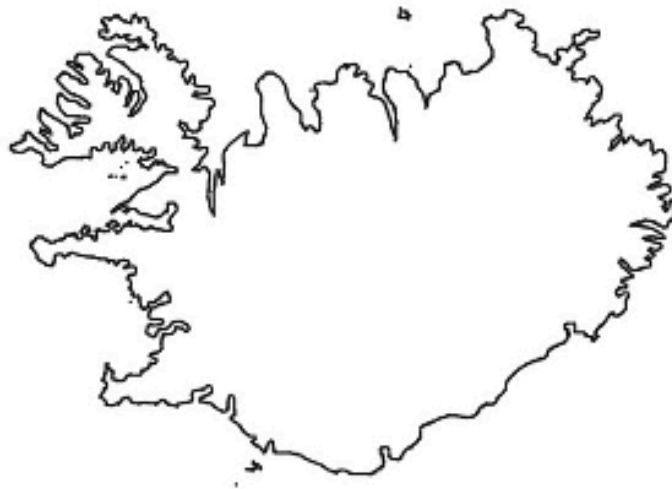
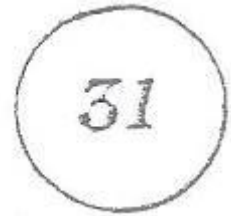


ICELAND PHILATELIC MAGAZINE

An independent journal for collectors of Iceland stamps and postal history



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Iceland Philatelic Magazine

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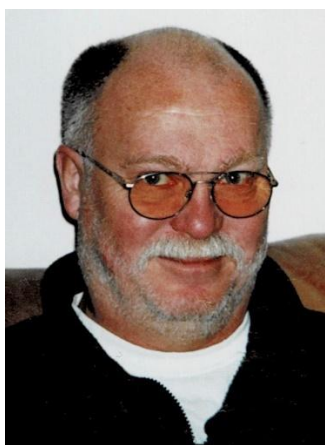
Iceland's Post Office Responds to Consumer Shift with Closures.

This is the title of an extensive article by Ragnar Tómas in the March 2024 issue of the magazine *Iceland Review*. The contents are probably already well known to our readers in Iceland, but for the benefit of others, here is a brief summary of the article.

Iceland Post will close 10 post offices in the beginning of June 2024, transitioning to delivery via postal vehicles and post boxes. The announcement by Kjartan Flosason, Head of Post Terminal at Iceland Post emphasises the development of services in line with changing needs and consumer demands. He says there has been a decrease in demand for counter services at post offices. Our most satisfied customers are those who use post boxes. The 10 post offices to close in June are Hvammstangi, Siglufjörður, Dalvík, Ólafsfjörður, Búðardalur, Grundarfjörður, Fáskrúðsfjörður, Eskifjörður, Breiðdalsvík and Neskaupstaður.

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Dieter Fullrich 1944-2024



Unbelievable for all of us and completely surprising, Dieter Fullrich, a collector friend who was always highly valued and loved by us all, died on Saturday, January 13, 2024 after a short, serious illness.

In 1976, Dieter joined the Research Association for Nordic States. Thanks to his friendly, competent and humorous nature, he quickly found like-minded people and friends. In addition to club life, he went on many trips together and visited exhibitions, not only in the Nordic countries.

He quickly felt responsible for the fate of our research community and took over the management from 1983 to 1992. Through this activity he led the research community to great success. The number of members rose sharply within a short period of time. Together with his wife Jutta, who unfortunately died far too early, he invested many hours of service. From 1992 to 2010 he was also the first chairman of our community.

He has also been head of the Greenland working group for many years. Dieter's exhibition collections about Greenland's postal history and the Swedish post office in Hamburg received a lot of international attention and awards. He has also written various postal history articles.

In 2016, Dieter was awarded the Honorary Prize of the Nordic Research Association for special services to philately in the Nordic States. He has also been an honorary member of our community since 2010.

A few years ago, Dieter married again: his Ingrid. Since then, the two have enjoyed their time together, whether with their own caravan in Sweden or in warmer climes, such as Turkey, Canary Islands or Thailand.

In addition to his diverse activities related to Nordic philately, Dieter was very active in the Philatelist Association of Northern Germany as a board member, juror and commissioner at international exhibitions. He was also a member of numerous collectors' associations and working groups at home and abroad.

With Dieter Fullrich we are losing a very good friend and pioneer who is already sorely missed. His expertise and experience as well as his friendly and pleasant manner will remain unforgettable for us. We will miss his humor and his foresight.

We will always remember Dieter as a good friend and advisor.

Matthias Hapke

Observations on late use of Reykjavík Type A

(Previously published in Iceland Philatelic Journal Issue 4 1976)

(Editor: I only recently came across *Iceland Philatelic Journal* which was edited by the late Bryan Whipple between 1976 and 1980. I thought this article was worth reproducing from Issue 4 of 1976, written by Bryan himself. It includes observations by the late Þór Þorsteins, with some interesting background information to the allocation of the cancelling devices dictated by the building restrictions of that time in Reykjavík.)



Bryan begins: In a previous issue we discussed the use of the Type A cancelling device at Reykjavík well into the 1900s. Since I had several examples on either official stamps or official mail, but none on ordinary stamps, I drew an inference that the canceller was being used in some backroom or office at the post office, where it was used to postmark recently prepared official mail.

In April 1976, in reply, Þór Þorsteins writes to me from Reykjavík as follows:

“The theory of official mail cancellation is doubtful. There should be more known copies of official stamps with type 'A', and why do we not find it on Chr. IX and Chr. X 1920 issues? Known cancelled official stamps are very few and only of types in use between 1910-1920. I will offer another theory: the post office in Reykjavík moved to a new building in 1914, which since then has been used as our head post-office. The new building was much bigger than the old one and therefore different departments, which until then had been crowded, got separated on different floors. This separation caused a shortage of cancellations.

There seems to be some evidence of the use of Type A by the parcel post office:

1. All strikes of late use of type 'A' known on paper are either on fylgibréf parcel- accompaniment cards or cuttings of same. This use of type 'A' is not known on envelopes.
2. Known strikes, although few, are most common on higher values, usually above 25 aur, which was too high for common postal rates (local, inland, or printed matter).
3. No special cancellation of official stamps is known during their period of use.
4. During 1914, probably late in the year, a new bridge canceller was taken into use. This is known used by the bögglaþóststofa parcel- post office in Reykjavík for a long time. It can be surmised that type 'A' was taken out of use when this new bridge canceller arrived.

In 1934, the parcel-post office was divided into custom parcel-post and (domestic) parcel-post. The customs part had only to do with incoming parcels, whether with or without customs duty. This new department was established with little foresight. No spare modern cancellers were on hand, and to save the situation, old type C2 (25 mm.) were put back into use. In 1935 they got a new canceller and the use of C2 was discontinued. This is confirmed by a gentleman employed at the customs-post office from the beginning.”

(Apparently Mr. Þorsteins took a real interest in the subject, for on 3rd August he added this further very interesting information)

“Through the help of friends, a Mr. Helgi B. Björnsson was found. He is now about 94 years old, and this is his story.

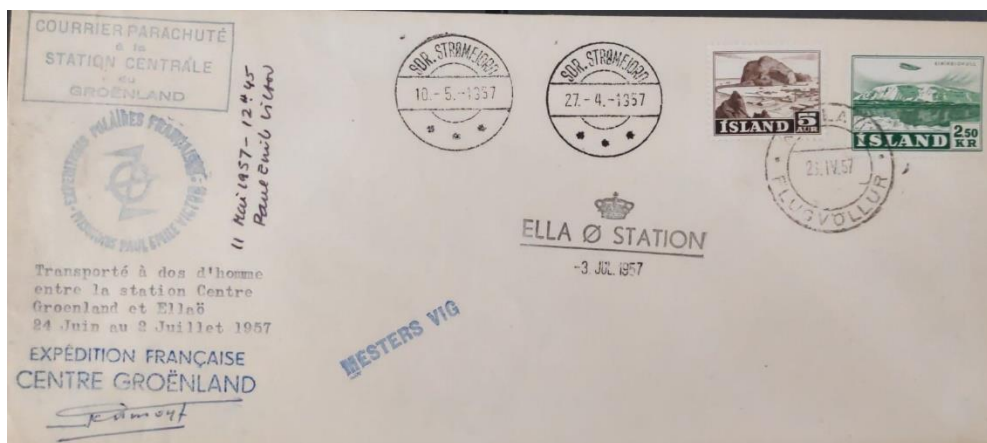
Until 1.1.1914 the Post had only one department taking care of all matters. Everything was in one building which had become much crowded, partly relieved by using a shed, standing on the adjoining building-grounds, where the parcel post was kept. In 1913, it was decided to build a new post-office building on these grounds, and the shed would be torn down. In that year, the Alþing granted 65,000 Kr. for the work, and in February 1914 competitive bidding was made for erecting the new structure. Work started in spring and most of the building was finished in 1915. This building is still our head post-office. The emptying of the shed resulted in no storage space being left for parcel-post, and on 1.1.1914 they opened in a different building called Báran, as a separate department taking care of all inland and foreign parcel post, on the same date Mr. Björnsson starting working there. Late in 1915 they again moved, this time to the cellar of the new building where they remained until 1957. As said previously, in 1934 foreign inbound parcels were taken away by establishing a separate customs post office. Unfortunately, Mr. Björnsson does not remember about types of cancellers in 1914/15. But the above story does seem to explain the sudden re-use of cancel types A and C2.”

That is the end of Þór Þorsteins’ letters, and I agree fully. It seems that there are three periods of use for type ‘A’.

- 1) around 1873, when it is found on the skilling stamps, both regular and official: type ‘B’ replaced type ‘A’ as the usual canceller even before the introduction of the aurar values in 1876.
- 2) the official stamps and perhaps others up to 1885 as per Caröe.
- 3) the period around 1914 to which Þór Þorsteins addressed his research.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

"The Greenland 1957 expedition - Paul-Émile Victor" *Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson*



These trips to Greenland seem to have been made with the "Paul-Émile Victor" (see the wiki page here about a trip it made in 1951 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul-C3%89mile_Victor)). The explorers discovered that Greenland consists of three independent islands. The above trip was made somewhat later in 1957. In google I have found quite a few stamped envelopes, but most of them have Greenlandic or American stamps. The above is still the only Icelandic envelope I have seen. It has a Keflavík Flugvöllur cancel dated 21.IV.57. Please take a closer look in your collections and see if you can find a similar envelope.

Edinburgh TWIN-ARC POSTMARKS WITH CROSS PATÉE¹– V2 2024

Jakob S. Arrevad

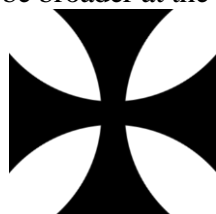
This is a part of a series published which summarizes, supplemented by recent discoveries, information published over the years in IslandsKontakt and elsewhere. We must all be grateful for the sustained efforts of all those who, over the years, as Editors² or Authors have contributed to the gathering and dissemination of information relevant to the philately of Iceland.

Compiler: Jakob S. Arrevad: jsa@agadvokatfirma.dk

Can anybody help me further?

It is a stamp with twin arches, with date, year, etc. in the middle and Edinburgh between the arches, but different from the similar type with stampers' number here there is a Cross Pattée.

A cross pattée, cross patty, or cross paty, also known as a cross formy or cross formée (French: croix pattée, German: Tatzenkreuz), is per Wikipedia a type of Christian cross with arms that are narrow at the centre, and often flared in a curve or straight line shape, to be broader at the perimeter.



There are two different stamps – before and after NO 11 08.

As far as I can see it was only sporadically used and I have until now only seen it used on five days on Icelandic stamps? But I have found some on UK stamps.

“I have asked for help before³, and it got a response from Mike Tuttle⁴:

“Coincidentally, I spent some time recently in P.O. Archives at Mount Pleasant and found an entry for a singular type which was allocated to the Sorting Office at Edinburgh. It is certainly scarce ...”

My recordings are:

1. JU 28 06



The cross is fat, and the arches are long – longer than later.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_pattée

² Among editors are highly reputable philatelists: Ebbe Eldrup, Jørgen Steen Larsen and Ole Svinth.

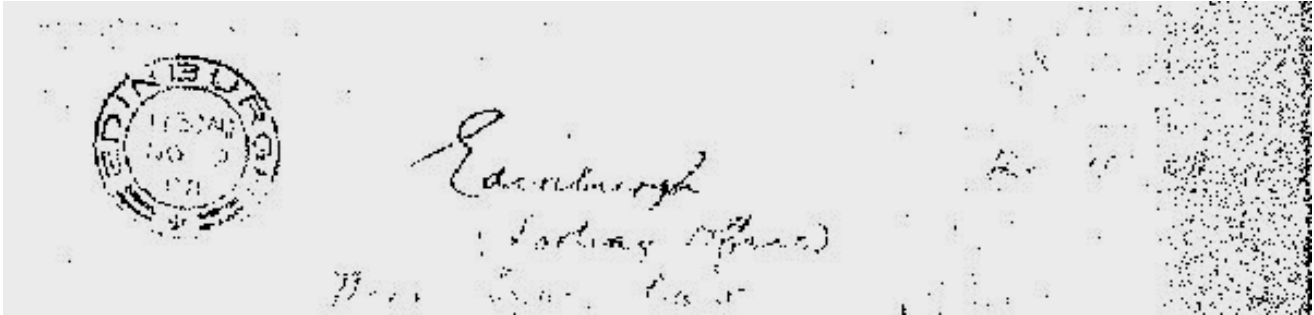
³ I asked for help in IslandsKontakt # 43- (2002) page 22. # 47 (2003) page 19 and wrote my first article in IslandsKontakt # 59 (2007) page 10 f. - calling the cross Saint George cross – but the overall Cross Pattee is more correct.

⁴ Mike Tuttle: Iceland Foreign Port-of-Arrivals & Transit Marks (part 11), Scandinavian Contact, volume 19, Number 2 Whole number 198, September 2002 page 9.

⁵ Photo from a copy of a former collection.

2. NO 2 08 the proof

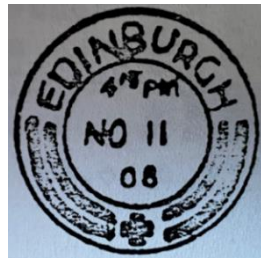
As regards its use, it can be established that the use is immediately after delivery. Mike Tuttle has contributed the attached copy of the sample book at the Kirkwood stamp factory⁶.



It can be read that the sample stamp is from NO 2 08, for “Edinburgh Sorting office” but I cannot read the rest.

3. NO 11 08

I have found a drawing. The drawing is not correct – the arcs are too long – as in the 1906 example. Compare with the following actual example.



Nine days after - perhaps carried with SS SKÁLHOLT or SS CERES but that don't explain the handling at Edinburgh Sorting Office.



⁶ My copy of Kirkwood doesn't include 1908. It might be, that the copy is from an archive copy in P.O. Archives at Mount Pleasant.

⁷ Wolfgang Holz: Anlandungsstempel Auf Island Marken (1977) page 75.



8

4. AU 5 09

The next one was a little "WORLD NEWS" when it became known. After the first publication, I received from Tor Jensen⁹ the following print from a stamp in his catalogue collection – a fourth date for the use of the two-circuit stamp with a Cross Pattée. Where it disappeared after Tor, I don't know.



It may be very difficult on the copy to see the date, but Tor and I agreed, that the date is AU 5 09.

5. SP 14 11



6. 27 MY 12 – drawing.

I have found a drawing¹⁰ dated 27 MY 12:



⁸ Photo from a copy of a former collection.

⁹ Tor Jensen was a famous collector of Icelandic philately – especially "I-Gildi"

¹⁰ From a copy of Wolfgang Holz ocollection.

- but the drawing cannot be correct. The arcs are too long as before 1908, but more important the date system is wrong. The new system with date/month was not introduced until 1 JA 1914.

7. OC 24 12

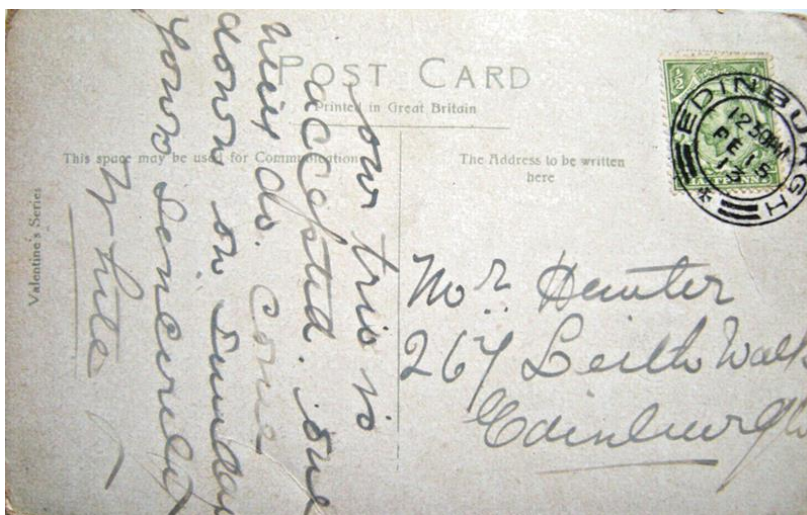


8. NO 9 12

Shortly after used on UK mail

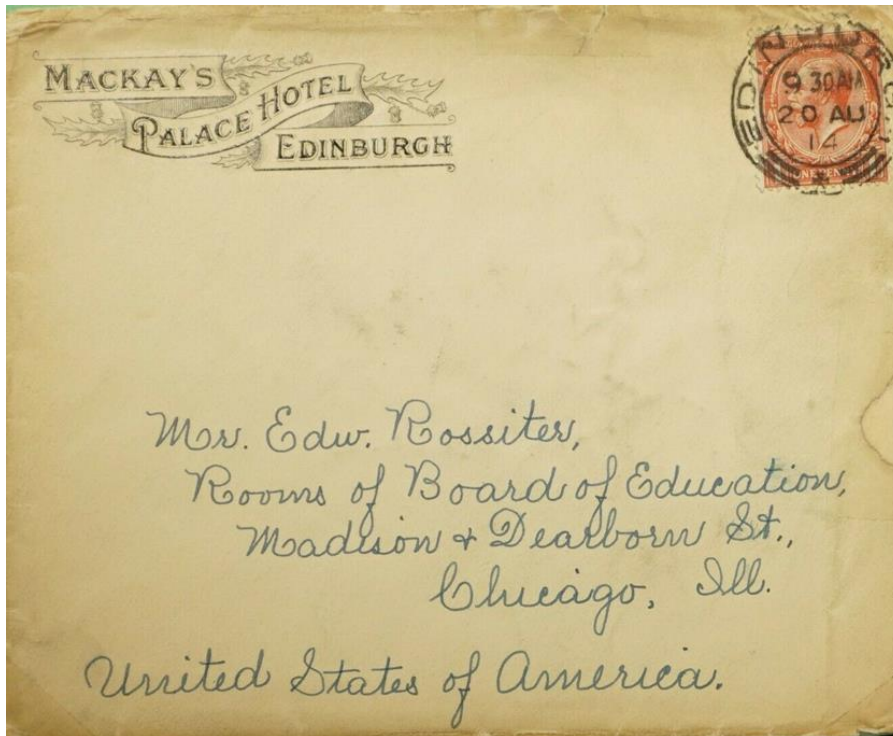


9. FE 15 13



¹¹ From a copy of Wolfgang Holz collection.

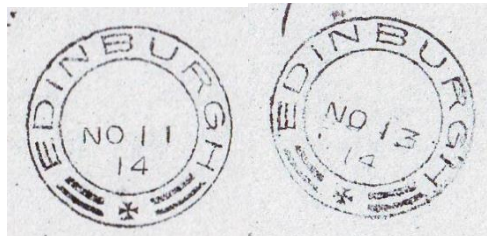
10. 20 AU 14



11. NO 11 14 - proof

12. NO 13 14 - proof

There are proofs in Kirkwood Proof book from NO 11 14 and NO 13 14 (with old line-up with month first)



13. XX AP YY



The month is AP – bur the date is before – also after 1 JA 14.

14.24 NO 16 proof

Again in 1916 from Kirkwood - but it's probably the same stamp – but now with the new date system.



But I have until now not seen any verified use after 20 Au 1914.

The overall picture

An unconfirmed date and a proof

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. (JU 28 06) | | Iceland |
| 2. NO 2 08 | the first proof | |
| 3. NO 11 08 | | Iceland |
| 4. AU 5 09 | | Iceland |
| 5. SP 14 11 | | Scottish |
| 6. 27 MY 12 | drawing | |
| 7. OC 24 12. | | Iceland |
| 8. NO 9 12 | | Scottish |
| 9. FE 15.13 | | Scottish |
| 10. 20 AU 14 | | Scottish |
| 11. NO 11 14 | proof | |
| 12. NO 13 14 | proof | |
| 13. XX AP YY | | Iceland |
| 14. 24 NO 16 | proof | |

Again, it is strange that the use is only these few days and, in a few years, – and again I have no explanation.

From James A: Mackay. "Scottish Postmarks" page 50:

”Since the need for the office number in the combined stamps was to be no longer so pressing, it was dropped from the stamps issued to many of the smaller offices from 1900 onwards. Where an office had only one combined stamp it was not necessary to incorporate a stamper’s number”

Ok – but the Edinburgh Sorting Office was not small in the period from 1906 until 1916.

Used at the Edinburgh Sorting Office – but for what specific purpose and why so seldom?

Can you help with better scanning or new examples – and hopefully further explanations?

Íslands Falk, Aug.-Sept.1917 Ólafur Elíasson

(Previously published in IslandsKontakt 103/2015. Translated from the Danish)



In IslandsKontakt no. 97, page 4, is illustrated a letter stamped Mjólfjörður 30.VIII. 17. The letter is addressed to Denmark, inscribed by the sender "per. Islands Falk" and censored in England.

That Íslands Falk, a ship belonging to the neutral Danish fleet was seized by one of the warring nations does not sound likely. It would have been a very serious violation of Danish neutrality. Let's see what the Icelandic newspapers and magazines can tell about Íslands Falk in August-September. 1917

Íslands Falk was expected to leave Copenhagen on 9.august. The ship was in the Faroe Islands on 13.aug. and arrived Reykjavík on 16th. It brought 76 recorded sacks to Reykjavík, only letter mail and printed matter but no parcel post. In Morgunblaðið on the 21.aug. stated "to post abroad can be sent on 23rd. Then Íslands Falk departed north eastward to the Faroe Islands. After the ship's arrival the *Beskytteren*, a Faroe Islands patrol vessel, departs for Bergen and thus letters can be sent abroad ". The ship is in Siglufjörður on the evening of 27th and arrives Akureyri 28.aug., But now something happens unexpectedly. In Íslendingur (a newspaper published in Akureyri) Friday 31.aug. narrated: "Íslands Falk arrived from Reykjavik Tuesday on its way to the Faroe Islands and brought foreign mail from Reykjavik. While the ship was here the captain received a telegram from the Danish government with a prohibition on taking postal mail from Iceland abroad. Post from Reykjavik was put ashore here (i.e. Akureyri). Now you have the phenomenon of a neutral naval ship prohibited to transport postal mail between two neutral federal states ". The same news was in several newspapers. The sources available to me say nothing about what lies behind this ban.

On 16 September it is announced that Íslands Falk arrived in Reykjavík from the Faroe Islands the day before. It brought a mail sack from Denmark, reportedly only public mail (service mail). The ship left for Denmark on 30 September. Now Íslands Falk disappears from the Icelandic newspapers for about two

weeks, and I suspect this is due to the aforementioned trip to the Faroe Islands. So that was Íslands Falk's trip to Iceland and the Faroe Islands in Aug.-Sept. 1917. But the foreign mail that was landed in Akureyri, what happened to it? Yes, it was sent back to Reykjavík with Es. Sterling and arrived there on Sept. 12. The Landstyrelsen (Governor) decided that those who wanted to, could get their letters back, but otherwise the letters would be sent at the first opportunity (i.e. by random cargo ships). Some letter writers demanded their letters back, and it is suggested that they were people who did not want to let the English censor read their letters, e.g. the German Consul General.

The post was of course greatly delayed, and a number of money orders were also withheld. These were instructions where the sender had written a message to the recipient on the form. It was regarded by the postal authorities as private letters and detained. This naturally caused a lot of dissatisfaction and led to a number of letters from readers in the newspapers, where the postmaster was scolded, but it would be too much to refer to it in this article.

For the rest of the war, Íslands Falk carried no private mail, only official mail. The letter that gave rise to this article was not sent with Íslands Falk, despite the sender's wish.

Source Reference: www.timarit.is

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

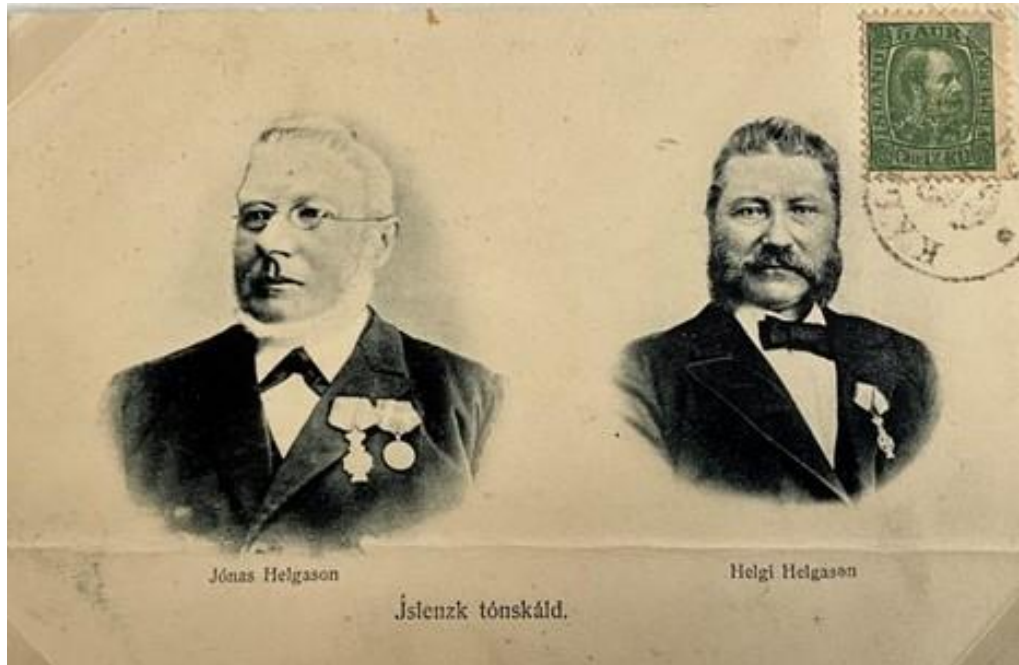
VATNAJÖKULL



Bjarni Kristinsson on Frímerkjaspjall agreed to share with us this fine example with multiple strikes of the B2a cancel used at a provisional post office set up near the glacier for an expedition in the summer of 1936. The cancel was used between 1936 and 1938 and is misspelt with a Danish Ø instead of the Icelandic Ö. The franking is 20 aurar inland rate.

BH Kálfatjörn was opened 1.1.1873 in Gullbringusýsla, southwest of Hafnarfjörður, and continued as such until 1.10.1919, where the BH was moved to the nearby farm Þórustaðir. The collecting office received C1 Kálfatjörn around 1894/95 and N1a-161 in the summer of 1903.

Below is a postcard dated 10-9-07 with the C1 Kálfatjörn cancel.



I have also seen a similar postcard dated 1(?) -12-07. Wilbur Jonsson perhaps had more such similar postcards from 1907 and one from 1908.

Kálfatjörn was a church and parsonage until 1907. The church was one of the largest country churches in Iceland. Can it be a possibility, that the reuse of the C1 cancel took place during a period after Kálfatjörn was no longer a parsonage?

In my collection I also have a reusage of the C1 cancel on Facit 92, 3 aur TK perf. 14 issued 1914. The reusage is with blue ink.



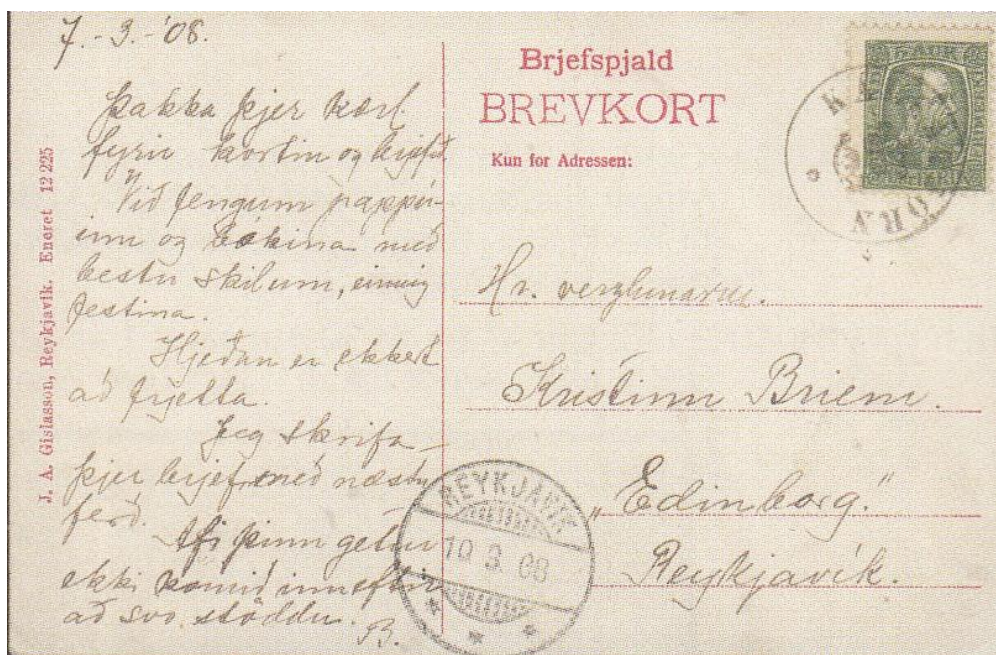
Based on this, there seems to be an accepted period of reuse of the C1 cancel from 1907 – 1914. It can be added that numeral 161 is known with pencil cancellation on Facit 82 * 2.



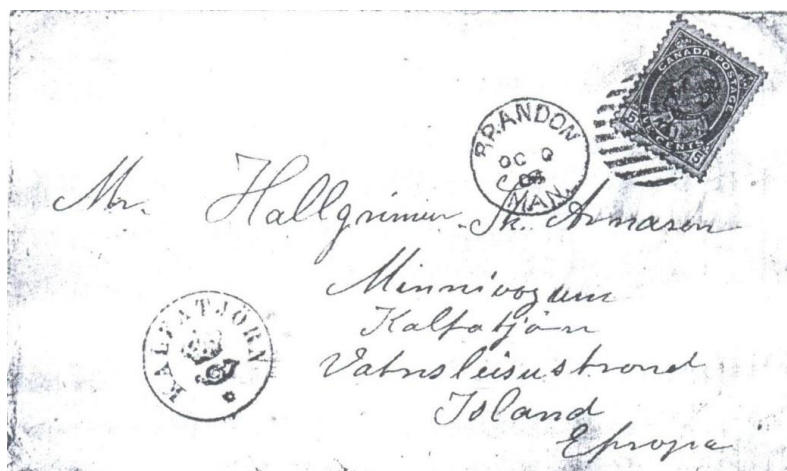
The reason for this pencil cancellation is unknown to me, but because of the postage $2 * 15 \text{ aur} = 30 \text{ aur}$ it might be a possibility, that the pencil cancellation was made after 1.10.1919 at Þórstaðir and if I am right, the pencil cancellation has nothing to do with the reuse of C1.

(Editor) Examples of the late reuse of C1 Kálfatjörn remain elusive. My appeal for images from IPM readers did not produce any. However, a search managed to produce three more images:-

The postcard below was found on the internet from an old auction (no reference) C1 in black ink on a postcard with CHRIX, 5 aur green, sent to Reykjavik, arrival stamp 10.03.08



In ISK45 (2002) Jørgen showed the following two images of the late use of C1 Kálfatjörn. (please excuse faded b/w images.)



T Hoiland auction 30.4.2002 Lot 5485. C1 receiving cancel with Leith transit Oct 23. 06



Described as T Hoiland auction Dec 2002 lot 1577. C1 as transit cancel on cover from Hraungerði with Reykjavík transit 5.3.08.

The reusage of **C1 Kirkjubær** will be reviewed in the next issue. Come on crown cancel collectors, please help the editor by sending images of late use if you have any in your collections.

The Robert A. Helm Collection of Iceland Numeral Cancellations, An Auction Summary and Analysis *Roger Cichorz*

Note: This is a modified version of an article by Roger Cichorz that appeared in *The Posthorn* 4/2023, *Journal of the Scandinavian Collectors Club*.

Postiljonen Auction House International conducted its Auction #239 in Malmö, Sweden, September 26-29, 2023. The Iceland section of the auction was held on September 28 and featured 36 lots comprising the Robert A. Helm Collection of Iceland numeral cancellations along with 32 other lots of numeral cancellations from the estate of another (unnamed) “astute Iceland collector.” The summary that follows will also provide a comparison and contrast of the Helm “name sale” results with the of the unnamed collector (hereafter referred to as “UC”). According to Postiljonen, the Helm lots and those of the UC were consigned by heirs of their respective estates.

Robert Arthur Helm of New York City passed away in September 2019, just one month short of age 92. Mr. Helm was a well-known active member of the Scandinavian Collectors Club who served as Editor of its quarterly *Posthorn* journal from 1971 to 1976. Postiljonen’s Auction #239 catalogue gives a brief biography, in which is stated, “[Helm] had a special fondness for numeral cancellations... [and] when studying this section, you will find out there are numerous rare cancellations and covers, some surely unique, that have been hidden away ... for more or less half a century. We believe the sale will be a fantastic and happy occasion for the many specialists collecting this fascinating area.”

I found it unusual for a featured “name sale” section that Postiljonen interspersed all 68 lots from both consignors into the same section. However, the 36 Helm lots were designated “Ex. Helm” in the descriptions to distinguish them from the 32 UC lots. Perhaps it was done this way because of the similarities of the covers in both consignments and to provide readers with “flow” because separating them into two different sections would require bidders to go back and forth to view comparable lots.

Tables 1 and 2 provide a comparison of the results of the lots of the two collectors. But first, a clarification on how I arrived the starting bids (SBs) totals. Postiljonen generally places a minimum SB of €100 on every lot, but lots considered less valuable than €100 are indicated by “Bid” SBs, and often, but not always, these “Bid” lots sell for less than €100. In this sale, six of the 68 lots were assigned “Bid” SBs, all of which sold with their realizations ranging from €20 to €280, averaging €133 per lot. Rather than skew the realizations upward for the “Bid” lots, I arbitrarily assigned what they realized to be their SBs. The realizations in the two summary tables, as well as later discussion of how certain individual lots fared, are given in euros and do not include Postiljonen’s added 20% buyer’s premium.

TABLE 1. Summary of the Robert A. Helm Lots in Postiljonen’s #239 Auction

<u>Category</u>	<u># Lots</u>	<u>Starting Bids</u>	<u># Sold</u>	<u>Starting Bids</u>	<u>Realizations</u>	<u>%R:SB</u>
stamps	13	€ 1770	12	€ 1670	€ 5380	322.2
covers	22	6120	22	6120	15,100	246.7
collection	1	5000	1	5000	19,000	380.0
Totals	36	€ 12,890	35	€ 12,790	€ 39,480	309.7

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative SBs before the 20% buyer’s premium is added to the final costs of the lots.

TABLE 2. Summary of the Unnamed Collector's Lots in Postiljonen's #239 Auction

<u>Category</u>	<u># Lots</u>	<u>Starting Bids</u>	<u># Sold</u>	<u>Starting Bids</u>	<u>Realizations</u>	<u>%R:SB</u>
covers	29	€ 3420	29	€ 3420	5320	155.6
collection	3	700	3	700	1880	268.6
Totals	32	€ 4120	32	€ 4120	€ 7200	174.8

Note: %R:SB is the percentage ratio of the total realizations to cumulative SBs before the 20% buyer's premium is added to the final costs of the lots.

In some of my previous auction summaries, I compared the performance of "name sale" lots to those in general auctions, and, invariably, the realizations of the "name sale" lots surpassed those of similar lots in the general auctions. Thus, my conclusion has always been "what a difference a name sale makes." However, some critics have chastised me for comparing "apples versus oranges" in that they deemed "name sale" items superior to those offered in the general auctions. That is, the "name sale" items are scarcer, of better quality, and with provenance and/or certificates when compared to similar lots in the general auctions, and therefore should perform better. I contend that's not necessarily so, as items offered in the general auctions are often of equal quality, but there are just fewer of them, especially the rarities.

Because of the similar quality and price range of the cover lots in both Helm and UC consignments, we have arguably similar lots for a comparison of the Helm "name sale" items versus those of the UC items. In fact, all 36 UC cover lots were given SBs of €100-€200 each, and Table 2 indicates these sold for 155.6% of their cumulative SBs. There were ten Helm covers with the same SBs range of €100-€200 each, and they realized €3,450 versus cumulative SBs of €1,450, or by comparison with the UC lots, a considerably better 237.9% of their cumulative SBs. So, my assertion of "what a difference a name sale makes" certainly holds true in this instance!

As there were no UC stamp lots, similar comparison with Helm lots could not be made. However, one can compare the results for the categories summarized in Tables 1 and 2 and should conclude that the Helm lots clearly outperformed the UC lots. Based on the performance and realizations of all 67 lots that sold (one Helm stamp lot did not sell), the Facit Catalogue's Iceland Section Editor no doubt will be revisiting the Iceland "Nummerstämplar" ("Numeral Cancellations") section in the *FACIT Special Classic* catalogue and be making some upward adjustments in future price valuations.

Of all the Helm lots, only four cover lots realized less than their respective SBs and only slightly so. Likewise, only five UC cover lots realized less than their respective SBs and only slightly so. All the rest of the lots of stamps, covers, and collections from both consignments sold for greater than their respective SBs, and in some cases realized four to ten times their SBs! I will now mention how some of the better ("star-performance") lots fared.

Among the Helm stamp offerings, lot 1059 – described as a "very beautiful 5 aur Christian IX with the scarce numeral '35' Kirkjubær" – realized €600 against a *Facit* value of SEK4,000/~€348 and modest SB of €100. Another Helm stamp offering, lot 1113 – described as a "wonderful copy of 10 aur Christian IX with a beautiful strike of the rare numeral '166' Lundur" – sold for a whopping €2,300 against a *Facit* value of SEK7,500/~€652 and modest SB of €250.

Among the Helm cover offerings, lot 1066 – described as "a very beautiful strike of '48' on cover franked with 10 aur Christian IX" – realized an astronomical €1,300 against a SB of €150 and *Facit* value for just the postmark on an off-cover stamp of SEK40/~€3.48! I must have missed something here as I cannot

fathom why this example of a relatively inexpensive “48” cancelled stamp on a plain buff cover would sell for 375 times its off-cover stamp value!

Probably the showpiece gem of the Helm cover offerings is lot 1094 described as a “numeral ‘112’ Bolungarvík dated April 2, 1907 on very beautiful commercially used 10 aur Christian IX letter card. *No commercially used covers recorded according to Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson, SUPERB & PROBABLY UNIQUE*” – sold for an enormous €4,400 against its SB of €500.

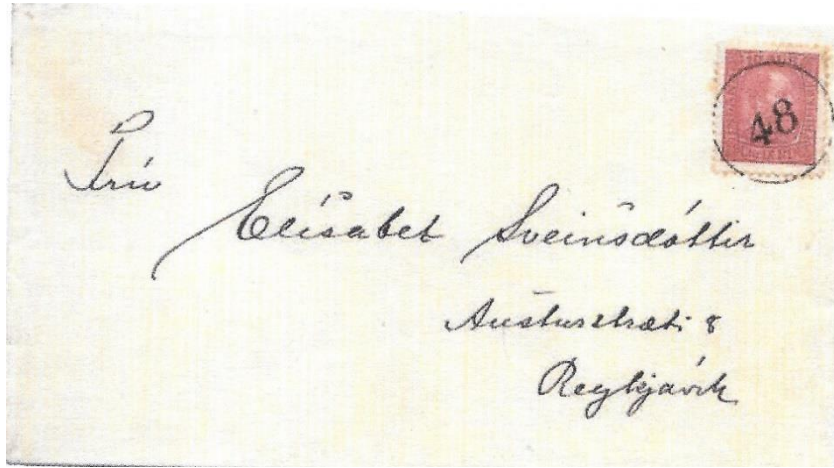
Surprisingly, lot 1117, the Helm cover with the highest SB of €1,000, taking up half a page in the auction catalogue with its large-font boldface printed lot description and oversized illustration, did not fare as well as lot 1094. Described as “Extremely rare ‘294’ Laugarnes on cover with 50 aur Hekla 1948, back flap missing of no importance, not priced in Facit, Cert. Thorsteinsson, EXHIBITION ITEM,” lot 1117 sold for €2,400, slightly under the arithmetic mean ratio of realizations to starting bids of 2.467 for all Helm covers.

Three UC covers that sold for about quadruple their respective €100 SBs and their lot descriptions are worth mentioning. Lot 1058, a “beautiful numeral ‘15’ Litli-Hvammur on cover with 1.25 kr franking,” realized €380. Lot 1067, a “beautiful cover with numeral ‘50’ Kópasker on a strip of four of 5 aur Christian X” with imperfections, sold for €420. Lot 1070, a “very beautiful envelope with superb ‘56’ Svalbarð on 20 aur Christian X, Sender’s name and address on back,” realized €400.

The three small collection lots, presumably remainders for the UC consignment, are difficult to compare to the half-page spread of lot 1118, described as the “Fantastic Collection, Provenance: Robert A. Helm, a highly recommended collection” designated in boldface type. This collection lot is most likely the bulk remainder of the Helm consignment after the best items were cherry-picked to comprise the 35 Helm stamp and cover lots and is described as a “Collection on around 250 pages with well over 2500 items mainly numbers between 1-210 mostly on Christian IX and Two Kings but also some on later issues. A large number of superb and excellent as well as scarce ones...” [The description goes on to list individual better items and a note that all are pictured on Postiljonen’s website.] It was given a SB of €5,000 and realized a whopping €19,000, 380% of its estimate!

The three UC small collection of lots of numeral cancellations, also pictured in their entirety on Postiljonen’s website, were inferior in content and scope in contrast to the Helm collection lot, so a direct comparison of performance here is not possible. However, these are still worth mentioning. Lot 1119 included four stock pages with about 70 items that sold for €750, a respectable five times its €150 SB. Lot 1120 was a group of 19 covers and cards with different numbers in somewhat mixed quality that realized €650 against its €300 SB. Lot 1121 comprised numeral cancellations on 15 covers/cards, and despite mention of “some unclear, with faults, late usage, philatelic, etc.,” this lot sold for €480, or nearly twice its €250 SB.

Let me repeat what I have concluded from my previous summaries and analyses of “name sale” auctions compared to general auctions, or in this instance, the “Ex. Helm” lots versus those of the UC. Compare the ratio of realizations to SBs in Tables 1 and 2 and see for yourself, “what a difference a name sale makes!” Readers are encouraged to comment on my summary of this auction and my opinions and conclusions drawn from my analysis. You can contact me at rcichorz@comcast.net.



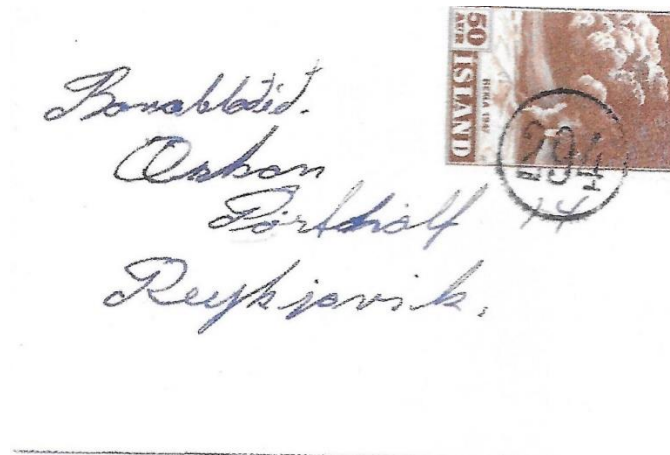
Lot 1066: Ex-Helm plain cover franked with 10 aur Christian IX tied by a strong “48” numeral cancel (probably Skinnastaður) that was offered at a €150 starting bid and realized a phenomenal €1,300, about 375 times the *FACIT Special Classic* catalogue valuation of SEK40 (~€3.48) for a “48” strike on an off-cover stamp.



Lot 1094: Ex-Helm commercially used 10 aur Christian IX letter card dated “Bíldudal 1/6/07” with a “112” numeral cancel (Bolungarvík) that sold for sold for an impressive €4400 against a starting bid of €500. Its lot description indicated this card is probably unique in that no commercially used covers are recorded according to Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson.



Lot 1113: This 10 aur Christian IX definitive with a strong bulls-eye strike of the rare “166” numeral cancel (Lundur) was the Ex-Helm stamp lot with the highest realization. It sold for €2300, slightly greater than nine times its starting bid of €250.



Lot 1117: Extremely rare (not priced in *Facit*) “294” (Laugarnes) numeral cancel, tying a 1948 50 aur Hekla stamp to a plain cover came with an accompanying Thorsteinsson Certificate. Given the highest starting bid of all the Ex-Helm cover lots at €1000, it sold for €2400, slightly less the mean ratio of realizations to starting bids for all Helm covers.

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A remarkable International Reply Coupon *Hálfðan Helgason*



This beautiful 2½ pence reply coupon, issued 29th February 1928 (leap-year) in Great Britain is to be used inside the British Empire, not outside. Nevertheless, this coupon is redeemed in Reykjavík on 30. July 1928 and thus becomes a tiny part of Icelandic postal history. A true rarity in my opinion. My question is: Are your readers aware of any other similar example in this unusual area of Icelandic postal history?

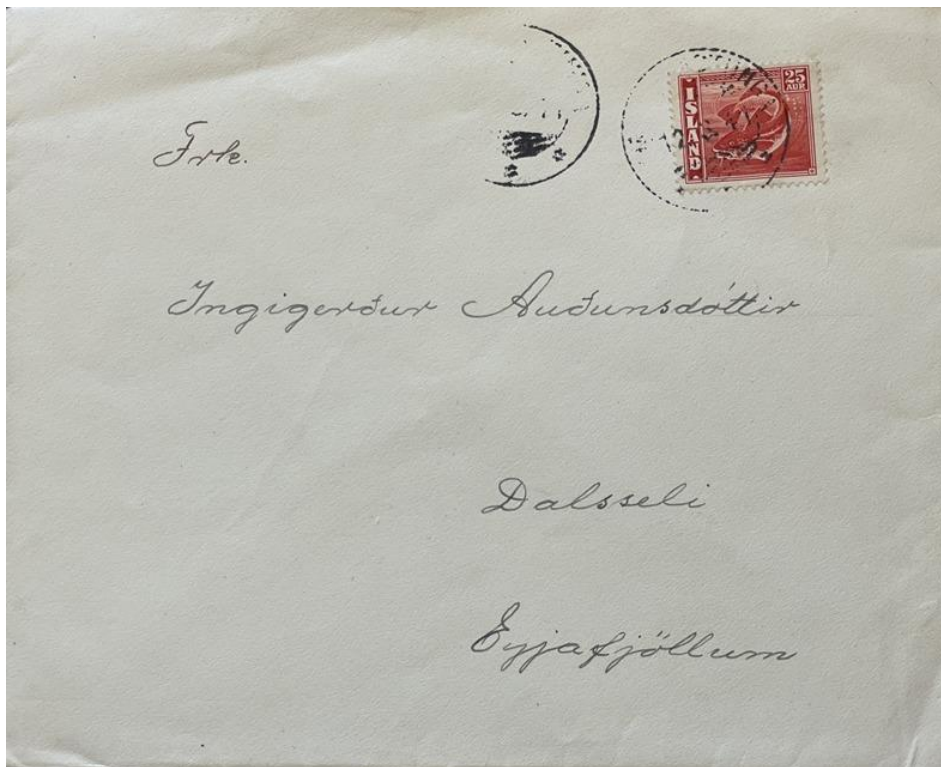
(Ed. IRCs have occurred only twice so far in IPM, in 19/2017 and 56/2023, but nothing compared with the above example. The issuing office on 29. Feb 1928 was Waterfoot in Rossendale, Lancashire, and it was redeemed in Reykjavík 30th August 1928, presumably in exchange for an appropriate Icelandic stamp).

Deildartunga B2a on cover

In Issue 53 we showed a beautiful strike of this scarce B2a cancel used during its spell at Deildartunga.



Now, thanks to Jóhann Ragnarsson on Frímerkjaspjall, below we have an example on cover. It is surely very rare on cover. Can readers provide more examples?



Here is another Deildartunga strike, pulled off the internet



Reclamation form sent from Bögglapóststofan, Iceland, to Iraq. Jørgen Steen Larsen

I bought from the Safnari.is auction a Reclamation form send from Bögglapóststofan, Iceland, to Iraq in 1949/50. The postal fee 1,25 IKR is correct for the period 15.11.1942 – 30.4.1950 - as you previously have written in IPM issue 44, May 2023, page 23.

Eyðublað nr. 48. 33/50 *جورج*

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
d'ISLANDE

BUREAU de Reykjavik

25 APR ISLAND 1 ISLAND

C 9 (Recto)
(RégL. art. 141, § 1)

Timbre du bureau d'origine

EDINBURGH
DF No. 11151894

1949

Réclamation

d'un envoi recommandé (colis postal) (a) remboursement ()
ou d'une lettre de valeur déclarée de () (b) remboursement ()
contenant (Toison tanne) (c)

déposé par M' Armann Kristinsson, Sólvallag, 29.R., le 13.12. 1949
sous le No. 297 au bureau de Reykjavik, Islande à l'adresse suivante:
Director -General of Revenue Akram Zeïral,
C/O Ministry of Finance,
Baghdad, IRAQ . (d)

et faisant l'objet d'une demande d'avis de réception non (e)

A remplir dans le service d'origine

en cas de répartition

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné a été dûment livré à l'ayant droit le 19

Le montant du remboursement a été transmis à l'expéditeur de l'envoi par le mandat No. le 19

Le montant du remboursement a été transmis au bureau de chèques postaux d par le mandat No. le 19

Le montant du remboursement a été mis en compte courant postal le 19

Le Chef du bureau distributeur:

en cas de non-distribution

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi susmentionné

est encore en instance au bureau d

a été renvoyé au bureau d'origine le 19

a été réexpédié le 19 à (f)

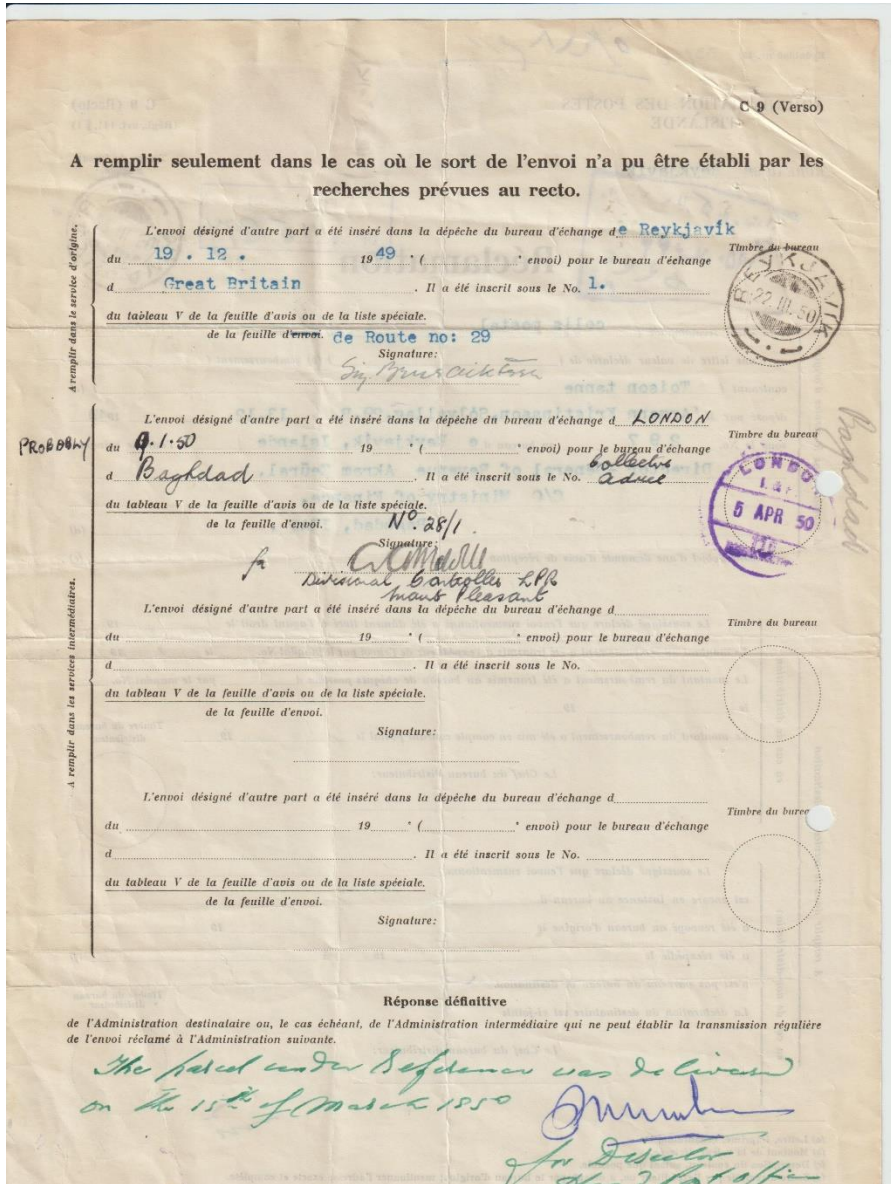
n'est pas parvenu au bureau de destination.

La déclaration du destinataire est ci-jointe

Le Chef du bureau distributeur:

Timbre du bureau distributeur

(a) Lettre, imprimé, échantillon, etc.
(b) Montant de la valeur déclarée.
(c) Description du contenu, autant que possible.
(d) Cadre à remplir par l'expéditeur ou, à défaut, par le bureau d'origine; mentionner l'adresse exacte et complète.
(e) Biffer, le cas échéant.
(f) Indiquer l'adresse exacte et complète.



Here is the auction description:-

“1950, Iceland, 282, 286, Cover, Iraq – RECLAMATION FORM. Exceptionally rare claim form sent from Reykjavik to IRAQ (of all places) via London in 1950. The letter being claimed being a registered letter sent to Iraq on 13. December 1949. Handstamp of the postal administration of Iceland, the United Kingdom and Iraq. To our knowledge only a handful of used reclamation forms for letters from Iceland are known and that includes every period.”

On postage stamps used as greiðslumerki revenue stamps *Steinar Fridthorsson*



Pre-printed cheque from Landsbanki Íslands, Reykjavík. The cheque is issued by Sláturfélag Suðurlands in 1937. A 10 aur postage stamp has been affixed to the cheque, as was allowed instead of using a specially printed greiðslumerki fee stamp. The stamp then cancelled with the office hand stamp of the entity issuing the cheque (in this case Sláturfélagid). Cheques or invoices/receipts with such usages of stamps instead of greiðslumerki are scarcely seen. For reasons probably not easily proven, the former applies especially to those where the postage stamp has actually been cancelled (either by manuscript or hand stamp). My suspicions lean towards it being so that used postage stamps were often removed from such documents due to their (even if only miniscule) value, while unused stamps without gum were closer to being worthless. This stamp duty was charged on checks and invoices/receipts over 20 Icelandic krónur in value during the years 1935-1941. More details on this can be read in Þór Þorstein's book on Icelandic revenues and their usages available in .pdf format on the website of the Icelandic Philatelic Federation:

<https://www.postsaga.is/is/baekur/thor-thorsteins/gjalda-og-sofnunarkerki-auk-stimpla-a-islandi>

Um notkun frímerkja í stað greiðslumerkja: *Steinar Fridthorsson*

Forprentuð ávísun frá Landsbanka Íslands, Reykjavík. Ávísunin er gefin út af Sláturfélagi Suðurlands árið 1937. 10 aura frímerki hefur verið límt á ávísunina eins og leyfilegt var gera nota í stað þess að nota til þess sérprentað greiðslumerki, merkið svo stimplað með stimpli útgefandans (Sláturfélagsins). Fremur sjaldséð er að ávísanir eða reikningar með slíkri notkun frímerkja hafi varðveist og þá sérstaklega með einhverskonar ógildingu, en svo virðist sem frímerki sem notuð voru í þessum tilgangi hafi af einhverjum ástæðum, sem okkur eru ekki kunnar, sjaldan verið ógilt. Stimpilgjald þetta var innheimt af ávísunum og reikningum yfir 20 krónum á árunum 1935-1941. Um er að gera að lesa sig til um þetta í bók Þórs Þorsteins á vef Landssambands Íslenskra Frímerkjasafnara: <https://www.postsaga.is/is/baekur/thor-thorsteins/gjalda-og-sofnunarkerki-auk-stimpla-a-islandi>

Incorrect use of bridge cancels

In the last issue nr.61, with Saso Andonov's permission, I showed an incorrect use of B2c1 Djúpivogur on a 5aur blue. Back in January on the Facebook site Frímerkjaspjall, Saso showed a whole series of examples of the misuse of this cancel, with the dates deliberately not shown (see below).

Brian Stwalley shares this similar example of a B3c Ólafsfjörður on a 3 aur Í Gildi and wonders if it comes from the same source.



Examples of the B2c1 Djúpivogur on Í Gildi issues.



Finally, a B2c1 Hvammstangi on Í Gildi.

Which other cancels misused in a similar way are out there to trap unwary collectors?

Information Corner from Safnari.is *Steinar Frithorsson*

This is the first of a series of short articles which are auction descriptions taken from Safnari.is. and which might be of interest in particular to an increasing number of some of our newer Icelandic readers who are perhaps beginner or intermediate collectors.



Four different used fish stamps in quite scarce AUTOMAT PERFORATION (sold from a vending machine). This is most evident by looking at the perforation on the left and right side of each of the stamps. The stamps have been severed from their neighboring stamps approximately where the perforation on the sides is located, the cuts on each side are clearly at the same angle. 5 aur stamp presumably in perf, C2 (but possibly C4 as they can on occasion not be distinguished from one another), bright red 25 aur in perf C4, left reddish brown 25 aur in perf C2 and the latter reddish brown in perf C3).

Fjögur talsvert sjaldséð stimpluð fiskamerki sem öll eru með svokallaðri SJÁLFSALATÖKKUN, þ.e. skorin á vinstri og hægri hlið eftir að hafa verið seld úr sjálfsala sem staðsettur var í miðbæ Reykjavíkur. Brúna 5 auru merkið er að mestum líkindum í tökkun C2 (í einstaka tilfellum getur verið erfitt að skilja þá tökkun frá C4 tökkun því hún getur verið mjög misjöfn), 25 auru skærrautt er í tökkun C4, vinstra rauðbrúna 25 auru merkið er í tökkun C2 og síðara rauðbrúna merkið er í tökkun C3.

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1930 Alþingi Parliament set

A discussion took place in the Frímerkjaspjall Facebook group about the apparent scarcity of first day covers of any of the 15 stamps in that commemorative set. Brynjólfur Sigurjónsson asks if any of our readers can provide an image of a FDC of 1.1.1930 please?

Re-use of C1 Holt. (Issue 59)



The article in Issue 59 showed the only examples known to us of the late use of this crown cancel, used between 1916 and 1918 on a local Christmas post. Now Steinar Fridthorsson has offered this example on a 1925 Views issue.

xxxxxxx

Cancelled-to-Order Redux *Ellis Glatt*

Cancelled-to-Order Redux After reading Ebbe Eldrup's warning to collectors in the March 2024 issue of IPM about those þír CTOs with Hraungerði 5/11 postmarks, I'm reminded that expert opinions on the subject do vary, even today. I, for one, typically follow the philosophy put forth many decades ago by the eminent Friedl Expert Committee of New York. It's members, well known even to most of today's philatelic experts and advanced collectors, were Otto W. Friedl, Herbert J. Bloch, and Edwin Mueller, editor of the Mercury Stamp Journal. The March, 1956 issue of that journal presented an in-depth piece on this subject to its readers. Basically, the common-sense rule, as espoused by the aforementioned experts, would be to consider as genuinely canceled any stamp that exhibits a proper postmark as was typically used on mail during the period the stamp was in use. The exception would be for cases where it can be proven that the cancellation was not applied at the location nor on the date shown on the postmark. It certainly makes sense to me.

xxxxxxx

Some outstanding prices from the April 2024 crown cancel auction at Safnari.is

(ISK selling prices roughly converted to Swedish Krona)

Húsavík C1 on postcard	4,434	Rauðaberg C1	4,200
Lækjamót C1 on cover	16,729	Reynivellir C1	12,450
Saurbær C2 on cover	77,810	Staður í Grunnavík C1	3,268
Ægissíða C2 on cover	8,948	Starmýri C1	6,224
Á í Holtum	7,781	Valþjófsstaðir on CHIX	7,470
Hólar C1	5,913	Hóll C2 partial on official	8,170
Holt on 20aur Views	4,046	Brú C3 (2)	77,810
Mosfell (partial)	9,726		