favoured method of transport. In fact the main road that follows the coast through Strandasýsla was described in 1940 as being little more than a discontinuous jeep track. A collecting office was opened here, at the parish rectory 1.1.1899 and moved to Gröf (2) on 1.1.1913, from where it returned, the office reopening 1.1.1934. The cancels used were numbers 100 (1903 - 11) and 270 (1934-1961) and Swiss type B3e; no crown cancel is known used at Óspakseyri.

The only thing I know about Óspakseyri is that there is a large co-op store, and it may be that is where the office was situated for a time. On 1.6.1970 a new office was opened at Hvítahlíð to replace Óspakseyri. It used the old Óspakseyri cancel

and then its own type B8b before closing 31.12.1983. Hvítahlíð is on the north-west coast of Bitrufjörður. The farm of Gröf had an office (moved from and then back to Óspakseyri as described above) between 1.1.1913 and 31.12.1950. It used number 100 and Swiss type B2a inscribed GRÖF STRAND.



11.8 BÆJARHREPPUR

The parish occupies the whole western shore of Hrútafjörður and includes a large area of what was once farming land. The first office in the parish was opened in 1873 at Melar (1) on the Northern and Eastern Post, but 1.1.1876 was made up to post office status and used the Strandasýsla provincial cancel. In 1879 the office was closed and moved to Staður (2), 5 Km. north in Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla. Melar itself is a small farm beside Hrútafjarðará river.

The collecting office at Borðeyri was established 1.1.1885. The village, population 55 in 1935, is a farming centre for the surrounding area and has a mutton freezing plant though no facilities for ships.

A single ring crown cancel was used here followed by number 95 until 31.7.1923 when the office was made up to post office status. From 1923 the old Strandasýsla provincial cancel was used and then Swiss types B1a (2 types) and B8b; although on 22.06.1951 the office was demoted back to collecting office standard, closing on 31.12.1988, and the post office moved to Brú (2). Number 250 was also used here from around 10.7.1929 and into 1930.

On 22.6.1951 a post office was opened at Brú (2) - although there are only a few houses here, it is an important telephone exchange and there is a store on the main Reykjavík - Akureyri road. Also known as Hrútafjörður the

post office used a B2c2 cancel inscribed with the name of the fjord and then B8e and B7b both inscribed Brú. The office closed 31.12.1998 and was moved to Staður (2) in Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla (see 12.1).

There remain two offices in the parish. [Guðlaugsvík](#) near Bitrufjörður east of Óspakseyri was opened as a collecting office 1.1.1907 and has used number 49 till 1930 and Swiss type B2a till closure 31.12.1983. [Bær \(2\)](#) was opened 1.12.1929 and also closed on 31.12.1983. It used number 237 till 1930 and Swiss type B2a BÆR STRAND.

Some food for thought *Ron Collin*

There have recently been two Iceland picture postcards appearing on the auction market, both with FLATEYRI Crown and Posthorn cancels. The 16aur card was offered in Postiljonen's March sale with an estimate of 500 euro and remained unsold. The same card reappeared on Ebay at \$749 and again was not sold. The 10aur card was at a starting price of 1000 euros, again without response.

What is it about these two cards that keep them from being sold?



I'm wondering if these two cards are "created" due to the fact that there is no evidence that they ever went through the postal system. The C&P strikes appear to have been painstakingly applied to these cards. Below for comparison is another Flateyri C&P canceled postal card, which bears evidence (transit and receiving marks) of actually being presented through the postal system. The two impressions of the C&P strikes appear as if they had been applied (less than perfectly) during the normal processing of outgoing mail,



(Editor: I think we may see more on this subject)

Fire at Siglufjörður

The date of the fire which destroyed the Siglufjörður post office is recorded as occurring on 31.12.1913 in *Pósthús og Bréfhirðingar á Íslandi 1870-2011* by Þór Þorsteins. The Ebay seller of this postal stationery card, with a faint strike of the original B2c1 cancel, has kindly provided a scan of the report of the fire taken from *Morgunblaðið* dated 2nd January 1914. Unfortunately the date of the cancel on the card is indecipherable even under high magnification, but the message on the other side is dated 15 May 1913. My own copies are dated 1911 and 1912. Has anyone seen a B2c1 cancel from 1910?



Símfréttir.
 Akureyri 1. jan., kl. 6 síðd.
Stórkostlegur bruni.
 Í gærkvöldi kviknaði í símastöðinni og pósthúsinu á Siglufirði. Það hús var áður barnaskóli. Brann það upp til kaldra kola og varð engu bjargað af reikningnum eða áhöldum. Óvíst er um upptök eldsins með öllu. Símbævarstjóri er Jósef Blöndal. Skaðinn sem landsíminn hefir búið, er eigi minni en 2000 krónur.

Front page of Morgunblaðið dated 2nd January 1914.

News from Akureyri 1. January
 Great Fire
 All equipment and accounts were lost.
 The cause is uncertain. The damage estimated is at least 2000kr

Was this cancel ever used here? (10)



B8e Reykjaborg Skagafjarðarsýsla

Recorded use 1.1.1957 – 31.12.1971

Laugarholt 1.1.1972 – 4.4.1972 ???



Laugarholt is said to have received its own cancel, a B8b Laugarholt on 5.4.1972. Therefore the B8e Reykjaborg could have been used here for 3 months. Not a long period, but surely enough for examples to exist?



B8e Reykjaborg dated 12.II.1959.

350aur airmail rate to East Germany



B2a Reynivellir Kjósarsýsla

Recorded use 25.1.1930 – 31.12.1945

Neðri-Háls 1.7.1950 – 1951 ????



When Neðri-Háls re-opened for the second time on 1.7.1950, it is recorded accepted in Facit, that the Numeral 167 was used at Neðri-Háls until it received its own B2c2 bridge cancel on an unknown date in 1951. The numeral cancel 167 was first used at Neðri-Háls until 1921, and then transferred to Reynivellir and used until 1930.

It remains a possibility that the B2a Reynivellir was also used here until the arrival of the B2c2. Such a use must be extremely rare, and I would ask why the postal official would use a cancel with a different place name when the numeral was available? It would be amazing if someone can show an example. If not, I think the use of the Reynivellir bridge cancel at Neðri-Háls should be reclassified as “Unknown”.

Inflation 1979 – 83 Part I 1979 Stamps single on cover *Ole Svinth*

In the old days inflation was not a problem. From the first aur issue in 1876 till we reach the end of 1939 the postage for an inland letter was doubled. This was a period of 53 years. That's what I call economic stability. The postage inland and to Denmark was the same from the early twenties until the end of 1939. I mention this because I cannot show an inland letter with the latest issued 20 aur. ☹



The typical colour of the value for an inland letter was red for many years. This is still the case in Denmark. But as you know the Icelandic Post is independent since 1944, and is accordingly able to choose what colours they like. There are no UPU rules anymore, though the Danish Post still uses the colour red for an inland letter.

Inland letter from Seyðisfjörður to Reykjavík 1900 (backstamped Reykjavík)



The last 20 aur in red was issued in 1939.

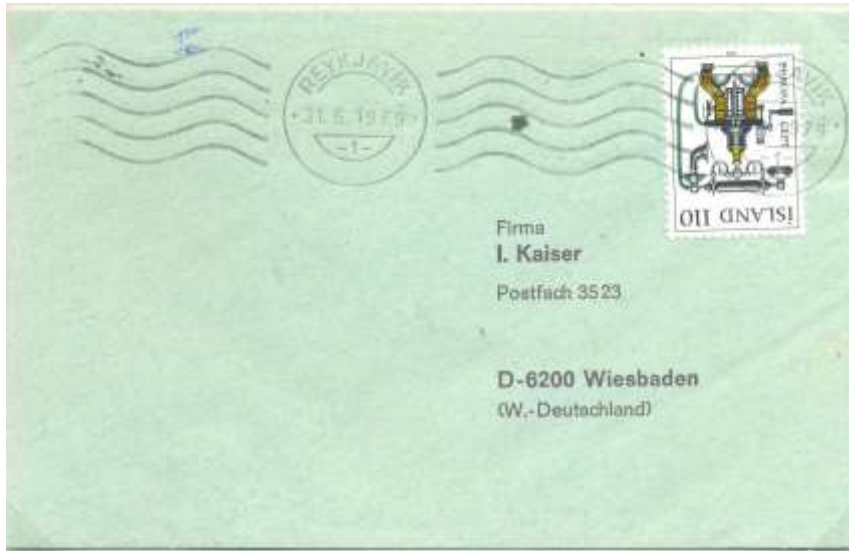
This was the story of “no inflation”.

Now we turn to “inflation”. There will be no comparison to the well-known inflation in Germany in the early twenties, although I have no up to date knowledge of what is going on in Iceland today.

My intention is to dig into what I call the Icelandic inflation period 1979 – 1983 when rate increases occurred frequently, one of the things that occur when you have rapid inflation is, that stamps issued for a purpose, will not be able to “do their duty”.



The first stamps of 1979 are the CEPT issue of April 30th in 1979. 110 kr was the airmail rate to Europe, and 190 kr was for the foreign (outside Europe) airmail rate on the day of issue. These two stamps had a possibility to fulfil their purpose for **one month** as rates were changed on June 1st. It is not that easy to obtain such a letter. 110 kr single on cover is no problem as inland rate was 110 kr from June 1st 1979 until January 31st 1980. It was however not intended for this issue. A 190 kr single was not easy, as you would have to wait until June 1981 before you again find a rate of 190 kr, then for an inland/Nordic letter.



Letter dated Reykjavik 31 5 79. Airmail Europe 0-20 gr
Postage period March 1st 1979-June 30st 1979



Letter dated Reykjavik 31 5 79. Air mail rate 190 kr outside Europe 0-20 gr.
Postage period March 1st 1979 - June 30st 1979

My thoughts about printing production time raise a question. It seems that the French printers were not working so fast as the Swiss. I imagine, that stamps were ordered about at least 4 months before day of issue. Rates were increasing faster, and the 80 kr intended for postcards and printed matter would never be used as a single because the rate for postcards and printed matter was 90 kr when these stamps were on sale.

The 170 kr had a face value intended for airmail letters for outside Europe. Again this was too late for intended use, because the rate had increased to 190 kr. It wasn't until 1980 when 170 kr could be used as a single on cover.



These two values were issued July 3rd.

Printed matter by surface 20-100 gr.
 Dated Reykjavik 14 7 1980.
 Rate being the same for inland P.M.
 Postage period *May 1st 1980 - July 31st 1980.*



This stamp was issued September 12th. Value intended for e.g. surface letter to outside Europe. Instead it could be used for printed matter 20-100gr.

Inland PM 1 Kópavogur 10 1979 0-20 -100 gr. 140
 Postage period *June 1st 1979 - January 31th 1980.*



The 500 kr was of course not intended for a special purpose/rate.

Issued September 12th.



The 150 kr was issued November 1st 1979.

No obvious explanation for this value regarding postage rates.

We will have to wait half a year to have a 150 kr rate.



Postcard outside Europe. Dated Reykjavik 26 1980

Postage period May 1st 1980 - July 31st 1980



Issue November 1st.

I cannot find any reason why this stamp has a face-value of 200 kr.

The rate 200 kr was not “available” until late 1980.



Letter to Switzerland. Rate 0-20 gr 200 kr. Dated Reykjavik 27 11 80

Postage period November 1st – 1980 - January 31st 1981



100 kr was airmail P.M. to the whole of Europe.

120 kr a problem on day of issue.

130 kr airmail rate to Europe and surface rate to rest of the world.

Issue December 11th.



P.M. dated Reykjavik 17 12 79. Rate was for 0-20 gr. airmail.

Postage period June 1st 1979 - January 31st 1980

*Mrs. M. A. H. de Buslet
Brusselstraat 67
B-1747 St. Martheus Beek
Belgium*



120 kr was Nordic airmail rate 0-20 gr. from February 1st to April 30th 1980. Letter dated Hveragerði 15 2 1980. No rate of 120 kr on day of issue.

Postage period February 1st 1980 - April 30st 1980

Herra E. Saarinen
Palomantie 18
SF-33 230 Tampere
Finland



130 kr was airmail rate 0-20 gr to Europe and surface rate to rest of the world.

Letter dated Reykjavik 28 1 1980.

Postage period June 1st 1979 - January 31st 1980



The date block is shown to illustrate the time gap between day of print and day of issue.

Maybe one of our readers knows about how communication works between the post and the printers.

The procedure contributes to the problem: postal rates when ordered and postal rates on day of issue.

Next issue will show 1980 when rates changed 4 times.

The articles on this subject were issued in IslandsKontakt 2009. A few of our readers might have met them.

Editorial holidays in June will mean that there will be no issue of Iceland Philatelic Magazine sent in July.

HOLIDAYS

However my email account will remain open, and I hope to find contributions for publication on my return!